

The Living Room Times

SEASON FINALE

313th overall edition — 35th special edition of 1995-1996 season

Friday, June 21, 1996

SCHOOL
DAYS
LEFT UNTIL
VACATION:



INSIDE THIS SEASON FINALE EDITION

**1995-96:
A school year
in review**

The *Times* looks back at the biggest news and sports stories of the year, *pages 3-17*

The Top Ten Best... of NHS in 1995-96, pages 18-20

Freshmen look back at the events and memories that shaped their year. *page 2*

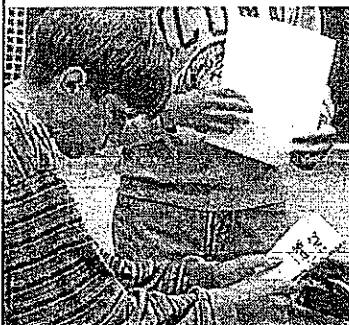
Including: The Top 10 big news stories. Plus, the best Top Ten lists of the year and one final list.

LR Times to return with new schedule, but keep our name

See you next year!



Carrie Ripley and Joey Ploszay (above) and Matt Thomsen (below) read the LR Times this year.



Reversing the decision which we announced in our 300th issue back in May—to “call it quits after this year” and start a new and different newspaper with a new and different name—*The Living Room Times* has decided to continue publishing under the same name next school year.

Yes, Newington High School’s “official pint-sized publication” will be back in 1996-1997 with another season of “all the Nose that’s fit to print.”

The *Times* will be written less often than this year, when we published 64 issues—an average of more than one issue every three school days. A new issue will probably come out once or twice a month next year.

NOTE: Due to problems with the official *Living Room Times* printer, we had to print out this edition in black and white using a printer at Kinko’s Copies. This is the first edition of the *Times* ever to feature grayscale graphics. In addition, we had to temporarily change the font used for “The Living Room Times” title, just for this issue.

Memories of NHS in '95-'96

Times editor Brendan Loy put up signs in various NHS classrooms asking freshmen to write about what they remember most about this school year and to submit those memories for this edition. These were the responses:

(The signatures are printed exactly as they were written. Those which are unsigned were left anonymous.)

"I remember the panic at midterms and finals. I also remember the FIRES!!! —Da Quazz"

"Ah... the most memorable... the freshman class trip that no one went on!!!
—Joshua L. Rubin"

"Finding Sara's playing cards!"

"Ken Plourd's mom calling him 'Morten' "

"When one of my friends, Cathy, walked from the 3rd floor to the 1st floor with her shirt up and her underwear showing. When one of my other friends, Kristine, was getting a book that had fallen, and the desk tipped."

"I remember being at a party and the deck collapsed and about 40 people fell off."

"I LOVE MARISA COHEN"

"Liz Janelle singing songs about 'calculadora' with Heather Weinberg in science class.
Iglesía Janelleogunga body-shop-a-rooney Ha Ha! got your chair.
Feather Sweinberg.
Ali's incredible singing voice.
Me (Heather) and Ali's crowd surfing adventures at the 104 fest.
Dicky ←—has a new haircut"

"Mrs. Norby stopping 3rd period english class to have us look at the squirrels outside."

"Memorable: 'Ferdinand Megellan... the man who circumcised the world.' (Anyone in one of Lombardi's classes knows what I'm talking about.) —Joshua L. Rubin"

"When I tore my ACL in my freshman basketball game. Then I had my operation to repair it! That was the most memorable experience for me. —Kim Pina"

"I will remember the OJ trial, because that was definitely history in the making. —MN"

"The FIRES"

"The first day of school, a senior said that he could get me a pass to get me into the 4th floor. He said it would be \$5.00!"

Living Room Times "Hard News"

Hilari Butler moves to Indiana

Friends say goodbye at June 29 surprise party



photo by Angela Leonard

More pictures from the party, page 3

Former Martin Kellogg student Hilari Butler moved to Indiana over the summer, but not before many of her friends had a chance to say goodbye at a surprise party in her honor on June 29.

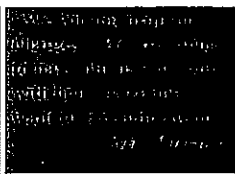
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The August 29 season premiere edition of the *Times* bid farewell to former Martin Kellogg student Hilari Butler, who moved to Indiana over the summer.

The issue included pictures and quotes from a goodbye party held for Hilari on June 29, 1995.

Taco's car accident involved drunk driver

Mr. Turner to press charges



Teacher Ned Turner and his 77-year-old mother Evelyn were injured in a car accident on August 30, and in an interview with *LR Times* chief editor Brendan Loy on Friday, Mr. Turner said that the accident was caused by a drunk driver.

(continued on page 2)

Foreign Language teacher Ned 'El Taco' Turner and his mother, Evelyn, were hit by a drunk driver on the evening after the second day of school. "This guy who had just 'a little bit' too much to drink....broad-sided us on my side of the car," explained Mr. Turner. "We were both pretty badly shaken up." Taco was out of work for four school days. "I was in some of the worst pain I've ever felt in my life," he stated. As for his mental state eight days later, Taco said, "I'm recovering. I'm recovering pretty much. I started going stir-crazy Wednesday at home....I needed to get back to school....I figured if I didn't get back here soon, my body would say, 'Oh, summer vacation again' and I'd go into my vacation mode, so I'd head back to the beach again or something." The *Times* reported on the accident in an Extra edition on September 1, the fourth day of school, and a regular edition on September 11, as seen above.

While the *Times* often focused on sports and feature stories such as the Geometry Battles in Mr. Ruggiero's class, there were several real news stories during the course of year...

Mr. Turner out after car accident

Is reportedly all right; Could return today



According to substitute teacher Mr. Cormack, popular foreign language teacher Ned Turner was not at school Thursday because of a car accident involving Mr. Turner and his mother on Wednesday night.

Mr. Cormack reported that Mr. Turner and his mother would be all right, but they had gone to the doctor today to be sure.

Mr. Turner, who taught 'Introduction to Foreign Languages' to some eighth graders last year at Kellogg, is teaching some classes at John Wallace this year. He has one seventh-period Spanish class at Newington High.

Turner is more commonly known as 'El Taco' or 'Taco' to his students. He became famous last year at Kellogg for his sense of humor, frequent use of the word "Okay," and most notably, his love of Mexican food, especially tacos.

Mr. Cormack, who has his own set of nicknames (Mr. C, Doc McCormack, and disrespectfully, Psycho Sub), said

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THE JUICE IS LOOSE

Jury finds O.J. Simpson not guilty

Reuters News Service

In a remarkably swift conclusion to a trial that transfixed America for a year, the mostly black jury deliberated for less than four hours Monday before reaching the verdict, which the judge ordered kept secret overnight.

When it was announced, Simpson -- the most famous murder defendant in U.S. history -- smiled quietly with relief, patted his hand over his heart and hugged his lead attorney, Johnnie Cochran.

But shocked relatives of the two victims -- Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman -- broke into loud sobs when they realized the man they had repeatedly called the killer would be freed. They staggered and

(continued on page 2)



The October 5, 1995 edition of the *LR Times* featured two Associated Press articles about the Simpson verdict as well as one written by Brendan Loy about NHS reaction to the verdict. "They let a murderer go free," said class president Tim Stevens. "I can't believe it! He's so guilty!" exclaimed Lisa Williams. "This system is so screwed," Sean Vivier stated. After October 5, there were few important news events at NHS—the *Times* reported mostly on sports, winter weather, and the Geometry "Battles" of the Sexes and Houses. Then, on February 9, the news drought ended in a big way.

Car hits Melanie Rugar outside NHS

Rugar suffers only minor injuries despite early-morning collision



An early-morning collision between automobile and person sent Melanie Rugar to the hospital and sent shock waves through Newington High School early Friday morning.

The accident occurred about 20 minutes before the start of first period at the high school.

Melanie was crossing the street on the crosswalk nearest to the school's south wing. She was hit by a car, flipped onto the car's windshield and then onto its hood, and rolled off into the street.

(continued on page 4)

Why must the *Living Room Times* report on this story?

As *Living Room Times* chief editor Brendan Loy was investigating the Melanie Rugar car accident during the day Friday, several students expressed objections to the fact that the *Times* is reporting on the story, considering the very serious nature of car accidents and the injuries which can be involved.

Brendan thought carefully about this criticism, but decided to write about the accident anyway.

