

The Living Room Times

"All the Noise that's fit to print."

Thursday, February 9, 1995

MDA price lowered Last-minute effort to increase participation unfair, say some

MDA
SuperDance

In a last-minute move which is being harshly criticized by students who already raised twenty-five dollars for this afternoon's MDA Super Dance at Kellogg, the student council has decided to allow students who did not raise money to attend the dance if they bring in just \$2.00—not the \$25.00 students who already paid were told they had to raise—and hand it in this morning between 8:00 and 8:15 in the morning.

The reason for this change in price? Lack of interest. Only about one hundred students had raised money for the dance, which benefits the MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association), and that was well short of the approximately 400 students which student council had hoped would attend the dance.

"I just only had a hundred kids that raised money," said Student Council Advisor Denise Siano, who apparently made the final decision about the last-minute price change. "I want more involvement. So that's why I'm selling tickets for two dollars."

But students who already paid for their tickets are steamed about the change in price, because they had been previously told they had to raise \$25.00 in donations to go to the dance.

"The people that put money to go to the MDA Dance put effort into it so that they could, you know, go, and participate," said Michelle Vivier, a sixth grader who had already raised \$25.00 for the event. "And they also probably wanted to participate in

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Vote for two Dolly election is today

In the seven-year history of dolly elections, including times in third and fourth grade when the elections were almost daily, never had their been an election featuring any dollies other than those owned by Brendan Loy.

Students at Elizabeth Green School and Martin Kellogg Middle School have taken their picks between the likes of Birdy-Bird, Cachou, Piggy, Sebastian, Kitty, Sealy, Tigger, Eeyore, Diana, and many others.

The dollies have faced off in numerous exciting elections. There have been tournaments, champions, campaigns, Presidents, comebacks, surprises.

There have been elections which have gotten students so involved that they have rallied on the playground at recess in fourth grade chanting "Tigger! Tigger!" and "Cachou! Cachou!", and so excited that they burst into cheers and applause on

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Taco Report: Cafeteria tacos no good?

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Students say MDA Dance price change unfair

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helping the MDA....They have interest. The other people just want to go to the dance!"

"We took the time to do it, and the other people just said, 'Oh! Oh! Oh! That's gonna...'. You know. That's not fair."

"It certainly isn't fair," Brendan Loy agreed.

"I think that it's a waste of time for the other people who got twenty-five dollars!" Brian Newbold, an eighth grader who had already raised \$25.00, commented.

"It doesn't seem fair to me," said Sean Vivier, another eighth grader who had already raised the \$25.00 he thought he needed.

"It starts out telling you, 'The only way you're getting into this....dance [is] you gotta pay twenty-five dollars....It'll get to MDA to help Muscularly Dystrophied people....and then, at the last minute, they're like 'Oh, by the way, you can go just by paying two bucks'."

Student Council Treasurer Dan Seremet defended the student council's decision, but also showed some sympathy for the feelings of the students who think the change is unfair, saying "There never was a real *price*. Before, you couldn't *buy* one; you had to raise the twenty-five dollars. Now, you can buy it with two dollars. Well, it will get more people involved....The decision was made probably during the executive board meeting at flex, which I wasn't at. If I *was* there, I probably would have agreed because it does get more people involved. But it is not totally fair to the people who did go out and raise twenty-five dollars. If people *really* wanted to go, they would have raised the twenty-five dollars. I don't think we'll get many people to buy it with the two dollars, because if they really wanted to go they would have raised twenty-five dollars."

"We had to do it because not many people handed in money before," said Student Council President Tim Stevens. "So, the decision was made."

"How many people went [originally]?" Brendan asked.

"A hundred," Tim said. "We were expecting over four hundred."

"I'm upset about the same thing [as the other students are]!" Tim added. "I put the effort in, you know?"

Michelle Vivier suggested that students who *did* raise \$25.00 should be given some kind of reward, above and beyond just going to the dance, because they made the effort to collect \$25.

On that subject, Tim said he will talk to Mrs. Siano about the possibility giving away MDA sports bottles, originally intended for students who raised \$35.00 or more, to anyone who raised at least \$25.00.

