

# The Living Room

# Times

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## Indians go down fighting

### Play their hearts out in season-ending triple-overtime loss



#### NFA 56, Newington 50 (3 OT)

*Left: Norwich Free Academy senior Marci Glenney, who will attend UConn in the fall, steals the ball from Newington freshman Kathleen Burdelski in the first half.*

*Below: Newington senior Ela Lapciuk, headed for the University of Rhode Island, dives to the floor for a loose ball in the second overtime.*



Many of the best stories ever written don't have happy endings.

Such was the case with the Newington girls basketball team's quarterfinal game on Friday night against Norwich Free Academy.

Indeed, such was the case with the entire 1996-97 girls basketball season.

An inspiring story, and yet, a heartbreaking ending.

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## Senator Dodd visits Newington High

### Announces Bermuda plane ticket refund, then holds forum on political issues

Newington High School's music students were paid a visit Friday by Connecticut's senior senator in the United States Congress, Senator Christopher Dodd.

Dodd's visit had two purposes: To make an announcement about the upcoming music department trip to Bermuda, which will begin on April 18, and to hold a group discussion of any political issues which the students would like to discuss.

Josef Treggor, who is in charge of planning the Bermuda trip, introduced Senator Dodd. "We're really honored this morning to have the senior senator from Connecticut, and a very, very, very important man in Washington," Treggor said. At that last statement, Dodd nodded his head with self-satirical arrogance. "[He is here] not only to make an announcement to you about our trip personally, but to listen to what your...ideas



*(Continued on page 2)* **Above: Sen. Chris Dodd stands in front of a poster of Bermuda.**

## Times runs second annual “moneyless” NCAA pool

### **Local teams in postseason play**

**Tonight:** UConn men vs. Iona at Gampel, 7:30, NIT first round

**Tomorrow:** #16-seed Fairfield men vs. #1-seed North Carolina at North Carolina, 7:40, NCAA first round

**Saturday:** #1 UConn women vs. #16 Lehigh at Gampel, 8:30, NCAA first round

*The Living Room Times* is running its second annual “moneyless” NCAA tournament pool, a contest among NHS students and teachers trying to successfully pick the winners of the NCAA men’s basketball tournament.

No money is involved in the competition. The winner’s reward is simply to feel the joy of victory and get his name on *The Living Room Times* website, and possibly, in an actual edition of *The Living Room Times*.

Last year’s pool was won by teacher Lou Ruggiero. The top student finisher was Claudio Gualtieri.

This year, *Times* editor Brendan Loy, who is in charge of the pool, hopes to add a separate contest involving the women’s NCAA tournament, if time allows.

Anyone who would like to enter this year’s men’s NCAA pool should see Brendan Loy today and ask him for a bracket sheet. All entries must be returned to Loy by tomorrow afternoon at 12:15 PM, the time when the first game begins in the men’s tournament.

If there is a women’s pool, those entries will not be due until the end of the school day on Friday.

Once the NCAA tournament begins, you’ll be able to get updated results of the pool on the *Times* website.  
[http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brendan\\_Loy](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brendan_Loy)

## Senator Chris Dodd visits NHS

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are about government, both at a local level and a federal level, and what kinds of issues you think are important,” Treggor continued. “So without further adieu, the man of the hour, Senator Dodd.”

Dodd’s first comment when he took the podium: “You must be sick of oranges! You sold 500,000 oranges [to fund-raise] for the trip.”

“Well, listen,” Dodd began, “I know there was a great degree of disappointment when American Airlines went through that strike—or were about to go through that strike—and the trip had to be cancelled.”

For many students listening to Dodd, that was actually the first time they had heard anything about the Bermuda trip being cancelled. Much of the work done by Treggor and Dodd to make arrangements for the trip apparently took place during February Vacation, so that by the time students got back to school, they were told that the trip would go on, but some aspects would not be covered in the \$750 cost.

Senator Dodd, however, seemed to believe that most everyone in the room thought the trip was off until he came. Thus, he continued, saying that some people in his office had worked alongside Mr. Treggor and Principal Paul Hoey to solve this problem, and “We’re here to tell you this morning that you’re getting back your \$4,000, we’ve got another airline for you, and you’re going to Bermuda.”

At that, students clapped politely. Then, after a few seconds, it began to dawn on many students that greater thanks were called for, and within moments, the room erupted into loud applause.

“There’s only small hitch in all of this: I’ve got to go with you,” Dodd joked.

Dodd then discussed the snorkeling expedition, which is a part of the trip that was going to cost extra money because of the airline strike, but is now once again included in the trip’s basic cost.

“I’m really jealous. You’re going to have a great trip,” Dodd said. “It’s really exciting. You’re going to love it.”

For Dodd, coming to NHS to announce that he had helped save a school trip provided a respite from all of the negative publicity he has been receiving lately. Dodd was a chairman of the Democratic National Committee during the 1996 campaign, and so he was been at the center of the media whirlwind surrounding alleged violations of fund-raising policy, both legal and ethical, by the party. In visiting the high school and saving the Bermuda trip, Dodd received some positive media attention for a change, as local television stations WTNH (Channel 8) and WTIC (Channel 61) both featured the story on their newscasts.

But even at NHS, Dodd was not immune to questions about fund-raising and other partisan issues. One of the

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# Indians knocked out despite valiant struggle

## Norwich Free Academy eliminates Newington in quarterfinals

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"They wanted the game really, really badly, so they went out there and gave it all they had," Newington coach Sandy Pilz said of his Indians. Pilz described the thrilling contest as "the best high school girls basketball game I've ever seen."

"This is the finest example of courage on both sides I've seen in sports," Pilz told the *New Britain Herald*.

Despite what Pilz called the "gutsiest performance I've ever seen" by Newington's players in making numerous comebacks against the top-ranked Wildcats of Norwich, it was NFA that emerged victorious once the game's 44 minutes of heated action had ended. #1-seed NFA defeated #9-seed Newington, 56-50, in triple overtime.

The loss eliminated Newington from the Class LL state tournament, ending the Indians' season with a record of 19-7. Friday's loss made this the third consecutive year that NFA has knocked Newington out



Above: Coach Pilz talks with his players just before Friday's game.

of the tournament.

The day before the NFA game, Coach Pilz described this Newington team as a "team of destiny." Asked about that statement after the season had ended with the gut-wrenching loss, Pilz said, "Well, I knew we were destined to do great things, and I think we did." He paused, then added, "I thought we might go to the finals this year. I really did. But there are no guarantees."

