

# The Living Room Times

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

**12**  
 schooldays left until  
 summer vacation

Tuesday, May 30, 1995

This is the  
**246th issue**  
 of The Living  
 Room Times  
 "All the Nose that's fit to print"  
 since December 27, 1993

## Crazy day at Kellogg

**46-minute power outage causes protest, fire drill, ringing bells**

If you were at Martin Kellogg Middle School on Friday, and you noticed a loud ringing in your ears, you weren't alone.

Loud, constantly ringing bells, a 46-minute power outage, and several other highly unpredictable events made Friday one of the strangest days anyone at Kellogg could remember.

It all started at 8:07 AM. Students in the seventh and eighth grade wing were out in the hallway unpacking their bags and getting ready for the schoolday.

Some still had their backpacks on; others had their books for the day; still others were completely emptyhanded; when suddenly, all the lights down the entire hallway—and, in fact, throughout the entire school and a large portion of Newington—went out.

"Into the rooms, where there's some light!" ordered Mrs. Mann within seconds of the lights going out. Students wandered through the dark hallway, and found their way to their homerooms, where sunlight came in through the windows.

Once students got into their rooms, it became clear that more than just the hallways were affected by the outage.

"All the lights are off!" stated Stacy Allen, noting that the ceiling lights in Mrs. Toback's room weren't functioning.

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## Greased Lightning!

**Greaser Bear wins election; Muzzy finishes second**



Friday's dolly election for Stuffed Council President, the second-to-the-last dolly election at Martin Kellogg, was a victory for Mrs. DesRosier and the Vocal Techniques class.

The winner was Greaser Bear, a bear with a leather jacket given to Mrs. DesRosier by her Vocal Techniques students after they put on a performance of 'Grease' in the Spring Concert.

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<u>DOLLIES</u>	<u>1st choice votes (5 pts)</u>	<u>2nd choice votes (3 pts)</u>	<u>3rd choice votes (1 pt)</u>	<u>TOTAL POINTS</u>
Greaser Bear	18	9	7	124
Muzzy	12	7	7	88
Frank Froggy	6	7	8	59
Jill Wolfenbien	4	6	8	46
Eagles Bear	2	5	4	29
Scouter Lee	0	4	5	17
Teddy Ruxpin	1	3	1	15
Sammy	2	1	1	14
Mopsy	0	1	1	4

## Giants beat Padres, Mets; make playoffs

**Red Sox get #1-seed; Padres out**

Coming into Friday's 'Sliders' division action, things didn't look very good for the Giants, who were winless in four games. They had lost two games, and tied two others, scoring a grand total of two runs.

For the Ye Olde El Padres, things were looking pretty good. They had two wins and two losses, and seemed headed for the playoffs.

But when the Padres came up against the Giants on Friday with only four players, everything turned upside-down. The Giants took a 5-0 lead in the first inning, and even when

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## Forfeit decided it

**White Sox forfeit to Blue Jays gives Jays 'Bunter' playoff spot**

When Thursday's games finished and the 'Bunters' division regular season was complete, there was a three-way tie for third place.

That meant that only two of those three teams could make it to the playoffs, since only four teams get in.

And thanks to a game which the White Sox lost by forfeit to the Blue Jays—they didn't show up to play—the Sox ended up the team that didn't make it.

The White Sox basically did themselves in. Despite winning two games and tying two others, their loss to the Blue Jays was the tiebreaker between the #4-seeded

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# Not just another school day

## Morning power failure leads to a wacky day at Kellogg

(Continued from page 1)

"I was just walking into the building, and all the lights went out," reported *Living Room Times* chief editor Brendan Loy. "All the lights have gone out here at Martin Kellogg—at least in the seventh and eighth grade wing, and, I assume, throughout the school."

"I'm going home!" Carissa Sfakios declared.

"Rat pushed me," Dan Seremet stated.

"Billy did it, in the computer lab," theorized Claudio Gualtieri about the possible cause of the outage.

"Mrs. Kopcha did it," Carissa added.

"Mrs. Brown sabotaged it," Brendan said. "She shut down all the power."

