

The Living Room Times

All the Nose that's fit to print... weekly!

300th overall edition — Twenty-sixth regular edition of 1995-1996 season

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

LR Times prints 300th edition; may call it quits after this year

300th *Times* published 864 days after issue #1

by chief editor Brendan Loy

Over twenty-eight months ago, on December 27, 1993, when I sat down at my brand new Compaq ProLinea computer, opened a program called Microsoft Write and typed the words “The Living Room Times—All the Nose that’s fit to print,” I wasn’t thinking about what I’d be writing in May of 1996. I wasn’t thinking about what I’d be writing in May of 1995, for that matter, or May of 1994. I wasn’t even thinking about what I’d be writing the next day, on December 28, 1993!

On that day nearly 2½ years ago, it never occurred to me that I might bring a *Times* edition to school a few weeks later, as I did.

So I never would have or could have thought that just fifteen months later, the *Times* would be called a “phenomenon within the walls of Martin Kellogg Middle School” in the *Newington Town Crier*.

And certainly, never in my wildest dreams on that ice-cold December afternoon in 1993, would I have imagined that, twenty-six months later, my newspaper would be reported statewide in the “A” section of *The Hartford Courant*.

(Continued on page 2)

Why I do this... And why I will probably stop

by chief editor Brendan Loy

Okay, let me start out by saying that this decision is not final. I have not yet come to the absolute, unalterable conclusion that I will stop writing the *Living Room Times* once this school year is over.

But right now, that’s what I’m thinking.

The reason I’m strongly considering stopping is *not* that I’m tired of writing, or that I’m unhappy with the number of people who read my writing, or that I’m sick of the controversies which surround this newspaper from time to time.

None of those things are true. Nothing like them has anything to do with my reasons for stopping.

Before I can address the real reasons for why I am considering the possibility of ending the *Times*’s run, I must first answer a question that I have been asked many, many times since December 27, 1993, when I first started this newspaper: “Why do you do this?”

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Loy takes the lead; Colpitts #2, page 5

CAPT day schedules, page 6

300th *LR Times* edition may be one of the last

A look back at the last 2½ years...

(Continued from page 1)

When I sat down on December 27, 1993, none of these things were on my mind. Not even close, in fact. All I was thinking was that I was bored, I had a new computer, and I wanted something to do. So I just started writing.

864 days later, I'm still writing. And although there is a good chance that the *Times* may now finally be in its last few months of existence, it's been a great run.

After all, 864 days ago, the *Living Room Times* was a one-page rag sheet that looked something like this:

THE LIVING ROOM TIMES

"ALL THE NOSE THAT'S FIT TO PRINT"

Monday, December 27, 1993

Noon Edition

ADOLLYA IN THE DEEP FREEZE

**Temperatures drop to near zero, Windchills
twenty below**

Lintace Side Yard, Adollya-- Adollya felt Old Man Winter's grip on Connecticut this morning as a strong, windy low and a huge dip in the jet stream combined to give Adollyans in Outside states windchills of twenty to thirty below zero.

"We have issued a Wind Chill Warning," said Adollya Weather Service chaircrab Sebastian Sunday night at 9:00 PM, "for Front Yard, Back Yard, Lintace Side Yard, and Manke Side Yard until 6:00 PM Monday."

The low is expected to move off to the northeast today, which should allow the wind to diminish. However, the cold weather will not go as easily, or as quickly.

"Highs today may not get out of the teens," said Sebastian, "and little moderation is expected until late in the week." Highs today through Wednesday are expected to be in the teens to low twenties, with snow possible on Wednesday. Temperatures may reach thirty Thursday, and perhaps even into the thirties New Year's Eve, with lows in the teens for First Night.

"For now," said Brendan Loy, "bundle up."

And now, here I am, Brendan Loy, formerly the editor of the so-called "newspaper" you see above, explaining to the entire NHS freshman class in today's issue of this now widely-recognized and well-respected newspaper why it is that this may be one of the last

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...and a look ahead to plans for '96-'97

(Continued from page 1)

Well, why I *started* writing is fairly simple. When I wrote the first edition of this paper, it was because I was sitting around at home with nothing to do. It was winter vacation, I was bored, and I had a brand-new computer. So I started writing.

The first edition probably took me about ten or fifteen minutes to create. I wrote one article, about the fact that the weather was cold. I invented quotes from stuffed animals, and closed the article with by quoting myself making the oh-so-interesting statement: "For now, bundle up."

That part isn't complicated. I got bored, I wrote something on my new computer. No big deal.

What *is* complicated is why I've *continued* to write.

Because now, instead of ten minutes, a full edition can take me ten hours or more to write. Ten *hours* or more.

It's not that I'm bored. Not anymore. With my load of homework getting heavier from year to year, term to term, it is harder and harder for me to find time to write. Ever since eighth grade started, it has always been true that it would have been much "easier" for me to do something other than writing this newspaper.

So why *have* I written this paper for 28 months? Because I have had enough free time—barely—and because I like to write, and students and teachers seem to like to read what I write.

That probably won't fully explain it to some of you, because you probably still won't see why I am willing to set aside so much time to do this. But I can't explain it any better than that. It's possible and enjoyable for me to spend time writing this paper, so I do. And when people read what I write, and they seem to enjoy and appreciate it, that makes it worthwhile.

The next question is why I'm probably going to stop.

Well, I still enjoy writing. That hasn't changed. And as far as I can tell, people still like to read my newspaper. That hasn't changed either.

But what is changing is the amount of time I have which I can use to write the paper. This year, there has

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Final 7 weeks of *Living Room Times* begin with 300th issue

(Continued from page 2)

obviously been much more homework than last year, making it harder and harder for me to find time to write. I frequently spend at least the early wee hours of the morning either writing the paper or finishing homework which would have been done earlier if not for the paper. Occasionally, I have found myself staying up as late 1:00 or 1:30 AM just to get an edition out.