In the first quarter, the Indians didn't look destined for anything but a humiliating loss. In the first 3½ minutes of the game, Newington committed four turnovers and three near-turnovers, took only two shots, and scored no points. NFA, meanwhile, took a 5-0 lead. Pilz called timeout with 4:27 to go in the first quarter.

"Okay!" Pilz hollered during the timeout. "You got it

out of your damn system, now play basketball!"

But NFA continued their run, and at the end of the first quarter, the #1 Wildcats led the #9 Indians, 11-0.

Asked later to explain just what had happened in the first quarter, Pilz pointed out three key weaknesses that caused the Indians' dismal performance: "Number one, we didn't play with confidence. Number two, we did not get the ball inside at all; we just settled for outside shots.

**Right:** NFA senior Marci Glenney (17 points) goes airborne over Newington senior Leslie Carlson (14 points) in the first quarter Friday. Glenney will attend UConn in the fall; Carlson is headed for George Washington University, both on full scholarships.



And number three, we didn't get back on defense."

At the break between quarters, Pilz had a message for his players: "Don't quit! You've got 24 minutes to get 11 points! That's a lot of time! That's a small margin!"

As it turned out, the Indians wouldn't have 24 minutes left to chase victory; they would have 36 minutes. And as it turned out, it would only take 5 of those minutes before they had made up all 11 of those points, and the game was tied at 11.

In the first two minutes of the second quarter, Leslie Carlson hit two hoops to cut the NFA lead to 11-4. Two foul shots by Ela Lapciuk made it 11-6 with 5:18 remaining in the first half.

Then, with 4:13 to go, came the spectacular play that really brought the

Indians back to life. Lapciuk corralled an offensive rebound off a missed perimeter shot by Carlson. Lapciuk dribbled once down the baseline, looking like she was going to shoot, then threw a fantastic pass out to Carlson. The NFA defense, caught by surprise, fouled Carlson as she drained a jumpshot. The score was 11-8, and



Above: Leslie Carlson scores to bring Newington within 11-4.

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# Indians' comebacks aren't quite enough

## Season ends with heartbreaking loss to NFA in quarterfinals

(Continued from page 3)

Carlson was headed to the line for a free throw.

Although she missed the free throw, the play was a terrific morale boost for the Indians.

Then, with just over three minutes left in the half, Katie Strong stole the ball from NFA, then passed it to Kathleen Burdelski, who launched it across the court to Ela Lapciuk. Lapciuk stopped, popped, and dropped a three-pointer, tying the game up at 11-11.



*Above: Ela Lapciuk nails a three-pointer to tie the game at 11.*

Pilz said the key to Newington's second-quarter recovery was that, by getting back on defense (and also by simply scoring more baskets of their own), they prevented NFA from running their fast break, and the Wildcats had trouble when they had to try to score off of Newington's set-up defense.

Newington was unable, however, to take the lead in the second quarter. NFA ended the first half on an 8-2 run, and the Wildcats led 19-13 at the break.

At halftime, Coach Pilz said he talked about "the areas which we thought were open on offense, but we weren't making use of," as well as "the continued importance of getting back on defense" and being patient so NFA would have to play a real defense instead of just looking for easy turnovers. "And I did say, 'You will take the lead in this game,'" Pilz added. "'You will be ahead at some point. I am positive you will lead.' ....All year we seem to have had a problem with, once we get that lead, 'blinking.' I said, 'When you get that lead, and the ball, I don't care how many timeouts are left, I'm going to call one. I'm going to look you in the face and say, 'Okay, we now have the lead, we now have the ball; let's make sure we know exactly what we're doing.''"

With all those things in mind, the Indians took the floor for the third quarter. As they came out of their huddle, the players chanted "OUR TIME!"

"They beat us last year, they beat us the year before," Pilz said, explaining the chant. "You know, it's *our* time. It's our turn. That's the way we felt."

The Indians and the Wildcats traded free throws to start the third quarter, bringing the score from 19-13 to



*Above: A fan cheers for senior Leslie Carlson.*

20-14 with 5:42 left. Then, Kate Strong scored her first points of the night, draining a three-pointer from the left wing and sending the crowd into a frenzy. NFA's lead was back down to three, 20-17.

Jennifer Rathbun scored to extend the NFA lead back to 22-17 at 3:54. But 16 seconds later, Kim Milardo hit a long perimeter two-point shot, and the score was 22-19.

Once again, the Wildcats answered. Marci Glenney scored with 2:35 left in the quarter, and the lead was back to 24-19. But a hoop by



*Above: Katie Strong hits the first of her 3 three-pointers Friday, cutting it to 20-17.*



*Left: Indians senior Leslie Carlson scores, and cuts the NFA lead to 24-21 at the end of the third quarter.*

Carlson at 1:23, the final basket of the quarter, made it 24-21 after 3.

Not to be outdone, NFA's Jackie Love opened scoring in the fourth quarter with a three-pointer to put the Wildcats up 27-21 with less than seven minutes to go in regulation.

Ten seconds later, Leslie Carlson hit a free throw to cut it to 27-22. Then, Ela Lapciuk hit a 3, and



*Above: Jackie Love puts NFA up by 6.*

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# Indians play their hearts out, but lose

## Newington loses in triple-overtime quarterfinal heartbreaker to NFA

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NFA had only a two-point edge, 27-25.

At 4:26, Jennifer Rathbun scored for the Wildcats, and it was 29-25. On Newington's next possession, Carlson's attempt to save the ball from going out of bounds ended up as a pass into the arms of NFA's Katie Dugas.

With barely four minutes remaining in regulation, the Wildcats had the ball and a four-point lead. Would the Indians fold? Give up? Lose hope?

Not a chance. Mere moments after Dugas picked off Carlson's pass from the corner, Lapciuk stole the ball back and went in for an easy layup with 3:53 to go, cutting the NFA lead to 29-27.

For more than two minutes after that dramatic turn of events, no one would score. The excitement at the neutral-site Manchester High gym, where the game was being played, built and built as the clock approached, and passed, the two minute mark, the score still standing at 29-27. A group of Newington cheerleaders, who were "off duty" and in regular clothes rather than their



*Above: Ela Lapciuk runs toward the hoop and an easy layup after grabbing a steal which started the Indians' fourth-quarter comeback.*

through, sending the cheerleaders and the crowd into a frenzy which they would stay in for the rest of the game. Off the inbounds pass from Kathleen Burdelski, Lapciuk barreled past Marci Glenney and Janelle Plowden, went

*Right: Ela Lapciuk scores and is fouled. Her free throw would put the Indians ahead for the first time.*

*Below: Newington players celebrate Ela's hoop.*



*Right: The NHS cheerleaders were out of uniform Friday, but they were just as enthusiastic as always.*



uniforms, began to lead the Newington section of the crowd in "I-N-D-I-A-N-S — Indians!" and other cheers.