Why? The answer to that question lies in the fact that the *Times* calls itself a newspaper. Newspapers are frequently required to report on unpleasant or

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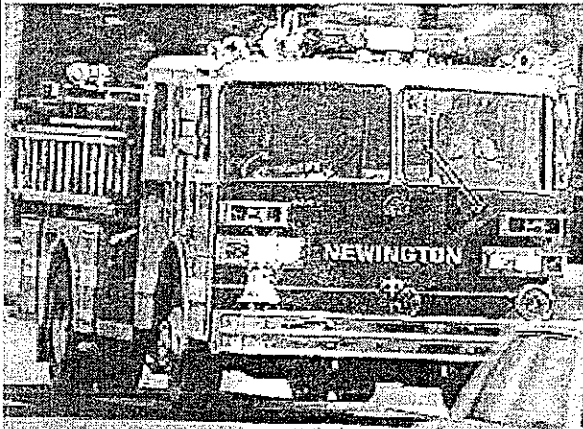
On that Friday, freshman Melanie Rugar was hit by a car outside NHS in the morning, before first period. The accident captivated and concerned the freshman class all day long. Luckily, she suffered only scars and bruises. In addition to reporting on the accident on the following Monday, the *Times* addressed concerns that we should not report on such a serious story, saying, "It was news. Newspaper report the news. And we are a newspaper. So we report it."

The Living Room Times Season Finale Edition—Page #4

The last ninth-grade issue of Newington High School's official "pint-sized publication"

FIRE! FIRE!

NHS evacuated twice in one day



"This is one of those days you wait for your whole life. It's like, 'Oh my God, the school's burning down,' and now it really is."

That's how one Newington High student, freshman Liz Janelle, summed up the wild and crazy day at NHS yesterday.

Bill Kenny gave a slightly different summary of the day: "This is the best thing that's happened in this school year," Kenny, a sophomore,

(continued on page 2)

**"This is the best thing that's happened in this school year. It's the highlight of the year. I think that we should have a fire everyday."
—Bill Kenny**



Far Above: A firetruck comes down Willard Ave. during the second fire. Above: A Spanish message saying "Thursday, June 6: The Day of Fire" Right: The scene in Mr. Lombardi's room five hours after the first fire.



Clearly, the biggest news story of the year at Newington High came on June 6, 1996, called "el día del fuego," when two separate and unrelated fires broke out inside the school. Appropriately, in the *Times* issue the next day talking about the blazes and resulting evacuations, the headline—"FIRE! FIRE!"—was written with the biggest font used in any *Living Room Times* in the newspaper's history, size 80. (Typical headline size is between 26 and 36.)

The issue quoted many students on their opinions of the fire. "This is one of those days you wait for your whole life," said Liz Janelle. "It's like, 'Oh my God, the school's burning down,' and now it really is." Bill

Kenny and Bob Aniello both called the fires the "highlight of the year." Todd Stigliano said, "I love it. It's great." The first fire was an electrical blaze in Mr. Lombardi's room; the second was a wax fire in an art room. When asked if he had ever seen anything like the wild day of fires in his teaching career, Lombardi said, "Never in twenty years. Never."



The Living Room Times Season Finale Edition—Page #5

The last ninth-grade issue of Newington High School's official "pint-sized publication"

Living Room Times—Fall Sports

ONE DAY, TWO TITLES

Newington soccer teams win CCC South



Boys Varsity Soccer Player Enzo Faienza
I feel very happy because this is the first time winning a state title. It is the best.

It seems fitting that on Newington's biggest day of the season, star player Enzo Faienza should have his best game on the year.

All season, much of the boys' soccer team's success has depended on Faienza. When he doesn't score much, the games are close. When he scores a lot, Newington wins easily.

Faienza scored five goals as Newington won in a 8-0 shutout Friday against Maloney, and clinched the CCC South division title.

(continued on page 2)



Girls Varsity Soccer Coach Paul Malloy
This is the best team I have ever coached. We are the best.

The 6th-ranked Newington girls, the only soccer team in the entire state with a perfect record, clinched the CCC South division title Friday with a 1-0 win at conference rival Maloney.

Sophomore Kristin Donlin scored Newington's only goal six minutes into the second half, with an assist from her cousin, freshman Tara Boisvert.

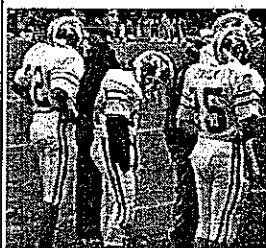
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The fall sports season was filled with extremes on both sides—good and bad—for Newington High School teams. There was the amazingly successful girls soccer team, undefeated in the regular season at 16-0. Then there was the totally unsuccessful football team, winless at 0-10. There was the field hockey team, ignored all year long until they reached the quarterfinals of their state tournament before suffering a thrilling, heartbreaking loss to Guilford. There was the boys soccer team, earning tremendous attention and acclaim all year until they lost 2 of their last 3 games, the last one a 2-1 loss in the second round of their state tournament. And there was the girls' volleyball team, which made a run at qualifying for their tourney, but finished one game short of a bid thanks to 3 straight losses at the end.

The soccer teams both had incredible regular seasons, capped on October 27 when both won their CCC South conference championships, as reported above in the October 30 edition of the *Times*. Both suffered tough early-round tourney losses, however—the boys, 2-1 to Staples, and the next day, the girls, 3-1 to Ridgefield. Both soccer teams were outlasted in the postseason by the field hockey team, which finished 9-5-3 but reached the state quarterfinals with a 2-1 triple overtime win over Windsor before the loss to Guilford. And then, there was the football team, which had one close game—a gutwrenching one-point loss to Bristol Central—and finished 0-10.

Scoreless Thanksgiving completes winless season for Indians football

Newington finishes season 0-10 with loss at Wethersfield



There couldn't have been a more fitting ending to Newington's dismal football season.

Late in the fourth quarter of their final game of the year, the Indians trailed Wethersfield 19-0. They knew they were going to lose; they knew they were going to finish winless. And it looked like it would be another shutout, the fourth they

(continued from page 3)



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)

IT'S ON TO THE FINAL FOUR

With win, Indians reach semifinals



There were boys basketball and ice hockey and a few other teams which represented Newington High School during the winter sports season, but without question, the girls basketball team was *the* success story of the season at NHS. Led by senior Tereasa Milardo and juniors Ela Lapciuk and Leslie Carlson, Newington persevered through two tough regular season losses to Southington, attaining an 18-2 regular season record and working their way to the state semifinals in a year which their coach, Sandy Pilz, said was "the best [their league, Class LL] has ever been in the history of girls basketball in Connecticut."

After breezing past Conard of West Hartford in a first-round blowout, the Indians came up against #11-seed Fairfield, a team they were expected to beat without too much trouble. But the game went to double-overtime and the Indians had to battle back twice from five points behind—one such comeback in each OT—before finally winning, 62-61. "Anybody in the world who's associated with this team would be extremely proud of them tonight," Coach Pilz said after the incredible game. Next for Indians was a 60-49 win over Masuk of Monroe, which snapped a 50-game winning streak for then-defending Class L champ Masuk. From there, Newington went on to face eventual champion Norwich Free Academy in the semifinals, where the Indians were finally knocked out, 56-42, thanks to a poor fourth quarter shooting performance. Still, it was a truly amazing season.



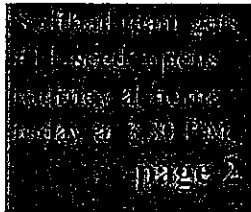
"Now is the time to rest your hopes on Hope Hill Road and believe."

Those were the words of wisdom from Newington girls basketball head coach Sandy Pilz Monday as the team bus moved towards their big tourney showdown with Masuk High School of Monroe.

(continued on page 2)

Living Room Times—Spring Sports

Baseball leaves no doubt they're in Newington qualifies for tourney with 18-0 win; seeded #25



If you were looking ahead to a game between the baseball teams from Newington and Windsor High Schools, the numbers wouldn't look too good for NHS.

As of last Wednesday, Windsor's winning percentage was .706; Newington's was .474. Windsor was #3 in the CCC West and still battling for the title; Newington was in #5 in the CCC South and well out of contention.

Windsor had lost 5 games during the year, Newington had lost 10.

But luckily for Newington, none of that matters in the end. The only numbers that *do* matter have gone the Indians' way:

13-2, 18-0.

The scores by which Newington has *defeated* Windsor this season.

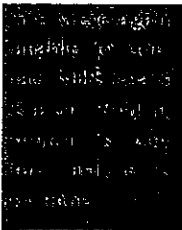
And even more importantly, 10-10.

Newington's final regular season record, just barely good enough to get them into the CIAC Class LL state tournament.



