

## Overcrowded Burlington eyes new school

By JACQUI MOREAU  
The Tattoo

Like many other Connecticut towns, Burlington is growing fast – so fast that its schools are bursting at the seams.

“Because of the good schools and nice rural surroundings,” said Region 10 School Superintendent Evan Pitcoff, “houses continue to develop in the area and the people buying them tend to have children.”

With greater numbers of students entering the schools each year, officials are considering a controversial plan to add a new elementary school in Burlington and carry out more than \$20 million worth of renovations to Lewis Mills High School.

While Region 10 includes

both Burlington and Harwinton, Burlington is having more trouble accommodating the rising enrollment, a problem complicated by the need to remove four modular classrooms that have exceeded their useful lives.

One hundred and twenty of Burlington’s elementary school students are already being bused to Harwinton Consolidated School as a result of Lake Garda Elementary School exceeding its legal capacity.

Each town currently has one elementary school. The towns share a middle and a high school.

While sending Burlington students to Harwinton’s elementary school is a short-term solution, by 2004, the projected student populations of the two

schools will likely exceed the schools’ building capacities.

Many solutions to the overcrowding problem have been proposed, including construction of a school for fourth, fifth and sixth graders. Voters trounced that plan at the ballot box.

A new proposal suggests building another Burlington elementary school.

“The land deal is in the final stages,” said Paul Omichinski, chairman of the building committee. He said the school would be built where Jonnycake Airport is currently located.

Omichinski said the airport has already decided to shut down, unrelated to the school proposal.

Construction of a new elementary school would cost

about \$24.9 million, of which Region 10 taxpayers would cover \$14.8 million.

The school would also need staff and maintenance.

Many residents, particularly those who live in Harwinton, oppose the proposal because of the effect it would have on their taxes.

Harwinton residents have expressed concern that they are being asked to pay for a project that will only help Burlington directly.

The tax impact hasn’t yet been calculated, but it will be before a final decision is made.

Construction costs are expected to increase about 6 percent each year, according to an information brochure prepared by Region 10 recently. In addition, officials pointed out that current bonding rates are

at a 40-year low.

Additions to the elementary schools would cost almost as much as building a new one and would inhibit any future expansions, the brochure said. Administrators also said that smaller schools tend to function better than larger ones.

In the same proposal are provisions affecting the regional high school.

The district plans to put in 10 new classrooms, double the size of the cafeteria, add a new kitchen, increase the gymnasium size by 75 percent and put in a new auditorium, Omichinski said.

Since the construction of Lewis Mills, the number of students has significantly increased and a middle school which shares its facilities was built alongside.

Katherine Pouliard, a senior who is active in drama at Lewis Mills, said the new auditorium “would inspire a greater interest in drama productions. Our current facilities are simply inadequate.”

Regional taxpayers would be on the hook for \$10 million of the projected \$20.7 million high school renovation tab, with the state picking up the rest.

Before any ground can be broken, the final proposal must be approved by the Region 10 Board of Education. Then it faces an all-day public vote by people in both Harwinton and Burlington.

It will probably take several months before the project is put to a vote. If it is approved, Burlington could have a new elementary school as early as the fall of 2004.

## Reporter’s murder calls for new resolve

By KAISHI LEE  
The Tattoo

*My eye is crying all the time  
Until my eye gets sick.  
My eyes. My eyes.  
This is my fate  
I have to wait for it.  
I can't do anything about it.*

– The lead in Daniel Pearl’s May 14, 1996 article, “These Songs Bring Tears To Your Eyes, or Worse.”

They say a picture tells a thousand words.

Head bent, hands cuffed and a 9-mm pistol held menacingly at his head, Daniel Pearl’s bone-chilling pictures told more. They told of a man who was a husband, son, father-to-be and, most importantly, a respected journalist killed on the job.

And more ... a child of Israeli immigrants, a Stanford student, a late-night music host for the campus radio station, a rookie reporter who worked his way up from domestic beats to international assignments.

His bleary eyes showed desperation and a faint glimmer of hope. His cool head and innate charm couldn’t rescue him after being kidnapped on January 23 in Karachi, Pakistan.

Even when Mariane Pearl pleaded with her husband’s kidnapers in a televised interview, there was no news, except stories that his body had been dumped in an unspecified graveyard.

