

The Living Room

Times

NHS JOURNAL

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Thursday, January 2, 1997

Challenging the "King"

Right: NHS sophomore Jen Bolduc defends a shot by junior Sue Bird of nationally ranked Christ The King High School of New York City. Newington played very well, and the team was thrilled to walk away with an 11-point loss to the mighty "King."



For more on girls basketball, please see the *Living Room Times Girls Basketball Special*, which is scheduled to come out on Monday.

Astronomer Carl Sagan, 62, dies



Doctor Carl Sagan, the world-famous astronomer who became an icon of Martin Kellogg Middle School popular culture during the 1994-95 schoolyear, died December 20 at the age of 62.

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Survey shows lukewarm support for officers

High ratings for Stevens, Kornafel despite many complaints

"The sophomores do not hear much from the officers. I think we should be more informed and they should be more involved."
—survey comment written by student

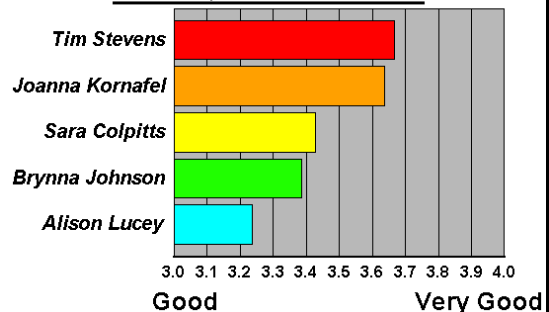
More survey results, pages 3, 7, and 8

60 NHS sophomores were asked to rate their class officers in a recent *Living Room Times* poll, and results of that poll indicate that, although support for each of the individual officers is high, many students have complaints about how the officers have done their jobs since the 1996-1997 schoolyear began.

Some adjectives used to describe the officers and their administration included "forgettable," "invisible," and "silent."

"Nothing is being done," wrote
(Continued on page 3)

Survey on Class Officers
How NHS sophomores rate their officers



On the survey, students were asked to rate the officers on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being "poor" and 5 being "excellent." All five officers were rated, on average, somewhere between "good" and "very good." Above is a chart of their ratings.

Enzo Faienza named All-American

NHS soccer star was also MVP of state all-star game



Above: Faienza (right) plays in a game against Amity Regional.
Right: Faienza celebrates after a key goal against Fairfield Prep.

Newington boys soccer superstar Enzo Faienza, a senior co-captain during the 1996 fall season, was recently awarded two prestigious honors: The Most Valuable Player award in *The Hartford Courant's* state senior all-star game, and a spot on the All-American team.

Only 58 boys soccer players in the country were named All-Americans. Faienza was one of 4 from Connecticut. And the all-star game in which he was named MVP also featured this state's three other All-American players.

"The MVP award was great because considering the company I was with that day—that's the best in the state, some of the best in the region—so being

named MVP of that group right there was pretty shocking to me," Faienza said.

As for being an All-American, he stated, "It's a high honor because to be named All-American means

(Continued on pg. 8)



Loy takes the lead in algebra contest

Harbeson falls to second in competition; more results today

Last year's fourth-period geometry class in Room 226 produced a phenomenon of contests and competitions that expanded throughout the year, eventually evolving into something called the "Geometry Olympics," a battle which pitted some of the sophomore class's best math students against each other.

The excitement surrounding the highly-publicized "Olympics"—and the "Battle of the Sexes" and "Battle of the Houses" which preceded it—was fed by leading students Sara Colpitts, Brendan Loy, Todd Stigliano, and flamboyant teacher Lou Ruggiero.

This year, Colpitts, Stigs, and "Lou" aren't involved, but Loy—the inventor of the contests—has restarted the battles with a more informal, less hyped-up contest in Mr. Huybrechts's seventh-period algebra class.

Loy, who is also the editor of *The Living Room Times*, was unable to defeat "class genius" Sara Colpitts last year in any of the four terms. This year, Colpitts—who was named the top scholar in the sophomore class at last year's awards ceremony—isn't in Loy's algebra class, so his focus is now on trying to defeat Kate Harbeson, first-term algebra winner and runner-up to Colpitts for the top scholar award.