And things won't be getting any better next year. I'll be taking an even heavier course load, including Honors English and several more Level 1 classes. Unless I have vastly underestimated the amount of homework I will be getting in those classes, and the amount of attention I will need to devote to them, I don't think it's going to be possible for me to write the *Times* next year while still keeping up with my schoolwork.

It was Tuesday night, March 26, 1996, at about 10:30 PM, that I finally acknowledged the *Times* was creating a serious problem for me in terms of doing homework and getting enough sleep. I was trying to finish a *Times* edition for the next day—an edition which was already two days late—and also trying to do an assignment for my English class. It was getting later and later, and I was getting more and more frustrated.

Of all places in my house, it was—fittingly—in the living room that I made the statement foreshadowing the decision I would make for certain the next day about the fate of *The Living Room Times*. I said something like, “I can't keep doing this next year when I'm in Honors English.”

That night and the next day, I solidified my decision. Unless I had a major change of heart, I was going to stop writing the *Times* after my freshman year.

In addition to making it tough for me to finish school work and get enough sleep, writing the *Times* as frequently as I do makes it nearly impossible for me to participate in school-sponsored extra-curricular activities to any large degree. I am on the Scribe staff, but that's all. I initially joined the AV Club, but had to quit because I didn't have time. I was unable to join any other clubs because of time limitations caused by the newspaper.

The fact is, the *Living Room Times* controls my life to a very large degree. And as much as I've enjoyed it, I think it's time to, as Page One says, “call it quits.”

Now, as I said, this decision is not final. I have seven weeks to consider this, look at it from every angle, and make sure this is the right decision. But I don't see much

This year's *Times* was supposed to be a weekly newspaper, but it hasn't worked out that way. This is the 51st issue I have written in 36 weeks of school. Only 26 of those 51—barely half—have been “regular weekly editions.” The rest have been “Extras.” My tentative idea for a replacement for the *LR Times* next year is a new publication which would be written between 10 and 20 times during the year. There would be changes in how the articles are written. For example, each sports season, there might be one issue previewing the season, one at the end of the regular season, and one after the postseason tournaments are over.

of a chance of changing my mind. I really don't think I'm going to be able to keep up the schedule needed next year to keep writing the *Times*.

Now, just because I'm not going to writing the *Times* doesn't mean I'll stop writing. I could never do that—I love writing! As stated in the gray box above, I have a tentative idea for a new newspaper with a different name which might come out once or twice a month, infrequently enough so that it would be feasible for me to write. More like a magazine than a newspaper, perhaps.

Assuming I don't change my mind, more details of my plans for next year, and more of a retrospective look back at the *Times*, will be in the final issue of the *Times*, probably on the last day of school.

Loy back in the driver's seat

Leads Colpitts by one point in "Geometry Olympics"



Above: Brendan Loy celebrates his lead.

Unknowingly wearing the same shirt he wore on April 4, 1996, the last time he was in first place in Mr. Ruggiero's fourth-period geometry class—also the day he lost that lead, and with it a victory in the third-term "Battle of the Houses"—Brendan Loy finally regained the top spot on Friday, May 3, 1996. He did it with a quiz grade of 42/45, three points better than the student who beat him in the third term, Sara Colpitts. Nearly a month after his monumental collapse on the final quiz of the third term, Loy is now a point ahead of Colpitts, his nemesis, with six weeks left in the fourth-term "Geometry Olympics."

Being ahead of British Colpitts is nothing new to Irish Loy. He was ahead by as many as six points last term, and was up by three on the final day of the term until he took the 40-point quiz which was his downfall. What he still hasn't done yet is have the lead when the final points are counted at the end.

Still, Loy is happy to back on top as reigning "class genius" (Colpitts is the "defending class genius"). "I'm in the lead!" he announced happily to classmates in his Spanish class a few minutes after learning he had moved to the top. "I just moved ahead of Colpitts! I'm ahead of the top scholar of the freshman class!"

While Loy is not entering uncharted waters, one of his Irish teammates, Joey Ploszay, is. Ploszay, who had never been on a class leaderboard until this term, equalled Loy's 42/45, earning him one of six silver medals awarded Friday. The grade kept him in third place, and moved him within four points of

(Continued on page 6)

Volleyball team falls just short

Formerly #1 Indians lose first, 3-2 to current #1, Glastonbury

Moments after Glastonbury High's varsity team defeated the then-#1 Newington Indians last Wednesday, Glastonbury junior varsity player Roger Kurt had a simple question for Newington student and fan Carrie Ripley.

We had hoped to have much more in-depth coverage of the game, including interviews and pictures. Unfortunately, time restrictions made this impossible, so we apologize. Coverage will be much more complete later in the season.

"Who's number one now?" Kurt asked. The answer is just what Kurt expected. Glastonbury (9-0), #4 before the game, switched places with Newington (6-1). The Tomahawks are now #1; the Indians #4, in the latest *Courant* coaches' poll.

Despite a valiant effort in an exciting, down-to-the-wire match, the Indians lost in five games last week to GHS (13-15, 15-12, 15-11, 8-15, 15-10).

Leo Uzcatequi was a major force for Newington, leading the team with 24 kills. Alex Acker had 18 kills and seven blocks; Paul Montanari had 13 kills and eight blocks; and Ryan Abraham had eight kills and eight blocks. Shane Igo's 22 kills led Glastonbury.

CAPT testing likely to create two wild weeks

Only sophomores and a few juniors are taking the Connecticut Academic Performance Tests (CAPT)

Schedule, next page

this week and next, but the schedule changes caused by the tests are affecting all of NHS.