Then, with 1:38 remaining, the Indians finally broke

to the hoop for a layup, and was fouled in the process. She would complete the three-point play, putting Newington ahead for the first time all night.

Six seconds later, a double-dribble by Marci Glenney gave Newington possession of the ball and the lead. As he had promised at halftime, Pilz called timeout.

"We did get the lead, we did get the ball, we did call the timeout, we did make absolutely sure that everybody knew what was happening."

Even so, the Indians weren't able to take advantage. Lapciuk took the inbounds pass, then threw a lob pass over Kathleen Burdelski's head. Burdelski and NFA's Katie Dugas chased the ball out of bounds. It was difficult to tell who touched it last, but the officials called it out on Burdelski, giving possession back to NFA.

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# Heartbreaker ends Newington's season

## Indians play with courage, heart, and guts — but still lose

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"When we turned it over, you can say, 'Well, it's not like we weren't prepared.' We did everything we could," Pilz stated, referring to the timeout before the turnover which prepared the players for the play. "It's just, some things happen. Give the other team credit; they were very good."

So NFA had the ball back with under 90 seconds left. As the clock approached one minute, Marci Glenney drove to the hoop to attempt a shot. She missed, got her own rebound, then hit an incredible no-look behind-the-back shot to put NFA up, 31-30, with 1:04 to play.

15 seconds later, a long pass from Jen Bolduc to Leslie Carlson nearly sailed out bounds. Carlson saved it, but again, her save went right into the hands of an NFA player—in this case, Marci Glenney. Now, it was the Wildcats who had possession of the ball and the lead, with under a minute remaining. And it looked like the Indians' time had run out.

Not quite. With 39 seconds on the block, some great defense by Ashley Vicino forced a travel, giving the ball back to Newington. But Glenney and Jackie Love successfully double-teamed Lapciuk, forcing a jump ball. The possession arrow favored Newington, but the inbound pass was stolen by NFA's Love. Kim Milardo fouled Love with 30 seconds remaining, sending her to the line.

Love hit both free throws, giving NFA a 33-30 lead with half a minute remaining. Things looked bleak for Newington.

But the Indians had the ball. And they had Katie Strong. And when you're down by three, that's all you need.

With 18 seconds remaining—as the cheerleaders yelled "Katie!!! Katie!!!"—Ela Lapciuk drove into the paint, then passed the ball out to Strong on the left wing. Strong nailed the three-pointer, her second of the night, and the



*Above: This behind-the-back shot by Marci Glenney put NFA ahead with a minute to go in regulation.*

game was tied. NFA 33, Newington 33.

The Wildcats failed to get a shot off in the final seconds. So, after 32 minutes of regulation play, in which NFA had led for 28 minutes and 45 seconds, compared to only 34 seconds when Newington had led (the game was tied during the other 2:41), the Indians had forced overtime.

"NFA, go away!" the fans and cheerleaders chanted repeatedly as the Indians and the Wildcats got ready to begin overtime. In fact, it was Newington that wouldn't go away—the "team that will not yield" was living up to its billing, and would continue to do so for the rest of the hard-fought game.

NFA's Jackie Love opened the first overtime with a high, arching three-pointer, and just like that, the Wildcats had the lead again, 27 seconds into OT.

But Newington answered right back. On the Indians' possession that followed, Leslie Carlson faked out Marci Glenney, causing Glenney to leap into the air

*Right: Marci Glenney leaped too soon on this play, going airborne looking for a block while Leslie Carlson patiently waited to shoot. Once Glenney was out of the way, Carlson nailed this shot off the glass, cutting the NFA lead to one point.*



while Carlson was still holding the ball. Suddenly open, Carlson calmly scored with a shot off the glass, cutting the NFA lead to 38-37 with two minutes to go.

Down by one, Newington got the ball back when Katie Dugas missed a shot for NFA. Lapciuk was fouled going for the rebound of Dugas's miss, but when she went to the line, she missed the front end of a one-and-one. The rebound of the free-throw miss was a loose ball, but Kim Milardo and Leslie Carlson forced a jump ball, giving possession back to the Indians.

But Carlson missed a shot, Glenney grabbed the rebound, and went coast-to-coast for a layup and a 40-37 lead. An errant pass by Lapciuk gave the ball back to NFA, and the Wildcats capitalized, as Jen Rathbun hit a quick layup, expanding the lead to five with a minute

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*Above: Strong's 3 sends it to OT.*

# Indians refuse to lose, but run out of time

## They never gave up during triple-overtime loss to NFA

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remaining. It was NFA 42, Newington 37.

It looked like the Indians' remarkable run had finally, really and truly, come to an end.

Nope. The gutsiest performance Coach Pilz has ever seen was just beginning.

Kim Milardo missed a three-pointer, and Katie Dugas grabbed the rebound. But Ela Lapciuk, the career steals leader in Newington girls basketball history, stripped the ball away from Dugas, shot it, missed, but was fouled. She hit the first free throw, then missed the second, but Milardo grabbed the rebound. Milardo's shot was too strong, however, and NFA's Dugas again pulled down the rebound. Milardo got her hands on the ball, forcing



*Above: Ashley Vicino leaps in the air moments before tipping the NFA inbound pass back to Lapciuk. In the background are the three "lucky dogs" of Newington girls basketball, the RCA Doggies.*

a jump ball. The possession arrow favored NFA, but when the Wildcats tried to inbound the ball, 6-foot-3 Ashley Vicino leaped up and tipped the ball back to Lapciuk, who penetrated toward the hoop, then passed it out to Milardo. Milardo was fouled in the process of sinking a two-pointer, giving Newington a 42-40 lead and herself a chance for an "old-fashioned" three-point play. She missed the foul shot, but Lapciuk hauled in the rebound, then scored a putback hoop and tied the game at 42-42 with 25 seconds to go.

In effect, Newington had scored five points in one possession.

But the Wildcats weren't going to five up easily, either. Dugas scored a basket for NFA with nine seconds to go, giving the Wildcats a 44-42 lead.