The profits from the dance will benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and Martin Kellogg will present a check in the amount of whatever is raised on the MDA Jerry Lewis Telethon next Labor Day Weekend.

Today's contest a historic first for dolly elections

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Bus Three upon hearing of Birdy-Bird's landslide Williamsburg victory last year.

But in all the elections of the past seven years, never has there been a contest featuring so much as a single dolly candidate owned by someone other than election moderator Brendan Loy.

That changes today.

There are eight candidates in the election for Stuffed Council President. Only one of them is owned by Brendan. Another is owned by Brendan's cousins who live in Syracuse, New York. The other six are owned by students at Martin Kellogg.

The candidates are: Piggy (Brendan Loy), Rudy Junior (the Fleming-Loomers of Syracuse), Bunny (Kate Harbeson), Gratya (Cathy Towle), Gogi (Christina Mozzicato), Frank Froggy (Tim Stevens), Bandit (Terra Thomas), and Doctor Dolittle (Kristyn Fontanella).

Because of the historic nature of the election, and the fact that it is likely to be close (given that there are eight candidates and only fifty or sixty people likely to vote), extra measures are being taken to make sure that the election will not be rigged.

The past five dolly elections have all been tarnished by some form of controversy and/or fraud. The Williamsburg election had a corrupt moderator on Bus Two, Veronique Fort, who completely threw off the result. The Cachou/Birdy-Bird rematch in November and the Piggy/Tigger/Kitty election in December had students who wrote on the ballot. The Cachou/Piggy and Kitty/Birdy-Bird/Sebastian elections last month were questioned because of a controversy over when the polls closed and who was eligible to vote.

There is only one moderator, Brendan Loy, who is in charge of the elections and would have no reason to rig the result. So that problem is solved.

As for students tampering with the ballot, Brendan is writing the votes by hand this time. That will make it harder to add up the results, but also harder for others to mark false votes.

As for the polls closing, the moderator must announce out loud when the polls are closed, not

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Brain Ball— The “J-Words” on the windows side of the room beat the “F-Words” on the doors side of the room in V’s SuperHawks/Buffalo Chips/V-Tards History class on Monday, 106 to 82.

The F-Words were ahead for a while, but the J-Words were able to win thanks to MVP Brenden Roche, and Dan Seremet. Claudio Gualtieri and Bryan Rudolph also played very well. The J-Words were playing without Sean Vivier and Kate Harbeson, who were both absent.

Both teams lost points because of cheating, arguing, and ranking down that was going on. The J-Words lost 17 points during the course of the game; the F-Words lost 15. In addition, 3 points were awarded to the F-Words when a J-Words player cheated.

The J-Words were also called the “Swat Team” by some of their players. Brendan Loy called the F-Words the “Itos.” Beth Milewski and Veronique Fort called the teams “Carla” and “Jamelle” in honor of those UConn Lady Huskies basketball players.

Here is the *LR Times* brain ball scoresheet. (Ian Drayton is listed as scoring points for both teams, because V ordered him to switch sides from the F-Words to the J-Words in the middle of the game.)

<u>Who scored for “J-Words”</u> <i>(otherwise known as “Carla” and “Swat Team”)</i>	<u>Who scored for “F-Words”</u> <i>(otherwise known as “Jamelle” and “Itos”)</i>
Brenden Roche (28)	Mark Almeida (27)
Dan Seremet (24)	Felicia Brown (17)
Claudio Gualtieri (22)	Jessica Gaskell (12)
Bryan Rudolph (21)	Stacy Allen (11)
Pheonix Young (15)	Carrie Angyel (9)
Veronique Fort (5)	Beth Milewski (9)
Ian Drayton (4)	Christina Pappa (7)
Eric Faraday (4)	Ian Drayton (2)
<i>Seventeen points taken off for ranking down, arguing, and cheating (-17)</i>	<i>Fifteen points taken off for ranking down, arguing, and cheating (-15)</i>
	<i>Three points added on as a penalty against the other team (3)</i>
<u>106 total points</u>	<u>82 total points</u>



Cafeteria serves tacos again— For the first time in several weeks, the Kellogg cafeteria served tacos at lunch Wednesday.