All sophomores and some juniors who did not pass some or all of the tests last year will take the tests while other students are in the first two periods of the day. Each of those periods will be extended, though, and the "first two" periods doesn't necessarily mean Period One and Period Two. It was that way yesterday, but today, Periods Three and Four will start the day, and tomorrow, it will be Periods Five and Six.

In addition, Period Five will not be the lunch period as usual. The lunch wave which you go to may change depending on the lunch wave of the teacher whose class you are in between 11:14 and 12:36 each day.

CAPT TEST SCHEDULES

Regular Schedule

Warning Bell	7:42 AM
Period 1	7:44 AM to 8:30 AM (46 min.)
Homeroom	8:34 AM to 8:40 AM (6 min.)
Period 2	8:44 AM to 9:30 AM (46 min.)
Period 3	9:34 AM to 10:20 AM (46 min.)
Period 4	10:24 AM to 11:10 AM (46 min.)
Period 5	11:14 AM to 12:36 PM (82 min.)
First Lunch Wave	11:13 AM to 11:38 AM (25 min.)
Second Lunch Wave	11:42 AM to 12:07 PM (25 min.)
Third Lunch Wave	12:11 PM to 12:36 PM (25 min.)
Period 6	12:39 PM to 1:25 PM (46 min.)
Period 7	1:29 PM to 2:15 PM (46 min.)

period when CAPT tests are taken

Tuesday, May 7

Warning Bell	7:42 AM
Homeroom	7:44 AM to 7:48 AM (4 min.)
Period 1	7:52 AM to 8:54 AM (62 min.)
Period 2	8:58 AM to 10:00 AM (62 min.)
Period 3	10:04 AM to 11:10 AM (66 min.)
Period 4	11:14 AM to 12:36 PM (82 min.)
First Lunch Wave	11:13 AM to 11:38 AM (25 min.)
Second Lunch Wave	11:42 AM to 12:07 PM (25 min.)
Third Lunch Wave	12:11 PM to 12:36 PM (25 min.)
Period 5	12:39 PM to 1:25 PM (46 min.)
Period 6	1:29 PM to 2:15 PM (46 min.)

Wednesday, May 8

Warning Bell	7:42 AM
Homeroom	7:44 AM to 7:48 AM (4 min.)
Period 3	7:52 AM to 9:00 AM (68 min.)
Period 4	9:04 AM to 10:12 AM (68 min.)
Period 1	10:16 AM to 11:10 AM (54 min.)
Period 2	11:14 AM to 12:36 PM (82 min.)
First Lunch Wave	11:13 AM to 11:38 AM (25 min.)
Second Lunch Wave	11:42 AM to 12:07 PM (25 min.)
Third Lunch Wave	12:11 PM to 12:36 PM (25 min.)
Period 5	12:39 PM to 1:25 PM (46 min.)
Period 7	1:29 PM to 2:15 PM (46 min.)

Thursday, May 9

Warning Bell	7:42 AM
Homeroom	7:44 AM to 7:48 AM (4 min.)
Period 5	7:52 AM to 8:54 AM (62 min.)
Period 6	8:58 AM to 10:00 AM (62 min.)
Period 2	10:04 AM to 11:10 AM (66 min.)
Period 1	11:14 AM to 12:36 PM (82 min.)
First Lunch Wave	11:13 AM to 11:38 AM (25 min.)
Second Lunch Wave	11:42 AM to 12:07 PM (25 min.)
Third Lunch Wave	12:11 PM to 12:36 PM (25 min.)
Period 3	12:39 PM to 1:25 PM (46 min.)
Period 7	1:29 PM to 2:15 PM (46 min.)

Tuesday, May 14

Warning Bell	7:42 AM
Homeroom	7:44 AM to 7:48 AM (4 min.)
Period 1	7:52 AM to 9:00 AM (68 min.)
Period 2	9:04 AM to 10:12 AM (68 min.)
Period 3	10:16 AM to 11:10 AM (54 min.)
Period 4	11:14 AM to 12:36 PM (82 min.)
First Lunch Wave	11:13 AM to 11:38 AM (25 min.)
Second Lunch Wave	11:42 AM to 12:07 PM (25 min.)
Third Lunch Wave	12:11 PM to 12:36 PM (25 min.)
Period 6	12:39 PM to 1:25 PM (46 min.)
Period 7	1:29 PM to 2:15 PM (46 min.)

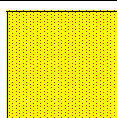
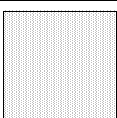
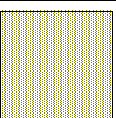
Wednesday, May 15

Warning Bell	7:42 AM
Homeroom	7:44 AM to 7:48 AM (4 min.)
Period 6	7:52 AM to 8:54 AM (62 min.)
Period 7	8:58 AM to 10:00 AM (62 min.)
Period 1	10:04 AM to 11:10 AM (66 min.)
Period 2	11:14 AM to 12:36 PM (82 min.)
First Lunch Wave	11:13 AM to 11:38 AM (25 min.)
Second Lunch Wave	11:42 AM to 12:07 PM (25 min.)
Third Lunch Wave	12:11 PM to 12:36 PM (25 min.)
Period 4	12:39 PM to 1:25 PM (46 min.)
Period 5	1:29 PM to 2:15 PM (46 min.)

