

Courant article: It's about Times

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The article called Brendan a "pint-sized publisher" and a "neophyte newsman."

The *Times* has now adopted and adapted the "pint-sized" phrase to use it as a new slogan: "Newington High School's official pint-sized publication."

"He reports on the monumental as well as the mundane," the article says. "And because this is high school, the distinction is often blurred."

"The basketball team wins a key game. A class takes a field trip to Boston. Midterms are postponed due to a blizzard. A student says goodbye to her friends before moving to Indiana. Someone aces a geometry quiz. Those are stories that have made the front page of *The Living Room Times*."

Tuesday's *Courant* article was written by reporter Daniela Altimari. She became aware of the *Times* in December when she came to the high school to do a report on school lunches, and sat down at the table in the cafeteria where Brendan and his friends sit every day in the second lunch wave. Brendan showed Daniela a copy of the *Times*, and a few weeks later, she called to start organizing a story about the *Times*.

This is not the first time *The Living Room Times* has been featured in another newspaper. Last year on March 24, the *Newington Town Crier* wrote a report calling the *Times* a "phenomenon within the walls of Martin Kellogg Middle School."

But now the *Times*, once a sheath of paper read only by Brendan's family and stuffed animals, is known to people across the entire state of Connecticut.

All the school news he sees fit to print

By DANIELA ALTIMARI
General Staff Writer

NEWINGTON—Brendan Loy was in the cafeteria when an eighth grader hurled a carton of frozen grape juice at a classmate. He stood in the sweaty gym the night high school basketball star Leslie Carlson collapsed with a sprained ankle.

And on Halloween, when Chris Simcik wore a monkey mask and Todd Stagliano put on a clown's nose, Brendan brought a camera and captured his classmates in all their goofy glory.

Brendan has chronicled these and countless other happenings in his own weekly newspaper, *The Living Room Times*. He is the senior reporter, editor in chief and publisher of *The Living Room Times*. He is also a 14-year-old freshman at Newington High School.

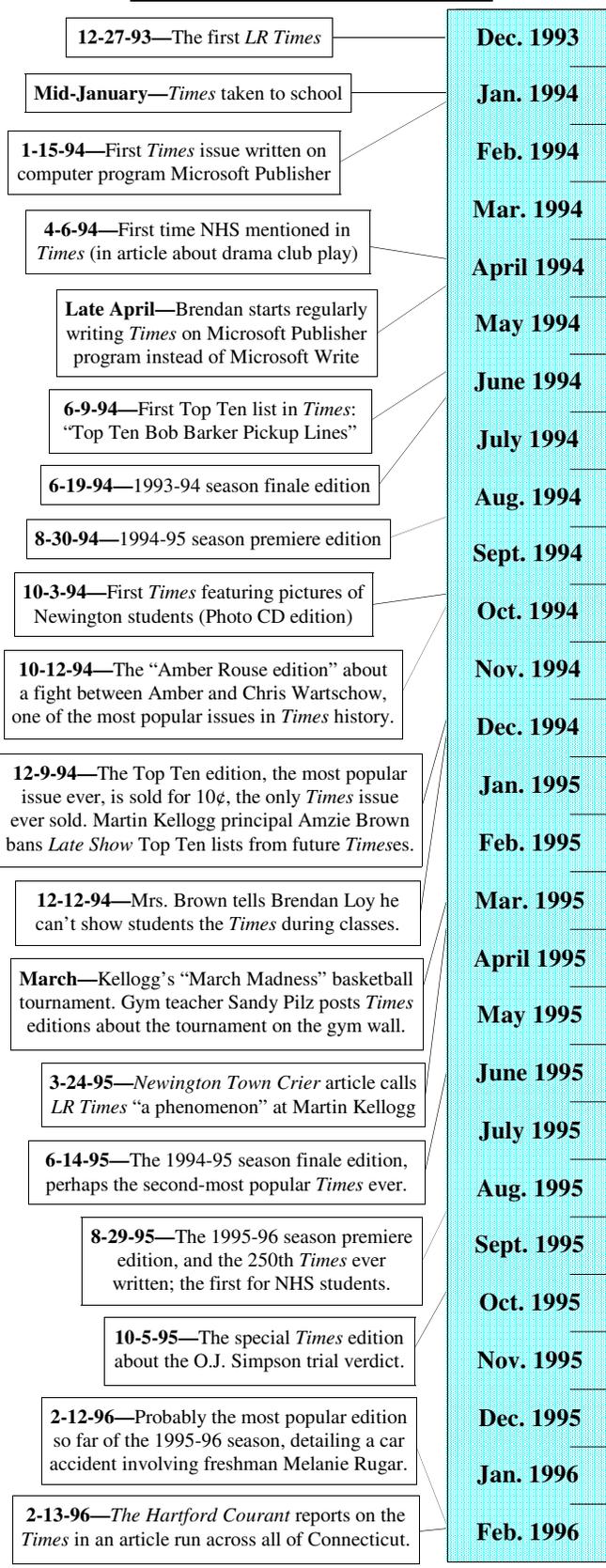
The paper, launched two years ago when Brendan was in middle school, is printed every Sunday night on the family computer. On Monday mornings, his fellow freshmen follow him down the hall or tap him on the shoulder before class to steal a peek at the fresh edition. Brendan doesn't charge for his paper. In fact, he prints only one copy, which students read and hand back.

