

The Living Room

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Bermuda-bound students ready to go

Choirs, orchestras are off to Atlantic island; band heads for Virginia

106 Newington High School music students are getting ready for a once-in-a-lifetime performance adventure—a week of singing, swimming, and sunning in the island of Bermuda—which will begin in the predawn hours of Friday morning.

Participants on the trip will depart from NHS on three separate buses and head for LaGuardia Airport. The first bus will leave the high school at 2:45 AM on Friday; the other two will depart at 4:45. By 1:00 PM Friday, everyone will be in Bermuda.

Everyone, that is, except the band. Students in band had a chance to go to Bermuda along with the choirs and orchestras, but not enough band members were interested to warrant the group's participation. Instead, band members will depart afterschool Thursday for a separate trip to Virginia Beach.

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Anything Goes!

Reno Sweeney (played by Genna Griffith) poses with two of her "angels," Charity (Barbara Byrnes, left) and Purity (Liz Rubasky, right), at the end of the title song of *Anything Goes*, the recent NHS musical production.

Please see more pictures, pages 6-11

Class election races already taking shape

Pellegrini, Brunetti, Acey may challenge for President; others looking at lesser offices



Class of 1999 President Tim Stevens
unchallenged since Sept. '95

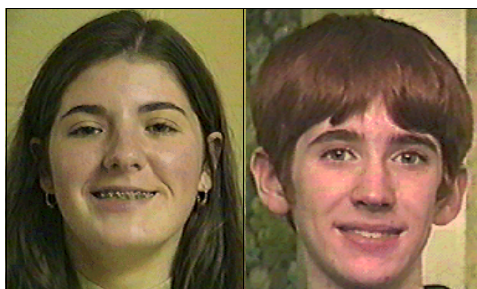
For the first time since September 1995, sophomore class President Tim Stevens may have to overcome a challenge on an election day before he can extend his "dynasty" of class presidency for another year.

With at least several weeks, and more likely a month or two, left until the election, at least three candidates are already thinking about challenging Stevens's bid to become junior class president for the Class of 1999.

(Continued on page 2)

Acey, Loy win *Times* NCAA pools

Acey tops pool for men's tournament; Loy best predicting women's tournament



<u>Men's pool Top 5</u>		<u>Women's pool Top 5</u>	
Liz Acey	313	Brendan Loy	358
Matt Thomsen	283	Christine Perkins	344
Ryan McBride	281	Josh Rubin	326
Chris Manzione	274	Leslie Carlson	324
Lou Ruggiero	274	Claudio Gualtieri	311

Liz Acey clinched when Minnesota made it to the Final Four.

Brendan Loy clinched when UConn didn't.

The ways they secured victory in *The Living Room Times's* money-less pools were vastly different: Acey had cause to celebrate when she won the pool for the men's tournament, while Loy's victory in the pool for the women's tournament came along with the end of his favorite team's season. But in the end, they shared the glory—and publicity—of finishing atop their respective leaderboards.

Loy won the women's pool with a record of 53-10 for 358 out of a possible 477. Acey was 45-18 in her men's pool victory, with 313 on the same 477-point scale. Loy was more successful because there were fewer upsets in the women's tournament in the early rounds, and thus, Loy went 44-4 in the first two rounds, including two perfect days.

Acey was the only contestant to correctly predict three of the men's Final Four teams. Loy picked two of the men's Final Four teams; Christine Perkins, who finished second, was the only one to pick three on the women's side. Nobody picked either of the national champions.

Stevens Administration may be tested this time

Pellegrini, Brunetti, Acey may offer challenges in class election

(Continued from page 1)

One of those candidates is Peter Pellegrini, who did not have time to grant a full interview with *The Living Room Times* last week. Pellegrini did confirm his interest in the election, however. When *Times* editor Brendan Loy said that there have been rumors indicating Pellegrini may be running for class president in the next election, Pellegrini replied forcefully, "I am running for president."

Then there's Jeff Brunetti, who, after mocking another candidate's interest in the election and declaring that "Tim's the man!", has now announced that he may run for President.

"He's definitely planning to run," declared Brunetti's campaign manager, Claudio Gualtieri, on Monday. "I think he has a good shot at beating Tim."

Brunetti himself was less sure of his plans when he spoke about them on Tuesday. Asked if he is planning to run, Brunetti replied, "I've had some thoughts about it. I'm still thinking."