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#1 Glastonbury stunned at home by NHS volleyball



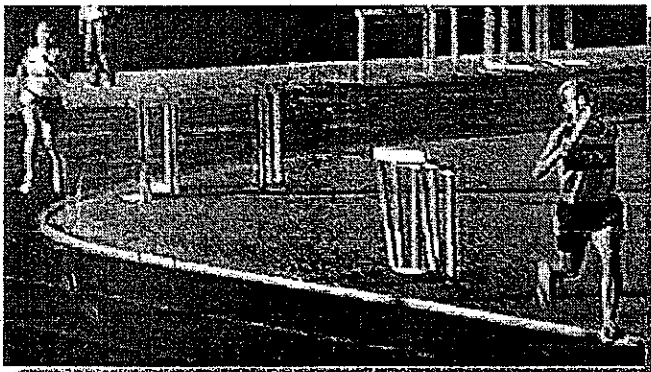
On May 1, Glastonbury knocked Newington out of the #1 ranking in the state with a 3-2 win. When the new coaches' poll comes out this morning, the Indians will likely find out that they have returned the favor.

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"He stole a game. He stole a game right away from a lot of kids."
—softball coach Anne McKernan on the umpire who ended Newington's season with a controversial defensive interference call. She added, "I thought we could make it to the quarterfinals. In my opinion—in my heart—we did."

Because of time constraints put on editor Loy by the hectic end-of-the-year pace of high school, along with reports on other continuing stories like the "Geometry Olympics," the *Living Room Times's* coverage of the spring sports season was far less complete than our coverage of the fall and winter sports seasons had been, and we sincerely apologize for that.

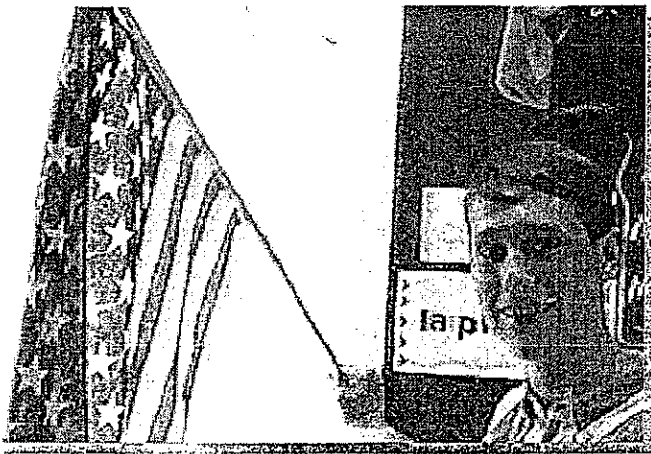
There were definitely some teams worthy of mention. One of those teams was the baseball squad, which went in the regular season to earn their first state tournament berth since 1992. Another was softball, which not only reached the tournament but won a game, defeating Newtown and falling one highly controversial defensive interference call away from reaching the quarterfinals in a heartbreaking extra-innings loss to Norwalk. The boys volleyball team also excelled, reaching the state semifinals. They went 1-2 against



eventual state champ Glastonbury during the year, including a loss to them in the Final Four. The track teams also had great success, with Meredith Belden (picture above) and Rick Mickens going all the way to New England's.

The Living Room Times Season Finale Edition—Page #8

The last ninth-grade issue of Newington High School's official "pint-sized publication"



Living Room Times— CLASS ELECTIONS: The Stevens Dynasty

“Bottom of the barrel” freshmen elect Tim Stevens as class president

Two events that got considerable attention from the *Times* this year were the freshman and sophomore elections, and Tim Stevens's successful runs for president in both. In the freshman class elections, held on September 22, Stevens, who was student council president of Kellogg last year, ran against three candidates: Jaimie Kwassman, Travis Meyer, and former Wallace president Michelle Bowman. Stevens woke up a yawning crowd with his speech when he hollared, “Good morning, my fellow freshmen from the bottom of the barrel... The point of what I just did was to get your attention; to wake you up.... We need to make the rest of the school sit up and take notice. Yes, we are only freshmen, and yes, it is only our first year, but *we are still here.*” Eight months after winning that election, Stevens ran again, this time for '96-'97 sophomore president. He was unopposed, as opponents Jason Martin and Nick Casioppo had both dropped out. Still, he came up with a creative speech. “When I last spoke to you, we were only lowly freshmen stuck at the bottom of the barrel,” Stevens said. “Next year we will become mighty sophomores.”



Above: Barely three months ago, Tim Stevens passed the gavel and turned power over in the Martin Kellogg student council to this year's Kellogg President, Liz Cormier. Now Tim has been elected again, this time as the President of NHS's freshman class.

It was officially announced Tuesday morning that Tim Stevens, who began his speech on Friday by saying “Good morning, my fellow members of the bottom of the barrel,” won the election for Freshman Class President.

Tim will be serving his second consecutive year as a student body President, having been

the President of the Martin Kellogg Student Council last year. This time around, he won by defeating Jaimie Kwassman, also from Kellogg, and Michelle Bowman and Travis Meyer, both from John Wallace Middle School.

Alison Lucey and Sara Colpits also won elections for freshman offices, with Alison defeating Christine Capenara in the race for Social Chairperson, and Sara beating Kristina Polomsky for Treasurer. All four candidates for those

(continued on page 2)

Stevens aims for the top, again

Two-time incumbent will run for sophomore presidency



With his freshman year winding down and the end of his term as Freshman Class President rapidly approaching, Tim Stevens announced Monday that he will seek the top spot again—the third consecutive year Stevens has run for the presidency of a student body—as a candidate for Sophomore Class President in elections to be held sometime in the next few weeks.

“As of today, I have made the decision to seek re-election,” President Stevens said in an exclusive interview with *Living Room Times* chief editor Brendan Loy yesterday afternoon. “This is my final decision. I have discussed it with several of my top aides,” the two-time incumbent added.

(continued on page 1)

Stevens dynasty continues

Victory guaranteed as Casioppo quits under pressure to rewrite his speech

Freshman Class Advisor Mrs. Yukna spent part of Monday night reading the campaign speech written by Nick Casioppo, a member of the Class of '99 who was, at that time, a candidate for sophomore class president. The speech was scheduled to be delivered today in the cafeteria along with the speeches written by the other candidates for sophomore class offices. But when Mrs. Yukna spoke with Casioppo before school yesterday morning, she gave him what amounted to an ultimatum:

Fix it or else.

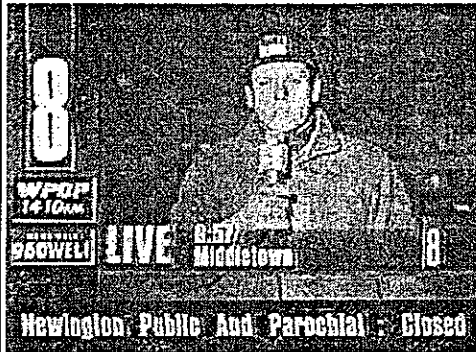
Casioppo chose “else,” quitting the presidential race, and consequently, two-time incumbent Tim Stevens is guaranteed a victory which will give him a third straight year as the president of his class.

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Storm Fred forces schools to close... even Newington!

Sixth winter storm hits state with 3-12 inches of snow



Over the years, Newington's Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ernest Perlini, has gained a reputation for being one of Connecticut's stingiest superintendents when it comes to snow days. He is one of the least likely in the state to give his students and teachers a day off from classes when a snowstorm hits.

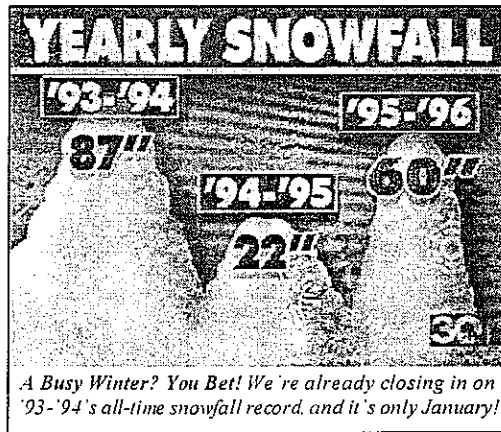
Maybe he's trying to shed that reputation.