Now Ireland really has it all

Leads in nearly every “Olympics” category

TOP	<u>Quiz #1</u>	<u>Ch. 10 test</u>	<u>Quiz #2</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
#1 Brendan Loy <i>Ireland</i>	34/35	94/100	42/45	170/180 94.44%
#2 Sara Colpitts <i>Great Britain</i>	36/35	94/100	39/45	169/180 93.89%
#3 Joey Ploszay <i>Ireland</i>	32/35	91/100	42/45	165/180 91.67%
#4 Matt Thomsen <i>Great Britain</i>	32/35	88/100	42/45	162/180 90.00%
#5 Shaun Sullivan <i>Ireland</i>	28/35	91/100	42/45	161/180 89.44%
#6 Chris Banach <i>Canada</i>	30/35	88/100	39/45	157/180 87.22%
#7 Carrie Ripley <i>Ireland</i>	32/35	82/100	42/45	156/180 86.67%
#8 Liz Janelle <i>Ireland</i>	28/35	91/100	36/45	155/180 86.11%
#9 Todd Stigliano <i>Italy</i>	24/35	85/100	45/45	154/180 85.56%
#10 Mary Bellizzi <i>Canada</i>	34/35	82/100	36/45	152/180 84.44%
#11 Ahmed Avila <i>unified</i>	32/35	76/100	42/45	150/180 83.33%
#12 Claudio Gualtieri <i>Italy</i>	34/35	79/100	33/45	146/180 81.11%
#13 Keith Druckenmiller <i>(tie) Great Britain</i>	24/35	82/100	39/45	145/180 80.56%
#13 Jaimie Kwassman <i>(tie) Italy</i>	36/35	73/100	36/45	145/180 80.56%
#15 Dan Stoddard <i>Great Britain</i>	28/35	70/100	45/45	143/180 79.44%

	earned gold medal		earned silver medal		earned bronze medal
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ALSO WINNING MEDALS:

Milan Cisar, Irish, Quiz #1, bronze
Erica Brannan, team unknown, Quiz #2, bronze

(Continued from page 4)

Colpitts.

Also continuing to prove that his recent success is no fluke was Matt Thomsen, who remained in fourth place with a 42/45. Shaun Sullivan also got a 42/45, as he finally broke his tie with Liz Janelle, who dropped from a tie for fifth to eighth with a 36/45. Until Friday, Sullivan and Janelle had mirrored each other’s grades of 28/35 and 91/100.

Taking advantage of the misfortunes of Janelle and Mary Bellizzi, who also got a 36/45, were Chris Banach, who moved from seventh to sixth with a 39/45, and Carrie Ripley, who jumped from ninth to seventh with a 42/45.

Todd Stigliano, after a miserable start to the term, moved up to ninth with a perfect score. And Dan Stoddard made his leaderboard debut with a 100%.

Individual Quiz/Test “Olympics” Medal Count

MEDAL COUNT	GOLD <small>(best percentage in class or tie for best percentage)</small>	SILVER <small>(2nd-best percentage in class or tie for 2nd best percentage)</small>	BRONZE <small>(3rd-best percentage in class or tie for 3rd best percentage)</small>	POINTS <small>(3 for gold, 2 for silver, 1 for bronze)</small>
Ireland	1	8	3	22
Great Britain	3	1	4	15
Italy	2	1		8
Canada		1	2	4
unified		1	1	3

TEAM AVERAGES

Based on Top 2 on each team

Ireland—335/360—93.06%
Great Britain—331/360—91.94%
Canada—309/360—85.83%
Italy—300/360—83.33%
unified—286/360—79.44

Based on Top 3 on each team

Ireland—496/540—91.85%
Great Britain—476/540—88.15%
Italy—445/540—82.24%
unified—414/540—76.67%
Canada—386/540—71.48%

**TOP TEN SIGNS
YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO
GRADUATE FROM
HIGH SCHOOL
THIS YEAR**

10. Instead of a cap and gown, they give you a McDonald's hairnet.
9. Your final paper in English was titled "TV Guide: Gateway to Viewing Pleasure."
8. Grandma starts affectionately calling you "Li'l Flunkie."
7. Nobody believes pot in your locker was planted by "those Whitewater dudes."
6. Your computer teacher discovers your gettin' it on with a laptop.
5. At oral exam, you respond to every question with, "Hey -- I ain't in Mensa, you know!"
4. Your guidance counselor gives you Dr. Kevorkian's number.
3. You constantly neglect your studies to date Woody Allen.
2. Your name: Kenny.
This year's prom theme: "Sorry you won't be graduating, Kenny."
1. Your combined score on the SAT: 12

*Late Show With David Letterman
Copyright Worldwide Pants, Inc.
Tuesday, April 30, 1996*

**LATE SHOW
TOP
TEN**

**TOP TEN NEW
FORD SLOGANS**

10. Where there's smoke, there's a Ford
9. Have you driven a Ford to the fire station lately?
8. Forget Chevy -- we've got the real Blazer!
7. Available in original or extra crispy
6. Now every Bronco is as exciting as O.J.'s!
5. Ford, the Unabomber of the highways
4. Quality is job one, putting out the fire is job two
3. Like a rock -- a rock of hot, molten lava
2. Aren't you tired of cops who stop you for speeding and ask, "Where's the fire?"
1. Click...vroom... kaboom!