"Everyone looks at it to see if they're quoted," said Tim Stevens, president of the freshman class.

"He listens to us and puts in what we want to read," said Jenn May, another freshman. Last year, a few of her poems appeared in *The Living Room Times* and suddenly, she was

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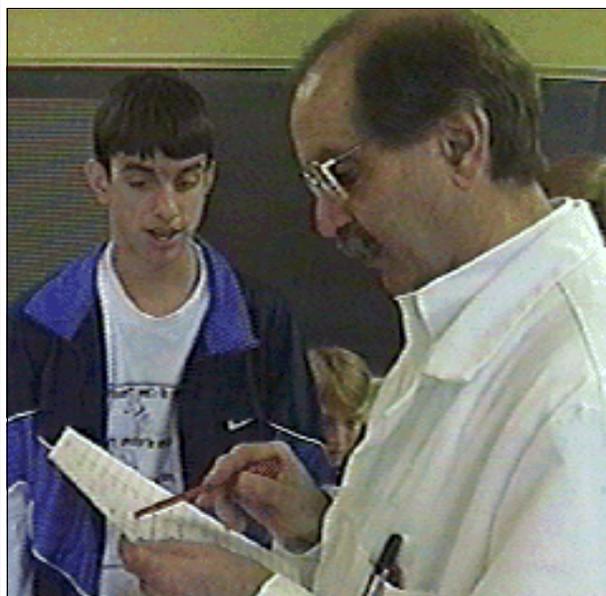
Timeline of the Times



“Battle” has familiar look

Colpitts, Stigs tied at the top of “Battle of the Houses” with G-Man and others close behind

<u>“Spectacular Seven”</u>	<u>CH. 7 QUEST</u>	<u>QUIZ #1</u>	<u>TOTAL SO FAR</u>
<i>Sara Colpitts</i> <i>Magee</i>	49/50	30/30	79/80 98.75%
<i>Todd Stigliano</i> <i>Stoddard</i>	49/50	30/30	79/80 98.75%
<i>Ahmed Avila</i> <i>Magee</i>	49/50	29/30	78/80 97.50%
<i>Claudio Gualtieri</i> <i>Magee</i>	48/50	30/30	78/80 97.50%
<i>Phoenix Young</i> <i>Stoddard</i>	48/50	30/30	78/80 97.50%
<i>Shaun Sullivan</i> <i>Stoddard</i>	48/50	29/30	77/80 96.25%
<i>Brendan Loy</i> <i>Doran</i>	50/50	25/30	75/80 93.75%



Above: After Todd Stigliano said that Lou Ruggiero made a mistake in correcting his quiz, Ruggiero recorrects the quiz.

When marks closed in the second term, Lou Ruggiero’s fourth-period geometry class ended their two-month-long “Battle of the Sexes.”

They replaced that old competition with a new contest, a “Battle” with a new name, a new theme, and new teams.

But now, two weeks into the third-term “Battle of the Houses” between the Magee, Doran, and Stoddard houses, the standings are starting to have an old, familiar look.

Vying for the top spot in the class, just like they were in the second term Battle, are Sara “the ‘pitts” Colpitts and Todd “the Stigman” Stigliano.

Magee House Colpitts and Stoddard House Stigs are tied for the lead with 79/80, having both gotten 49/50 on the first quiz of the term and 30/30 on the second.

The two leading contenders have even more in common. Both the Stigmeister and the ‘pitts thought they had received low grades on Monday’s quiz, when in fact they had given the right answers in the wrong order, something Mr. Ruggiero didn’t immediately notice. When he did, he changed the grades accordingly, and as it turned out, both had perfect scores.

They weren’t the only ones. The Magee House’s Claudio Gualtieri—called the “Great Male Hope” and the “G-Man” in the “Battle of the Sexes” until he got a disappointing 88% on a chapter test early in the term—reinstated his “G-Man” title on Monday with a 100% quiz score. That grade, coupled with a 48/50, put him in a three-way tie one point below Colpitts.

One of those tied with the G-Man is Stoddard House’s Phoenix Young, who was very surprised to learn Tuesday that she got a 100% on Monday’s quiz, especially after Ruggiero had falsely announced that only Colpitts and the G-Man had perfect quizzes (Stigs’s grade had not yet been fixed).

“Miss Young...” Mr. Ruggiero said as he approached her desk to hand back the quiz. Seeing her grade, he stopped in his tracks and yelled, “Whoa! Whoa!” He then said “Hey, I lied,” referring to his claim that there were only two 100’s.

“You’re kidding! Oh my gosh!” Phoenix said. When asked how she felt, she said, “Surprised,” and admitted, “I guessed.”

Also one point back is Magee’s Ahmed ‘Ed’ Avila, who got one wrong again. Ed has not gotten a 100% all year—something Ruggiero has made fun of recently because of Ed’s frequent close calls on quizzes and quests.

Rounding out the “Spectacular Seven” are Shaun Sullivan, two points behind Colpitts, and Brendan Loy, four back.

Uncharacteristically low quiz grades Monday have dropped Milan Cisar, Jaimie Kwassman, Chris Banach, and three others out of the running, at least for the moment.