For the second time this year—and the second winter storm in a row—Dr. Perlini closed Newington schools Wednesday, despite 11:00 PM predictions that called for the heavy snow to end at about 8:00 AM. That forecast could have given Perlini reason to order a delay instead of

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Blizzard paralyzes east coast

Blizzard Ginger's snow totals measured in feet

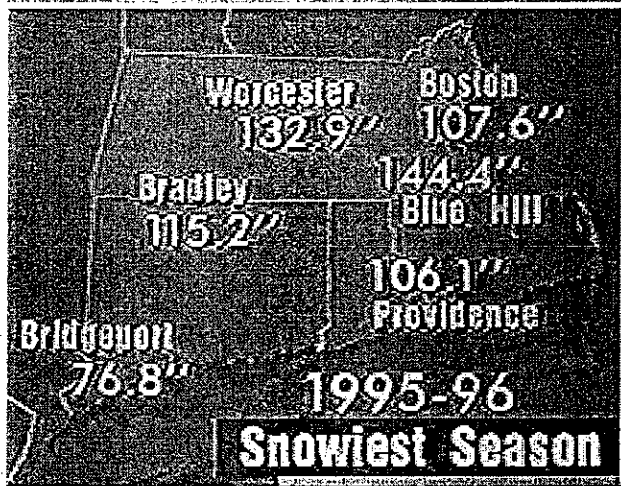


More on the blizzard, pages 3 and 4

A massive winter storm comparable to similar blizzards in 1978, 1984, and 1993 buried much of the eastern United States Sunday and Monday in snow as deep as two to three feet.

The storm—named Blizzard Ginger by Connecticut TV station WFSB, Channel 3, but more commonly known across the region as “the Blizzard of '96”—arrived in Connecticut late Sunday morning, and did not leave the state until Monday evening. By the time the storm finally exited, as much as 28 inches of snow had accumulated.

School systems throughout the state shut down Monday, including Newington, traditionally one of the towns most reluctant to close schools. Most businesses closed as well. Governor John Rowland, despite not declaring a State of Emergency, closed all state offices.



The Snowiest Winter Ever

Storm names and dates from '95-'96

Anne—Nov. 13	Herb—Jan. 12
Bo—Nov. 29	Iris—Feb. 3
Cher—Dec. 9	Joe—Feb. 16
Dave—Dec. 14	Kari—Mar. 2
Ellen—Dec. 19-20	Luke—Mar. 6-7-8
Fred—Jan. 3-4	Marny—Mar. 29
Ginger (The Blizzard of '96)—Jan. 7-8-9	Nate—Apr. 7-8
	Olivia—Apr. 9-10

Bold means snow days. *Italics* mean early dismissal or late opening.

Ruggiero class has "battle of the sexes"

Three geometry students tied in competition for best grades



Barely two weeks into the new marking term, Mr. Ruggiero has started a contest in his fourth-period geometry class which is designed to last until midterms—and then, perhaps, start all over again.

Near the end of the first term, Ruggiero started talking about whether the highest grade would be held by a boy or girl. A friendly competition for the top grade began.

Sara Colpitts won that contest, leaving the class males hungry for revenge.

(continued on page 2)

The Living Room Times—"Battle of the Sexes"

There were many stories reported in the Times this year—school sports, weather, and many others—but nothing consistently dominated the pages of this paper like the geometry "Battles" of the Sexes, Houses, and Nationalities. It all started with the second-term "Battle of the Sexes," first reported in the November 27 edition, seen at left. After two quizzes, the "Battle" was a dead heat, with males Chris Banach and Claudio Gualtieri and female Sara Colpitts tied with 100% averages. Then, on the Chapter 4 test, Colpitts took the lead, as seen below in the November 29 issue.

(continued on next page)

Colpitts gives females the lead

Takes first place in Ruggiero's geometry Battle of the Sexes as Gualtieri "drops like a rock"; Banach, Loy tied for second

The Unofficial Top Three Students

NAME	Score on quiz #1	Score on quiz #2	Score on chap. test	TOTAL GRADE
Sara Colpitts female	30/30	40/40	96/100	166/170 (97.6%)
Chris Banach male	30/30	40/40	92/100	162/170 (95.3%)
Brendan Loy male	26/30	40/40	96/100	162/170 (95.3%)

Sara Colpitts held on to her title as the best student in Mr. Ruggiero's fourth-period geometry class on Tuesday as she pushed aside fellow front-runners Claudio Gualtieri and Chris Banach, and took the top spot all by herself with a near-perfect score on a 100-point chapter test, unofficial results showed.

Colpitts, who had the best grade in the class during the first marking term, has been the focus of efforts by male students—as well as teacher Lou Ruggiero—to knock females out of the top spot and give the males a victory in the so-called "Battle of the Sexes." Her success Tuesday disproved Mr. Ruggiero's statement last week that "It's unfair to characterize this as a battle, because the men are just cruising along doing what comes easily."

"We own you, baby!" Ruggiero said to Colpitts before Tuesday's test. "We own you!"

The taunting obviously didn't work. Claudio Gualtieri, designated by Ruggiero as the "Great Male Hope" of the term, and nicknamed "the G-Man," got perfect scores on the first two quizzes of the term. Ruggiero didn't give us the exact numbers of Gualtieri's score on Tuesday's test, but he said that it was lower than Colpitts's score, taking

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Right: This poster, designed to encourage Claudio Gualtieri in his efforts to take the lead in the Battle of The Sexes, wasn't enough to inspire the "great male hope" to defeat Sara Colpitts Tuesday.



Go Claud!
The
G-Man!
Claudio Gualtieri, the GREAT MALE HOPE!

(continued from previous page)

The 'Pitts held her lead in the "Battle of the Sexes" for nearly a month and a half without ever waivering. In fact, during the time period after she took the lead on November 28 and before the Chapter Six "quest" on January 12, Colpitts's average was a 98.97%. Then, on January 12, everything changed. Colpitts got an 44/50, or 88%, by far her worst grade of the term, while Todd Stigliano—who had been five points behind—got a 50/50 for 100%, giving him a one-point lead going into the final quiz before midterms. Since the midterm exam was separate and did not count for the "Battle of the Sexes," Colpitts's last chance to catch Stigs was on the 35-point quiz on January 23. Both got 100%'s, giving Stigliano a stunning victory over the 'Pitts, and a male victory over females in general.

Sudden change: Males lead

Stigliano takes first place as Colpitts bombs

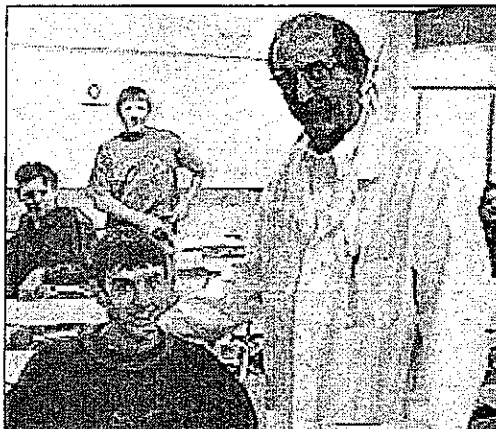


The theme of Friday's 50-point geometry "quest" for males in Mr. Ruggiero's fourth-period class was "Target: Colpitts."

The Stigman hit the bullseye.

And consequently, for the first time all year long, Sara Colpitts is *not* the "class genius." I repeat: Colpitts is *not* in the lead in the geometry Battle of the Sexes. She has been ousted, replaced by "Great Male Hope" and new "class genius" Todd Stigliano.

Stigs, who was included in *The Hartford Courant* Friday morning on the list of All-Academic Fall Athletes, proved his academic skills during the day Friday by being the only student in the class to get 100% on the Chapter Six "quest"—worth 50 points, more than a normal quiz but less than a normal test—while many others struggled to get a passing grade.



Above: "Todd Stigliano, on this day, turned into a man." Mr. Ruggiero announced after the Stigmeister's stunning upset of former 'class genius' Sara Colpitts.

(continued on page 5)

Quotes from the "Battle"

"I think Claudio's going to win, because I'm dumb and he's not." —Chris Banach

"Colpitts, this marking period, we own you!"

—male cheerleader Lou Ruggiero

"Any one of them can get it. I don't care."

— "class genius" Sara Colpitts

"C'mon, you're not making this fun.

Get all nervous and stuff." —Ruggiero

"It is with great pride and great pleasure that I announce that women are far better than men."

—Ruggiero, after Colpitts took the lead

"Woo-hoo!" —"class genius" Colpitts

"I'm glad I kicked those boys' butts." —Colpitts

"The Great Male Hope is the man with the manly beard, the ever-delightful Stig 'the Stigmeister' Stigliano." —Mr. Ruggiero

"I'm gonna win. It's all over. Sara's goin' down."

— "Great Male Hope" Todd Stigliano

"Todd Stigliano, on this day, turned into a man."

—Ruggiero, after Stigs took the lead

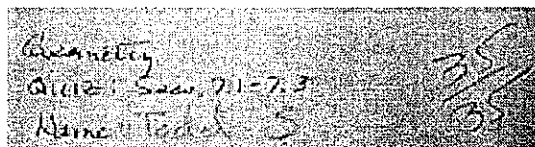
"Wishing you guys luck would be inappropriate, and prayer's not allowed in school." —Ruggiero

"Oh yeah!" —Stigliano, moments after winning

"I don't care!" —ousted "class genius" Colpitts

GENIUS! Stigliano wins it

Clinches male victory in "Battle" with 100% on final quiz of term



"Great Male Hope" Todd Stigliano completed his stunning comeback victory over female leader Sara Colpitts on Tuesday, equalling Colpitts's 100% grade on final quiz of the second term. The tie Tuesday meant a victory for Stigs, who led by one point before the quiz.