On Friday, December 20—the day before vacation—Loy learned he had taken the lead over Harbeson after several weeks of being tied with her. But also Friday, the class took another quiz, meaning the standings could change today when those quiz results are announced.

Loy currently has a streak of four consecutive 100% grades. Jen Salonia, who is in fourth place, has scored three straight 100%'s. Harbeson had a streak going of three straight 100%'s until Friday, when she learned she had gotten a 28/30 on Wednesday's quiz.

The term will end in about three weeks.

"FAB FIVE"	Total Grade	Average
1. Brendan Loy	247/251	98.41%
2. Kate Harbeson	245/251	97.61%
3. Matt Thomsen	241/251	96.02%
4. Jennifer Salonia	240/251	95.62%
*5. Eric Burns	180/191	*94.24%

*Eric Burns was absent for several days and missed two quizzes. His average and place are therefore projected.

On survey, students complain about class officers' "silence"

How much influence do the officers have?



(Continued from page 1)

one student. Another complained that the officers are "not relating what goes on in the meetings to the kids."

"The sophomores do not hear much from the officers," one student commented. "I think we should be more informed and they should be more involved."

"I really cannot comment because I do not hear that much about them," said one student.

Someone else said that the Stevens Administration "is almost nonexistent."

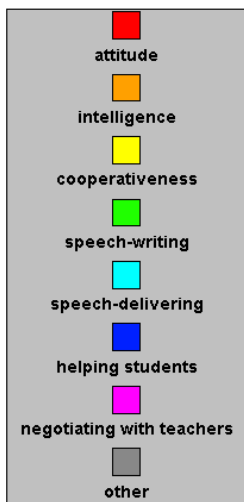
Others described it as "futile," "usual," and "one step up from horrible."

There were positive comments, however. One student described the officers as a "great, hardworking team," while another said they are doing "extremely well."

Comments from students asked for one phrase to describe the Stevens Administration included "fighting for students' rights" and "working hard for us."

(Continued on page 7)

What are Tim Stevens's best and worst qualities?



What is Tim best at?



What is Tim worst at?



On Tim Stevens's future...

Do you hope Tim runs for another term?

Yes 63% No 11% no opinion 26%

If Tim does run again, would you prefer if he is opposed (someone runs against him) or unopposed?

Opposed 77% Unopposed 4% no opinion 19%

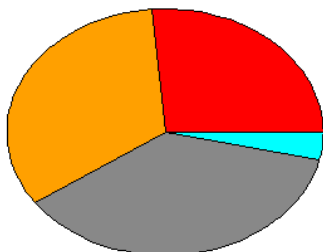
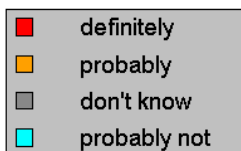
If Tim does run again, do you expect that you will vote for him? (see chart at left)

Definitely 26% Probably 33% don't know 37%
Probably not 4% Definitely not 0%

If Tim runs again, do you expect that he will win?

Yes 63% No 5% don't know 32%

Will you vote for Tim Stevens if he runs again?



If you could choose an "ideal" sophomore class president, who would it be?

Some other results from the survey

Do you think Tim Stevens cares about your opinion?

Yes 60% No 12% Acts like it, but doesn't 13%
Doesn't act like it, but does 2% don't know 13%

Do you think the other officers care about your opinion?

Yes 48% No 15% Act like it, but don't 17%
Don't act like it, but do 0% don't know 20%

Do you think that, as class president, Tim Stevens has the power to fight for you on an issue that you care about?

Yes 49% No 25% don't know 25%

blank/don't know	21	Bryan Rudolph	1
Tim Stevens	16	Todd Stigliano	1
Chris Manzione	3	Heather Weinberg	1
Brendan Loy	2	Lisa Williams	1
Peter Pellegrini	2	"don't care as long as FEMALE"	1
Marisa Cohen	1	"a female (or Brian Newbold)"	1
"Marisa Cohen or Lauren Correll"	1	"a female Brian Newbold"	1
Claudio Gualtieri	1	"Chucky Totonjini (sp?)"	1
Brynna Johnson	1	"Paco from Spain"	1
Cindy Klubnik	1	"does it matter?"	1
Diane Marques	1		

NHS *Life*

IN WORDS
AND
PICTURES

Some students were hoping for fun, relaxed classes on December 20, the laid-back day before vacation. Here's what happened when student Tim Giles suggested this to his first-period history teacher, Mr. Aros:

“Can we play a game today?”

