

# THE TATTOO

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## Buster's or bust: haunting a hot dog heaven

By JEN PLONSKI  
The Tattoo

With a menu that delivers everything from Chihuahua Dogs to clam strips to maple walnut milkshakes, Buster's Drive-In attracts many teenagers in and around Bristol.

Not only do people go for the great food, but also for the convenience of its Terryville Avenue location. "I come here as often as

I can," said 11-year-old Jennifer Schoelwer of West Hartford's King Philip Middle School. "I like the milkshakes and onion rings the best."

**Some go to Buster's because it's nearby but some go because a friend likes it.**

Schoelwer said she started going to Buster's two years ago because it's

on the way to her horse-back riding lessons.

During a recent visit to Buster's, two 15-year-olds from Bristol Central High School - Kim Gaity and

Monique Davis - were eating chocolate-dipped ice cream cones.

Gaity said she started coming when she was six because she lives really close - and she still loves it.

As for the chocolate dipping on her twist cone, she said, "I picked mine off. I don't like it."

The most popular thing sold at Buster's is its hot dogs with the secret recipe Michigan sauce.

But some prefer other food sold there.

Samantha Fraczek, an 11-year-old from Chippens Hill Middle School, said she favors the

cheeseburgers and clam strips, which is what she was eating during a recent trip to the restaurant.

Some go to Buster's because it's nearby but some go because a fan recommends it.

Davis said she came for the first time when she was about five "cause my dad liked it."

"My mom just brought me here one day," said Fraczek.



Jen Plonski / The Tattoo

Below, Monique Davis, 15, and Kimberly Gaity, 15, both sophomores at Bristol Central High School, enjoyed ice cream at Buster's this summer. Above, the famous Buster's sign welcomes diners.



Jen Plonski / The Tattoo

Samantha Fraczek, 11, a seventh grade student at Chippens Hill Middle School, had clam strips and a cheeseburger at Busters recently.



## McDonald's loves to make you fat

By SARA GREENE, KATIE JORDAN and SAM YOSAFI  
The Tattoo

What's beyond those golden arches? Nothing you could possibly want - just another McDonald's Restaurant.

Bristol currently has three McDonald's restaurants, but the goal of the McPeople who run the chain is to have one within seven minutes of every person in the country.

That's within walking distance, if you can walk that far without having a heart attack from your clogged arteries.

It's obvious why the restaurants need to be so plentiful: who would travel more than seven minutes to eat there? McDonald's grease-soaked, heavily-salted food is some of the least healthy stuff you can ingest.

It's right up there with lead paint and drain cleaner, and it tastes almost as good.

Mainly the world's most popular restaurant chain - which has more than 30,000 establishments that serve more than 46 million people daily - dishes out squishy little cheeseburgers, limp, slimy fries and Chicken McNuggets made from an undetermined, brown, grisly part of a chicken, or at least we assume it's chicken.

This fast food freak show is enough to make your taste buds scream and run for their lives.

And if you have any sense, you'll do the same.

McDonald's variety is limited to the point of being depressing.

There are other items on the menu, but they're all just slight variations of those listed above.

The only real choice you have is how big you want your meal to be.

But before you order, evaluate your priorities. If getting the most for your money is important to you, go ahead and super-size it.

But if you value your physical health, you may want to order a smaller meal - at a different restaurant.

The people in charge of McDonald's seem to think they can make up for their food's lack of flavor and nutritional value by advertising it as much as possible.

Their burgers and fries have about as much air time as all those annoying teen pop stars put together.

Of course, no restaurant's advertising campaign would be complete without a lovable mascot.

For McDonald's, it's Ronald McDonald, a clown who apparently couldn't find a good job, like entertaining groups of screaming brats at birthday parties.

Everyone recognizes Ronald, but whatever happened to his cute little friends, Grimace, Birdie, and the Hamburglar?

Maybe the service at McDonald's drove them away.

If you go inside the restaurant, you are forced to stand around for ages waiting for others to order.

At least in the drive-through you get to sit down.

But when you finally lurch up to the speaker, you face the awesome challenge of ordering.