*Late Show With David Letterman
Copyright Worldwide Pants, Inc.
Monday, April 29, 1996*

**TOP TEN THINGS
THAT WILL GET
YOU KICKED OUT
OF THE
KENTUCKY
DERBY**

10. Keeping your horse on a steady diet of bourbon and Cheetos
9. Trying to bet on which horse will make the best glue
8. Running around the infield in nothing but a sash of roses
7. Repeatedly introducing yourself as "Kentucky Herbie"
6. Asking the Governor's wife, "Wanna put me out to stud?"
5. Every ten seconds you wave your ticket and yell, "Bingo!"
4. Your horse's hoofprints are found on Whitewater documents
3. DNA tests prove that your "rare French thoroughbred" is actually a dune buggy
2. Asking "Whose handsome steed is that?" when Janet Reno walks by
1. Strapping a jet engine to your horse's ass

*Late Show With David Letterman
Copyright Worldwide Pants, Inc.
Wednesday, May 1, 1996*

The Living Room Times would like to print another Top Ten Edition, but we need your help! **For details, please see the next page!**

Nearly a year and a half ago, on December 9, 1994, *The Living Room Times* printed our most popular and controversial issue of all-time, the **Top Ten Edition**. It featured some lists written by David Letterman and others by *LR Times* editor Brendan Loy, but what really made the issue so popular and successful were the Top Ten lists written by other Martin Kellogg students. Earlier this year, we tried to put together a **second Top Ten Edition**, but it was never printed because only two NHS students wrote lists for the edition—a far cry from the seventeen students at MKMS who contributed last year. We'd like to try one more time, but this time, we need *your* help! **If you have one or more Top Ten lists which you would like to be included, please give your list(s) to *Times* editor Loy.** If enough lists are contributed, the issue will probably be printed in the second-to-the-last week of school.

NOTE: We would welcome any lists contributed by teachers, too... Also, unlike the first one, this Top Ten Edition will not be sold.

LR Times publishes 300th issue

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issues ever.

I don't mean to sound arrogant. I am under no illusion that you, the readers of this paper, are going to be crushed if I do, in fact, decide not to write this paper next year. I realize that no one's life revolves around reading my articles and David Letterman's Top Ten lists every week in the *Times*.

But every day I *don't* write an edition when I was expected to, I get grief from classmates. When I *do* write an edition, people ask me all day long if they can read the paper. So I think it's fair to say that the *Times* has created an interesting and well-appreciated diversion from the everyday grind at Martin Kellogg Middle School and Newington High School for nearly the past 2½ years.

As I mentioned earlier, when I penned the first *Living Room Times* article, it had nothing at all to do with school. For the first couple of weeks, it was an unimportant and unnoticed primitive newsletter which

I shared only with my parents. Basically, the early *Living Room Times* was "cute." Nothing more.

Two or three weeks after December 27, 1993, I brought the *Times* to school with the intention of showing it to Mrs. Barry, the Martin Kellogg writing tutor. I don't remember what day's edition was the first one I brought in, although I know it was sometime between January 16 and January 24. I do recall that, unless I'm mistaken, the first student ever to see the newspaper was Kevin Hauschulz, who read it during Mr. Spitzer's science class in Room 204.

Mrs. Barry never saw the paper that day—I forgot to show it to her afterschool—but Kevin and a few other students did. They showed some genuine interest, which finally made me think that a purpose for the *Times* might be as an unofficial school newsletter.

Well, actually, maybe I didn't think that far ahead. But nevertheless, that first day did make me think that the *Times* had some kind of place at school.

The first *Times* issue specifically designed for school, written on January 25, 1994, was made to announce my attempt to have a "dolly election" on the seventh grade Williamsburg trip in May '94. The issue, seen at left, was labeled a "Special School Edition." The elections, which I started in second grade, are contests in which students vote for their favorite of two or more stuffed animals. Later in the year, the Williamsburg election would get a great deal of attention in *Times* issues during the weeks before the trip.

From January through April, I continued to write the *Living Room Times* on Microsoft Write, a relatively primitive program which didn't allow me to write in more than one column on a page. When I wanted to put a picture into the *Times* using Write, I had to put it before or after an article—I couldn't insert it into the story the way I can now. And I couldn't write any text in color, or create graphical text like what's used now for "The Living Room Times" title on Page 1 or the "Late Show Top Ten" on Page 7.

But on April 27, 1994, exactly four months after the first issue, I discovered Microsoft Publisher. As seen at right, the first Publisher *Times* included columns and imported graphics.

Through May and June, I always wrote the *Times* on Publisher. I was finally able to include

(Continued on page 10)

The Living Room Times

All the Nose that's fit to print

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1994
7:00 PM SPECIAL SCHOOL EDITION

Dolly elections at school to make a comeback?

"No guarantees," says Brendan, "but it's worth a try"

Martin Kellogg Middle School, Newington—"I'm going to see if I can get my parents to allow me to have dolly elections at school during the Williamsburg trip. There are no guarantees, but it's worth a try."

Brendan Loy, Adollian Ambassador to Martin Kellogg Middle School, said today that he believes there may be support in Martin Kellogg seventh grade to allow dolly elections at school again.

"Last year I ran an election at Ron-a-roll. It was fun, and when I announced who had won, a lot of kids on the bus cheered. I think that a lot of people actually cared about it, which surprised me."

Brendan says that if that enthusiasm has lasted from sixth grade into seventh, then he intends to try to get dolly elections back.

"I don't annoy or get in the way of anyone who doesn't want to vote," he said, "or at least I don't try to."

He stated his plan for getting the movement to allow the school elections through, saying, "I'll have a petition among kids going to Williamsburg. If they want an election, they can sign. If the teachers approve it, I'll take that to Congress and President Sealy, and see if they pass it. If they do, it goes to my parents."

When a dolly in the audience complained that this was unfair to the kids who might not be going on the Williamsburg trip, but might want to vote, Brendan responded, "Yah, I thought of that too. What I can do is have all the elections ready on Friday before we leave, and the kids who aren't coming but who do want to vote will get to vote then."

Brendan says he may have the petition to allow elections ready as soon as Thursday.

Above: The front page and some of page #2 from the first Times edition specifically designed for students at Kellogg.