"Everybody should be seated," said Mrs. Wertching, who was subbing for Mrs. Toback, as the outage continued.

"I'd appreciate your attention and your cooperation," she said as she tried to take attendance.

As Mrs. Wertching took attendance, Tim Stevens observed that the clock had stopped, proving that the problem was indeed an electrical power outage, not just the lights being turned off or something like that.

"At 8:06 and 57 seconds, the power went out here at Martin Kellogg, according to the school clock," Brendan reported several minutes later. "And, it is now 8:16 and 18 seconds, and the power is still out."

At 8:18, some students were heard yelling in the seventh grade portion of the hallway. Eighth graders in Mrs. Toback's room started running towards the door to figure out what was happening.

"Nobody go out in that hallway!" Mrs. Wertching ordered.

Jessika Gaskell, anxious to find out what was happening, disobeyed the command and darted out into the dark hallway to investigate.

"I'll tell you one thing!" Mrs. Wertching said to everyone else in the classroom. "Don't anybody go out there, because Jessika right there is going to go to the office."

Trying to figure out why the seventh graders had been yelling, Jeff Gustavson thought that perhaps the power was back. "Turn the light switch on, Joe," he said to Joe DiNardi, trying to test if the lights were working again.

Joe turned the switch in Mrs. Toback's room, but nothing happened.

"Yes!" Jeff yelled when the lights didn't come back on.

"Yes! It's not on!" Joe added.

"The hall looks cool, and I want to go out there," Michael Fahr commented.

At 8:24, there was a siren heard outside the school, making some think that police might be coming. But nothing apparently came of that, at least as far as the school was concerned.

At 8:31, students in the 'Alternates to Violence' program left their homerooms.

At that time, other students stayed in their homerooms, but a minute or so later, it was announced that students who were supposed to have their regular classes would have to brave the dark hallway and go to their scheduled first class.

The order from the teachers was for students to not go to their lockers, however, to prevent possible injuries. The directive: Go straight to class.

So, the first period of the morning started in the dark. In Mrs. Agnew's class, where Brendan Loy was, Mrs. Agnew talked about the possibility of an early dismissal if the outage

(Continued on page 3)

# Field set for final dolly election

## Ten dollies in June 9 'most popular' contest

Time is finally running out on the seven-year tradition of dolly elections.

The final dolly election at Martin Kellogg—almost certainly the final one of all-time—is less than two weeks away.

The election will be on Friday, June 9, which is the fourth-to-the-last day of the school year. It will be a contest to elect the 'Most Popular Dolly of Middle School,' and it will feature every dolly that has won an election in middle school.

With the May 26 election over, the field is now set for the June 9 election. Ten dollies will be included, and it will be a non-partisan election.

Voters can vote for up to three dollies. First-choice votes will be worth five points, second-choice votes three points, and third-choice one point.

The dollies in the election will be: Greaser Bear, Timon, Cachou, Piggy, Frank Froggy, Scooter Lee, Kitty, Pumbaa, Sebastian, and Birdy-Bird.

# Greaser Bear wins

## Muzzy finishes second; Frank Froggy third

(Continued from page 1)

Greaser Bear's win was not too surprising, since 18 of the 49 voters—37 percent—were Vocal Techniques students.

But only 9 of those 18 Vocal Techniques students voted for Greaser Bear as their first choice. The other 9 first-choice votes for Greaser Bear came from students who aren't in Vocal Techniques.

Greaser Bear didn't lead in the beginning of the election. When only eight people had voted, Muzzy was in first place with 26 points, and Frank Froggy was second with 16. Greaser Bear was third with 12.

Greaser Bear didn't take the lead until 21 people had voted. But he never looked back after that.

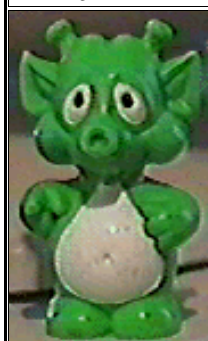
When the election was all over, Greaser Bear ended up with 18 first-choice votes, which were worth five points each, 9 second-choice votes, worth three points each, and 7 third-choice votes, worth one point each. Those votes totaled to 124 points, which was enough for a win, making Greaser Bear the new Stuffed Council President.