The Stigman's victory proved that men are better than women—at least for now—in Mr. Ruggiero's fourth-period geometry class "Battle of the Sexes."

Colpitts easily won the first term "Battle," and not long ago, she appeared to be well on her way to a victory in the second term also. Less than two weeks ago, Stigs trailed by five points, and Brendan Loy, then in second place, was down by four.

(continued on page 2)

"BATTLE"	Home- Quiz Quiz Ch. 4 Quiz Quiz Ch. 5 Ch. 6 Quiz										FINAL
	work	#1	#2	Test	#3	#4	Test	Quest	#5	GRADE	
Todd Stigliano—male	38/38	28/30	38/40	96/100	33/35	35/35	98/100	50/50	35/35	451/463—97.41%	
Sara Colpitts—female	38/38	30/30	40/40	95/100	35/35	35/35	98/100	44/50	35/35	450/463—97.19%	

Living Room Times—"Battle of the Houses"

Although the "Battle of the Houses" between Magee, Doran, and Stoddard Houses didn't get as much attention from the *Times* or *Times* readers as its predecessor, the "Battle of the Sexes," or its follower, the "Geometry Olympics," this third-term "Battle" was probably the most interesting of all in terms of the progression of the fight for first. On the first quiz of the term, Brendan Loy and Milan Cisar tied for the lead with 100%'s on a 50-point quiz. Then, Cisar got a 3/30 on the next quiz, permanently dropping out of the running. Loy dropped down too, although not as far, going from first place to seventh with a 25/30, and leaving the top spot to a tie between the two best students from the "Battle of the Sexes," winner Todd Stigliano and runner-up Sara Colpitts. But soon after moving into a tie for the lead, Stigs got a 94% on a test—compared to a 100% for the 'Pitts—which was followed by quiz grades of 28/35 and 46/50. Although none of those scores were horribly bad, they were all uncharacteristically low, and they combined to eliminate the Stigman from any chance of winning the "Battle." And while Stoddard House Stigs was sinking like a stone, Doran House representatives Brendan Loy and Jaimie Kwassman were soaring, combining for an average of 97.3% on the same three quizzes and tests where Stigs was

MAJOR COLLAPSE

Loy hands "Battle" victory to Magee House, Colpitts by reversing major and minor arcs



Above: As class ends Thursday, Sara Colpitts tells Brendan Loy to hurry up and finish his quiz. "Loy, turn it in," she said at 11:10 as she walked by on her way out of the classroom. "You get no extra time." Loy handed the paper in seconds later, but it wasn't until after 2:15 that he found out he had lost the "Battle of the Houses" to Colpitts, who got a perfect grade. Loy received a 34/40, or 85%.

Throughout the third term "Battle of the Houses," stupid mistakes have haunted Brendan Loy. Not doing two homework assignments. Not simplifying a square root properly. Not putting the Given on a proof. All these have been mistakes that Loy has made, and they all have helped Sara Colpitts stay within striking distance.

Thursday, Loy made what was probably the most careless of all his careless errors. It was certainly the most costly.

It cost him a victory in Lou Ruggiero's fourth-period geometry class's third-term "Battle of the Houses." It cost him an A+ average. It cost him a chance to finally beat Sara Colpitts. And it cost him an opportunity to write a *Living Room Times* headline which he had already planned—a huge, two-liner for today's paper reading "Smooth Sailing For Doran House."

(continued on page 2)

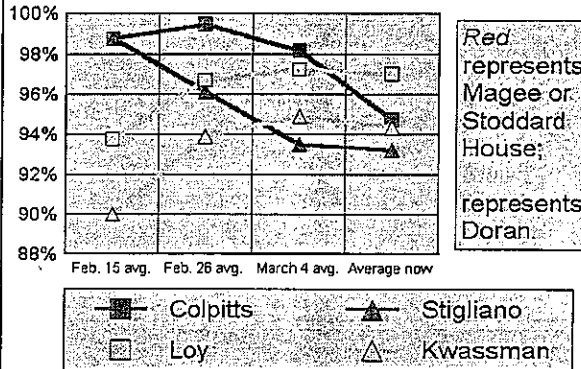
Student	House	Thurs. Quiz	Total Grade for third term
Sara Colpitts	Magee	10/10	458/475—96.42%
Brendan Loy	Doran	34/40	455/475—95.79%
Todd Stigliano	Stoddard	10/10	451/475—94.95%
Jaimie Kwassman	Doran	34/40	448/475—94.32%

Doran comeback reaches new heights

Loy takes the lead; third-place Kwassman one point behind Colpitts

"Battle of the Houses"

The Doran House comeback



The above chart shows the comeback of Doran House's Brendan Loy and Jaimie Kwassman over the last few weeks. On the last day of school before February Vacation, standings showed Loy in seventh place and Kwassman in a tie for eighth. Now, Loy is in the lead and Kwassman is only one point out of second, behind former "class genius" Sara Colpitts.

"Doran House is in the house." That's what Brendan Loy kept saying back on March 1, when he and Doran teammate Jaimie Kwassman were in second and third place, respectively, behind Magee contender and first term "class genius" Sara Colpitts.

Now, that "in the house" phrase rings true even more.

The Doran House, which came into Mr. Ruggiero's fourth-period geometry class's "Battle of the Houses" as a heavy underdog behind both the Magee and Stoddard Houses, has now taken the lead and is a heartbeat away from packing a 1-2 punch in the Battle.

The first part of that 1-2 combination is Brendan Loy, who finished third in both the first and second terms. Loy took the third-term lead Tuesday with a score of 48/50, tied with Shaun Sullivan for the best grade on the day's quiz, and Loy is now all alone in first place for the first time all year. Also, right now, he is the only student in the class to have an A+ average (96.98%).

(continued on page 2)

As Loy falters, Battle tightens

Three students within one point of top spot in "Battle of the Houses"

Sara Colpitts	321/335	Magee House	95.82%
Brendan Loy	321/335	Doran House	95.82%
Jaimie Kwassman	320/335	Doran House	95.52%

Brendan Loy has now allowed a six-point lead over first term "class genius" Sara Colpitts to completely evaporate,

(continued on page 2)

averaging a 90.8%. So when Colpitts of Magee House got a 40/50, or 80%, on the second Chapter Eight quiz, Loy moved back into first place after being in seventh, and Da Quazz climbed within one point of the second-place 'Pitts after starting out in a tie for eighth. But just two weeks after gaining that seemingly insurmountable six-point lead, Loy had allowed his lead to evaporate into a tie with Colpitts by missing two homework assignments and making one careless error in simplifying a radical. Still, he regained his place at the top, building a three-point lead on the 100-point Chapter Nine test. So on the last quiz of the term, assuming Colpitts got 100%, Loy could have gotten one problem (each worth two points) wrong and he'd still have won. Well, 'Pitts got 100%—and Loy missed *three* problems, two of which were from switching "major" and "minor" arcs. He lost by three points, and Magee won the "Battle of the Houses."

"Italy pulls disappearing act? What is this?"

—Mr. Ruggiero, upon reading the April 29 Times edition, shown at right

Italy pulls disappearing act

No Italians in "Elite Eight"; Irish have four of "Super Six"

"ELITE EIGHT"	Total Grade Now
1. Sara Colpitts, Britain	130/135—96.3%
2. Brendan Loy, Ireland	128/135—94.8%
3. Joey Ploszay, Ireland	123/135—91.1%
4. Matt Thomsen, Britain	120/135—88.9%
5. Liz Janelle, Ireland	119/135—88.1%
5. Shaun Sullivan, Ireland	119/135—88.1%
7. Chris Banach, Canada	118/135—87.4%
8. Mary Bellizzi, Canada	116/135—85.9%

When Lou Ruggiero, a full-blooded Italian, first heard of the idea for a "Geometry Olympics" contest which would pit students against each other based on their nationalities, his initial response was a confident one.

"Well, that's not very fair to all the non-Italians, is it?" he said. "Because everybody knows Italians can't be beat in mental or physical contests."

Four weeks later, that confidence may have diminished just slightly.

