

# The Living Room

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**Class Election '97**  
Special Edition #4  
reporting on the class officer elections,  
focusing mostly on the Class of 1999

Friday, June 13, 1997

## Time for a change

**Class of '99 elects  
McBride president**  
Three incumbents ousted



**President-elect  
Ryan McBride**

"It's time for a change at Newington High School. The old school's out! It's all new now."

—McBride supporter  
Kevin Hauschulz

Ryan McBride won't become president of the Class of 1999 until September, but his list of political accomplishments is already quite impressive.

First on Wednesday, McBride did something that had never been done before: He topped Tim Stevens's speech.

Then on Thursday, McBride did something else that had never been done before, something which many had considered nearly impossible to achieve. He topped Tim Stevens.

McBride swept into the presi-

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To read the original speech that McBride wrote, then ripped up, please see page 5.



*Above: Brian Newbold (left), who voted for Jeff Brunetti in the election Thursday, shakes hands with the winner, President-elect Ryan McBride (right), afterschool. "Congratulations, Ryan," Newbold said. "I'm proud of you for your accomplishment."*

### Sudden end to Stevens "dynasty"



*Above: Stevens with his girlfriend, freshman class president Kristin Vasil. Both were ousted Thursday.*

After three years serving as some sort of student body president, Tim Stevens will have a new position next year.

He'll be sitting down. "I'd have to go to one of the meetings to see what it'll be like to sit

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# McBride ousts Stevens

## Elected president thanks to speech, desire for change

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dency of next year's junior class Thursday, ending Stevens's string of three years in a row as a student body president, the last two at NHS.

Additionally, two other challengers also defeated incumbent sophomore class officers. Lauren Correll beat Vice President Joanna Kornafel, and Jaimie Kwassman defeated Treasurer Sara Colpitts in Thursday's voting. Secretary Brynna Johnson won in an uncontested race, and Social Chairperson Ali Lucey beat challenger Idalina Estanislau, making Lucey one of only two incumbents in the entire school to win a contested election Thursday.

"It's time for a change at Newington High School," said Kevin Hauschulz, who voted for McBride. "The old school's out! It's all new now. And I think that we'll see how it works this year, and if it doesn't work, we'll go back to Tim."

For the most part, McBride supporters cited one of two reasons for voting for him: some, like Hauschulz, said it was time for a change, while others simply liked his ad-lib speech on Wednesday.

McBride, of course, was happy to get support from voters in either group. "I'd like to thank all the kids who supported me," he said. McBride gave special thanks to the students in his "cheering section" during his speech, especially Bob Struzenski, Mike Mierkiewicz (who, according to McBride, wore a T-shirt on Thursday which



*Above: Apparently hoping to start a new tradition like Indy 500 winners drinking milk, McBride tastes the Minute Maid Concord Punch of Victory. Pouring it into his mouth is Mike DelGaudio.*

said "Ryan McBride is an okay guy"), and Nino DiBiase ("couldn't have done it without him," McBride said).

"I feel that the students felt it was time for a change," McBride stated. But he acknowledged that his hilarious speech on Wednesday, when he tore up his prepared statements and spoke "from the heart," played a major role in his victory.

"I think my speech had a lot to do with it," McBride stated. "I think it was a lot of luck, too, because if Tim hasn't gone before me, none of this would have ever happened." McBride's decision to rip up his speech in favor of his comical ad-lib act was in response to the fact that Stevens ripped up a prop paper labeled "The Script" during his speech. "I think, if Tim gave the speech he gave and the order was different, I think Tim would have definitely won the election," McBride admitted.

Also crucial to the success of McBride's speech, and thus, his candidacy, was his "cheering section" of friends who led the whole cafeteria in wild cheers and applause at virtually every sentence in his speech, thus making the scene all the more hilarious.



*Above: McBride's "cheering section."*

"The cheering section certainly was a critical element," McBride said. "It wasn't planned that they were going to sit in front or anything, but them standing up and cheering for me definitely got everyone else paying attention, looking at me. Drew attention to me. Liked it. Liked it a lot."

Other students' analysis of the speech's effect on the election—whether positive or negative—was widely varied Thursday.

"I think Ryan McBride had a very well thought-out campaign, especially when he ripped up his speech," stated Mike Duensing. "That did it! Because, you know, we don't need any fakers who write their stuff down beforehand just to get the office. We need someone who speaks from the heart. I think McBride is the man."