Greaser Bear beat Muzzy, who ended up finishing second with 88 points, by a margin of 36 points, the equivalent of seven first-

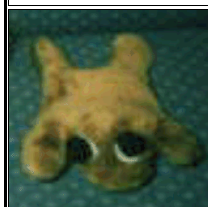
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Above: Mrs. DesRosier holds up Greaser Bear after receiving him as a gift from the Vocal Techniques class on the night of the concert.



Above: Muzzy, owned by Brian Newbold, finished second in the election.



Above: Frank Froggy, owned by Tim Stevens, finished third. He had been the incumbent President.

# Dolly Election Results

## Mrs. DesRosier's 'Greaser Bear' elected Stuffed Council President Brian Newbold's 'Muzzy' Vice President

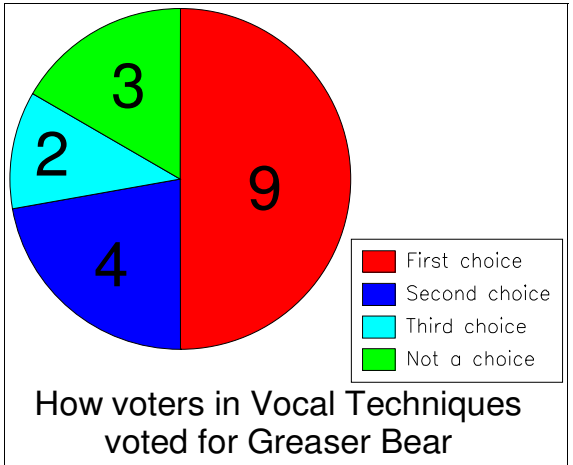
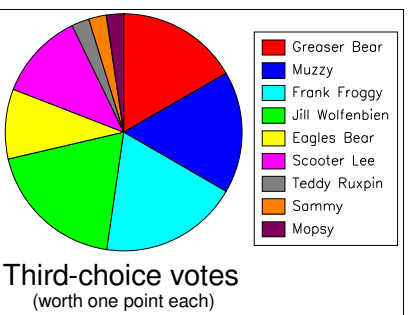
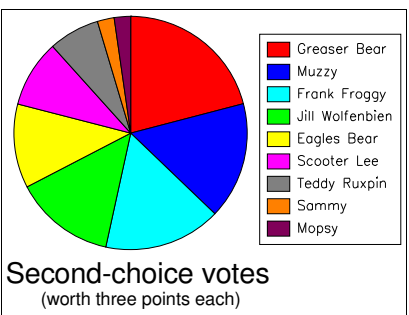
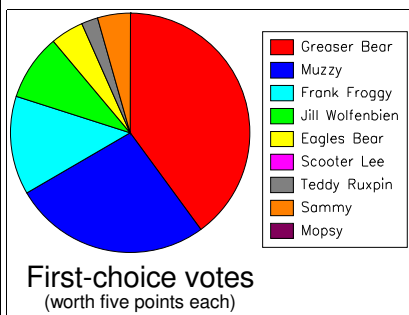
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choice votes and one third-choice vote. But by finishing second, Muzzy was elected Stuffed Council Vice President.

In third place was incumbent Frank Froggy with 59 points, followed by Jill Wolfenbien with 46. They were followed by Eagles Bear (also known as 'Butler Bear')

with 29, Scooter Lee with 17, Teddy Ruxpin with 15, Sammy with 14, and Mopsy in last place with 4 points.

In addition to making him Stuffed Council President, the win put Greaser Bear in the June 9 election, the final dolly election of this year and almost certainly of all time, for the 'Most Popular Dolly of Middle School.' The election features every dolly that has won an



## Wacky day at Martin Kellogg

### Power outage causes hallway protest, fire drill, ringing bells

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continued throughout the day.

She then started talking about a power outage several years ago.

"You know, once upon a time, we did have a power failure that lasted for over a day. The whole Northeast was blacked out, in darkness....What happened, I had just started copying, and, I remember..."

In the middle of that sentence, the lights came back on. Just about everyone in the classroom groaned.

