

## Bristol teen is homeless for the holidays

By JACQUI MOREAU  
The Tattoo

Christmas. A time to sit by the fire, play in the snow, and listen to carolers passing by. Well, not many carolers are likely to stop by the homeless shelter this season.

Jill is only 17 years old, but has been faced with more challenges than many people do in their entire lives. She's lived with mother and younger sister since her early childhood. It was always a struggle to make ends meet, but a short time ago, things took a turn for the worse. Jill and her family were evicted from their apartment — they were \$250 short of paying their rent.

After being hospitalized for severe alcohol poisoning a couple years ago, she moved into a residential treatment home, where she lived for an extended amount of time. People at the home helped Jill curb her drug and alcohol use, as well as learn conflict resolution techniques.

She says she no longer has any interest in drinking or using drugs.

"I'm almost 18," she said. "I can't do that stuff." It was just after Jill returned home that the family received an eviction notice. At first they moved in with friends, but eventually this situa-



Joe Keo / The Tattoo

tion proved impractical.

Jill, her sister, and her mom now live at the Bristol Emergency Shelter, run by the Saint Vincent DePaul Society of Bristol.

They have 60 days, like other residents at the shelter, to find another place to live. Jill's mom believes that she will secure an apartment for them within two weeks.

Besides being homeless, there is another obstacle in Jill's life: Crohn's disease. A severe intestinal disease, Crohn's causes Jill intense pain to the point that she feels unable to hold a steady job. Jill is currently seeing doctors on a regular basis, and hopes to find an effective medication. In the meantime, Jill does not attend school, and is in the process of finding a tutor who will teach her at the shelter.

"At least we have a roof over our heads and we're not outside in the cold," Jill said. "And we've got food in our stomachs."

She tries not to focus on the distresses of the present, but instead on hopes for a happy future.

"School is my main priority," she said. "I only have one more year until I graduate."

After high school, Jill hopes to work at a day-care and help her mother out financially. She loves to be with children and enjoys the time she spends now with her church youth group.

This Christmas will not be the most merry one of Jill's life, but there are many ways that the com-

munity can help cheer up her holiday season.

Jill's illness makes her uncomfortable in the clothes that she currently has. Sweatpants and t-shirts (she wears an extra large) would ease her discomfort. She doesn't have a winter coat — she loves Nike, but anything warm will do. A new coat would make cold walks to doctors' appointments or the store more tolerable for her.

Jill loves art, and would appreciate some art supplies, such as colored pencils and a drawing pad. She could also make use of a gift certificate to Strawberries to get some music for relaxation and pleasure.

Jill's Christmas won't be by the fireside, and she probably won't be drinking eggnog with friends and family.

But she could be drawing, listening to music, or just plainly comfortable at the shelter, dreaming of Christmases to come.

To give a gift to Jill — or any of the teens profiled in The Tattoo Christmas Presence program, bring it to The Bristol Press at 99 Main St. during regular business hours.

Checks can be made out to The Tattoo Christmas Presence and mailed to The Tattoo, c/o advisors Steve Collins or Jackie Majerus, P.O. Box 483, Bristol, CT 06011. And thank you.

## College hoops: a season of upsets

By T.J. O'CONNOR  
The Tattoo

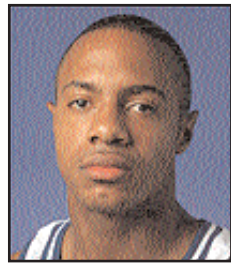
It's that time of year again, when the pigskins are put away in the closet and the basketballs are taken out.

It's the beginning of the college basketball season and for those die hard college b-ball fans it is a new year for their teams.

Anything can happen in college athletics — that's what makes them so fun and unique. We've already had indications that this college basketball season is going to be like no other.

Seven of the top 10 preseason ranked teams have lost. In the Maui Invitational, Ball State, a small school in Indiana, upset fourth-ranked UCLA and fifth-

My long shot for the season is the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers. Three years ago the Gophers basketball team was penalized by having scholarships taken away from them when former head coach Clem Haskins let multiple players cheat on tests. Now that Minnesota has regrouped and has a new coach, they're ready to return to where they were in the mid '90s when they were a high seed in the tournament. For this to happen, the Golden Gophers will have to have big years from their big men, Michael Bauer and Dusty Rychart. Minnesota lost star player Terrance Simmons last year, but if everything goes right for the Golden Gophers we might be shocked when we see them in March.



Jason Williams

The disappointments

I guarantee Michigan State will not win the Big Ten Conference and that they will not be a number one seed in the NCAA Tournament. That's right, you heard it here. The Spartans will be the disappointment of the college basketball season. They were number 11 in the preseason ranking and they've made it to the Final 4 the past three years, but not this year.

The other disappointment of the season will be the North Carolina Tar Heels. The Heels embarrassed themselves at home early in the season with two losses to Indiana, Hampton and Davidson. UNC will be lucky if it squeaks into the tournament as an 8 or 9 seed.