Once again, the Indians' season was in jeopardy. They were only down by two, but the question was, would

they have enough time for another miracle comeback?

The answer: Yes—barely. With somewhere between three and four seconds on the clock, Vicino passed the ball inside to Carlson. As the clock ran down, Carlson pump-faked, then shot—with about one second left—and hit. No one heard the buzzer sound because the Newington fans were cheering so loudly, but the shot was in time, it was good, and the game was headed for another overtime. NFA 44, Newington 44.



*Above: Leslie Carlson's buzzer shot at the end of the first overtime keeps the Indians' hopes alive.*

Asked for his reaction to the way the team played in the fourth quarter and first overtime, as they made comeback after comeback, Coach Pilz said, "Oh, it was terrific. It was terrific. They did that all on their own. None of that was by design. They did it all on their own."

90 seconds into the second overtime, it was *deja vu* all over again for Newington as NFA hit a three-pointer to open scoring—this time, shot by Glenney. And again, just over 30 seconds later, Newington countered with a two-pointer, as Lapciuk's putback of her own miss rolled around and in.

On the subsequent NFA possession, Glenney was fouled, but she missed both free throws. After a scramble for the rebound which led to a jump ball, possession went to Newington. Down by two as the clock neared the one-minute mark, the Indians patiently waited for a good shot.

The cheerleaders weren't quite so patient. They knew what shot they wanted to see. "Put it up, Katie!" they chanted repeatedly as they clapped in rhythm. "Put it up, Katie!"

She did. For the third time that night, Katie Strong drained a three-pointer. This time, it put Newington up by two, 49-47, with 58 seconds to go. It was the Indians' biggest lead of the game.

From that point on, both teams failed to capitalize on several chances to score. On NFA's possession right after Strong's three-pointer, Jen Rathbun rebounded a

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# Indians show what they're made of, but chances for victory slip away

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missed shot by Erin Jabs, and Rathbun took a wild hook shot that had no chance. Jabs and Jen Bolduc both went after the rebound, and despite Coach Pilz's suggestion that a jump ball call was warranted, a foul was called on Bolduc. That sent Jabs to the free-throw line, where she missed the first free throw, then hit the second. Newington still held the lead, but now only by one, 49-48 with 39 seconds to go.

After a Newington timeout with 36 seconds remaining, the inbound pass from Kathleen Burdelski was stolen by Pam Lavallee. But Lavallee's attempted fast break hoop wasn't even close, and the ball went out of bounds, back to the Indians at 0:31. Three seconds later, needing to stop the clock, the Wildcats committed their tenth team foul, sending Kim Milardo to the line for two foul shots.

Milardo's first free throw hit the back of the rim. Her second shot looked good, but it rolled around and out. Janelle Plowden grabbed the rebound.

But a few NFA passes later, Strong stole the ball with 17 seconds left. Newington passed the ball around for eight seconds before NFA finally fouled Carlson with nine seconds to go.

Leading by one with 0:09 on the clock, Carlson could have given Newington an even bigger edge. But her first foul shot hit the front of the rim, her second hit the back of the rim, and NFA got the rebound.

Pilz criticized the idea that Milardo and Carlson are at fault for missing those crucial free throws. "How can you expect a kid to play with the intensity and the amount of time that those kids played against Bulkeley [at home on Monday, a hard-fought 8-point win], and then the same emotion and intensity against Shelton [at Shelton on Wednesday, a 26-point win preceded and followed by an hourlong bus ride], and then come back and play for 44 minutes, and say, 'Okay, with all this exhaustion, and all this emotion, and everything that's going on, go ahead and make a foul shot'? I mean, I know I never could have done that."

"Those poor kids could hardly stand up. And to expect them to make those shots would have been totally, totally ridiculous," Pilz added. "When they went to the line, my logic was, 'Hell, if it goes in, great. That's gravy.'"

The shots didn't go in, so NFA, trailing by one, had the ball with nine seconds to go. With four seconds left, Jen Rathbun was fouled in the act of missing a two-pointer by Carlson. With the game hanging the balance, she went to the foul line.

Her first shot bounced off the right side of the rim. Newington still led. But her second shot rattled around and in, tying the game at 49-49. A long desperation shot at the buzzer by Jen Bolduc didn't go in for Newington, and it was on to a third overtime.

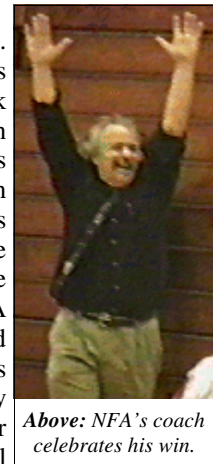
"We still could have won the game even with those [free throw] misses," Pilz said, referring back to Milardo and Carlson going 0-for-4 from the line in the final 30 seconds of the second OT. "We still could have defended and not let [Rathbun] onto the foul line. We didn't stop them. Period. It has nothing to do with those shots."

No one scored for nearly the first three minutes of the third overtime. Then with 1:03 left, Jen Rathbun—who, according to Newington scouting reports, was viewed as NFA's worst foul shooter—was once again fouled and sent to the line. She hit both free throws, and NFA had a 51-49 lead. On Newington's subsequent possession, Milardo missed, and Glenney got the rebound, forcing the Indians to again foul Rathbun, with 18 seconds to go. The first foul shot was a swish, giving NFA a three-point lead. That meant the second free throw was the crucial one, determining whether it would be a two-possession game. The foul shot bounced twice off the right side of the rim, twice off the left side of the rim, then rolled into the hoop. NFA led, 53-49. As it turned out, this would finally be the insurmountable lead Newington couldn't recover from.

The Indians kept fighting, though. A missed shot by Newington was rebounded by Glenney, but Lapciuk darted in to steal the ball back, then attempt a 3-pointer which was promptly swatted out of bounds. On her next attempt, Lapciuk was fouled. She hit one of three free throws, intentionally missing the third to go for the rebound. But NFA got the ball back. Still, with 5, 4, and even 2 seconds to go, the Indians kept contesting every inbound pass by NFA. But a full-court pass for NFA leading to a layup and foul with one second to go finally put the game away, and accounted for the final 56-50 margin.

The loss, of course, was tough for the Indians to accept, after they had worked so hard for 44 minutes.