"At 8:53, in the middle of Mrs. Agnew's speech about the last power outage, the lights just came back on," reported Brendan. "At 8:53 and 40 seconds. And the clocks have started again."

"Let's run around and turn on everything that we have, to blow another fuse," suggested Brenden Roche.

"Compliments to everybody on our team," said Mrs. Agnew, referring to how students handled the situation.

The outage had lasted for a grand total of 46 minutes and 43 seconds.

"Well, the power is back on. The emergency is over here at Kellogg," reported Brendan, figuring that the rest of the day would be back to normal.

But the restoration of power wasn't the end of the crazy day at Kellogg. In fact, as it turned out, it was only the beginning.

A few minutes later, a bell started ringing in the hallway. The clocks had not been reset, so Brendan figured that it was just the 8:10 homeroom bell, ringing 46 minutes too late. He reported, "The 8:10 just—yeah. The 8:10 bell is ringing."

But the bell kept ringing and ringing and ringing. "The 8:10 bell is constantly ringing, and it won't stop! For the love of God, stop that!"

"Evacuate!" someone yelled.

"It's a fire alarm!" said someone else.

"Oh, my God!" remarked another person.

"At 8:57 and 26 seconds, the bell won't stop! Stop that!!!" Brendan screamed into the tape recorder.

"C'mon! C'mon! C'mon!" someone pleaded.

After nearly forty-five seconds of constant ringing, the bell finally fell silent.

Several minutes later, the office reset the interconnected school clocks, moving the minute-hand at sixty times its normal rate to change it from 8:13 to

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## Power outage leads to crazy day

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8:59 in just a few seconds.

“At this pace, we’ll be out of school in a couple minutes,” noted Bryan Rudolph as the clock continued to move at superspeed. “Keep going...”

“It’s 8:43 now,” Brendan said. “8:45... 8:55... The second hand has stopped. It’s 8:55... 8:56... 8:57... 8:58... It’s still going! It should be stopped!”

“Yeah!” Bryan yelled.

But the clock stopped on 8:59, exactly.

Once the first class period of the morning was over, what may have been the day’s strangest and least predictable turn of events happened.

Many kids—probably most of the kids in eighth grade—were sitting on the floor after first period, refusing to go to class.

Apparently, they were being poor sports about the fact that the lights were back on and they didn’t get to go home. So they all sat down on the floor in the hallway.

“Sit down!” yelled some of those who were already sitting, encouraging those who were just coming out of class to join them.

Within a few seconds, though, the teachers thwarted the resistance movement, herding the students into their classrooms.

“They were protesting, because they don’t want the lights on!” Christina Mozzicato explained. “We had so much fun in the dark!”

“So what are the teachers supposed to do about it?” Brendan asked. “Call Northeast Utilities and say, ‘Shut off the power?’”

“Turn out all the lights and act like nothing happened,” Christina replied.

As Mr. V explained, the protest apparently started because of an innocent mix-up. V’s first period class got out early, and V told them to sit in the hallway and wait for everyone else to get out of class. Eventually, students coming out of other classrooms joined them, and it turned into a protest.

Then, at 9:32, as if the day hadn’t had enough unpredictable events already, the fire alarm went off.

“This is so cool!” Veronique Fort said as everyone walked outside for the unplanned fire drill.

“This is a weird day!” David Martins noted.

“This whole day has been total chaos,” Billy Gray added. “It’s really cool.”

“This day is awesome, though,” Chris Simcik stated.

Five minutes later, at 9:37, everyone who was outside for the fire drill came back in. The bell didn’t actually ring to signal the end of the drill, but apparently teachers got the word to let everyone back inside.

As Mrs. Kopcha would explain later, the drill was simply an attempt to somehow get the bells to stop ringing.

It didn’t work. At 10:57, the bells started ringing

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**Rumors conflict about Thursday police incident**— Brendan Loy, chief editor of *The Living Room Times*, was not at Kellogg on Thursday. He was in Boston on a field trip with other students in the Explore program.

But on Friday, rumors were flying about an incident that happened on Thursday involving police cars, and, possibly, involving some kind of attack on Mrs. Kopcha.