### The players

Jason Williams probably won the Player of the Year award before the season already started. He could have been a top 5 draft choice in the NBA but he opted to stay at Duke for another year. Many have said that not only is he the best point guard in college basketball but that he is better than all of the point guards in the NBA. Williams' playing partner on the wing is Mike Dunleavy Jr. who can knock down the three pointer with ease. Dunleavy will most likely win the Player of the Year award next year in his senior season at Duke.

There are three lefties this year in the college game that can really shoot the rock. Tayshaun Prince out of Kentucky, Kareem Rush from Missouri, and Lynn Greer who plays for John Chaney's Temple Owls. Prince and Rush are both preseason first team All-Americans and they both have led their teams to preseason top 10 rankings. Some other players to watch this year are Casey Jacobsen (Stanford), who loves to shoot the long ball, Frank Williams (Illinois) who scores when his team needs him to and can get hot at any given time, Reggie Evans (Iowa) who controls the boards and swallows up rebounds, and Chris Marcus (Western Kentucky) a center who uses his big body to score and to block shots. These are just some of the many players that will lead their teams to the NCAA Tournament and who will eventually be in the NBA.

There you have it. Many teams that weren't expected to make the tournament will make it and many teams that were expected to make the tournament won't. Strange things will happen this college basketball season. So just stretch out on your couch and watch the season of upsets unfold right in front of your eyes.

## Lyons: students are 'pigs'

By MIKE NGUYEN  
The Tattoo

During a recent home room period at Bristol Eastern High School, Principal Everett Lyons sternly announced that he's unhappy with the atrocious eating habits of the students at lunch.

He compared the student body to a bunch of dirty pigs who should eat out of troughs and threatened to cut off the "daily quota" of the school's mass supply of french fries.

French fries make up a large portion of the school's regular hot lunch, which costs \$2.25, and are a staple food for many students.

When Lyons observed no change in the eating habits of the "savages" at Eastern, he enforced the no-fries ration for the first lunch wave one Monday.

His reasoning, he told students over the intercom, was the first lunch wave on the previous Friday had kept throwing and trashing Eastern's potato appetizers.

"It's not fair because it's not our fault," said Wendy Roman, a junior who was at first lunch, because block scheduling means the students who trashed the cafeteria on Friday were not the ones punished on Monday.

"We all love french fries. It's our

main source of food," she added.

Many others were less phased. Sarah Messeri, another junior, said, "I don't really care. I don't really eat french fries. I don't use them as projectiles."

However awkward, she said she agreed with Lyons' decision.

Luckily for the students at Eastern, the french fries ban only lasted 20 minutes.

The next three lunch wave that Monday got a full lunch for their money.

However, many still drive down a few blocks to the local McDonalds for an equally satisfying lunch, french fries included.

## On the ball

ranked Kansas. Second-ranked Kentucky lost its opener to Western Kentucky, a team that's built around one player and one player only.

Both Maryland (which made it to the Final 4 last year) and Florida lost to a "re-grouping" Arizona team. Arizona wasn't even ranked in the "Top 25" before they beat the Terps and the mighty Gators. I guess they aren't so mighty after all.

The Duke Blue Devils seem to be the only team that played up to their potential in November. After Ball State shocked the college basketball world with their two upsets, they went for a third when they faced the Blue Devils in the final of the Maui Classic.

The sports experts were predicting another Ball State miracle, but Coach K wasn't about to let that happen — he had his team ready and they pounced on their less skilled and smaller opponent. College in the month of November has led many to believe that this year will be the season of upsets.