The third possible challenger to Stevens has been considering the possibility of running for quite a while, but she still isn't quite sure whether she'll do it. In the *Times's* most extensive interview with any of the three presidential challengers, Liz Acey said Thursday that she is considering a candidacy, but she hasn't decided

just yet. "I'm still going back and forth," Acey stated. "It's not definite yet, but it's still a possibility."

The incumbent, President Stevens, is sure of his plans for the upcoming election. Asked last Tuesday if he is planning to run for another term, Stevens replied, "Yes, I am...I feel I want to be part of what happens in this class. It's very important to me."

"I'm glad I have an opponent," Stevens said when asked about Acey's challenge. At that time, Stevens was not aware of the candidacies of Pellegrini and Brunetti. "If I win, I'll know it's because people want me, not just because they had no other choice." Last year, the two alternative choices—Jason Martin and Nick Casioppo—dropped out before the election, leaving Stevens as the only candidate and thus guaranteeing his re-election.

So there has been no real gauge of students' opinions of the job Stevens is doing since he was elected to his first high school term in September 1995.

The only indicator since '95 was an unscientific student survey in December '96 sponsored jointly by President Stevens and *The Living Room Times*. That poll, conducted in Christine Perkins's tenth-grade English classes, did not yield totally positive results for Stevens and his administration.

Although the students' numerical "ratings" of all the

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For NHS musicians, it's Bermuda or bust

Trip begins Friday morning for choirs and orchestras

(Continued from page 1)

Matt Thomsen, a band member who would have gone to Bermuda but instead is headed for Virginia, commented, "I feel that the whole music department should be going as a whole. They shouldn't be separated." But Thomsen found a positive side: "We'll still have fun in Virginia because we're going to Busch Gardens and the Bermuda people aren't," he said.

Even so, those "Bermuda people" don't seem to mind missing out on Busch Gardens. After all, they'll soon be en route to a subtropical paradise.

Tara Boisvert, a concert choir member and Thomsen's girlfriend, said, "I'm very excited. I think it will be a great trip, and I think we're going to have a lot of fun...and I hope it's really sunny." Asked how she thinks the groups will do in their concerts, she responded, "I think we'll do good. We've worked really hard, and we'll pull it off."

"I'm very excited. I think it will



Above: As their planes approach Bermuda International Airport late Friday morning or early Friday afternoon, students will—weather permitting—see a fantastic view something like this.

"I can't wait."

—Liz Janelle

be a very nice experience, both for education and fun," said Marisa Cohen. "I'm looking forward to the beach and hanging out, and actually, singing in the church. It sounds like it could be an experience."

The NHS groups will give a total of six performances, the first one including only "4-sum" and cast members from Dine Off Broadway. Of the five concerts which include everybody, three are in churches, two in schools.

Of course, performing songs won't be the only thing the students will be doing in Bermuda.

"I can't wait. It's all I think about. And I want to get a tan so bad," said Liz Janelle.

There will plenty of time for that. In between the six shows, there will be lots of free time to explore the island



Above: Newington High School music director Josef Treggor directs the concert choir alto section during a recent rehearsal.



Above: A picture of one of Bermuda's many beautiful beaches.

and enjoy the sun and scenery of Bermuda.

Asked if she was nervous about anything, Janelle replied, "The Portuguese man-of-wars. I'm really afraid of those. I hate jellyfish."

"I'm really excited, but I'm also rather apprehensive," stated Kate Harbeson, who added that she is looking forward most of all to Bermuda's crystal caves and "singing in front of everybody." Harbeson predicted good performances, saying, "We are good at rising to the occasion. We did it last time [in the winter concert], we'll do it this time. But we still have to practice!"

Carly Apicella, who said she is "very excited" about the trip and predicted an "excellent" performance, joked that

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Bermuda trip begins Friday

Members of choirs, orchestras looking forward to “performance adventure”

(Continued from page 3)

the only thing she is nervous about is “flying over the Bermuda Triangle.”

“And we’re leaving on National Anarchists Day,” Victoria Luiz interjected. “It’s when the Oklahoma City bombing was, and when the thing in Waco happened. Great day to leave on a plane.”

Genna Griffith, who played the lead role in the recent NHS musical production of *Anything Goes*, predicted “fabulous” performances in Bermuda.