Rumors about the incident were widely varied—some may have been exaggerated—and Mrs. Kopcha denied the rumors entirely, saying there was a very ill student. She made no mention of any attack on her.

“They brought someone out in a strait jacket!” Claudio Gualtieri reported. “Someone slammed the door—Tim Biggins slammed the door on Kopcha. And, I guess, he was hitting her too. And he was trying to escape from the school. They closed down the bookstore, they blocked off everything. Then, the police came in, and they grabbed him, put him in a strait jacket, and brought him on.”

“This kid was, like, sleeping all day,” said Carissa Sfakios. “And, he woke up and started to go crazy, ’cause he didn’t want to do work, or something. Mrs. Kopcha came in, and he just kept slamming the door on her, and they had to give him a shot to calm him down.”

“She got a piece of glass in her eye, and her face got slammed in a door,” said someone. “There was no ambulance, there was just police cars. And they had the whole corridor blocked off. Supposedly, I heard that, the kid was in a strait jacket. They had to give him shots.”

When asked about the police incident, Mrs. Kopcha gave a completely different story, saying, “What happened was, we had a child who became ill. So, instead of everyone seeing this sick child being removed from the building, we closed some of the doors so that the children didn’t see it. That’s all it was.”



### **Fifth and Sixth Graders have final social**

Friday afternoon from 2:45 to 5:00 was the final social for the fifth and sixth graders this year at Kellogg.

Eighth graders Claudio Gualtieri,

Kim Pina, and Greg O’Donnell were there for the entire social to help out with music and food, as was seventh grader Mayank Amin. Dan ‘Monkey Boy’ Seremet was there as well, but he left early.

Brendan Loy also was there, but he arrived about an hour into the social with his camcorder.

At the end of the social, Brendan and Kim sang the first verse of ‘Those Magic Changes’ and the very beginning of ‘Summer Nights’, both songs from ‘Grease’, on the student council sound system.

Comments were generally positive about the social.

“Super!” Mrs. Siano said when asked how it went. “Like always!”

“Wonderful. It was a good time,” Claudio said. “If Monkey Boy didn’t leave, it would have been better.”

“I think it went all right,” said Kim. “I think I’m an excellent D.J. and no one can beat me. And I’m also an excellent worker, making punch all the time, as you can tell.”

“The dance was fun until two eighth graders started singing,” Mrs. Pelletier said jokingly to Brendan. “Who were they? Do

## Wacky day at Martin Kellogg

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and ringing and ringing again.

It happened for the third time at the end of lunch, at 11:57. It rang for 50 seconds, then stopped for about a half-second, then started again for another 10 seconds, and then stopped for good.

Well, not for good. At 12:57, at the end of reading/foreign language for eighth graders and the beginning of specials, the bell started ringing again, for the fourth time during the day.

“What a day!” yelled V as the bell continued.

“It’s a day that will live in infamy!” Brendan replied.

Barely a half hour later, it happened again, for the fifth time, at 1:29, during eighth grade specials. And this was, by far, the longest lasting ringing of the day.

The bell rang continuously for over 2 minutes, then stopped for a few seconds, then started again for 15 seconds, stopped again, and started again. It lasted for another 45 seconds, stopped for 5 seconds, and then started again for 1 minute and 10 seconds.

At last, it stopped, and it seemed as if the ringing was finally over. The bell was silent for 15 seconds.

But it started again for at least another 20 seconds, before stopping for good and staying silent for the rest of the day.

The fifth ringing had lasted, on and off, for nearly five full minutes.

Once the wacky day was finally over, Brendan interviewed Mrs. Kopcha about what had caused all the problems.

“Why were the lights going off?” Brendan asked.

“There was a transformer that was hit by a bird or something,” Mrs. Kopcha replied, “and it caused all the power to go off in certain parts of town.”

“What about the bells, which kept ringing constantly?”

“One of the re-estats in the bells got stuck. So, we—they told us that if we tried a fire drill, and actually rang the signal, that it should correct it, but it didn’t. So we need to wait for one of the maintainers men to come back in.”

“Now... the re-estats?”