But, two days later, Pilz noted that considering the fact that NFA led for a total of 34:37 out of the 44-minute



*Above: NFA's coach celebrates his win.*

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# Season-ending loss tough to take

But reflecting on heartbreaker, Indians put positive spin on things

*(Continued from page 8)*

game, compared to only 1:28 when the Indians led and another 7:55 when the game was tied up, it doesn't make much sense "to sit there and say, 'It's unfair that we lost' and 'We should have won'. I like to look at it and say, 'Isn't it great that we were able to go against the top-ranked team in the state, the second-ranked team in New England, the defending state champion, and fall behind them by eleven, and then take them to triple overtime and scare the daylights out of them in the process?' I mean, we must have done something right."

On the bus ride home from the game, tears flowed freely as players reacted to the shock and sadness of having their season, and their quest for a state championship, abruptly ended.

But despite their disappointment that the season had come to an end, Pilz and his Indians were able to put the loss in a positive light. Senior co-captains Ela Lapciuk and Leslie Carlson, for whom the NFA loss was the last game of their high school careers, both spoke of how proud they were of their team for the extraordinary effort that was put forth, and the heart that was shown, in all those miracle comebacks.

And Carlson told the underclassmen that, despite the loss of herself and the team's other two seniors, "Next year, you guys can be so great if you want it." Coach Pilz replied, "Leslie, what is 'it'?....To me, 'it' means a sense of accomplishment, and of all the teams I've ever coached in my life, no team ever came closer to 'it' than you. You got it. You did it. You are it."

"You da bomb," Pilz's wife added.



**Above:** Sandy Ramos (left), Nicole Russo (center), and Jenn Castelhana (right) react as time runs out on their season. **Right:** There's nothing head coach Sandy Pilz (right) or assistant coach Steve Markie (below left) can do as the season's final seconds tick away.



**More on girls basketball will be printed in a special edition on the day of the banquet.**

## Pilz names final Players of the Week

Different players honored for each tournament game

### Coach Pilz's Postseason Players of the Week

#### CCC Tournament

All games: Leslie Carlson  
Kim Milardo

#### State Tournament

Bulkeley: Kathleen Burdelski  
Shelton: Jen Bolduc  
Ashley Vicino

NFA: Ela Lapciuk  
Kate Strong

Newington head coach Sandy Pilz named his final Players of the Week for this season, honoring a different player or players for each of last week's state tournament games.

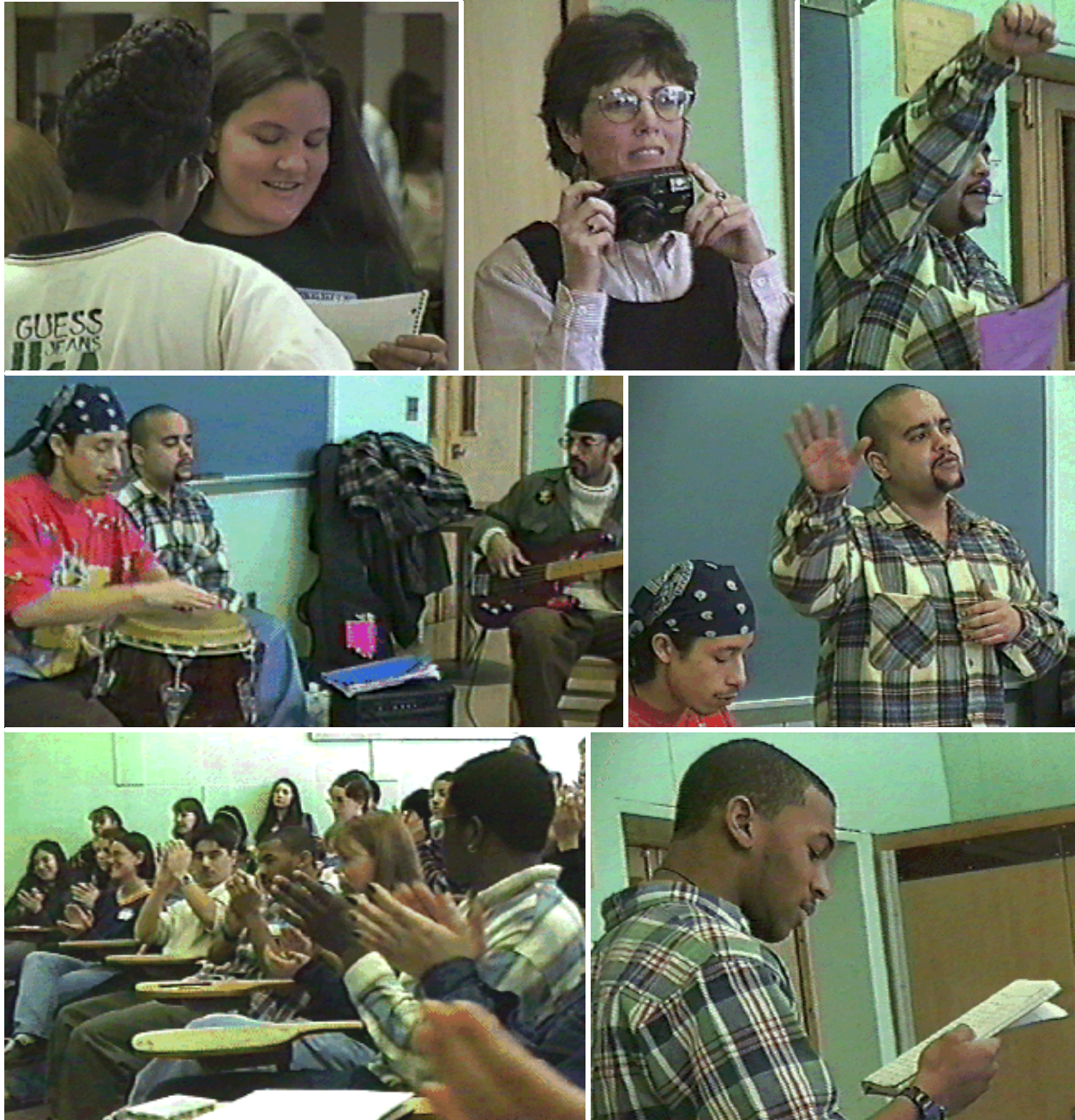
For last Monday's 49-37 first-round win over Bulkeley, Pilz's Player of the Game was freshman Kathleen Burdelski "because she really picked up the slack when Katie [Strong] was sick, and played an outstanding game for us." Burdelski was second on the team that night with a career-high 13 points.