—**Tim Giles**

“Yeah. It's called History class.”

—**Mr. Aros**

“What's the object of the game?”

—**Brendan Loy**

“To stay awake.” —**Tim Giles**



Counter-clockwise from top left: Todd Stigliano juggles; passes the balls to Nicole Russo; who picks up where Todd left off.



Christmas at NHS

Right: This stuffed monkey—named “Carla” after the late Doctor Carl Sagan—was given to Brendan Loy as a Christmas gift from Kate Harbeson.



Below Right: Carrie Ripley enjoys her Christmas present, a yellow wind-up toy car which she rolled across the hallway between second and third period.

Below: Mr. Huybrechts didn't just deck the halls—He decked his own coat with battery-operated Christmas lights!



Right: A close-up look at Carrie's toy car.



HOLIDAY CONCERT: In the last week before vacation, the NHS auditorium hosted two holiday concerts. Below are scenes from the first, on December 17:



Top Ten Signs of Trouble in Santa Claus's Marriage

10. He's replaced all the elves with scantily clad Swedish exchange students.
9. Mrs. Claus calls him "that fat freak in the red underwear."
8. He traded in his sleigh for a van with a waterbed.
7. He's been spending a little too much time with the life-sized holiday Barbie.
6. His new live-in personal elf valet, Steve.
5. Mrs. Claus having cybersex relationship with accountant from New Jersey.
4. He knows when she's been sleeping, he knows when she's awake -- because he's bugged the bedroom.
3. Lately, she keeps "forgetting" to tie her robe when she brings the elves their morning coffee.
2. Stockings aren't the only things he's been nailing in front of the fireplace.
1. Not a creature is stirring in Santa's pants.

*Letterman, Thursday, December 12, 1996
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Top Ten Signs You Won't Be Receiving A Christmas Bonus This Year

10. Co-workers refer to you as "The Ghost of Unemployment Future".
9. The last time you saw your boss was when he testified against you at the embezzlement trial.
8. On your door, you find a lovely wreath of pink slips.
7. What you call "my new office," everybody else calls "the supply closet."
6. Boss's Christmas card says, "Don't let the door hit your ass on the way out".
5. You keep getting memos reminding you that employees are required to wear pants.
4. When your boss came over for Thanksgiving, he was crushed under an avalanche of stolen office supplies.
3. Whenever you ask for a raise, a guy shows up at your house and breaks your jaw.
2. In the most recent performance evaluation, the word "crap" appeared 78 times.
1. You're the starting quarterback for the New York Jets.

*Letterman, Wednesday, December 11, 1996
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LATE SHOW TOP TEN

Top Ten Elf Pick-Up Lines

10. "All day I make toys -- all night I make love."
9. "Has anyone ever told you you have beautiful knees?"
8. "We don't see many happenin' ladies north of the Arctic Circle."
7. "That's quite a set of ornaments you've got there."
6. "Just because a guy wears tights doesn't mean he's gay."
5. "One night with me, baby, and you'll be sneezin' tinsel."
4. "Why, yes, I am George Stephanopoulos."
3. "I can't tell you how hard it is to be the only elf who's Jewish."
2. "Not everything about me is tiny."
1. "That's not Elmo, but don't stop tickling."