The sight (and taste) of tacos, of course, makes many students think of Kellogg’s popular foreign language teacher Mr. Turner, whose nickname is ‘El Taco.’

“Did you enjoy the tacos in the cafeteria?” Brendan Loy asked Mr. Turner in an interview afterschool.

“Yes, I did!” Mr. Turner responded enthusiastically. He then went on to complain, however, saying “But they still did not have jalapenos, or sour cream, uh, or tomatoes, or any of the other little trappings that I like. Oh, and they didn’t even have onions on ’em. And that meat sauce that they make is not really authentic. I mean, it’s just, it’s a very Yankee-ized version of a taco, there. They just have no class at this place.”

“So you’re saying,” summarized Brendan, “that basically, you enjoyed the tacos because they were tacos, but as far as—on a taco scale of one to ten, you’d rate them pretty lowly?”

“Negative numbers,” Mr. Turner answered.



V-Mistakes— Mr. V made some spelling mistakes and typos, as usual, on Tuesday’s history test.

The first page was relatively free of mistakes, except for two involving past and present tense of words.

But on page #2 of the test, Mr. V had four big mistakes.

On #28, he misspelled “Michael Schwerner,” typing “Michael Schwerne” instead.

On #31, in what Brendan Loy thinks may be V’s third- or fourth-best mistake of this year, he referred to “The Blank Muslims.” He meant to say “The Black Muslims.”

On #33, he added “an” to the end of “Elijah Mohammad,” as he typed “Elijah Mohammadan.”

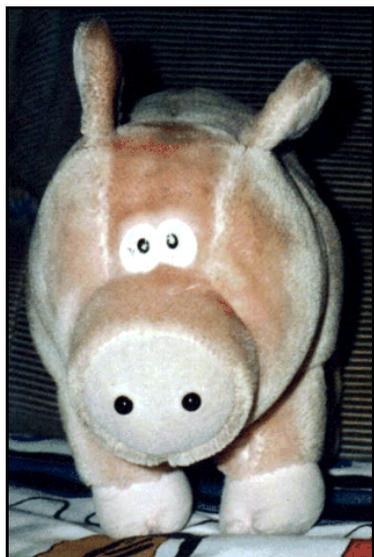
And, on #36, he typed “blacks is beautiful” instead of “black is beautiful.”

“Psycho Sub”— Mr. C. substituted for Mrs. Agnew on Tuesday and Wednesday.

In Science-2, Joey DiNardi and Brenden Roche were chanting “Psycho Sub,” which is Mr. C’s nickname. Mr. C told them to stop. Several minutes later, they started again, and he gave them both detentions for insubordination.

Here are your choices in today's dolly election:

You may vote for two: A first choice and a second choice. The winner of the election will become Stuffed Council President. The second-place finisher will be Stuffed Council Vice President. If you want to vote, tell Brendan Loy and he will mark down your vote.



Piggy

A Tobackian Party
owned by Brendan Loy



Rudy Junior

The Floomer Party
owned by Brendan's cousins,
the Fleming-Loomers



Frank Frog

"Frank Froggy"
Demofrog Party
owned by Tim Stevens



Bunny

Repbunnycan
owned by
Kate Harbeson



Gratya

Boroughcrat
owned by
Cathy Towle



Gogi

Demogogi Party
owned by
Christina Mazzicato



Bandit

independent
owned by
Terra Thomas



Dr. Dolittle

Demodolittle Party
owned by Kristyn Fontanella

Voters can vote for two in today's election

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simply mumble it to himself as happened last time.

As far as the voters are concerned, the election will be a little more complicated than usual. Of the eight choices, voters can vote for **two** dollies. They may have a first choice and a second choice.

The first choice will get two points when the votes are counted by the moderator. The second choice will get one point.

All the points for each candidate will then be added up. The dolly with the most votes will become Stuffed Council President. The dolly with the second-most votes will become Stuffed Council Vice President.

In the event of a tie, a runoff will be held to determine the winner.