After a few minutes of trying to decipher the meaning of the mumbling, staticky sounds, you inevitably have to just order and hope there's a humanoid life form on the other end of the intercom.

You wait in line forever, but you really can't complain about that.

Chances are there's one poor kid working in the whole place, earning minimum wage while McDonald's Corp. gets richer and richer.

The food you finally receive at the second window is very rarely the same food that you ordered earlier, and you may have been charged for some items you didn't actually get.

But after waiting for it for what seems like hours, you're probably glad to have anything to show for it at all.

McDonald's, they love to see you smile - because it means your plaque-soaked arteries aren't yet causing you any pain.

## Ice cream shop drips nostalgia

By JACQUI MOREAU  
The Tattoo

All year long, Bristol residents of all ages enjoy refreshing treats from Dunphy's Ice Cream Parlor.

Located in a small plaza on the corner of Maltby Street and Stafford Avenue, Dunphy's has shown its strength and appeal as a business.

This year, the ice cream parlor celebrates its 20th anniversary.

The owner for the past five years, Jim Martin, attributes the shop's appeal to its being "old fashioned."

A long, black, antique car shelves an array of frozen selec-

tions: fat-free frozen yogurt, sorbet, sherbet and traditional ice cream.

While one has the choice of almost any imaginable ice cream variety, chocolate and vanilla dominate.

'Moosetracks,' consisting of chocolate chunks, peanut butter and fudge swirled with vanilla ice cream, is the most popular of the exotic flavors.

Where there would usually be a car trunk is instead an antique popcorn machine. It reads: popcorn 50 cents.

While many come for a traditional ice cream cone, popcorn is only one of many other snack options: the slushy; the

'Razzle Frozen Explosion,' consisting of soft-serve yogurt and blended-in toppings; and the 'Flavor Burst,' a soft serve cone laced with colored frosting are some of the shops most appealing treats.

Those preferring to enjoy ice cream at home can purchase hand-packed pints of their favorite Dunphy's flavors. Everyone leaves happy.

The customers are perhaps the best judges of Dunphy's strengths.

"It's good," Jeff Stairs said. Stairs said he takes his two-year-old daughter, Joelle, to the parlor weekly. "And it's close to home," he added.

Justin Zimjowski, 11, has been going to Dunphy's for as long as he can remember.