(continued on page 2)

Best Eight Grades on Friday's test	Grade
1. Sara Colpitts, Britain	94/100
1. Brendan Loy, Ireland	94/100
3. Liz Janelle, Ireland	91/100
3. Joey Ploszay, Ireland	91/100
3. Shaun Sullivan, Ireland	91/100
6. Chris Banach, Canada	88/100
6. Matt Thomsen, Britain	88/100
8. Todd Stigliano, Italy	85/100

By far, the "Geometry Olympics" got more attention than either of the other geometry "Battles." The fourth-term contest pitted students against each other based on their nationalities in a friendly competition featuring teams from Italy, Ireland, Great Britain, and Canada, as well as a "unified" team of students not descended from any of those four nationalities.

The "Olympics" started out with Sara Colpitts and Jaimie Kwassman getting 103%'s on the first quiz, but soon after, Kwassman and all the other members of the favored Italian team bombed out, with all of the Italians dropping out of the "Elite Eight" after the Chapter 10 test. The team would soon recover, however, starting on the May 13 quiz, as seen at right. All four of the top Italians—Todd Stigliano, Claudio Gualtieri, Jaimie Kwassman, and Lauren Caputa—got 100% on that quiz. Eventually, by the time the Olympics had ended, the Italians were back in the thick of things, as you'll see on the next page. Meanwhile, as Team Italy struggled to make a comeback, Irish Brendan Loy was fighting off memories of his third-term collapse and trying to build a lead over British leader and individual favorite Sara Colpitts. The 'Pitts, who was named the top scholar of the entire freshman class in the honors breakfast in May, fell behind early, and, it was thought, was four points back with five weeks to go. That would change, however...

(continued on next page)

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.

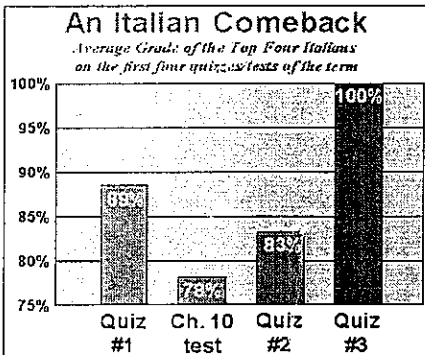
Still, Loy is happy to back on top as reigning "class genius" (Colpitts is the "defending class genius"). "I'm in the lead!" he announced happily to classmates in his Spanish class a few minutes after learning he had moved to the top. "I just moved ahead of Colpitts! I'm ahead of the top scholar of the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

(continued on page 6)

Italy surges; Loy increases lead

Stigs, G-Man, Quazz, Caputa all get perfect scores; Loy's 100% puts him four points ahead of Colpitts



PERFECT SCORES ON MONDAY'S QUIZ

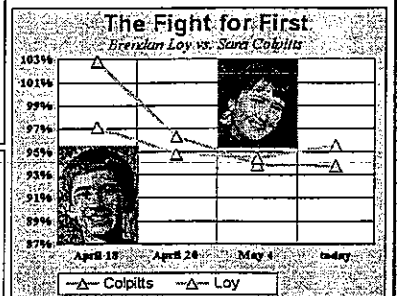
Erica Brannan, Irish	Lauren Caputa, Italian
Milan Cisar, Irish	Claudio Gualtieri, Italian
Liz Janelle, Irish	Jaimie Kwassman, Italian
Brendan Loy, Irish	Todd Stigliano, Italian

(No one from the British, Canadian, or unified teams got a 100%)

The Italians, originally considered the strongest team in Lou Ruggiero's fourth-period "Geometry Olympics," finally proved it Monday as all of the top four members of Team Italy got perfect scores on a 45-point quiz.

Meanwhile, the Irish team, which has been dominant in these "Olympics," also had four 100% scores, one of which was team leader Brendan Loy's. His 45/45 boosted his lead over British Sara Colpitts, who received a 42/45. Loy's razor-thin one-point edge has now been expanded to a four-point cushion with five weeks left in the term.

(continued on page 2)



Correction: Loy's lead is still 1

Colpitts appeals grade, gets 100%; Ploszay scores 39/45

<i>SUPER SIX</i>	AVERAGE
Brendan Loy Ireland	215/225 95.56%
Sara Colpitts Great Britain	214/225 95.11%
Joey Ploszay Ireland	204/225 90.67%
Shaun Sullivan Ireland	203/225 90.22%
Matt Thomsen Great Britain	*162/180 90.00%
Liz Janelle Ireland	200/225 88.89%

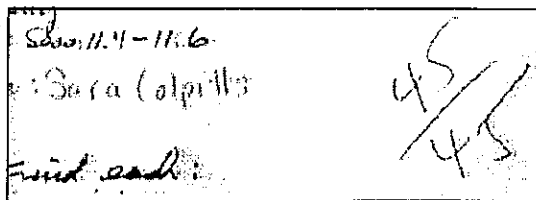
Matt Thomsen is absent and has missed one quiz. When he takes it, a 45/45 would move him into third place; a 42/45 would put him in a tie for third; and a 39/45 would keep him in fifth. Anything below 39/45 would cause him to drop down in the standings.

It isn't too often that a major leaderboard change occurs in Mr. Ruggiero's Period 4 geometry class on a day when no quizzes are being taken and no homework is being handed in.

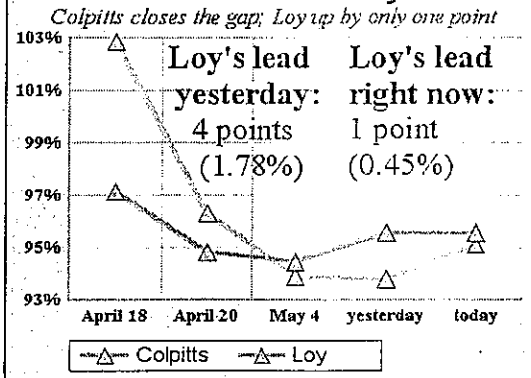
Yesterday there were *two* such big changes.

When Sara Colpitts discovered on Tuesday what had been her only mistake on Monday's quiz, she realized that the error was caused by the fact that she misread Ruggiero's handwriting. And Colpitts thought that was grounds to appeal her 42/45 grade.

(continued on page 3)



What a difference a day makes!



Stigman, G-Man unstoppable

Stigs gets third straight 100%; Claud jumps from 11th to 7th; Loy gets 27/30 but battle for first uncertain as Colpitts absent



Make no mistake: The Italians have come out of hibernation. The deafening silence—or, perhaps, a “giant sucking sound”—that characterized Team Italy for the first few weeks of these “Geometry Olympics” has subsided. The team that struggled to survive the first quiz of the fourth term and the Chapter Ten test has been replaced by the superb, dominant, superstar-packed team that was once expected to win the “Olympics.”

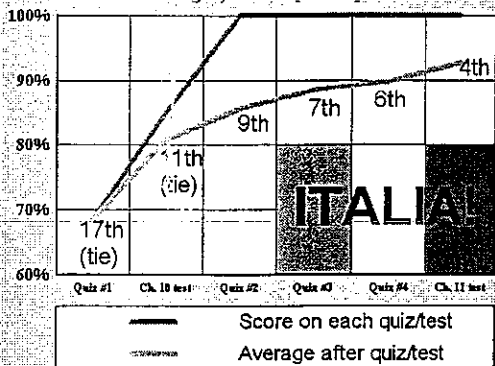
The question now is whether the Italians can climb out of the deep hole they dug for themselves while the “sucking sound” was up and running.

(continued on page 2)



The Stigman's Surge Continues!

His grade on each of this term's quizzes and tests and his coverage after each of those quizzes/tests



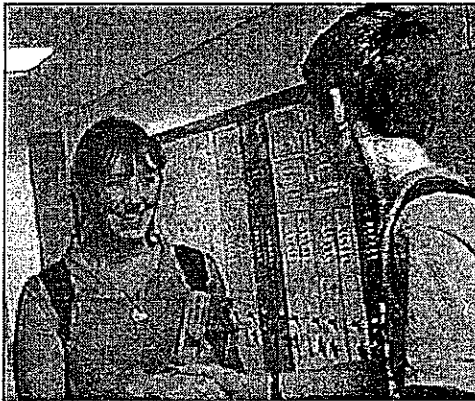
A chart of Stigliano's comeback, as it was in the May 23 Times edition after Stigs's fourth consecutive 100% grade

(continued from previous page) The 'Pitts successfully appealed her 42/45 grade, meaning she got a 45/45 instead, and Loy's lead was only one point. That would prove critical in the outcome of the “Olympics.” Loy stayed one point ahead of Colpitts for the next four and a half weeks until finally, on the last day of the term, things changed, as you'll see on the next page. Before that ending, as Loy maintained his one-point lead, Todd Stigliano was in the midst of what may be the most incredible accomplishment of any geometry “Battle”—going through all of Chapter Eleven without missing a single problem by getting four straight perfect scores. Although those four-in-a-row only tied the record set by the 'Pitts and Da Quazz in the first term, Stigs's streak included more total points than theirs, and he was the first student to go through an entire chapter without missing a problem. The streak helped Stigs complete a highly improbable comeback from seventeenth place all the way up to a finish in third.