For last Wednesday's 61-35 second-round rout of homestanding Shelton, Pilz named Jen Bolduc (8 points) because of her two crucial field goals and late foul shots, and because she played "a very solid, solid game on [Shelton superstar] Jackie Filia" and Ashley Vicino "because it was probably more playing time than she got in any game this year" and despite all her volleyball commitments,

*(Continued on page 15)*

## **NHS students visit Hartford Public High School**

On February 25, students from Mrs. Perkins's tenth-grade English classes went to Hartford Public High School for the first part of an exchange program with Hartford students. Each NHS student went to one of the Hartford students' classes, then watched a performance by the Welfare Poets. Below are pictures of the day.



**Top Ten Things That Would Be Different if Clinton Had Been Our First President**

10. Instead of “President,” highest office in the land is called “Burger King”
9. Indiana and Ohio known as “East and West Bubbaland”
8. Preamble to Constitution contains 23 references to cheese fries
7. His early morning jogs would have been enough to scare off the entire Indian population
6. The first amendment: “You have the right to get, like, totally stoned”
5. Schoolchildren learn about how Clinton chopped down a cherry tree, then ate it
4. The term “Father of Our Country” would have an entirely different meaning
3. Instead of man wearing powdered wig, dollar bill features man holding powdered donut
2. Washington Monument would be anatomically correct
1. Our national bird: the Chicken McNugget

*Letterman, Tuesday, February 17, 1997  
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**LATE SHOW  
TOP  
TEN**

**Top Ten O.J. Defense Team Excuses**

10. Hard to prepare a defense when you’re trying to negotiate a book deal
9. Mistake to let O.J. appear in court wearing Bruno Magli shoes
8. Wasted \$10,000 on so-called “jury hypno-wheel”
7. After buying each juror a puppy, we thought we were home free
6. Hard to concentrate with Faye Resnick posing for Playboy in the back of the courtroom
5. Turns out that a major civil liability suit can be won by simply using the “force”
4. In retrospect, maybe it was a bad idea to let O.J. host “Saturday Night Live”
3. Tough to defend a client against murder when he, like, killed two people
2. Should have discouraged O.J. from marketing his new cologne, “Guilty-Ass Bastard”
1. Three words: no Mark Fuhrman

*Letterman, Wednesday, February 5, 1997  
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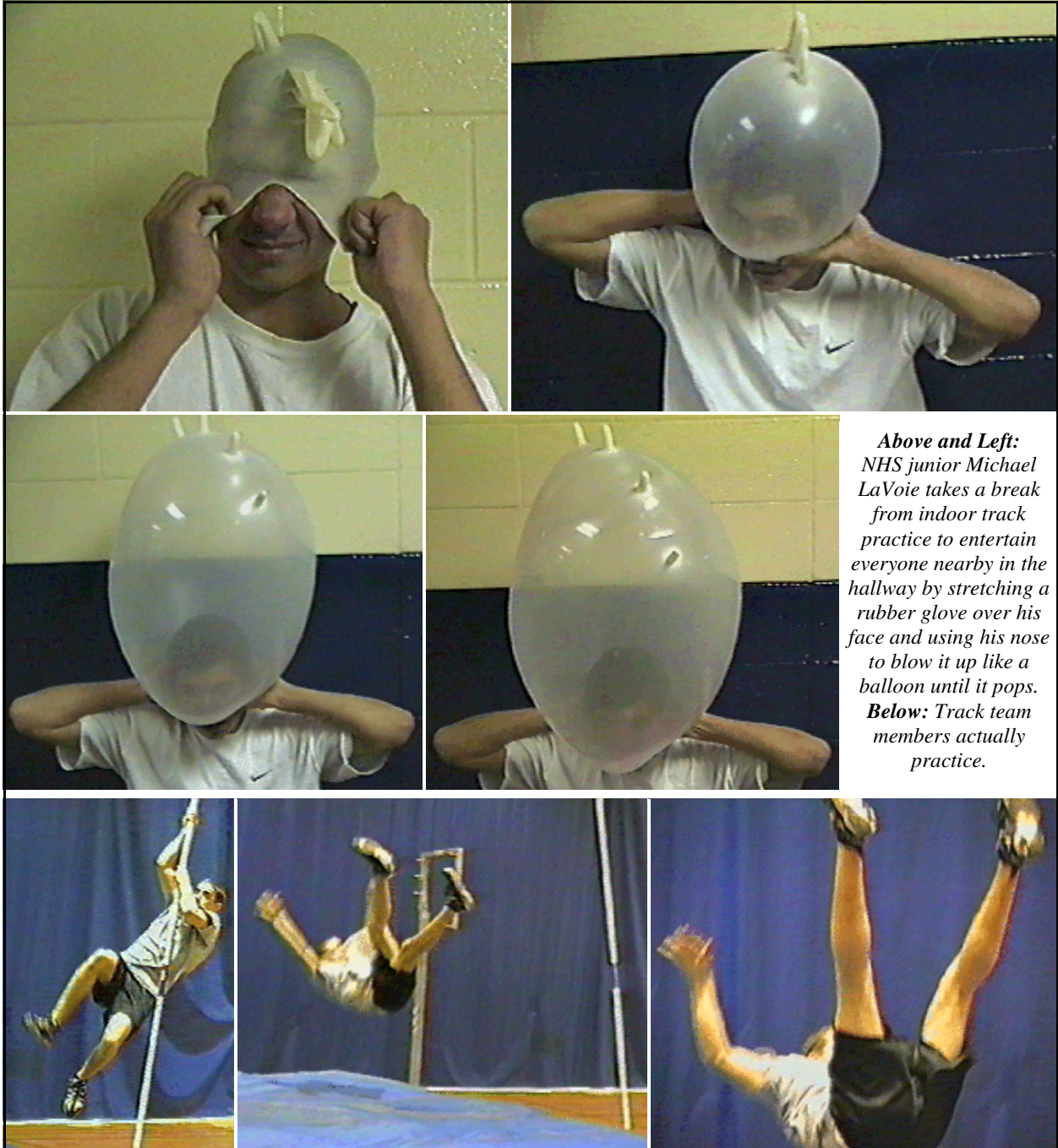
**Top Ten Surprises In The New Version Of “Star Wars”**

10. Part of Chewbacca now played by a shirtless Ed Asner.
9. Commander of the Death Star: Dr. Kevorkian.
8. Land speeders replaced with bitchin’ pink Miatas.
7. Comic relief provided by Cheech Marin as Luke Skywalker’s wacky Mexican caddy.
6. Darth Vader’s voice goes up 3 octaves after Dennis Rodman kicks him in the groin.
5. Instead of “May the force be with you,” Obi-Wan Kenobi says, “Show me the money.”
4. Cameo appearance by Bob Dole as Yoda’s great-great-grandfather
3. Luke and Darth Vader work together to beat the crap out of a bunch of Trekkies.
2. New scene in which Jabba The Hut is hugged by a sobbing Richard Simmons.
1. R2D2? Gay

*Letterman, Friday, January 31, 1997  
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# NHS life

IN WORDS  
AND  
PICTURES



**Above and Left:** NHS junior Michael LaVoie takes a break from indoor track practice to entertain everyone nearby in the hallway by stretching a rubber glove over his face and using his nose to blow it up like a balloon until it pops. **Below:** Track team members actually practice.