“Right. There are two little metal pieces that are together. And then, when they come apart, it causes the signal to ring. And for some reason, they kept coming apart.”

The problems weren’t restricted to Kellogg, either, according to Mrs. Rosen. She told Brendan about what she heard happened in the morning at the high school.

“All I know is that everybody was in the auditorium, and they were having the awards assembly, and the lights went out. So, everybody had to be removed from the auditorium. And, I think they were sent to classes, and the awards assembly will be on another day.”

“But they had to get out in total darkness?” Brendan asked.

“Yes. Definitely dark. Fortunately there were lots of teachers there. And loads of kids.”

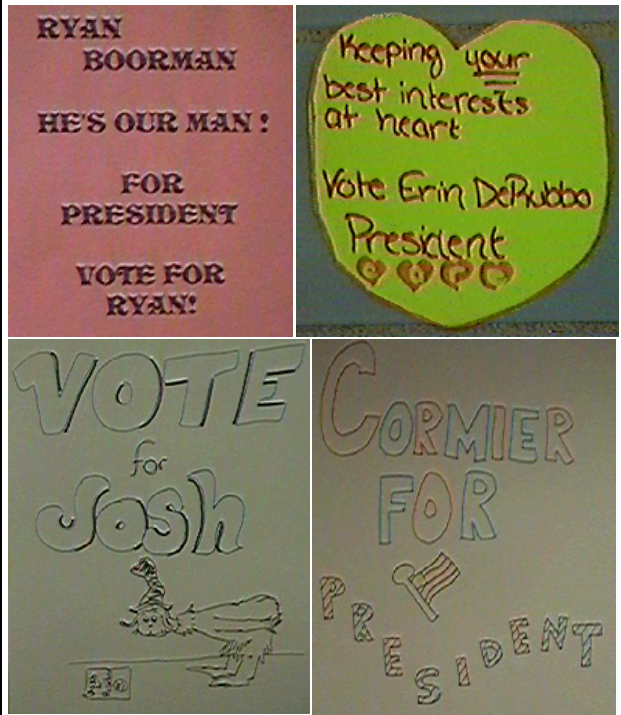
“Was the whole building—was everybody in the building in there, or just some kids?”

“Um, I—let’s just say the auditorium was definitely full. That could be all four grades, or at least three of the

**Student Council Election Wednesday**— The officers for next year’s student council will be elected tomorrow. 5th, 6th, and 7th graders will vote in the election.

The candidates for the offices—one Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian for the 7th & 8th grade student council, and one for the 5th & 6th grade student council, and one Student Council President for all four grades—will made their speeches today.

Campaign signs have been up all week throughout the building. Among them are these four signs, one shown for each candidate for President:



**Chris Whitaker reports fights afterschool**— “I’ve got some gossip for you,” Chris Whitaker said to *LR Times* chief editor Brendan Loy Friday afternoon as Brendan walked home after going to videotape the fifth and sixth grade social.

“There were, like, three fights afterschool,” Chris went on to report. “And one was supposed to be me and Sean Harper, but Amber beat him up. She punched him in the face and kicked him in the groin.”

“Did she throw grape juice at him?” Brendan asked jokingly, referring to the incident involving Amber and Chris Wartschow in October.

“No,” Chris replied.

“What else happened?” Brendan asked.

“I don’t know. I didn’t stay that long. I didn’t even see her beat up Sean.”

“What were the fights that were supposed to happen?”

“One was, like, Matt Ross and Eric someone, and the other one was supposed to be me and Sean, and then there was someone else. I forgot who the other one was. It was all in front of the house over there, behind the school....Sean went home crying.”