*Letterman, Tuesday, December 17, 1996
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Top Ten Christmas Movies Playing In Times Square

10. "Little Elves With Big Packages"
9. "Gift-Wrap Counter Sluts"
8. "Fruitcake Fantasy"
7. "It's A Wonder Bra Life"
6. "Tinsel G-Strings"
5. "I Saw Mommy Nailing Santa Claus"
4. "Stuff My Stockings"
3. "Mistress Claus And The Submissive Elves"
2. "Bite Me Elmo"
1. "That Ain't Egg Nog"

*Letterman, Thursday, December 19, 1996
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Top Ten Least Popular Christmas Carols

10. (To the tune of *The Christmas Song*): Elmo roasting on an open fire
9. (To the tune of *Sleigh Bells*): Come on it's lovely weather for a lap dance together with you
8. (To the tune of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*): Every Christmas my uncle Louis throws up in the kitchen sink
7. (To the tune of *It's Beginning to Look a lot like Christmas*): I'm addicted to nasal decongestant
6. (To the tune of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*): On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a restraining order
5. (To the tune of *Frosty the Snowman*): May we see Richard Simmons bite Santa's arm again
4. (To the tune of *Winter Wonderland*): A beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, probably 'cause we're all so full of gin
3. (To the tune of *Jingle Bells*): Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way, oh what fun it is to tell your parents you are gay
2. (To the tune of *Silver Bells*): Hillary, Hillary, you're lucky you're not in prison
1. (To the tune of *Joy to the World*): Joy to the world, their season's done, the Jets can lose no more

*Letterman, Monday, December 23, 1996
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President Clinton's Top Ten Holiday Fun Tips

10. Instead of tinsel, try some shredded Whitewater documents.
9. Hang Paula Jones's stockings by the chimney with care.
8. At White House Christmas party, offer the ladies a tour of your "south wing."
7. Dress George Stephanopoulos and Robert Reich in elf suits and make them fight to the death with golf clubs.
6. On Christmas Eve, you can pay hookers with Frankincense and Myrrh.
5. Impress friends by inhaling an entire gingerbread house from across the room.
4. For a big laugh, sing, "Don we now our gay apparel" while pointing at Barney Frank.
3. "It's A Wonderful Life" is much more entertaining if you're stoned.
2. If you have sex on the roof, you can tell your wife that the noise was just Santa's reindeer.
1. Go cruisin' for chicks with Skeeter and Snake.

*Letterman, Friday, December 13, 1996
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Famed astronomer Carl Sagan dies

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Sagan will probably be best remembered for his 13-part series on PBS, “Cosmos,” which aired in 1980. The series, which won three Emmy awards and was the most-watched limited series ever on American public television, enlightened millions by converting scientific jargon into understandable everyday language.

It was Sagan’s style of speaking the language that made him famous among Martin Kellogg students. His slow but energetic way of explaining things—most notably, his repeated, frequently-satired explanation that “the total number of stars in the universe is larger than all the grains of sand on all the beaches of the Planet Earth”—made Sagan a memorable part of Kellogg’s unique ‘pop culture’ for many of the students who were in one of Mrs. Agnew’s eighth-grade science classes two years ago. Those students are now sophomores.

Sagan was also ridiculed—all in good fun, of course—for his repeated use of the phrase “billions and billions” when describing stars, years, grains of sand, or anything else vast in size or number.

But, said Greg Andorfer, executive director of the Maryland Science Center and the producer of *Cosmos*, the “billions and billions” references “really established, despite the joke that comes with it, just how vast the universe is.”

Dr. Sagan died of pneumonia on December 20 after a two-year-long battle against bone marrow disease.

In a statement regarding Sagan’s death, NASA administrator Dan Goldin said, “All of us at NASA are saddened by the passing of Carl Sagan. For more than three decades, Dr. Sagan was an eloquent, passionate voice for the sciences that he so ably advanced.”

“As much as any scientific figure of our time, Carl described for an entire generation—the generation of the Space Age—the true wonders of the Universe around us. His unbelievable ability to explain the complexities of space and space exploration inspired people to look up into the night sky in wonder.”

In his youth, Sagan helped uncover the mysteries of planets Venus and Mars. He wrote more than two dozen books, including Pulitzer Prize-winning “*The Dragons of Eden: Speculations on the Evolution of Human Intelligence*.” And he was a highly successful college professor before breaking into America’s popular consciousness.