“O.J. is innocent....I was going to start a riot, but I had a lot of homework.” —**Dan Seremet, the day after the Simpson civil verdict**

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Visit us on the Internet at [http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brendan\\_Loy](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brendan_Loy)

# NHS Life

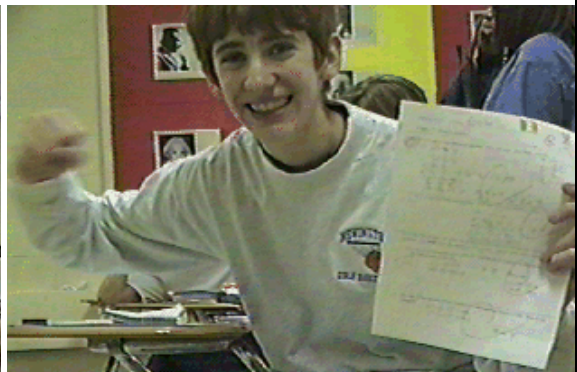
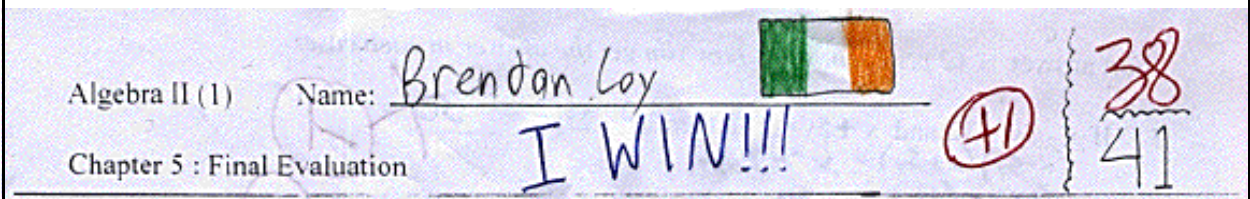
IN WORDS  
& PICTURES  
(CONTINUED)



**A Tigger-ific Birthday:** Ali Lucey spent her 16th birthday, February 7, going from class to class with two birthday balloons in tow, as shown at left. (The left balloon, which is facing away from the camera, said "Happy Birthday" on the front side. The right balloon, of course, is Winnie the Pooh's good friend Tigger.) In the picture at right, Ali, with Tigger by her side, gets her report card at the end of the day.

## Loy breaks jinx, finally wins term contest in math

On Tuesday, January 21, with the second marking period drawing to a close and midterm exams just two days away from beginning, Brendan Loy finally won defeated one of the sophomore "geniuses" (Sara Colpitts and Kate Harbeson) in a math class grade competition which spanned an entire term. After blowing golden opportunities to defeat Colpitts twice last year by choking on the final quiz of the term, and again pulling a late-term collapse earlier this year, Loy topped Harbeson by less than three-fifths of a percentage point. He clinched with a 38 out of 41, plus one bonus point, on the final quiz of the term.



# NHS Life

IN WORDS  
& PICTURES  
(CONTINUED)

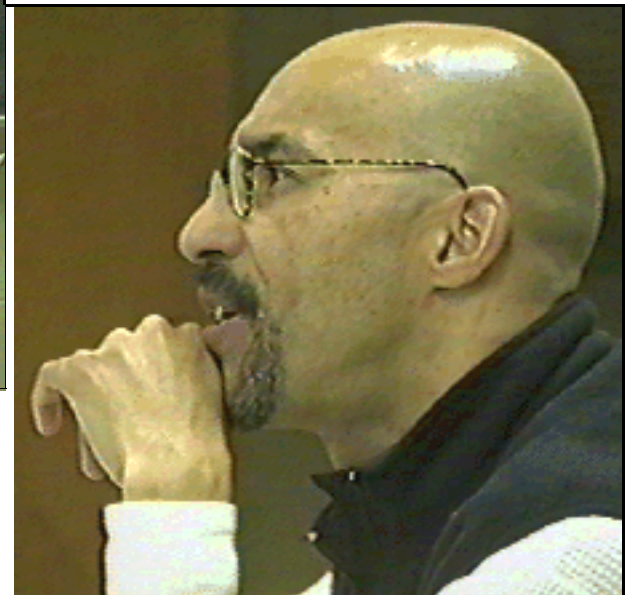
“I’m stylin’, smilin’, lookin’  
real mean, ’cause it ain’t about  
bein’ heard, just bein’ seen.”  
—Mrs. Perkins, in her  
debut rap performance



Actually, Mrs. Perkins was just reading the hip-hop poetry of Reg E. Gaines, an award-winning writer, rapper, and poet who visited one of her 10th-grade English classes a few weeks later, as shown below and at right:



*Right: Tickle Me Elmo, once the most sought-after doll on Earth, paid a visit to NHS recently. Here, Elmo is being held by his owner (an unidentified student) in the cafeteria.*



# Dodd visits, faces some tough questions

*(Continued from page 2)*

first questions asked when the discussion on issues began came from junior class president Tim Sheridan, who is well-known at NHS to be a conservative Republican. Sheridan questioned Dodd about the campaign financing issue, and, in regards to the recently-defeated Balanced Budget Amendment, which Dodd voted against, Sheridan asked pointedly, "How can we expect to get anything accomplished if we don't have a balanced budget; if we keep spending more than we have?"

Dodd described himself as a "strong advocate of" campaign finance reform, but said he is not terribly optimistic that the system will be changed anytime soon. Neither Sheridan's question, nor Dodd's answer, directly addressed the recent flap over 1996 Democratic campaign financing and fund-raising.