The Living Room Times

All the Nose that's fit to print

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1994
1:00 PM EDITION

Campaign Managers Chosen

Martin Kellogg Middle School—The preparations for the first school election, an election for the unofficial office of "School Dolly President," continued today.

Campaign managers have been found for both candidates, one campaign manager for each dog, named as Dan for the *Happy-Dog* campaign and a campaign manager for the *Happy-Dog* campaign. Brian Hensley will be the best campaign manager for *Happy-Dog*, as well as the dolly campaign manager of the day. Dan Hensley will be the best *Happy-Dog* and *Happy-Dog* candidate on the day.

The *Happy-Dog* dog, Dan Hensley, will be the best campaign manager on the day. Dan Hensley will be the best campaign manager on the day.

See our pet Dan Hensley.

The Dog Days of Spring

Summer-like weather assess thoughts of snow and ice

Adollian Weather Service, Play Forth—The weather service has been looking forward to the kind of weather we had today for a long, long time.

It seemed like a long wait, though Winter Storm Sealy, Snow, Frost, Ice, Snow, Snow, etc., was all the weather we had for a long time.

The high temperature reached eighty-four degrees in Adollian, practically making sense out of the

Congratulations, Circus Cast!

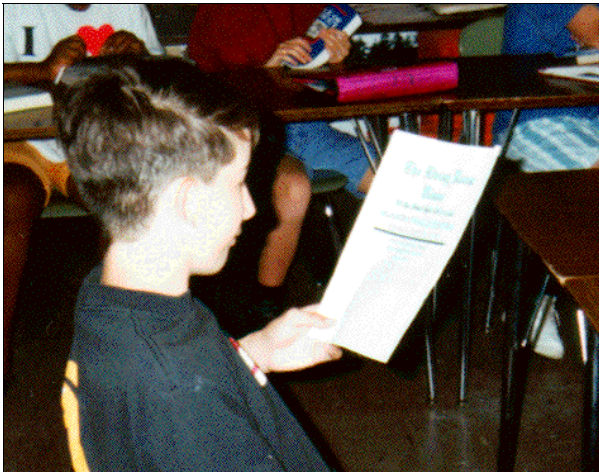
For the second straight year, the *Living Room Times* was the companion of the circus troupe, and volunteers involved in the circus on a wonderful performance. All the best wish comes out of Great Day, everyone!

LR Times reaches edition #300

(Continued from page 9)

many pictures and fit them into the articles: For example, pictures of the New York Rangers' Stanley Cup victory filled one *Times* edition in early June. I also used Publisher to create text graphics, such as red and orange wordings describing an extreme heat wave in June.

On the last day of the 1993-94 schoolyear, I created a season finale edition which looked back on all the highlights of the *Times* up to that point. The issue was 46 pages long, a record for length of a newspaper which I have never come close to breaking since then.



Above: Kevin Hauschulz, the first Kellogg student other than editor Loy ever to read the Living Room Times, looks at the front page of the season finale edition on the day before the last day of school. The front page was released a day before the rest of the paper.

In 1994-95, my eighth grade year, the *Times* became even more advanced. I continued to write in on Publisher, continued to improve the graphics, and began to print pictures of MKMS students. The above picture of Kevin Hauschulz was printed in the season premiere edition on August 30, 1994, and on October 3, 1994, I printed the "Special Picture Edition" with pictures from a Kodak Photo CD of the 'Schnucks'—Beth Milewski, Hilari Butler, Tara Boisvert, and Kristyn Fontanella—as well as three other students—Hauschulz again, Nick Pelletier, and Russell Dailey—and teacher John 'J-Hawks' Hawkins. A second Photo CD special, on November 15, had pictures from the Halloween dress-up day and dance.

Much later in the year, I got a TV Card, which allows me to freeze still pictures from videos and put them into the paper. I used this in *Living Room Timeses* during the last two months of the school year, for such events as the seventh grade return from Williamsburg (May 15 issue), the eighth grade banquet (May 18 issue), and the spring choral concert (May 22 issue, part of which is at right).

Aside from those advancements in the technology of the *Times*, the two most important events in the '94-'95 year for the paper were the Top Ten Edition and the 'March
(Continued on page 11)

The Living Room Times

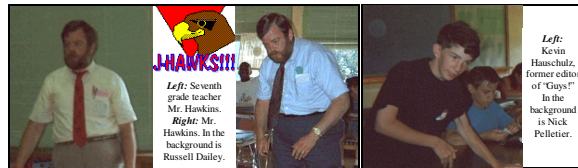
"All the Nose that's fit to print."

Monday, October 3, 1994

SPECIAL PICTURE EDITION

Welcome To
Photo CD Imaging

After weeks of waiting for programs, CD-ROM repairs, and the Photo CD disk itself, we finally have access to Photo CD pictures of the last days of seventh grade and summer vacation. Here is a sample of some of the pictures:



Left: Seventh grade teacher Mr. Hawkins. Right: Mr. Hawkins. In the background is Russell Dailey.

Left: Kevin Hauschulz, former editor of "Guys". In the background is Nick Pelletier.



Above, from left: Beth Milewski (Schmuck), Hilari Butler (Schmuck), Tara Boisvert (Schmuck), Kristyn Fontanella (Schmuck).

Above: The front page of the October 3, 1994 edition, an issue filled with pictures off of a Kodak Photo CD. This was the first edition with pictures of students at MKMS other than the season premiere, which featured one picture of Kevin Hauschulz, at left.



The girls only 'Freddy' scene was about a marine who was in love with Jamie's character.

Jaimie had the lead role in the spoken scene, but Kate and Amber both sang solo verses in the song.

Following the all-girls 'Freddy My Love' scene and song was the all-guys 'Greased Lightning' scene and song.

