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Staten Island Advance (NY)

NEWS REPORT FOR YOUNGSTERS

Learning about secession

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Many Staten Island children are learning about secession in school.

They know that secession would mean Staten Island becomes its own city, and would not be a part of New York City any more. They also talk about what would happen if we do secede.

A teacher, Sheena McGowan, talked about it with her class at PS 42 in Eltingville yesterday. She said that if Staten Island becomes its own city, all the open lots "would be owned by us." Then, New York City couldn't cut down the trees and put up buildings.

Some students do not think secession is a good idea. They wonder if Staten Island will be able to pay for all the police trucks and fire trucks the borough will have to buy. Others think that taxes might cost more, and more people will be poor.

In some classes, students collected newspaper articles and gave speeches. **Joshua Blackman** gave a speech saying he thought secession was a good idea. He told his class that Staten Island would be divided into 15 districts, so that every neighborhood will be represented.

Michelle Cammarota agreed. She said a city of Staten Island would be a "big, clean, caring place." She also said she "would plant two to three trees for every one that was cut down." New plans for Staten Island

Borough President Guy V. Molinari told residents yesterday about some of the new things that will happen on Staten Island this year.

Molinari said even though he likes Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, he still wants Staten Island to become its own city, or secede. The new mayor is really helping out the Island now, but Molinari said Giuliani won't always be the mayor.

Besides talking about secession, Molinari said the city will buy the North Shore Railroad soon. He said buying it will allow Staten Island to receive a lot of money from the government to help repair the line.

The rail line will be used by big companies at first, Molinari said. If



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companies can use it, it will help bring more businesses to the North Shore. Molinari also set aside money to study passenger service on the line. If passenger service began, people could ride a train from St. George into New Jersey.

Other plans include opening of two new stores near the Staten Island Mall. The stores are called Marshall's and Linen and Things. The stores should make 200 new jobs for Staten Islanders. The city should also make a lot of money from sales taxes at the stores.

In his speech, Molinari said that the biggest thing he did this year was to unite Staten Islanders.

Jansen wins gold medal

Dan Jansen, a 28-year-old speed skater, broke a world record when he won the gold medal at the Olympics yesterday.

He raced 1000 meters and finished in 1 minute, 12.43 seconds, which is .11 seconds faster than the old record.

This was the last race of Jansen's Olympic career. He has won many World Cup victories, but he had never won an Olympic medal. In the 1984 games he was disappointed when he came in fourth place. In 1988, at the Calgary Olympics, he fell in two different races. He tried again in 1992 in Albertville, but again did not win a medal.

"I'm just so relieved that it's over and it has a happy ending," he said. Jansen even received a phone call from President and Hillary Clinton, who called to congratulate him.

"Everybody can relate to what he was going through, and everybody wanted a happy ending to the story," said Jansen's wife, Robin.

"This was for so many people, more than me," Jansen said. "I didn't want to let them down."

YoungAdvance

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