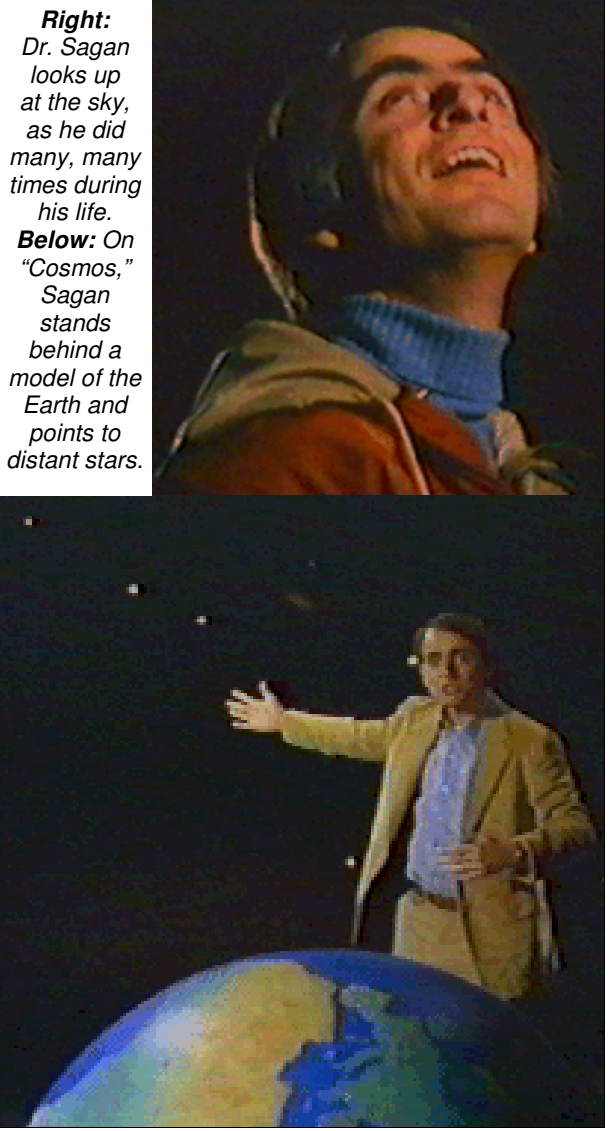
But despite those many accomplishments, it was the PBS series *Cosmos* that made Sagan famous, both at Martin Kellogg and around the world. Its thirteen episodes explored topics ranging from the vastness of the universe to the intricacies of the human brain.

The series was seen by over 500 million people in 60 countries. Its companion book, also titled *Cosmos*, spent 70 weeks on the *New York Times* best seller list, including 15 weeks at #1 on that list.

And *Cosmos* has been seen by many classes of students at Kellogg, and will likely be used as part of the science curriculum for a long time to come.

Robert Dagenais, a member of CompuServe’s Astronomy Forum, commented that, “His voice was strong and clear for the value of science over silliness, and a committed belief that average people, especially young children, can appreciate the awe and majesty of science. A true giant is gone, may we feel his spirit every time we look at those ‘billions and billions’ of stars of his.”

Right:
Dr. Sagan looks up at the sky, as he did many, many times during his life.
Below: On “*Cosmos*,” Sagan stands behind a model of the Earth and points to distant stars.



Survey on class officers produces mixed signals

(Continued from page 3)

Adjectives such as “good,” “pretty good,” “fine,” “successful,” and “okay” were also used.

And ratings for all five officers were high. President Tim Stevens was rated higher than any of his fellow officers—Stevens just *barely* beat Vice President Joanna Kornafel—with an average rating of 3.67 on a scale of 1-5. Kornafel’s rating was 3.64. Both ratings are closer to 4 (“very good”) than 3 (“good”).

The other three officers’ ratings were also between “good” and “very good,” but they were closer to “good.” Treasurer Sara Colpitts received a 3.43 rating, Secretary Brynna Johnson’s rating was 3.39, and Social Chairperson Alison Lucey got a 3.24 rating.

But despite those high marks, criticism was the most notable result of the survey. In addition to the overall complaints about the group—“O.K. -- try harder next year” was one student’s comment, another said “lots of good ideas, but little results”—there was also criticism of the jobs done by specific officers.

“Sara Colpitts should be fired,” said one student, who then added, “So should Ali Lucey.”

“Chairperson and secretary do very little — should not be able to run again next year,” commented someone, referring to Alison Lucey and Brynna Johnson.