"I just think it's totally stupid how someone can win based on a popularity contest and a speech contest," said

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# Stevens “dynasty” comes crashing down

Stevens, his girlfriend, and his best friend all out of office

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there instead of to be up front,” Stevens said Thursday when asked how difficult it will be to accept the fact that he will no longer be president next year.

His own loss to Ryan McBride in the Class of '99 isn't the only disappointment Stevens will have to deal with. His girlfriend, Kristin Vasil, lost Thursday to Anna Konyukhov in the election for president of the Class of '00, after his best friend, Tim Sheridan, was disqualified from his bid for re-election for president of the Class of '98 last week.

“It's kind of odd because one minute, we were all there, and the next minute, we're not,” said Stevens, who nevertheless downplayed the significance of the “Stevens Dynasty.”

When he first heard the announcement of his loss to Ryan McBride, Stevens said his strongest emotion may have been “relief that I finally know the results.” Stevens had suspected ever since his opponent's wildly popular speech Wednesday morning that he would probably lose, so “I wasn't incredibly surprised” by the result, “but it was good to have it over with.”

Stevens said he caught up with McBride afterschool and briefly spoke with him. “I said ‘congratulations’ and ‘good luck on next year’.”

Stevens plans to stay involved in the class next year as a homeroom representative. As for the strange feeling of sitting down with the representatives instead of standing in the front of the classroom directing the meetings, he said, “I guess it will be a little odd initially, but I'm not going to be jumping up in the middle of the [meeting] and demanding to take control.”

Asked to react to the criticism that McBride was elected purely on the basis of his funny speech, Stevens said, “If it was the reason why they voted for him, then that's a sad commentary because you should vote for someone on their ability to do the job, not just how amusing they are. But I don't think the case was that they voted for him purely on his joking. I hope that's not the case.”

Stevens agreed with McBride that the result of the election would have been much different if McBride had spoken before Stevens “because he wouldn't have had to time to tear up the speech and ad-lib it....I think it might have been a different result.”

Addressing all of his supporters, Stevens said simply, “Thanks. It was an honor to be president and I'm sorry if I disappointed any of my supporters, but thank you for supporting me.”

Looking ahead to whether he'll run in next year's election for senior class president, Stevens stated, “No promises at this point, but— I mean, if Ryan does a great job, no, but otherwise, yes, I'll be there.”

## President Stevens's message to his supporters

Outgoing president Tim Stevens sent this E-Mail message to some of his supporters after losing yesterday. He granted permission for it to be printed in *The Living Room Times*, addressed to all of his supporters.

### Class of '99

I just wanted to write to thank you all for the support, (if you did indeed support me). I am proud to have served all of you as President of your class. It was an honor to represent all of you. You are the cream of the crop. Unfortunately, it appears I did not do as good a job as I thought and hoped I had. I apologize if I left any of you down. I tried my hardest, but sometimes, this time, it wasn't enough. Thank you very much for giving me the honor of being your President. It was something I will always be proud of.



Above: Stevens talks to McBride after McBride's speech Wednesday.



# Students vote for change

## McBride, Correll, Kwassman beat incumbent officers

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Bryan Rudolph. "I mean, I know [the speech] has something to do with it, but when you base who you vote for primarily on that— I mean, I talked to so many people that said they voted for him because he was funny. What the hell does that have anything to do with being president? Nothing."

Asked to respond to that type of criticism, McBride replied, "All I can say is, I'm going to do the best job I can as president. I tried to be as serious as possible. It's not really my fault that everyone started laughing [during the speech]. I really wasn't looking for a laugh at first, but then I just kind of went with it."

"A lot of people have been putting McBride down, saying he's not serious about his position, but you can't blame a kid for having a sense of humor, making the speech fun," said Brian Newbold, a Brunetti voter who is also friends with McBride. Newbold said McBride's sense of humor will help the class because it will "get everybody nice and loose, and have a lot of fun."

Myke Cocolla, on the other hand, believes that McBride will be "the worst president we'll ever have in the world." He said he voted for Stevens, adding, "I wasn't going to vote for McBride! McBride's a joke!"

Marisa Cohen, who voted for McBride, predicted that McBride will bring fun back into the class. "I know him personally, and I think that he would make a good president just because I think he would bring more fun activities that more people would participate in, because he knows what more people like than Tim Stevens [knew]."

