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Joe Keo / The Tattoo

Board calls foul on company gift

Says scoreboard would contain too much advertising

By KATIE JORDAN and DANIELLE LETOURNEAU
The Tattoo

Some people say that it's not whether you win or lose that matters, but how you play the game.

Those people probably don't care that Bristol Central High School needs a new scoreboard.

But there are plenty of people who do care, and they've been helping out by donating money toward the expensive piece of equipment.

"There is one scoreboard that has been delivered," said John Novakowski, the supervisor of athletics, physical education and health for the district.

The school's sports booster club recently donated the scoreboard, said Novakowski, but it hasn't been put up yet.

Bristol Eastern High School has two new scoreboards, said Novakowski.

While Central is still one short, the sports booster club has been working to raise money for a second scoreboard by collecting donations.

Trying to raise money for a scoreboard, the school's sports booster club was looking for a contribution when it contacted Craig Yarde.

Yarde, the owner of Yarde Metals, gave the group an even better offer: he agreed to donate an entire scoreboard, worth about \$11,000, Yarde said.

"When you're in the metals business, you're always donating for something," Yarde said.

Over two years, the company usually donates about a quarter million dollars to schools in various communities, said

Yarde. However, the Bristol Board of Education suspected ulterior motives to the gift.

Because the scoreboard would have the company's name on it in letters about seven inches high, the school board called it an advertisement, said Yarde.

Although the money for the scoreboard was taken out of the company's advertising budget, Yarde said it was meant as a gift to show its good will towards the school and to support the community.

"We wouldn't do it for advertising," he said.

Yarde said he doesn't mind if the school doesn't accept his donation.

"They can do what they want," he said.

But if board members should change their minds, Yarde said, the offer still stands.

There are many people who say the school should take advantage of that offer, including Novakowski.

Novakowski said he wouldn't accept just any donation, but if there is "somebody in town who wants to make a donation like that, I'd accept it."

Many of the students agree.

"Even though there is advertising on it, it's not an eyesore," said Kurt Galvan, a sophomore at Bristol Central High School.

"It's a scoreboard, and it's free." "I think it's a good idea to put the scoreboard up. If there are just seven-inch letters on it, then who cares?" said Matt Hernes, another sophomore at the school.

But the students don't have the power to make the decision.

So it seems that for now the sports teams at Central will just have to concentrate on how they play the game.

Tattoo staff writer Kate Haire contributed to this story.

Preachin' about the choir

By LYNN RENEE RICHTER
The Tattoo

Say the words "Christian music" and you are likely to be met with blank stares followed by condescending questions such as, "You mean you actually listen to that stuff?"

Those words tend to evoke images of Sunday school classes belting out the ever-popular song "Jesus Loves Me" in their four-year-old, off-key voices.

Lately, though, the Christian music scene is exploding in popularity, buoyed by acts such as Jars of Clay, P.O.D., dc Talk, Plus One and Stacie Orrico.

No longer is Christian music relegated to the choir rooms behind the sanctuaries of America.

It is no longer just the music of little old gray-haired ladies in their Sunday best.

Suddenly, it is showing up on mainstream charts in every genre from heavy metal to pop, and it seems to have no intention of going anywhere but up.

There are two possible reasons for this upsurge in popularity.

One is that Christian labels are pushing their bands further into the limelight and

A note on music

lining up opening slots with many of today's biggest music stars.

Christian bands are actually sounding more like what you would hear on the radio, and not like the tunes you would hear coming from the church pipe organ. For instance, P.O.D. recently came off a stint with Ozzfest while Stacie Orrico toured with Destiny's Child. Jars of Clay opened for Matchbox 20 and Jewel.

Christian bands are invading the mainstream.

The slightly less obvious answer to the explosion of the Christian music genre is simple.

God declared that he has "set eternity in the hearts of men."

He formed us with a desperate need to have someone bigger than us protecting us. We need someone with peace, someone with answers.

When September 11th came and left its indelible scar on American history, church attendance soared. The American people were suddenly faced with their own incapability to prevent death.

Many of their worst fears became reality in one single blinding moment.

There was nowhere else to reach but up. They were looking for answers, but not just candy-coated sound bites with no significance.

For many, Christian music provided those answers and provided the completeness their souls hungered for.

It invited them to surrender their deepest problems and allow God to work in their lives. God spoke to them through Christian music, and they responded.

Christian music shot up the charts as a testimony to its redeeming power.

One can only hope it continues.

Title IX evens the score

By AUTUMN CHURCH
The Tattoo

Thanks in part to a federal law called Title IX, women are getting in the game.

Before Title IX was enacted in 1972, about one in 25 women students played sports and few were funded at the high school and university levels.

The law aimed to give women athletes the same opportunities as men and to fix the problem of disproportionate aid for male athletes.

The bill's text says, in part, "No person in the United States, on the basis of sex, shall be excluded participation, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any education program or activities receiving federal financial assistance."

So why the sudden talk about it?

Some complain that men's sports have been sacrificed to achieve equality - with colleges tossing out standards like men's baseball to even things up between the sexes - and others have questioned the separation of athletics from other extracurricular activities.

There was even a question about where to draw the line on what's a sport and what's not. Cheerleading, for example, has been caught in the middle.

Some men say that cheerleading could not be considered a sport and they are discriminated from playing it at some high schools and universities.

But cheerleading, which exemplifies athletics, is a sport.

Men are saying that it is reverse discrimination because money has to be taken away from their sports to sponsor women's sports and they aren't allowed to do cheerleading.