Another statement was “I feel the other officers should be evaluated to see if they accomplish all job requirements, if not should be forced out of office.”

But others said that “Ali Lucey is wonderful” and “Ali Lucey is doing a great job.” And someone wrote in Secretary Brynna Johnson as their “ideal” class president.

There weren’t any comments—positive or negative—about the second-highest-rated officer, Joanna Kornafel. But there were many, most of them positive, on the highest-rated, Tim Stevens.

Among them: “Tim Stevens is a nice guy,” “Tim is a hard-working individual,” and “I love Tim Stevens.”

“He helps us students ‘at the bottom of the barrel,’” said one student, quoting Stevens’s speech during the freshman class elections.

But that’s not to mention one of the most interesting statements of all about Mr. Stevens: “With all due respect to the President, I believe he should be locked up immediately ... he is liable to kill someone someday.”

The survey, which was a joint project of *The Living Room Times* and President Stevens (although the *Times* had the final word about which questions were included and which weren’t), also included several questions specifically about Mr. Stevens.

When asked if the President strikes them as arrogant, 11 voters said yes. 8 said he acts arrogant but actually isn’t, and 8 said that they don’t know. The remaining

33 voters said no.

Results were even better for Stevens on the question that asked “Does Tim Stevens strike you as cold and removed?” Only 4 voters out of 60 said yes, and only 5 said he “acts like it, but isn’t.” 9 said they don’t know. The remaining 42—an overwhelming 70%—said no.

Asked if Stevens seems like someone who would be willing to “fight for you, given the right issue,” 43 out of 60 voters (72%) said yes. But only 29 voters—less than half—believe that, as class president, Stevens “has the power to fight for you on an issue that you care about.”

On the question that asked “How much influence do you think the class officers have over how the sophomore class operates,” the most popular answer was “some, but not that much,” which was chosen by 55% of voters. Only 6% said they have “a lot” of influence; 22% chose “a little bit” and 12% chose “none.” The remaining 5% said they don’t know.

Students were also asked to name Tim Stevens’s best and worst “Presidential qualities.” Winning choices for what he is best at were “speech-delivering skills” (27%) and “intelligence” (22%). As for what he’s worst at, a large number—29%—picked “ability to convince teachers and administrators to agree with him.” But that was only the runner-up; the most popular answer, picked by 47% of voters, was “other.” Some of those “other” choices were: “taking charge,” “being social,” “relations with students not in the Class of ’99,” “ability to be serious,” “making new and different changes,” “actually meeting and knowing the class,” “none,” “I’ll think of something,” “being a president,” and “extreme solitaire.” (The same person who wrote “extreme solitaire” put down “eel-wrestling” as Stevens’s best Presidential quality.)

(Continued on page 8)

Students were asked for one phrase that best describes the Stevens Administration so far. Here are some selected answers:

- pretty good
- silly
- extravagant; pure genius
- long
- fine
- George Bush
- friendly
- unbelievable
- Haven’t seen anything change so far
- silent (except for those newsletters)
- interesting
- Communism
- Tim Stevens Administration? Is this like a fan club?

Another term for class president Stevens?

Survey says that some sophomores hope for it, most expect it

(Continued from page 7)

There were also several questions relating to President Stevens's possible future in class politics, and they—like much of the survey—yielded mixed signals.

Most of the students surveyed—63%—hope that Tim Stevens runs for another term as class president. But when asked whether they would prefer to see Stevens run unopposed or have someone run against him, only 2 out of the 57 voters who responded said they hope he is unopposed. 44 out of 57 (77%) want to see someone run against him; the remaining 11 voters said they have no opinion on the matter.

And only 26% of the voters said they will “definitely” vote for Stevens if he runs again. The remaining 74% chose “probably,” “probably not,” or “don’t know.”

Still, when asked if they **expect** that Stevens will be re-elected, only 3 out of 56 respondent voters said “no.” 35 said yes; 18 don’t know.