“I think it’s really cool, man. I’m happy, man. I hope we have a really good time,” said Josh Stevenson. “What I’m looking forward to the most is seeing everything.”



Above: Phil Mendes, left, a member of concert choir, looks at a map of Bermuda with Chris Quiterio, right, who is not on this trip but who travelled with his family to Bermuda during the winter.

Sara Aaroz was a little more specific, saying that she is looking forward to “the pink sand, the blue water; I don’t know. I don’t know. I’m just very excited to get the hell out of Newington, away from school. School’s too stressful. I don’t know what I’m looking forward to the most. Just being away.”

“I am *so* psyched! It’s going to be *so* awesome!” exclaimed Angela Lewonczyk. “I want to go parasailing and windsurfing, and I want to go miniature golfing, and I also want to do so many other things! I want to go to the crystal caves....I just think it’s going to be an awesome time.”

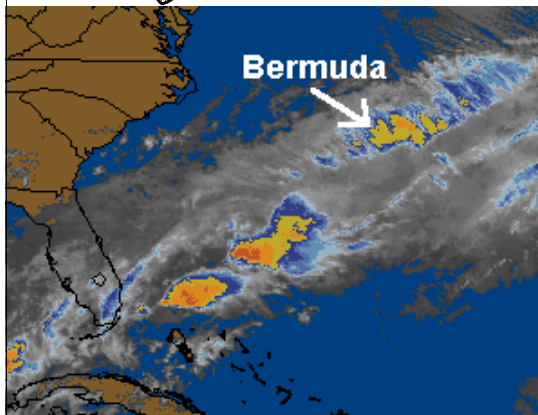
After taking their 666-mile flight (let’s hope there’s no bad omen there) from New York to Bermuda International Airport, the students and chaperones will check in at the Grotto Bay Beach Resort Hotel, which will serve as their ‘home away from home’ throughout the week.



Above: Grotto Bay Beach Resort Hotel and Tennis Club from the air.

“I think the people of Bermuda are in for a real treat with us,” said Tim Sheridan. “I’m sure that we’ll all be very professional in what we accomplish down there, and I hope that they all enjoy watching us perform as much as we enjoy performing.”

BERMUDA WEATHER FORECAST



What’s the weather going to be like in Bermuda when the 106 NHS students get there? Well, that depends on who you believe. CNN is optimistic, forecasting partly cloudy skies Friday with a high temperature of 70°F. But The Weather Channel predicts a rainy Friday with a high of only 56°. *Intellicast* is also calling for rain Friday, and their Saturday forecast includes more rain showers. (see the *Intellicast* forecast at right, with temperatures listed in Celsius.)

FRI	SAT
rain	showers
20°	20°
18°	18°

Stevens may not have it so easy in this race

President likely to face several challenges in class election

(Continued from page 2)

officers—especially Stevens—were quite high, the most obvious result of the open-ended question asking for comments was that many students feel they have not been kept well-informed by the class officers of what is going on in the class. One student described the Stevens Administration as “silent.” Another said they are “not relating what goes on in the meeting to the kids.” A third student wrote, “The sophomores do not hear much from the officers. I think we should be more informed and they should be more involved.”

Confronted with those students’ sentiments, President Stevens stated, “I think they very well could be right. I know, as far as our newsletters, we don’t print them as often as maybe we should. It’s no one’s fault in particular, that’s just the way it’s gone.”

“Not all the homeroom representatives have done their jobs to the best of their abilities. So, you know, that’s a problem,” Stevens added. “But I think we’ve done a moderately good job, enough so the class knows what’s going on. Maybe not all the details, but enough so that they have a good working knowledge of what’s going on.”

When asked what he would say to students who might be inclined to vote against him because of that issue, Stevens replied, “They’re welcomed to vote against me if they feel I haven’t done my job. That’s kind of the point of elections.”

“Certainly, I don’t know how well Liz will be a leader, and I don’t know who my other opponents are,” he said.

One of those “other opponents,” Brunetti, spoke quite critically of the job done by current officers of informing the class about what is happening. “Definitely not,” he said when asked whether the officers have kept the class well-informed. “I don’t know what the heck’s going on.” He said he would try to “make a point of that” in his campaign if he runs.