Bryan 'Greased Rudy' Rudolph and Sean 'Greased Shin' Vivier played the lead roles in the scene.

Bryan had the solo in the song all to himself, however, as Sean and the other guys sat back and imagined Bryan's car, nicknamed 'Greased Lightning.'

Backstage, where the audience couldn't see them but the guys could, the girls were imitating the motions that the guys had to do during the song.

(continued on page 4)

Page #3

Above: The bottom part of Page 3 of the May 22, 1995 edition, featuring pictures captured from a video of the choral concert.

A look back at the 300 Times issues

(Continued from page 10)
Madness' tournament.

The famous, infamous Top Ten Edition was sold for 10¢ a copy. It was the first—and only—*Times* ever sold. It was also the most popular edition ever, as well as the most controversial. Despite the fact that I made a total of \$2.40, I was called to the office to see Principal Amzie Brown and was told that selling a newspaper in school isn't allowed. I was also told not to print any more Top Ten lists by David Letterman because many were inappropriate for school. Then, the next schoolday, I was given another order: Don't show the newspaper around during class.

That last one was devastating. My readership decreased to, maybe, five or six each day, because I could only show the paper to students during lunch and afterschool. Sure, occasionally someone would peek at the latest edition during flex or between classes, but still, it was difficult to get a decent number of people to read each issue because of Mrs. Brown's restrictions.

The success of the *Times* was given a shot in the arm during the school's 'March Madness' basketball tournament, run by gym teacher Sandy Pilz. Mr. Pilz was so impressed with the *Times's* extensive coverage of the tourney, he agreed to post editions of the paper on the gym wall. That, coupled with the increased attention caused by an article written about the *Times* in the *Newington Town Crier*, helped bring back much more attention to this newspaper.

The comeback of the *Times* was capped by the season finale (continued at right)

The Living Room Times

Wednesday, June 14, 1995

Class of '95



ABOVE: AN ASSORTMENT OF PICTURES FROM LAST NIGHT'S EIGHTH GRADE DANCE. INSIDE: REMEMBERING OUR THREE YEARS AT MKMS... LOOKING AHEAD TO THE HIGH SCHOOL... AND LOOKING BACK AT THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LIVING ROOM TIMES OVER THE LAST YEAR.

Above: The front page of the 1994-95 season finale "Class of '95" issue, published on the last day of school. It was one of the most popular editions ever, perhaps second only to the infamous Top Ten Edition.

The Living Room Times

Friday, December 9, 1994
SPECIAL TOP TEN EDITION

<p>LATE SHOW TOP TEN</p> <p>TOP TEN STORES NOT DOING WELL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON Letterman, November 30, 1994</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gap for Losers 2. Tack Town 3. Lance Bo's Fake Beard Store 4. The Old Deadly Vase Shoppe 5. Brothers Boutros Boutros 6. The House of Overpriced Crap 7. Al Sharpton's Medallion City 8. Denture Hut 9. Wacky Pataki's Electronics 10. Rosemary's Secret 	<p>TOP TEN</p> <p>INSIDE</p> <p>TOP TEN LISTS FROM VARIOUS KELLOGG STUDENTS: MKMS Nicknames, page 2 Scarlett Pithness, page 2 Thinks Mrs. DePaulk does with chalk, page 2 Sims you're obsessed with a boy, page 2 Reasons you'll love MSCL, page 2 Signs you're an idiot, page 2</p> <p>TOP TEN LISTS WRITTEN BY BRENDAN LOY: Actual Mr. V mistakes, page 2 Things overlooked in Algebra, page 3 Signs you are a Schenck, page 3 Ways to annoy Mr. Turner, page 3 Signs your Algebra teacher is nuts, page 3 Nicknames for Mr. Turner, page 3</p> <p>PLUS: 11 "Late Show" Top Ten lists, page 4 8 "Late Night" Top Ten lists, page 3 2 Compliments Top Ten lists, page 6</p>	<p>MKMS TOP TEN</p> <p>TOP TEN SIGNS YOUR PARENTS HATE YOU! written by Dan "God" Seremet and President Tim Stevens</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. "What do you mean, you feel the dog my Algebra homework?" 9. They make you listen to country music until you get good grades. 8. "WHO TAPED OVER THE X-FILES!!?" 7. "You're going to sell me to the what?" 6. "Where'd my stereo go?" 5. They hired Carl Sagan to be the entertainment at your sixth birthday party. 4. "But the judge said you couldn't do that anymore!" 3. At all the family parties, the favorite game is 'break the boy'. 2. There's a newspaper ad in every local newspaper that says "Boy for rent" and there's a picture of you. 1. Two words: Nanny Gump
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Buy your own copy of this special "Living Room Times" edition for just 10¢

Above: Page 1 of the December 9, 1994 Top Ten Edition, the most popular and controversial LR Times of all-time.

(continued from left)

edition on the last day of school. The so-called "Class of '95" issue looked back at the three years of middle school for students in Kellogg's graduating class of 1995. It paid tribute to unique Kellogg phenomena like "V-Mistakes" and "Crazy Classes." (If you're from Wallace and you're reading this, well, never mind.) It featured the best of *The Living Room Times's* "Kellogg Quotes," and it looked at teachers' and students' memories of the three years spent by the Class of '95 at middle school, as well as students' hopes and fears about high school.

What were students looking forward to about this year at NHS? Well, Jenn May, Stacey Karalus, Christina Mozzicato, Kristen Lee, and Cathy Towle all responded, "guys," "hot guys," or "cute guys." Bryan Rudolph said, "Wallace girls." "One year closer to graduation," Todd Kean commented. His sentiments were echoed by Jeff Blum: "What am I looked forward to most about high school? Graduating!" Jeff said. And Tim Stevens, then the Student Council President of Kellogg and now the Freshman Class President at NHS, said, "I'm looking forward to taking over the world in high school. How about you?"