And on the question that asked who would be the “ideal” president for the sophomore class, Stevens was the most popular choice. The President got 16 votes, a number topped only by the 21 voters who left the question blank or wrote “don’t know.” Chris Manzione was a distant second to Stevens with 3 votes; Brendan Loy and Peter Pellegrini each got 2. Sixteen other choices received one vote apiece.

Selected answers to “What issues would you like to see the sophomore class officers address in the future”:

- hat rule; smoking policy
- impeachment of Tim Stevens
- the fact that they don’t seem to do anything
- more class activities and fundraisers
- make period 5 shorter
- longer lunches
- don’t plan our senior prom in March like our junior prom
- dances; fundraisers
- No class dues; Academic probation, etc.
- a dinner for a fund-raiser; a class trip for this year; another fun dance
- Why is our JUNIOR PROM IN MARCH?
- 1) Employment
- 2) Tax cuts
- 3) Abortion rights
- I would like our class to do more stuff as a class
- compatibility of frogs and zebras in frigid and temperate climates; the amount of radioactivity given off by Whirlpool microwaves

Soccer star Enzo Faienza honored

Newington senior named All-American, state all-star MVP



Above: Enzo Faienza scores a goal for Newington against Amity in the 1996 state tournament first round.

(Continued from page 2)

that you’re one of the top in the nation, and I’m proud of that, and I have to thank my teammates, because without my teammates, none of this would have happened.”

Boys soccer coach Dave Clarke agreed. “It’s a reflection on the whole team,” Clarke said of Faienza’s award. “Yes, he gets it

directly, but indirectly, it reflects on the team, the players, and the program.”

Clarke said that Faienza may be the first player ever at Newington High to be named All-American in any sport. “Nobody can recall an All-American in any of the other sports,” he stated.

Faienza found out that he had made All-American the same way everyone else did—On December 1, he heard the news for the first time over the school intercom during the morning announcements.

“I didn’t tell him. I had the message read over the school during homeroom,” Coach Clarke said. “So I think he was a little bit surprised.”

“Unbelievable.”

—Enzo Faienza, asked for one phrase that best describes his experience over the past four years playing soccer at NHS

(Continued on page 9)

Presidential Electors vote, make Clinton's win official

Presidential Election Day was December 16.

That's right. Not November 5, but December 16.

When the people of this country made their choice between Bill Clinton or Bob Dole back on November 5, their popular decision was—as everyone knows—four more years of Clinton. But the nationwide popular vote count is irrelevant to the actual winner. It's the state-by-state winners that matter. And nothing is official until December 16, when the Presidential Electors—the only people whose votes constitutionally count—meet in 50 state capitals across the country and cast their votes.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the Electoral College, it works like this: When we cast our votes for President, we are actually voting for a certain number of "electors," people who support the candidate of our liking. Which electors "win" is determined by which Presidential candidate gets the most votes in each individual state. (So, in states that Clinton won, the electors who support Clinton won; in states that Dole won, the electors who support Dole won.) The electors who win get to participate in the Electoral College vote, casting the official votes for President and Vice President several weeks after the November election. There are 538 electors in America—8 of them from Connecticut—and their votes are tallied to determine the winner of the Presidential election.

So the *real* Presidential election didn't take place until December 16.

If you haven't taken Contemporary Democracy or another democracy-oriented class yet, then that might surprise you. What shouldn't surprise anyone is the result of the electors' vote: Bill Clinton was re-elected,

chosen as President for four more years.

In Connecticut, the 8 chosen Presidential Electors—all Democrats and Clinton supporters, because Clinton won this state back on November 5—met in the State Capitol building to cast their votes.

The count: Clinton 8, Dole 0, of course.

There was certainly no suspense about the outcome of Connecticut's electoral vote. Still, all eight electors were thrilled to be involved in the quadrennial historic event.

"It was quite an honor to be an elector," said elector John Larson in an exclusive interview with *Living Room Times* editor Brendan Loy. "We're gratified and honored to be named electors."

Loy also asked Larson if he has any particular hopes or expectations for President Clinton's next four years. "As President Clinton has said, he's looking forward to building a bridge to the 21st century," Larson replied, "and I think it's critical that, especially in the area of education and technology, that we have a President that has a vision, [and] a Vice President that has a vision, of where the country's got to go, and that's why it's important that we put in such a team, and have them lead the way into the 21st century for us."