On the balanced budget issue, Dodd said, "Obviously, it makes all the sense in the world to get as close to a balance budget, if not a balanced budget, as possible." He stated that "We're on the right track, by the year 2002, to have [the budget] balanced. But a lot of things can happen in the mean time. [For example,] the floods going on right now in the Midwest. This isn't something someone created....I will guarantee you that the Senators, and the Congressmen, and the Governors—some have already—have come down to Washington and said, 'We need relief! We've lost our communities,



*Above and Below: NHS students ask Senator Dodd about the issues that are important to them.*



*Above: Dodd answers Tim Sheridan's politically pointed questions.*

o u r  
h o m e s ,  
o u r  
b u s i -  
n e s s e s ,  
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w a n t  
W a s h -  
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help!' Some of those very same members are the ones who are saying, 'We've got to balance this budget tomorrow,' but they'll be the first ones now saying, 'My people need help!'....So you need to be flexible in a

*(Continued on page 16)*

# Last five Players of the Week named

*(Continued from page 9)*

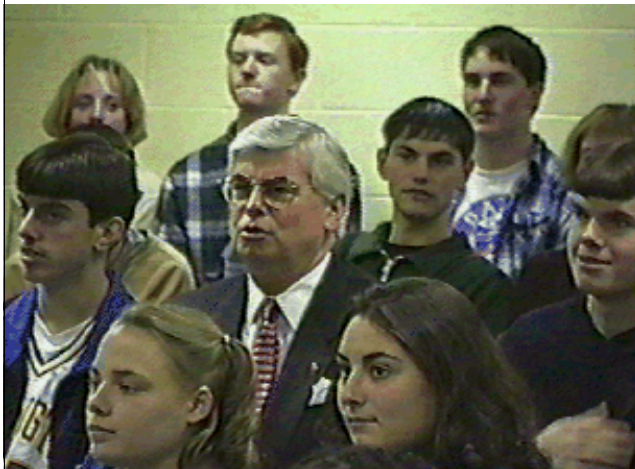
she was "able to come in, know what to do, and do it so well, becoming such an intimidating defensive player. I believe she had three blocks. That totally shut them down."

As for last Friday's 66-60 triple-overtime quarterfinal loss to Norwich Free Academy, Pilz named Ela Lapciuk and Kate Strong "because they just wouldn't let us die. No matter what NFA tried to do to put us out, the two of them just kept finding a way to get us back into the game." Lapciuk led all scorers with 23 points Friday, while Strong scored 9, all of them on critical three-pointers down the stretch.

# Dodd visits NHS, may return for *Anything Goes*



Above: NHS students listen to Senator Dodd speak Friday.  
Below: Dodd has his picture taken with the students.



(Continued from page 15)

society. You don't want to put yourself in a straight-jacket. That's the reason I didn't support the constitutional amendment to balance the budget. I'm very uneasy about writing into the organic law of our country—the most fundamental document that you and I rely on for how we conduct our affairs as a people—that you write into that document a contemporary solution to an economic problem that exists today because we haven't worked hard enough...to see to it that for every expenditure you're going to have, have a revenue source for it. If you want to spend some money on something, where's the money going to come from to pay for it. That's what you've got to do. Writing it into the constitution doesn't get the job done. You've still got to do the work at the end of the day."

Other questions asked by students concerned government funding for the arts, labor laws, college costs, funding for the handicapped, term limits, immigration, and extending free education from 12 to 14 years. After four of those questions had been asked, Dodd looked around to see if any more hands were up, then commented, "If I keep talking, you don't have to go back to class. I know how this works." The students kept asking, and he kept talking.

Then, once the discussion had entered fourth period, Mr. Hoey suggested it was time to wrap things up. As Dodd got ready to leave, he noticed the paintings of logos for various Broadway musicals on the wall and began to discuss which of those musicals he had gone

to see on Broadway. Seizing the opportunity, Genna Griffith, who will play the lead role in next week's NHS musical performance of *Anything Goes*, raised her hand.

"Can you come see *Anything Goes*?" Griffith asked boldly.

"Well, I have to get invited!" Dodd replied. "You've got to invite me!"

"You're invited," said Griffith. A few minutes later, Griffith gave Dodd tickets to the opening night performance, Thursday, March 20 at 8:00 PM.

The students gave Dodd a standing ovation as he left the podium. Dodd then had his picture taken with the group, and during that picture, he sat next to sophomore Todd Stigliano. "I get to sit next to the senator!" Stigliano yelled happily. Asked later what he thought of Dodd, Stigs said that "Every question that somebody asked, he didn't really answer any of them. He just said something that had to do with it, and then beat around the bush for, like, half an hour." But asked if he nevertheless enjoyed sitting next to Dodd, Stigs replied, "Oh, yeah! What a guy!"

"He didn't answer my question," complained Tim

(Continued on page 17)



Above: Genna Griffith, the lead in *Anything Goes*, shakes hands with Senator Dodd. Behind her are Susan Sypco, Barbara Byrnes, and an *Anything Goes* poster. Griffith later gave Dodd a ticket to the show.



# Senator Dodd pays visit to Newington High

*(Continued from page 16)*

Sheridan. "I was hoping he'd give me a simple, straight answer to my question. He just—He contradicted everything that he did in office. He says that he supported something, yet he voted against it. I didn't quite understand that. And I wasn't very pleased with his performance with many of the other questions, either."

Most had more positive reactions, however. "I really liked it," said Kate Harbeson. "He gave comprehensive answers. I don't really follow him; I don't really follow politics, so I don't know if he lied or not, or anything, but he gave comprehensive answers, and I really respected a lot of his views."

"I thought he was nice, and I liked how he made everybody feel comfortable in the beginning; he kind of related to us," stated Lauren Correll. "And he was well-spoken on his points and everything. So I think he did a good job."

"He's a nice senator," said Cindy Klubnik. "He was very well-spoken."

"I think he really understood what the kids were saying, and he got into it, like he wasn't just listening and giving an answer; he was interested in what we were saying," commented Tara Boisvert.

"It was nice, man," said Josh Stevenson. "I think Senator Dodd was a good person to talk to."

"I thought he was very informative," stated Jessica Olson.

"I was actually very impressed with the way he is able to talk to students," Mr. Treggor commented.



*Above: U.S. Senator Chris Dodd (left) poses with NHS music director Josef Treggor (right) during Dodd's visit Friday.*