Acey also echoed the dissatisfaction of the students who feel they have not been well-informed by the class officers, although her criticism was a little less harsh

“[Tim] is expected to win; he just doesn’t really do anything.”

—Liz Acey, possible candidate for class president

“You have to understand something about the first two years of high school from a class officer’s standpoint. There is a clear script.”

—incumbent class president Tim Stevens

then Brunetti’s. “I admit that they’ve done their job, but I don’t think they’ve been as clear as maybe they should be as far as letting us know things,” Acey said of the officers. She, too, said that she would try to make us of that issue in her campaign. “I would try. I don’t know how good I’d be, but I’d definitely try.”

Acey also claimed that Stevens has grown complacent in his three years as president—one at Martin Kellogg, two at Newington High. “He’s done some things, but I think he did more last year, freshman year. I think now he’s not really sure of what to do.” She added that “He was cool at Kellogg. He did a lot more at Kellogg.” But now, Acey said, “He’s *expected* to win; he just doesn’t really do anything.”

“You have to understand something about the first two years of high school from a class officer’s standpoint. There is a clear script,” Stevens stated. “Do fundraisers, get your prom ready. That’s it, that’s all we worry about.”

Even with that “script” in place, Stevens said the officers are “doing a very good job.” He pointed to several specific accomplishments this year, including two casual dances sponsored jointly by the sophomore class and another class, one earlier this year with the juniors and one in June with the freshmen. He also noted a tentatively-planned spaghetti dinner scheduled for later this year.

One of Acey’s reasons for considering the possibility of running has basically nothing to do with Stevens’s performance as president over the past three years. It is a type of ‘Battle of the Sexes.’ Explaining her reasons for wanting to run, Acey said she wants “to show that there can be a woman president. It’s so guy-dominated, and I think that’s wrong.”

Interestingly enough, four out of the five class officers currently in place for the Class of ’99 are girls. Stevens is the only boy. But thanks to Stevens, the presidency has been “guy-dominated” for the last two years, and for students who went to Martin Kellogg, that streak is four years, dating back to Mike D’Amore’s term in 1993-94.

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NRHS Life

Pictures from Anything Goes



Above left: Two members of the Steerage Class Faculty Chorus, William Pilotte and MaryAnn Pilotte (left), come on stage while a reporter (Emily Luddy, center right) and a photographer (Kristin Pease, far right) look for a story. **Above right:** Upper Deck Dancers Leslie-Anne Hinton (far left) and Marel Nasinnyk (center right) hang out with a group of sailors at the beginning of the first scene of Act One of *Anything Goes*.



Above left: Sir Evelyn Oakleigh (Chris Banach, center) and Hope Harcourt (Sara Araoz, right) have their picture taken a few days before their planned wedding while Hope's mother (Allison Murtha, left) looks on. **Above right:** Elijah Whitney (Sean Vivier) is admired by his adoring fans, three of Reno Sweeney's four "angels"—Virtue (Sandy Rodrigues, left), Chastity (Sarah Roberts, center), and Purity (Liz Rubasky, right).



Above left: Billy Crocker (Andrew Daigle, right) sings to Reno Sweeney (Genna Griffith, left), telling her "Well if, baby, I'm the bottom, you're the top!" **Above right:** The ship's purser (Kate Harbeson, right) tells Reno (Griffith, left) that the FBI is on board looking for some gangsters.

NHS life

Pictures from Anything Goes



Above left: Billy (Daigle, center), rocking back and forth and yelling “Feel that roll!”, tries to aggravate Evelyn’s (Banach, left) seasickness so he’ll get out of the way, leaving Billy and Hope (Araoz, right) alone to enjoy the moonlight. **Above right:** The plan worked—There they are!



Above left: In “It’s Delovely,” Hope (Araoz, left) sings to Billy (Daigle, right), “You’ve won my heart and I’ve lost my brain.” **Above right:** Moonface Martin (Tim Sheridan), Public Enemy #13 (“thoiteen”), tries to steal Elijah Whitney’s (Vivier) glasses.



Above left: Bonnie (Meagan Lang) assures Moonface (Sheridan) that his minister’s costume looks perfect (or as Moonface would say, “poifect”). **Above right:** Moonface (Sheridan) has trouble passing himself off as a real minister when he talks to Bishop (“Bish”) Dobson (Andy Barys).