### SCIENCE TRIVIA QUOTES

“Who won the best supporting actress...in 1962?” —Mrs. Agnew  
“Tom Hanks.” —Brendan Loy

“What movie did Frank Sinatra portray a drug addict in?” —Mrs. Agnew  
“Benny and the Roids.” —Brenden Roche

“Who created ‘Billy Bud’?” —Mrs. Agnew  
“Anheiser-Busch.” —Joey DiNardi

“What did John F. Kennedy consider his greatest blunder in office?” —Mrs. Agnew  
“Getting shot.” —Sean Vivier  
“Marilyn Monroe.” —Joey DiNardi

“Who said, ‘As long as I am mayor, there will be law and order in Chicago?’” —Mrs. Agnew  
“Al Capone.” —Brendan Loy



# Whiffle Mania!



## Giants knock Padres out

<u>Final Standings</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Game Points</u>
Red Sox	2	0	4	8
Dodgers	3	2	1	7
Giants	2	2	2	6
Mets	2	2	2	6
Padres	2	3	1	5
Rockies	1	3	2	4

*(Continued from page 1)*

three Padres players who had missed the beginning of the game joined their team, they couldn't stop the Giants from scoring three more in the second inning.

The result was an 8-0 Giants rout, the biggest

blowout of the entire tournament in any of the three 'Whiffle Mania' divisions.

And the end result—once the day's other two games were completed—was that the Giants made the playoffs, and the Padres didn't.

The the second game, the Padres' fortunes changed a little. They played the Red Sox, who needed a win or a tie to get regular season first place and the #1-seed in the playoffs. (They could still have lost those distinctions if the Mets had beaten the Giants, however.)

The Padres need to win or tie to keep their playoff hopes alive. If they won, they would have to hope the Mets would beat or tie the Giants in the third game of the day. If they tied the game, their only hope would be a Giants loss to the Mets.

The Red Sox and Padres played five innings of scoreless baseball, finishing in a 0-0 tie. The Padres had 3 hits, 3 errors, and 2 runners left on base. The Red Sox had 3 hits, 2 errors, and 5 runners left on base.

That meant that the Mets/Giants game would determine the winner of the Giants/Padres playoff showdown.

A Mets win would mean the Padres would get the #4-seed in the playoffs, and the Giants wouldn't make it. A tie game would mean the Giants would get the #4-seed in the playoffs, and the Padres wouldn't make it. A win for the Giants would mean they would get the #3-seed in the playoffs, and the Padres wouldn't make it. The Mets had already clinched a spot, no matter what.

The Giants scored a run in the bottom of the first inning, and despite two hits that were nearly home runs by Mets players, the Giants held on to win 1-0, eliminating the Padres from the playoffs.

The playoffs will start on Thursday, with the #1-seeded Red Sox playing the #4-seeded Mets, and the #2-seeded Dodgers playing the #3-seeded Giants.

The winners of those games will play in the championship on June 7.

## Three teams tie for final 'Bunter' spot White Sox the odd team out because of forfeit to Jays

<u>Final Standings</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>Game Points</u>
Indians	4	0	2	10
Braves	2	1	3	7
Twins	2	2	2	6
Blue Jays	3	3	0	6
White Sox	2	2	2	6
Marlins	2	3	1	5
Yankees	0	4	2	2

*(Continued from page 1)*

Jays and themselves.

In the division, the Indians, who had clinched the #1-seed several days earlier, ended up with a record of 4-0-2—the second-best record in the entire tournament. Only the Throwing division Angels (5-0-1) did

better.

The Indians are one of three undefeated teams in the tournament (the 'Sliders' division Red Sox are 2-0-4), but at the bottom of the division is the only winless team in the tournament, the Yankees (0-4-2).

The playoffs will begin on Wednesday, with the #1-seeded Indians playing the #4-seeded Blue Jays, and

## Angels (5-0-1) to go for undefeated title 'Throwers' division playoff semifinals today at flex

There is one undefeated team in each 'Whiffle Mania' division, but the Angels, #1-seed in the Throwers division, have the best record of them all—they have only one tie, and a tournament-best five wins—and their quest for a division championship with an undefeated record will begin today.

They will play the Astros (1-3-2)—the only team which has managed to tie them—today at flex in the playoff semifinal. The Angels beat the Astros the first time they played, but the second time, on Friday, May 12, they tied 6-6.

The winner of the Angels/Astros game will play the winner of the #2 vs. #3 matchup, the Athletics (2-3-1) vs. the Expos (2-4-0). Those teams split their matchups in the regular season with the Expos winning the first time they played and the Athletics winning the second time.