Yet it isn't discriminatory because in some schools women have higher enrollment in extracurricular activities.

Moreover, schools that are in a financial bind tend to cut out some men's sports because women have the higher enrollment - so they need to put money towards women's sports since there are more women students.

While men may not be able to participate in cheerleading in some high schools and universities, women are also discriminated against because they aren't allowed to do football and wrestling at many schools.

As former President Woodrow Wilson once said, "We grow great by dreams. All big men are dreamers. They see things in the soft haze of a spring day or in the red fire of a long winter's evening. Some of us let these dreams die, but others nourish and protect them; nurse them through bad days till they bring them to the sunshine and light which always comes to those who hope that their dreams will come true."

This applies in about 50 ways to Title IX because to women around the world it's a dream come true that Title IX is here for women.

What I say

A baldy but a goodie

Who's who in *The Tattoo*
Flashback: Joe Wilbur

When I joined *The Tattoo* I thought my writing could make people laugh long enough that they'd forget to ask anything more of me. Turned out I wasn't that funny.

In the first piece of any substance I wrote, a *Tattoo* colleague and I made fun of the town's teen beauty queens and got hate mail for weeks. I wrote a lot about music and politics - which will almost always get you in trouble. But it seemed I ticked people off even when I was writing about school plays or doing movie reviews.

The Tattoo's writers and



Joe's alumni pals from *The Tattoo* give him a headful of helping hands.

advisors taught me that making peoples' teeth grind isn't always a bad thing - it means you've gotten under someone's skin and maybe even made them think. A box full of

awards and a few thousand dollars in scholarship money later, I was running my college newspaper and paying the bills writing for daily newspapers.

Under my bed I keep a small box of "thank you" notes from people who've enjoyed my writing and found it worthwhile. My box of hate mail and death threats is so large I have to keep it in the closet. I love them equally and wouldn't have either without *The Tattoo*.

Wilbur is a junior at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He had hair when he wrote for The Tattoo from 1997-2000. He spent this summer as a staff writer for The Bristol Press and also writes columns for The News & Record in Greensboro.

Players strike out with threat

By T.J. O'CONNOR
The Tattoo

Little leaguers dream of one day becoming Major League baseball players, but very few see their dream come true.

The minority of athletes that make it to the majors are greeted with fat paychecks - and, for most, the money changes how they play and think about the game.

Money makes things confusing. Their dream of playing in the pros turns into a dream of making lots of money.

I am a huge sports fan, but I agree with critics who say that professional athletes are overpaid, though I can live with that.

What I can't live with is major league baseball players going on strike because they don't believe that they are being paid enough.

When I was nine years old (before I understood how selfish some athletes really were) my dad and I had front row tickets to a Red Sox game, closer to the field than I'd ever been.

A few days before that game, however, the players' union called a strike and my father had to explain to me why we couldn't go to the

game - because the players were no longer playing for the love of the game.

They were playing for the love of money.

Making a big paycheck should be an extra that comes with being a sports star, not a reason for becoming one.

The giant payoffs have changed sports dramatically.

Back when athletes were paid something close to what most everyone else got, players would take the field when they had broken fingers or severely sprained ankles.

They did for two reasons: they loved to play the game and they knew they might not have a paying job if they didn't play through pain.

The greed that a lot of ballplayers have today is not entirely their fault. It is also the fault of the owners and the fault of sports fans.

If fewer people went to the games, there wouldn't be as much money for the owners to dish out to the players.

In addition, if the owners didn't charge as much for admission to the ballpark, the players would get paid less.

I don't know about you, but I'd rather watch a World Series than watch a bunch of selfish, rich baseball players go

on strike.

Money can dramatically change the mindset of an athlete.

On the ball

As a sports fan I have seen it happen many times when a collegiate player goes to a professional league.

They don't try as hard as they did when they weren't being paid to play.

When money is involved, the games that we used to play for the love of it turn into a business that we do for a check.

I realize that there still are many players who play because they love to play and who only think of the huge amount of money that they make as an extra.

Derek Jeter is one of those players. He goes out on the field every night and gives 110 percent, no matter what the circumstances are.

I love to watch those type of players.

But there are very few.

Major League players owe it to their fans to just shut up and play the game.

Yeah, baby! It's pure gold

By DANIELLE LETOURNEAU
The Tattoo

In the first movie, "shagedelic" spy Austin Powers is thawed out in the 90's, falls in love and, of course, saves the world.

Then a second movie came out, even better than the first, with its fembots, Mini-Me and more. Now, actor Mike Myers is back in a third movie, "Austin Powers in Goldmember," and it's the best yet.

If you are into movies with swinging, sexy beasts, mad, evil doctors with a miniature clone who wants to

take over the world, and hilarious names that make you crack up, then Austin Powers is the one to see. Not only does it bring back Myers, Verne Troyer and all the others but it also features celebrities such as Tom Cruise, Danny DeVito, Britney Spears, Ozzy Osbourne and "The Wonder Years" Fred Savage.

In the film, which opened this weekend, we meet a whole bunch of new characters: the Japanese twins Fook Mi and Fook Yu, Foxy Cleopatra [Beyonce Knowles] and Goldmember.

The story includes a trip to the World Court, scenes with Powers and Dr. Evil as babies and teenagers and a surprise twist in which a member of Dr. Evil's clan changes and another is kicked out.

The ending may even surprise you - though rest assured, the world is saved again.

At the movies



Beyonce Knowles and Mike Myers

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