(Continued on page 12)

At issue #300, time to look back

(Continued from page 11)

Some of the worries or fears about high school: “homework,” “seniors,” “Mr. Paul Hoey,” “The lockers are too small,” and “Just being a freshman.”

The Top Ten Edition and the Class of '95 finale were each one memorable issue which of the *Times*, but there were events which were reported on all year, too. Throughout the year, I wrote many articles about the ongoing phenomenon of dolly elections. As I mentioned earlier in the article, there was an election during the seventh grade Williamsburg trip. Birdy-Bird defeated Cachou in a landslide, and because the contest was such a success, I brought dolly elections back again in eighth grade. As you can see in the newspaper at right, Cachou defeated Birdy-Bird in a stunning upset in the first election of the year. There were ten more elections, three of which featured stuffed animals owned by students other than Brendan, and even a few owned by Kellogg teachers. Mrs. DesRosier's Greaser Bear won the last dolly election in history on June 8.

This year, in some ways, the geometry “Battles” of the sexes, houses, and nationalities have taken the place of last year's dolly elections. Both are events basically invented by *Times* editor Loy but participated in by other students—either as voters or as contestants—and both events have gotten more attention in the *Times* than they would otherwise get because they are important specifically to the editor.

The “Battles” haven't been all the *Times* has reported on this year, however. There have also been many articles about the various Newington sports teams—particularly soccer and girls basketball—as well as the weather and reports on individual events like the freshman class election and car accidents involving teacher Ned Turner and student Melanie Rugar.

The final edition of *The Living Room Times*, probably on the last day of school this year, will include more of *Times* history.

The Living Room Times

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

Tuesday, November 15, 1994

This time, he will not be hung Cachou stuns Birdy-Bird, 40 to 38

Cachou, the stuffed dog who was so unpopular last year that he was hung on Bus Three during the Williamsburg trip, made a stunning comeback Monday, defeating Birdy-Bird by two votes, and becoming Kellogg's School Dolly President-elect.



The search for votes at the end of the day was frantic. Birdy-Bird was trying desperately to hold on to the lead which he had held for most of the day, while Cachou was trying to get a few more votes which would push him over the top.

The moderator, Brendan Loy, made an error at the end of the day which would have widened Cachou's margin to three votes, if it had not been later corrected. Brendan asked Mrs. Gonzalez to vote at about 2:32 PM, and she voted for Cachou. After 2:30 PM, though, no one else was supposed to be able to cast their votes. After Mrs. Gonzalez voted, Brendan realized that the polls were supposed to be closed, so he stopped anyone else from voting. Because the polls were supposed to have been closed before Mrs. Gonzalez voted, her vote was subsequently discounted from the official total, bringing Cachou's margin back down to two votes.

"It's great," said Cachou back in Adollia later in the day. "I feel great! No one expected us to win. We were supposed to be hopelessly defeated."

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE: The Living Room Times Photo CD Special
Three pages of color photos from the seventh and eighth grade Halloween dress-up day and afterschool social. **Pages 5-7**

In many ways, this year's geometry “Battles” have taken the place of last year's dolly elections as far as Living Room Times coverage goes. Both were basically invented by editor Loy, and were reported on heavily all year. **Above** is the November 15 issue from last year declaring Cachou's win in an election against Birdy-Bird; **Below** is this year's January 23 issue declaring that Todd Stigliano had won the “Battle of the Sexes” over Sara Colpitts.

The Living Room Times

EXTRA

275th overall edition — Twelfth special edition of 1995-1996 season
Tuesday, January 23, 1996—Special Noon Edition

MALES WIN!!!

Stigliano holds on; ousts Colpitts



It's official. Sara Colpitts is no longer class genius. “Great Male Hope” Todd Stigliano earned the title “class genius” for the second term, and in the process proved that men are better than women in Mr. Ruggiero's fourth-period geometry class “Battle of the Sexes”—at least in this term—as he defeated first term “genius” Sara Colpitts.

Stigliano, who gained the lead in the “Battle” one week ago Friday after Colpitts had led for most of the term, clinched victory on today's quiz. He only needed to equal Colpitts's score on the quiz to guarantee victory for himself and the male race.

"BATTLE OF THE SEXES" FINAL STANDINGS	Home	Quiz #1	Quiz #2	Ch.4 Test	Quiz #3	Quiz #4	Ch.5 Test	Ch.6 Quiz	Quiz #5	TOTAL BEFORE TODAY	FINAL TOTAL
	Todd Stigliano—male	24/24	28/30	38/40	96/100	33/35	35/35	98/100	50/50	35/35	402/414
Sara Colpitts—female	24/24	30/30	40/40	95/100	35/35	35/35	98/100	44/50	35/35	401/414	436/449

Friday, March 1, 1996

Indians escape in 2 OT's Survive colossal scare from Fairfield; advance to quarterfinal against Masuk



Hey, Indians fans, can you say “March Madness”?

On Leap Year Day, February 29, the #6-seeded Newington girls basketball team survived the scare of a lifetime, and earned the right to play into the month of March, as they won their second-round CIAC state tournament game against #11-seeded Fairfield, escaping with a 62-61 win in double overtime.

Coach Sandy Pilz described it as a “one in a million” game. “Anybody in the world who's associated with this team would be extremely proud of them tonight,” said Pilz, whose Indians came from behind in regulation and again in both overtimes. “Coming back from five-point deficits in both the first overtime and the

(continued on page 2)

Above: The bottom half of the front page of the newspaper reporting on the Newington girls' basketball team's state tournament victory over Fairfield.