"I'm very excited over this," elector Ella Cromwell told *Times* editor Loy. Cromwell filled in for Marjorie Bennett, who had originally been a chosen elector but had fallen ill before the voting. "This will go down in history! I love this!" Cromwell exclaimed.

"This is the second time that I've been an elector. I was an elector four years ago," said Newington's own Frank Aieta, the democratic town chairman here, to

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All-American Faienza looks back at last 4 years

(Continued from page 8)

"I didn't know until the announcements came on, so I was shocked as much as everybody else was," Faienza said. "Actually, I didn't even hear it until after everyone started yelling in the homeroom. Because our homeroom talks and talks. So I didn't hear it until everyone looked back at me, and I just said, 'What?' And they said, 'You made All-American.'"

Faienza said his jaw dropped at the news. "It was hanging for a while," he added.

As for his future plans, Faienza is currently looking at a number of colleges, all with Division 1 boys soccer teams. "I'm going to call the NCAA Tournament Champions for Division 1, St. John's Redmen. I'm going to talk to their coach tonight," Faienza said on December 20. He is also considering UMass, the University of

Vermont, and the University of Hartford.

Looking back at his four years of Newington High School soccer, Faienza said his best memories are of night games at home, because "we showed the school that we were able to win, and win the big games under the lights when it counted." He specifically named two memorable games—in 1995, a win that ended Bristol Eastern's 43-game conference winning streak, and in 1996, a 2-1 overtime win over Southington that put the Indians in the conference lead—which are among his best memories.

When asked for one phrase that best describes the experience he's had in the past four years playing soccer at NHS, Faienza pondered the question for a while, then answered: "Unbelievable."

No surprise in electors' vote: 4 more years of Clinton

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editor Loy. "And I would like to say that it's an honor for me, being elected by 1400 delegates to the state convention, for the second time, to be an elector. It's truly a privilege.... It was a very nice ceremony."

Asked about his hopes or expectations about Clinton's second term, Aieta said, "I think that if he continues with the policies of the last four years, we'll be served very well."

"The economy in the United States has been going very well—unfortunately, in the state of Connecticut, we don't feel it that much—but the rest of the country's doing very well," Aieta explained.

Asked about the ceremony as a whole, Secretary of the

State Miles Rapoport, who presided over the proceedings, said, "I thought it was a great day. Two parts of it: One, I thought we had a sense of importance and significance of the casting of the electoral college votes, which I thought it deserved, and I thought that was good. And secondly, I was delighted that there were as many students...from all around the state, because I feel like that's a way of getting kids to take a first step to being involved in the process." He was referring to the fact that hundreds of state high school students attended an all-day educational program which ended in watching the electors cast their votes in the State Senate chamber.

By the way, the nationwide electoral vote tally was Clinton 379, Dole 159.



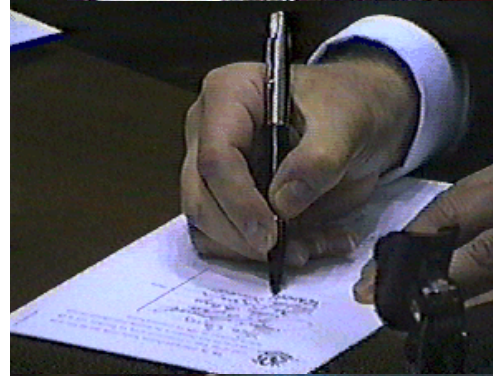
Left: Secretary of the State Miles Rapoport speaks at the beginning of the Electoral College ceremony.



Right: Elector John Larson (background) signs a paper supporting the selection of Ella Cromwell (foreground) as a substitute elector.



Left: Electors Ella Cromwell (foreground), John Larson (background, left), and Fleeta Hudson (background, right) take the oath of office. **Right:** An elector officially signs his vote for Clinton and Gore.



Left: Secretary of the State Miles Rapoport announces the results from Connecticut's electoral vote: Clinton/Gore 8, Dole/Kemp 0.

Right: In keeping with tradition, each ballot, after being signed by the electors, was then sealed with wax.