(continued on next page)

'Pitts does it again

Colpitts tops class for third time this year as Loy chokes again; Italians, Irish split "Olympics" team competitions



Above: Sara Colpitts and Brendan Loy shake hands after the "Geometry Olympics" ended with Colpitts finishing one place ahead of Loy for the fourth time this year. "Congratulations," Loy said. A few seconds later as he walked by, Loy jokingly added under his breath, "I hate you."

	Sara Colpitts	Brendan Loy
First term	97% avg.—finished 1st	95% avg.—finished 2nd
Second term	97% avg.—finished 2nd	96% avg.—finished 3rd
Third term	96% avg.—finished 1st	96% avg.—finished 2nd
Fourth term	95% avg.—finished 1st	94% avg.—finished 2nd

When the year's first marking term was approaching its end, way back in late October or early November, geometry teacher Lou Ruggiero gave Brendan Loy a simple, straight-forward directive:

- Defeat the 'Pitts.
- More than 7 months later, Sara " 'Pitts' Colpitts's winning percentage in geometry 'Battles' is 75%.
- Loy's? His is still a big ol' goose egg.
- 0%.
- 0 first-place finishes.
- 0 finishes ahead of Colpitts.
- 0 chances to try again this year.

(continued on page 2)

ELITE 8	Thur. Quiz	Home-work	FINAL GRADE
1. Sara Colpitts	38/40	30/30	534/565—94.51%
2. Brendan Loy	36/40	28/30	531/565—93.98%
3. Todd Stigliano	36/40	28/30	524/565—92.74%
4. Claudio Gualtieri	38/40	30/30	519/565—91.86%
5. Shaun Sullivan	36/40	24/30	518/565—91.68%
6. Jaimie Kwassman	40/40	30/30	498/565—88.14%
7. Liz Janelle	36/40	30/30	496/565—87.79%
8. Joey Ploszay	36/40	28/30	493/565—87.26%

(continued from previous page)

Back to the fight for first now... After trailing for most of the term, Colpitts won the "Geometry Olympics" last Thursday by getting a 38/40 on the last quiz of the term, while Loy earned a 36/40. That, coupled with the fact that Loy had apparently missed a homework assignment several weeks earlier, meant that the 'Pitts won the "Olympics" by three points (see left). Loy got some measure of revenge less than a week later, on the final exam, when his 99% gave him a five-point exam win over Colpitts (see below). But that doesn't count in the fourth term, so Colpitts and the Brits were still the winners in the fourth-term "Olympics." Even though the Irish team won the Top Two, Top Three, and Top Four team averages, and the "comeback kids" of the Italian team topped the overall team averages and the Individual Quiz/Test Medal Count, Britain was the winner. Because of the win by British Colpitts over Irish Loy, Great Britain was declared the official winning team.

Quotes from the "Olympics"

- "Well, that's not very fair to all the non-Italians, is it? Because everybody knows Italians can't be beat in mental or physical contests." —Ruggiero, on the idea of having an "Olympics"
- "Show these morons what you can do. Enough of this crap about being kind to idiots. Humiliate 'em, embarrass 'em, degrade 'em, insult 'em." —Ruggiero to 'Pitts at the beginning of the term
- "Ah, I love this. Stigman said, 'I got them all right except one. The rest were all cake.' You dropped that cake on the floor, stumbled over it, and mice ate it." —Ruggiero to Stigs after Stigs's 69%
- "Evidently, perfection is something that you'll never be able to attain..." —Ruggiero to Stigliano
- "That's only because I strive to be like you, Lou." —Stigliano
- "It's been a bright—very bright—day for me. Loy does not ace it; Stigliano and Gualtieri do ace it. What an absolutely beautiful day it's been. I can't ask for a better day!" —Ruggiero after Quiz #4
- "Yesterday, you were singing the praises of Stigliano, now you're saying he can't [get another 100%]. What's wrong with you?" —Brendan Loy, to Mr. Ruggiero "I sobered up." —Ruggiero
- "It's over. It's desperately over!" —Ruggiero, after marking four problems wrong on Todd Stigliano's paper, ending Stigs's streak of four 100%'s in a row "It's desperately over. Stig bombed out." —Brendan Loy "The old bomb-a-roonie." —Ruggiero
- "In short, if Mr. Loy ties Miss Colpitts or beats her, he's victorious. In order for Miss Colpitts to defeat him, Miss Colpitts must beat him by two points or more....I can't believe it. You choked *again!* You choked *again.*" —Ruggiero, before and after showing the final quiz grades to the videocamera first, and then to Loy
- "Congratulations....I hate you." —Loy to Colpitts, first speaking out loud sincerely and then mumbling jokingly, after losing to her on the final quiz for a second consecutive term
- "I beat the 'Pitts! I finally beat the 'Pitts!" —Loy, on final exams

Loy's day at last

Earns best grade on Ruggiero's final exam for first major victory over Colpitts all year



99%



94%

NOTE: Two other students also got A's on the exam, but who they are or what their exact grades are is unknown. Loy's is the best grade in the class, but it is possible that other grades could be as high as or higher than Colpitts's.

When Mr. Ruggiero came up with the idea of a competition for the best grade in the class, winning it didn't mean all that much to Brendan Loy.

After a first-term win by Sara Colpitts, the contest was officially begun in the second term. Loy was able to hang in there with "class genius" 'Pitts for most of the term, staying three or four points back. But when an 88% quiz grade by Colpitts with a week to go in the term left the door open for Loy to take the lead, he got a 88% too. Consequently, Todd Stigliano took first place, and Loy was reduced to the role of spectator, cheering Stigs on to victory in the "Battle of the Sexes."

In the third term, Loy was the only student who ever had a real chance to catch the 'Pitts. Even after allowing a six-point lead to evaporate thanks to missed homework assignments and careless mistakes, Loy regained a three-point cushion going into the last quiz. Then he switched "major" and "minor" arcs—a classic stupid mistake which cost him four points, and a victory. That's when Loy started to really care. Suddenly, winning meant a chance to redeem himself. And that was important enough that he made a fourth-term victory something to truly strive for. But last Friday, after leading most of the way, Loy pulled another last-day collapse and lost. That meant Monday's final exam was the last chance for Loy to salvage any kind of victory out of a quest for success which was looking more and more like "Mission: Impossible" From Mission Impossible to Mission Accomplished. Loy did it. He beat the 'Pitts. Finally.



"I beat the 'Pitts!" exclaims a jubilant Brendan Loy, holding his arms in the air after learning he received the best exam grade in the class.

(continued on page 2)

Living Room Times becomes the news!

We're *Courant* news!



Living Room Times featured in state's top newspaper

On December 27, 1993, *The Living Room Times* began with a one-page newspaper edition discussing a snap of cold weather and the supposed reactions of stuffed animals to that weather.

Not too impressive.

On February 13, 1996—2 years, 1 month, 17 days, and 280 issues later—the *Times* was featured in a statewide section of the most widely-distributed newspaper in Connecticut, *The Hartford Courant*.

Not too bad.

The *Courant's* article about the *Times*, the unofficial newspaper of Newington High School, began on the Connecticut page, Page A3.

The headline: "All the school news he sees fit to print."

The "he" the *Courant* was referring to is, of course, Brendan Loy, the "senior reporter, editor-in-chief, and publisher" of the suddenly well-known *Times*.

(continued on page 2)

It's all there in *Living Room Times*

Above: Part of the *Hartford Courant's* story about the *Living Room Times* and its editor, Brendan Loy. The story appeared Tuesday on pages A3 and A10.



Courant reporter Daniela Altimari, who wrote the story about the *LR Times*.

Without question, the highlight of the year for *The Living Room Times* was when we were featured in the "A" section of the state's top newspaper, *The Hartford Courant*, on Tuesday, February 13. The next day, the *Times* published an edition bragging about—uh, that is to say, reporting on—our statewide publicity, as seen above.

***The Living Room Times* Season Finale Edition—Page #17**

The last ninth-grade issue of Newington High School's official "pint-sized publication"

THE BIGGEST NHS NEWS STORIES OF THE YEAR

Based on the importance of the story and on the amount of coverage in The Living Room Times

(NOTE: The spring sports season is not included because the *Times* didn't do very much coverage of any of the spring teams due to scheduling conflicts.)

10. *Perfection for Harbeson on national exam—*

Freshman Kate Harbeson was one of less than 1% of students across the USA and ten other countries to get a perfect score on the National Latin Exam. The story was reported in the *LR Times* and in the *The Hartford Courant* after *Times* editor Brendan Loy told *Courant* reporter Daniela Altimari about the story.