NHS life

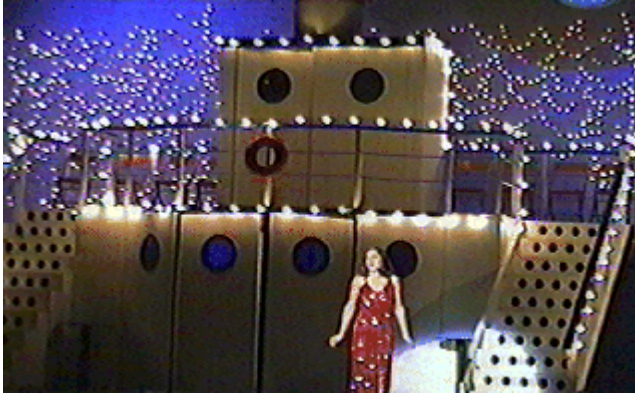
Pictures from Anything Goes

Unfortunately, due to a time shortage, I didn't have time to label all these pictures. Therefore, the rest of the *Anything Goes* pictures (from pages 8 to 11) don't have captions. Sorry!



NHS life

Pictures from Anything Goes



NHS life

Pictures from Anything Goes



NHS life

Pictures from Anything Goes



**Top Ten Ways
the IRS can
Improve its Image**

10. Change name from "I.R.S." to "F.U.N."
9. Tell dumb guys that "I.R.S." stands for "International House of Pancakes."
8. If your auditor doesn't have minty-fresh breath, you don't pay a dime.
7. New ad campaign: 3 lovable frogs that say, "I," "R," "S."
6. In addition to the short form and the long form, introduce an extra-long form called the "Magnum."
5. Two words: deductible fudge.
4. Publish pamphlet: "101 ways to cheat on your taxes and not get caught."
3. From now on, if you're short on cash, you can pay in "good vibes."
2. Throw Leona Helmsley in jail again.
1. Stop hassling folks, dude.

*Letterman, Tuesday, April 1, 1997
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**LATE SHOW
TOP
TEN**

**Top Ten Signs The
Ringling Brothers
Circus has gone
downhill**

10. You hear someone say, "Wow -- two whole clowns fit in that little car!"
9. Fire-eater quit and was replaced by a guy who swallows gum.
8. No clowns, no stunts -- just jai-alai and cockfights.
7. Fat lady only weighs about 145.
6. Instead of firing a guy out of a cannon, they just dump him out of a moving car.
5. 15 minutes into the show, the ringmaster is asking audience if they have any special talents.
4. All the strongman does is unscrew the tops of tough-to-open jars.
3. The Ringling brothers don't even bother to ringle anymore.
2. Cotton candy tastes suspiciously like fiberglass insulation.
1. The tightrope is six inches off the ground.

*Letterman, Wednesday, April 2, 1997
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**Top Ten Revelations
in the Heaven's Gate
Diaries**

10. Before "Do and Ti," cult leaders briefly known as "George and Weezy."
9. One guy was kicked out of group for having "bad attitude about castration."
8. Purple death shrouds provided by Botany 500.
7. Decision to leave earth made right after group watched the movie "Booty Call."
6. They knew for sure that the world was ending when Michael Jackson became a father.
5. They killed themselves after losing tenth straight game to the Krishnas.
4. In TV movie, Marshall Applewhite wanted to be played by the hilarious Jerry Van Dyke.
3. Group felt life not worth living now that Jenny McCarthy has left "Singled Out."
2. The castrations were performed by Bob Barker.
1. Them dudes was wacky!

*Letterman, Monday, April 7, 1997
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Pellegrini, Acey, Brunetti may be in the running

Class elections may be more contested this year

(Continued from page 5)

D'Amore was president the year before Stevens was elected for the first of his three consecutive terms.

Acey harkened back to that gender theme later in the interview, when Brunetti, standing nearby, found out that Acey was considering a run against Stevens.

"What are you talking about?" Brunetti asked. At that time, Brunetti had not yet become a possible candidate himself.

"I might run for president," Acey said.

"Oh, against Tim? You're going to lose," responded Brunetti.

"Shut up! I am not!" Acey exclaimed.

"Tim's the man!" proclaimed Brunetti.