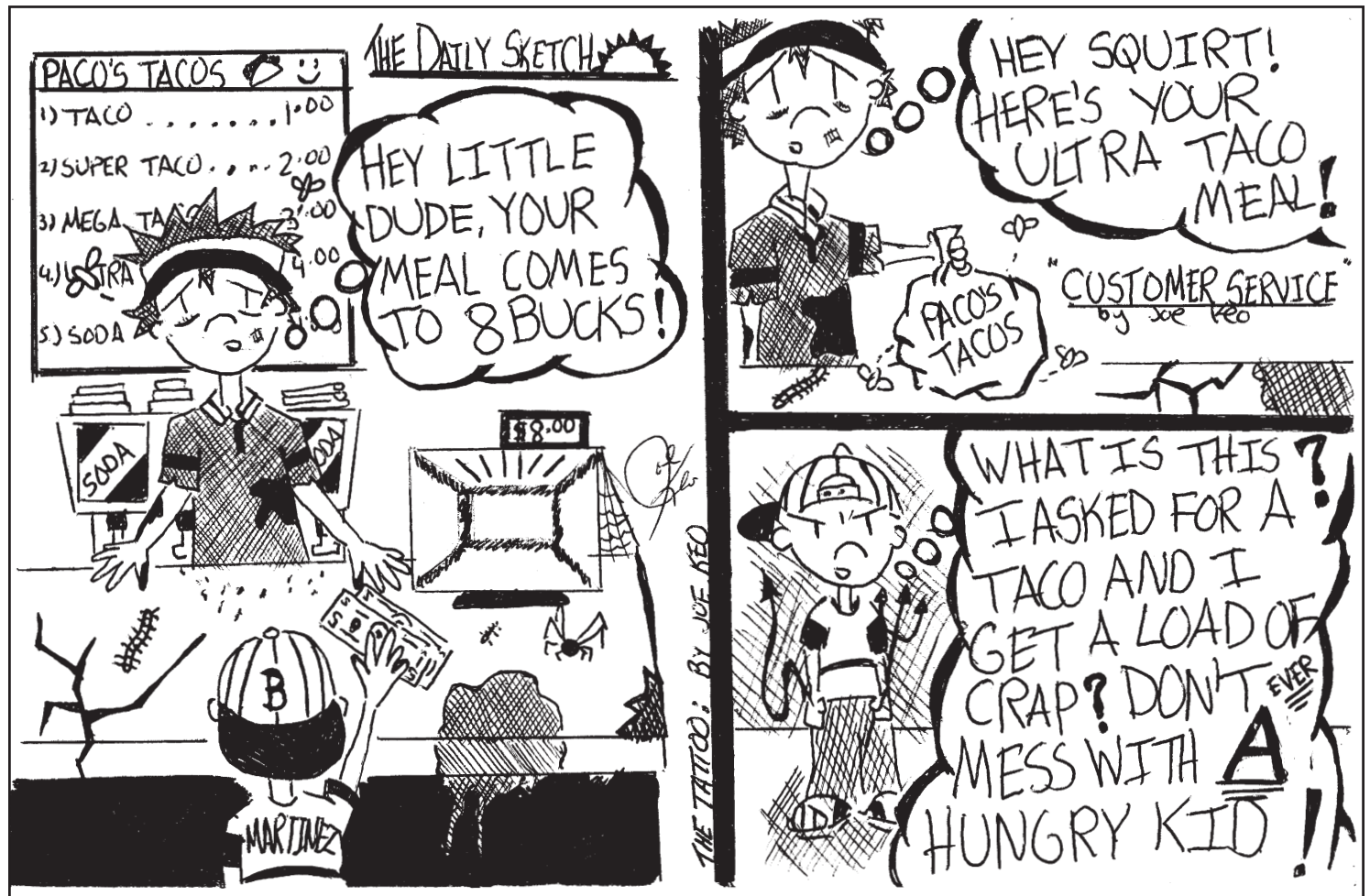
"It's cool because of the big truck," he said.

Zimjowski said without hesitation that his favorite flavor of ice cream is "chocolate-chip cookie-dough," which he often chooses during his twice-weekly visits.

Dunphy's popularity is obvious. It even has lines of customers on mid-week spring nights when the air temperature is still 50-degrees.

Bristol residents have shown, and continue to show, that they know good ice cream when they taste it.

## Opinion



Joe Keo / The Tattoo

## Vita's: a meal in an Italian kitchen

By KATE HAIRE  
The Tattoo

If you like good food, then Vita's Italian Market is the place to go.

Even if you aren't Italian, you can still enjoy the grand food and the personable workers at Vita's in Bristol.

Walking into Vita's is like stepping into an Italian family's kitchen.

They'll make you just about anything you want - and both quality and quantity is the name of the game.

"Vita's is the best combination of convenience and affordability," said Bryant Wong, 15, who attends Bristol Eastern High School.

Vita's serves so much food, that you wonder how it could make a profit with

such great prices. It also gets orders done quickly so nobody's waiting around for a meal.

The meals are definitely gustoso, or tasty, and no wonder.

"All our meals are made here, not like McDonalds. More like Mama used to make," said Alexis Matukaitis, a Vita's employee.

Not only does Vita's have great food, but it's also a great community hangout.

The Farmington Avenue restaurant is decorated nicely, with an Italian theme, of course.

The menu is painted on the wall (done by Sarah Ives) and features pictures of

some of the dishes.

Overall, the atmosphere is very comfortable.

"Customers and friendly service is part of what makes Vita's so good," said Kelly Young, who works there.

She said that sandwiches are among the more popular foods ordered at Vita's.

Vita's has a broad menu, which should make it easy for most everyone to find something to eat.

Go with many friends and everybody can get something they like.

Whether you want to sit at the counter, a table or in a comfortable booth, Vita's is about variety and finding something right for you.

One thing's for sure: Vita's is buono! (That's good in Italian.)

## Review