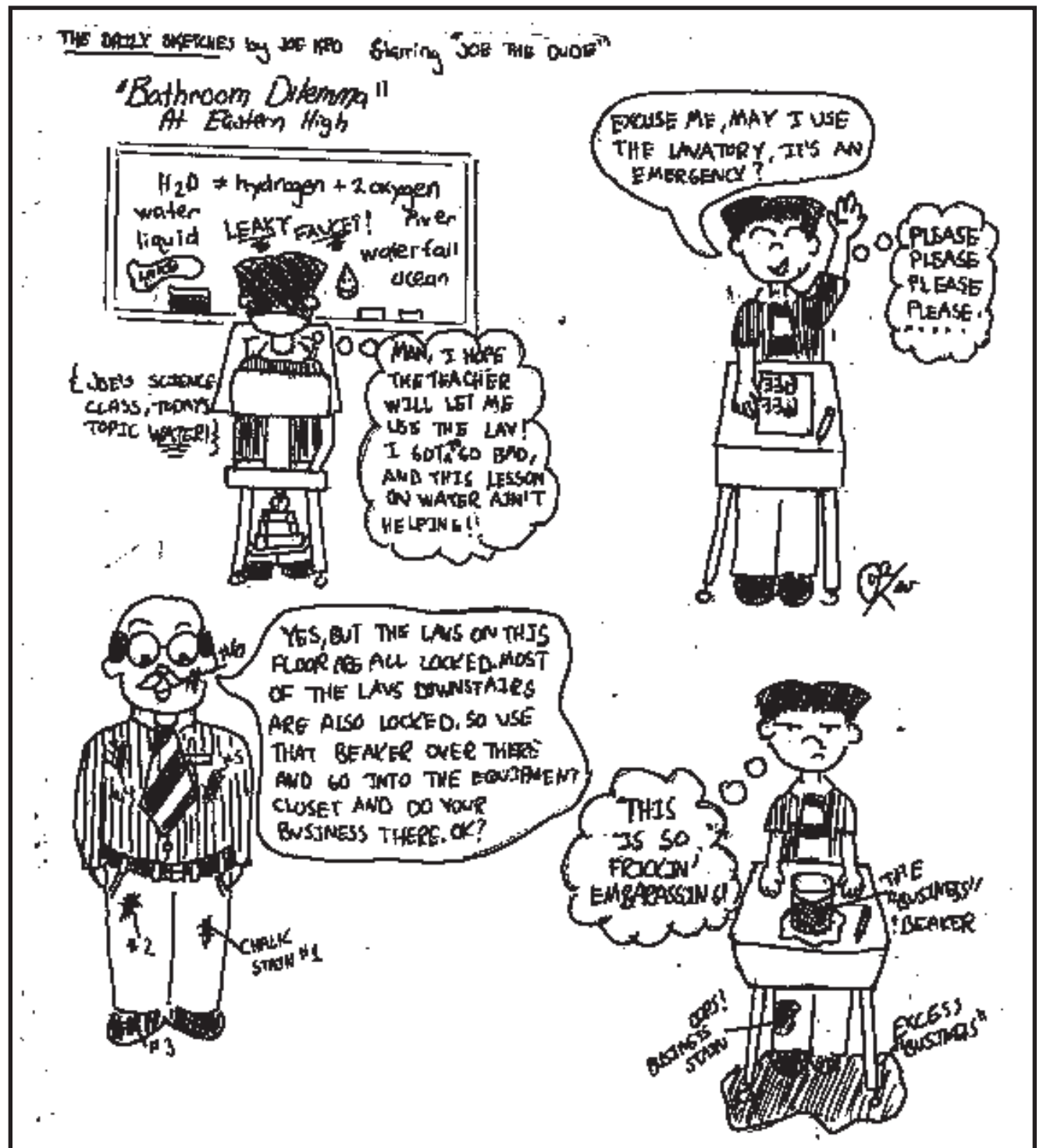
### The shockers

This year more than any other there will be teams that rise from the bottom and go to the "Big Dance."

We've already seen Arizona prove the experts wrong. The Wildcats, who went to the Final 4 last year, lost four of their starters — one graduated and the other three left school to enter the NBA. Arizona has limited scholarships because of this and they only have two players back from last year's team who saw any playing time. But Lute Olson's proven yet again that he's a great coach and that his team will be successful even though they have a rigorous schedule. Expect Arizona to win the Pac 10 conference and be a 4 or 5 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

Syracuse is the most obvious "shocker." Well, they really shouldn't be a "shocker" since Syracuse has a 600-208 record in the last 25 years. The only reason that Syracuse is a "shocker" is because everyone always doubts Jimmy Boenheim even though he's one of the best coaches around. Expect the Orangemen to win the Big East and to make it to the "Sweet Sixteen" in the tournament.

Oregon is another team that will surprise some people. The Ducks have a *high riser* in Frederick Jones who will lead them to the Big Dance after a disappointing season last year. Oklahoma State should have a solid year. The Cowboys have their whole starting lineup back and their coach Eddie Sutton is one of the best in the business. Ball State, with their tough schedule could make the tournament if they do well in their conference. The Cardinals are already out to a good start with wins over UCLA and Kansas.



Joe Keo / The Tattoo

## Xbox could topple PS2

By JOE KEO  
The Tattoo

Sony's Playstation 2 has been a hit for the video game universe. In the 20 months it's been out, 20 million people have bought one. With its amazing graphics, DVD and music CD capabilities and sleek style, it's taken the breath away from many game addicts.

But two challengers stepped into the ring last month: Microsoft's Xbox and Nintendo's GameCube. Both had gamers screaming and cheering, but will that enthusiasm last? According to the game reviews of others, these two challengers might not overthrow the reigning champ.

This is Microsoft's first game console, but it has done well with its features, which include DVD, Internet, music, and a hard drive. The only flaw of Xbox is its bulky size and its limited supply of necessities (Xbox's DVD requires you to buy a separate remote for about \$30, but the PS2 uses the game controller as the remote and includes it in its package).

The GameCube, on the other hand, has flaws. Most importantly, it has no DVD capabilities (everyone likes a two in one special, so why didn't you supply it?).

Though it's small and portable,

which is nice and all, it's not a breakthrough feature.

### video games

The cost for the Xbox is the same as the cost for the PS2. Both retail for about \$300 while the GameCube sells for about \$200.

Nintendo has done well with its past products — such as the Nintendo 64 and Gameboy — but its chance for crushing the PS2 is slim. The Xbox, though, might give PS2 a run for its money.

From the early Christmas sales, PS2 is still doing well, so we'll just have to wait to see if Microsoft and Nintendo can gang up on King Sony.