"See, that's exactly what I'm talking about," replied Acey. "Tim is 'the man.' The man. That's how they refer to everything. Everything is a guy thing. This is exactly why I would run."

If elected, Acey says that she would "improve on the stuff that [Stevens] has done." She added, "I give him a lot of credit for what he's done."

Asked what would be some major things she would try to accomplish, Acey at first said, "There's nothing major yet that I would want to focus on." But then she thought for a while, and finally brought up the issue of the dress code, often a popular subject in class elections. A pledge to reform the Kellogg dress code helped Stevens win a five-way contest in middle school to become student council president for the first time. "This dress code thing," Acey began. "I'm really against the whole dress code, because I don't think it does anything. Kids are going to wear what they want anyway, so I'd just abolish the whole dress code, because I think it's stupid."

"She's dreaming," said Stevens when asked for his reaction to Acey's statement. "There is no way in the world that the Board of Ed. is even going to consider abolishing the dress code. To waste your time on such a subject hurts the class."

"I'm for modifications of it," Stevens added, "but to abolish it is crazy."

Stevens said that when he tried to simply amend—not abolish—the dress code in eighth grade, he couldn't garner enough support from teachers and administrators. "The students were, of course, all for it." But in order to have any chance to sway the Board of Education, "You need a lot of support, not just from students, but from

**"I encourage anyone else who is interested in running for any office to go for it."
—President Stevens**

teachers as well...and even that might not be enough."

Besides, Stevens added, "If the dress code is as useless as she says it is, why call attention to it?...If you try to abolish it, teachers are going to start noticing it, and therefore enforcing it. If you leave it alone, it will be as useless as it is now."

As for *his* ideas for what to do if elected, Brunetti said, "I want to get some activities done, like maybe a carnival or something."

Brunetti believes a "school fair" or similar event would be a good idea because it is "something that everybody can join in, and to raise money."

Brunetti also said that "we want to get involved more with the community."

"One issue that we discussed was that...any important decision, like [about] the junior prom, would be elected by everyone. We'd send out a ballot to everyone, [so] not just representatives [would be] voting anymore," said Gualtieri.

Gualtieri said he and Brunetti are currently looking for a vice presidential candidate with whom Brunetti will run as a sort of "ticket," endorsing each other.

Asked why he would be a better candidate than Acey, Pellegrini, and Stevens, Brunetti said, "I'd more enthusiastic about it. I'd want to get things done, and I'd get them done."

"You can't teach an old dog new tricks, but we have a new dog to teach the school new tricks," said Gualtieri.

But even with catchy slogans like that, a difficult task for any of the candidates challenging for president will be trying to convince people that it's possible to defeat Stevens and end his three-year dynasty. In the aforementioned *Times* survey, 63% of students said they believe Stevens will win again, even though only 26% said they will definitely vote for him.

Asked about that "invincibility" factor, Acey stated, "I think he can be beaten. I don't know if I can, but I don't think he's invincible. I think it's possible."

"I think anybody has a fair shot is they have good enough ideas, and they explain them well," said Brunetti. "I think anybody can beat Tim....He's not invincible."

Students planning to challenge Stevens aren't the only ones facing uphill battles. At least two candidates are already thinking about throwing their hats into the ring in races for other offices.

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No cakewalk this time for Stevens, others

Kornafel, Colpitts may also face challenges in class election

(Continued from page 13)

Chris Manzione may for vice president on a “ticket” with presidential candidate Peter Pellegrini, which would mean running against incumbent Joanna Kornafel. Kornafel, the second-highest rated officer in the *Times* survey—finishing just barely behind Stevens—received no negative comments in the survey. Manzione hasn’t made a final decision yet on whether to run.

Joey Ploszay is considering whether to challenge Sara Colpitts, the current treasurer and #3 in the survey ratings. Colpitts did receive some negative comments, but her overall rating in the poll was “good.” Like

Manzione, Ploszay is also uncertain of whether or not he’ll run.

So with Pellegrini definitely planning to run, and Brunetti, Acey, Manzione, and Ploszay thinking about it, this could shape up to be a much more interesting race than last year, when only one of the five elections was contested, and no incumbents were challenged.

President Stevens, for one, is hoping for a competitive election. “I encourage anyone else who is interested in running for any office to go for it,” he said. “We really would like other people to decide to get involved, and if they don’t win, I hope they stay connected.”