Kate Harbeson also voted for McBride, but not primarily because of his sense of humor or his speech. "I voted for Ryan because I think Tim's been president long enough, and [Ryan] would do a good job," she said. "What about FDR?" objected Carrie Ripley, referring

to four-term U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, when she heard Harbeson's comment about Stevens having been president for long enough. "He brought us through the Great Depression, and Tim could do just the same thing! Tim is a wonderful president, and I'm excessively depressed because he has been thrown out of office."

But Harbeson said "Tim hasn't been doing well" when it comes to getting people involved in class activities. "We might as well try [Ryan]!"

McBride wasn't the only challenger celebrating victory Thursday. Lauren Correll, who defeated the incumbent vice president, Joanna Kornafel, said, "I'm really excited about next year." She said hearing the

announcement of her victory was "a relief."

Asked why she won, Correll replied, "I think people know that I'm responsible and I'm ready to work for it and help out my class."

"Lauren Correll for President!" suggested Dennis Chow.

Jaimie Kwassman was also very happy with her win, and said she is eager to get to work on her plans for how to keep the students better informed.

"I'm very happy, and Idalina did a very good job," said Ali Lucey, the only incumbent in the Class of '99 to win a contested election. "She should run again next year. She's very good."

Asked if she was surprised to survive the sweeping anti-incumbent sentiment among the voters, Lucey said, "I was surprised. I was expecting Idalina to win, today from everyone else's reactions about it, but I'm very happy and I'm surprised."

Bryinna Johnson was also re-elected in an uncontested race.

In the Class of 2000, two incumbents were ousted. President Kristin Vasil lost to Anna Konyukhov, whom she had beaten in September, and Vice President Matt Sternberg lost to Carolyn Harrington. Incumbent Melissa Figueiredo beat Erin DeRubbo in a race for secretary, making her the only incumbent other than Ali Lucey to win a contested election Thursday. In the Class of '00, The other incumbents were unopposed.

As for the Class of 1998, all the races were unopposed except the two-way race for social chairperson between two non-incumbents, Amanda Ficacelli and Serena Butler. Ficacelli won. Matt Carbray was unopposed in the election for president to fill the vacancy left when in-

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Above left: Ryan McBride urges students to "par-ti-ci-pate" in class events. Above right: McBride points to sports players in the crowd.



## **McBride's written speech**

McBride had a speech prepared just like everyone else did, but to match Stevens's paper-tearing theatrics, McBride decided to rip up his speech (see picture at left) and ad-lib. Below is the text of his original, written speech:

Good Morning. My name is Ryan McBride and I am a candidate running for the office of president. So first I'd like to tell you a little about myself. I have been an active member in the High School's Key Club for 2 years and was my homeroom's representative this past year. I also have been a member of several athletic teams here at school and have participated in numerous extra curricular activities outside of school. What our class is lacking is a person who stands up, takes control, and tries to make the best decisions possible. If elected, I plan. . . to make good decisions. . . that will benefit our class as a whole. I'll be honest with you. Our class is one of the least productive classes this school has ever seen. Not only is there lack of participation by us, the student body, but one can't help but wonder if there is also lack of leadership in one or all of the offices. I would just like to say that I am the leader this class is desperately in need for. If elected I feel that as a class we all should be better informed about our class's activities and fund-raisers. . . Some of you guys might ask, "Ryan, why would we want to work at a car wash or have a bake sale?" That is perfectly fine. I too felt that way sometimes. . . I would do my best to have the students of our class fill out surveys so we have some idea as to what people want to do to raise money for the class. What some of us might not understand is that the money we raise at fundraising events not only helps lower the price of prom tickets, but also helps our class leave a gift to the school when we graduate. Past gifts have been the fans we have in the classrooms and stuff like that. The more money we raise, the better gift we can buy to truly leave our mark at Newington High School. . . Depending on what kind of gift we give, we might be ridiculed as "the class who left the school a ten dollar bill."

So in closing, I would like to say. . . a successful class. . . just doesn't happen over night. It takes a little planning and a whole lot of effort. . . I am not. . . a man who will take his position for granted and get lazy on the job. . . What I am is a dedicated, hard worker that will do his best to make the class of 1999 the best class of the millennium. Thank you.

## **McBride topples Stevens, wins presidency**

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cumbent Tim Sheridan was forced out of the race by vice principal Nancy Koplin.

Meanwhile, McBride relished his victory in the Class of '99 while sympathizing with the candidates who lost. "It's unfortunate that some people have to lose," he said, "but I won. And that's all there is to it."

Due to a shortage of time, *The Living Room Times* was unable to include an article with reactions from McBride's other opponent, Jeff Brunetti. We apologize for this omission.

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