Harbeson aces national exam

Newington High freshman is among 392 students out of 39,981 who took Level 1 Latin test to get a perfect score



NHS freshman Kate Harbeson

A minute or so before everyone else in Newington High School began to marvel at the amazing accomplishment of freshman Kate Harbeson—namely, the fact that she had been one of 0.86% of nearly one hundred thousand students who took one of the four national Latin exams to get a perfect grade, and one of 0.98% out of 39,981 who took the Level One exam to get 100%—Kate herself was told of her spectacular feat. Her reaction was decidedly unimpressed.

"Cool."

"Those were your exact words? 'Cool'?" asked *Living Room Times* chief editor and fellow freshman Brendan Loy, interviewing Harbeson several hours later.

"Yeah."

(continued on page 4)

9. *Stevens presidential dynasty continues*, see page 9
8. *Battle of the Houses*, see page 13
7. *Fall Sports—soccer, etc.*, see page 6
6. *The Record Winter of '95-'96*, see page 10
5. *Battle of the Sexes*, see pages 11-12
4. *Geometry Olympics*, see pages 14-16
3. *Girls Basketball—What a Season!*, see page 7
2. *Melanie Rugar hit by car near NHS*, see page 4
1. *El Dia Del Fuego—fires hit NHS*, see page 5

LATE SHOW TOP TEN

Encore Top Tens!

Here are some of the best Top Ten lists of the year, some from the *Late Show With David Letterman* and others written by NHS students, as featured in last week's Top Ten Edition and

NHS TOP TEN

Top Ten Reasons to go to NHS

10. New cafeteria menu item: Imported British "Mad" Hamburgers
9. Due to success of 5-year plan, school adopts 10-year plan
8. Clinton Presidential grant to make courtyard into bottomless pit
7. Reap benefits of 0.1% of tax budget
6. Get skills needed for real life by joining co-ed sacking and looting team
5. Highly persuasive drug abuse prevention classes
4. If you don't learn how to use an assault weapon now, how will you ever survive?
3. "An illegal hallucinogen isn't what we had in mind when we told you to 'get hooked on phonics.'"
2. If ever given another chance to decide between a pool and air conditioning, this time we'd make the right choice
1. "I'd like you to meet my lab partner, Forrest Gump"

Top Ten Spanish Sentences

10. Silencio, las manzanas me hablan a mi. (*Silence, the apples are speaking to me.*)
9. Mi cabeza está en el horno. (*My head is in the oven.*)
8. Al mundo le gusta mucho bailar. (*The world really likes to dance.*)
7. Los monos de las montañas son verdes y respiran fuego. (*The monkeys of the mountains are green and breathe fire.*)
6. Hola, mis iguanas buenas (*Hello, my fine lizards.*)
5. El marciano toma mi Coca-Cola. (*The Martian is drinking my Coca-Cola.*)
4. El Diabolo está en mi abrigo. (*The devil is in my coat.*)
3. Mi pelo es en fuego. (*My hair is on fire.*)
2. Tu perro está en la fila de la muerte. (*Your dog is on death row.*)
1. Hay una fiesta en mis pantalones. (*There is a party in my pants.*)

Top Ten Signs Dick Vitale Is Nuts (presented by Vitale on Letterman)

10. I like to run through a locker room wearing nothing but a referee's whistle and yelling "Baby!"
9. I keep repainting the roof of my house to match Dennis Rodman's hair
8. Five seconds after my first child was born, I dumped Gatorade on my wife
7. I'm on a strict diet of shoelaces and floor wax
6. I've invited Dave Letterman to host next year's ESPY Awards
5. For a cheap rush, I take hits of stale air from old basketballs
4. My pet project: ESPN 3, a new channel devoted to the coverage of my Rogaine treatment
3. When I make love to my wife, I always go for the three pointer, baby
2. I've referred to everything as baby, except an actual baby
1. Right now, I think I'm whispering!

Top Ten Reasons Why the School Almost Burned Down

10. To remind Mr. Hoey about sprinklers needed by next year to meet fire code
9. NHS needed ninth and tenth fire drills of year
8. Lou starts new contest in his geometry class: Throwing cigarettes at trash cans
7. Cobwebs formed on firetrucks
6. Seniors wanted to leave NHS in a blaze of glory
5. Teachers would do anything to get their rooms clean
4. 7-Eleven could use some more business
3. Faculty needed to dry their weed before smoking it
2. Lou's hair only grows in extreme heat
1. "Unapyro" goes to NHS

Top Ten Signs Mr. Ruggiero Has Gone Nuts (written in September)

10. In geometry, claiming that a line segment is the distance between his mouth and a bottle of Bud Light
9. Every time he kills a wasp, he smokes a joint
8. Unlike people in those Mounds/Almond Joy commercials, he *always* feels like a nut
7. Changing his last name to Rugger-ITO
6. Has been seen driving up and down the Berlin Turnpike late at night with Mr. Hoey, crusin' for chicks
5. Instead of white lab coat, has started wearing tight-fitting bunji-jumping suit
4. Begins every class by saying "We're all going to die"
3. Sleeps through his own lectures
2. At Open House, told parents "I don't know what the hell I'm doing."
1. Curling his moustache down

Top Ten California Names (Letterman)

10. Dick Hertz
9. Phil McCracken
8. Anita Legg
7. Harry Dong
6. George Tittmann
5. Justa Duck
4. Dick Weed
3. Teddy Bair
2. Harry Bush
1. Dick Head

Top Ten Reasons Jesus Christ Superstar is Blasphemy

10. During the Resurrection, Jesus stubs his toe on the boulder and cries, "Oh, s****!"
9. The song "I Don't Know How to Love Him" played backwards says, "Screw me, Jesus"
8. In the course of the play, Mary Magdalene uses the F-word 13 times
7. In the temple, Jesus takes out an AK-47 and blows them merchants away
6. Judas's betraying kiss lasts five minutes
5. In the Last Supper, the Apostles all get drunk and moon the priests
4. On Palm Sunday, Jesus is greeted by supporters waving marijuana leaves
3. In the crucifixion, Jesus pauses to say, "Hey, I can see my house form here!"
2. Guards gamble for Jesus's clothes with a slot machine
1. Three words: Rock 'n' roll

Top Ten Other O.J. Defense Rhymes (Letterman)

10. Please, please let O.J. go... he just bought a place in Mexico
9. Even if you think he did all this stuff... wasn't playing for the Bills punishment enough?
8. O.J.'s too full of love... to have dropped a bloody glove
7. DNA? Give me a break... It's too small to see, for heaven's sake
6. The Bronco's idling right outside... so acquit the man and let him ride!
5. Make the right decision and stand tall... and you'll all go home with an autographed football
4. If you must find O.J. guilty of a crime... try watching "Naked Gun 2" sometime!
3. The real killer's a lady... by the name of Mrs. Brady (Florence Henderson stands up from audience and storms out of theater)
2. If the mood is right and I feel a spark... I wouldn't mind nailing Marcia Clark
1. Evidence, shmevidence

Top Ten Signs Your Spouse is Having an Affair By Computer (Letterman)

10. Lately she sits at the computer naked
9. After signing off, he always has a cigarette
8. The giant rubber inflatable disk dive
7. In the morning, the computer screen is all fogged up
6. He's gotten amazingly good at typing with one hand
5. She makes sarcastic remarks about your "software"
4. Lipstick on the mouse
3. During sex, she screams "A colon backslash insert!"
2. The jam in the laser printer is a pair of underpants
1. The fax file is filled with pictures of some guy's ass

And now, one final NHS Top Ten list to wrap up the year... it was written by editor Brendan Loy...

**TOP TEN THINGS THAT
WILL BE OVERHEARD TODAY,
THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

10. "The only thing that could have made this first day of summer vacation any better would be if Ruggiero hadn't worn that Speedo to school."
9. "Two and a half months without *The Living Room Times*? What will I do?"
8. "But, Mrs. Deutsch, couldn't you give us Assignment #100 and have it due in September?" (Brendan Loy only)
7. "Los Monos Verde va a cantar y bailar porque hoy es el fin del año de escuela." ("*The green monkeys are going to sing and dance because today is the end of the school year.*")
6. "Only 540 school days left until the Class of '99 graduates... YAY!!!"
5. "Hey, Keith! What time did you say that bomb is going to go off?"
4. "Well, it's official... another year's gone by, and Omar's still a freshman."
3. "Gee, I'm going to miss school..." (person who says this is immediately punched in the nose and knocked unconscious)
2. Nothing will be overheard, because no one's coming to school today!
1. "Break out the beer!"