Daniel Pearl was just a pawn in a show of senseless and egoistic violence that clamored for the world’s undivided attention and got it.

The bottom line is that anti-American sentiment is still prevalent.

A Palestinian survivor once said, “We hate Israel

for this (the West Bank-Gaza war). But we hate America more.”

Events in the real world are often never a clear-cut black and white.

Perhaps it’s just me, but I loathe hypocrisy and jingoism.

The Pearl tragedy has frisked us all, but we are finding out what we are carrying around that no one knew we had.

Some good advice to take is what the playwright August Wilson said: that whatever we do, it should be something we look back upon 10 years from now with pride rather than shame.

Considering the extreme complexity and sensitivity of issues that Pearl got caught up in, there is a need, more than ever, to reach out, engage and find common ground.

The full reality is not only important, but something even many Americans have yet to understand: who we are at the end of the day is what we do and not what we say.

Or else we chalk up a small but disconcerting victory for the bad guys.



Dow Jones & Co. photo  
Daniel and Mariane Pearl in Paris on their 1999 wedding day.



Joe Keo / The Tattoo

## Survivor 4 stinks

By KAISHI LEE  
The Tattoo

Let me confess a weakness: I’m a sucker for reality TV.

But watching the debut episode of “Survivor 4: Marquesas” was just as alienating and tortuous an affair as sitting through the Grammys.

During the show, I managed to take several toilet breaks, read the newspapers and channel-surf.

Basically, networks have strip-mined this genre and worn it out so that “Survivor” is just another gagfest – a little slow and full of yawns.

### On the tube

Start by cueing some warbling music and the aggravating Jeff Probst: “It’s the ultimate challenge!

39 days! Sixteen people! One ... survivor!”

Of course, the blueprint of “Survivor” remains: Sixteen men and women are abandoned on the tiny remote island of Nuku Hiva in the South Pacific Marquesas archipelago with no rations of food or water.

Separated into two tribes – Maraamu (Wind) and Rotu (Rain) – they will contend against each other and live off the island.

They take part in challenges, and every three days, someone gets voted out. The last man standing gets \$1 million.

Because everyone is chasing that \$1 million, the 16 manifest a host of banal emotions and conditions that viewers simply want to tune out.

On the first episode of “Survivor 4,” the 16 castaways were forced to abandon a fishing boat ship and paddle several hours to their new homes.

Lots goes wrong, so let’s just pick on the dialogue. When Maraamu reached shore, Sean led a prayer with Peter and said, “We didn’t do this on our own, God’s hand was definitely under the raft guiding us.”

Then more than 23 million viewers watched as Sarah made stupid jokes and pranced around like a lunatic.

While she made dumb comments like “If I win, I want to buy a monkey,” Rob was right there with her, gushing, “Me too. I love monkeys.”

And you know what? There are even more trite bits. When Hunter took charge and assumed the role of leader, Gina said, “I’m already in love with Hunter. He’s a great person and we have so much in common. Hunter knows a little bit about everything.”

Over at the Rotu tribe, after a row with Kathy, John exclaimed, “I am Irish so I have a temper, and she sparked it. Now I became fixated with starting a fire to combat my outburst.”

Still, I bet that after seeing the show, swarms of tourists will descend on the hitherto unspoiled island. Garbage carelessly tossed aside and harassed animals, an endless source of amusement for some tourists, will be the norm.

So consider that the Tribal Council has spoken: “Survivor Marquesas” isn’t just bad. It sucks.

## ESPN shows both sides of Bobby Knight

By T.J. O’CONNOR  
The Tattoo

ESPN’s first original movie, about one season in the career of former University of Indiana Coach Bobby Knight, excels because it does more than just link a bunch of basketball games together. It offers insight and drama as well.

The made-for-TV movie demonstrates Knight’s temper on the sidelines and reveals his soft side off the court – and does a credible job of portraying Knight, played perfectly by actor Brian Dennehy. He even looks frighteningly like the coach

when he loses his temper.

Knight’s outrage at players, officials, and the press – often expressed in colorful language – is uncensored in the movie about the 1985-86 season.

During Knight’s tenure at Indiana he continuously lost his temper. He earned the nickname “The General” for being harsher than an army general on his

players.

Knight was more than just an intimidator, though.

“A Season on the Brink” demonstrates the respect that people had for Knight in Indiana and the disrespectful chants that he received at other universities.

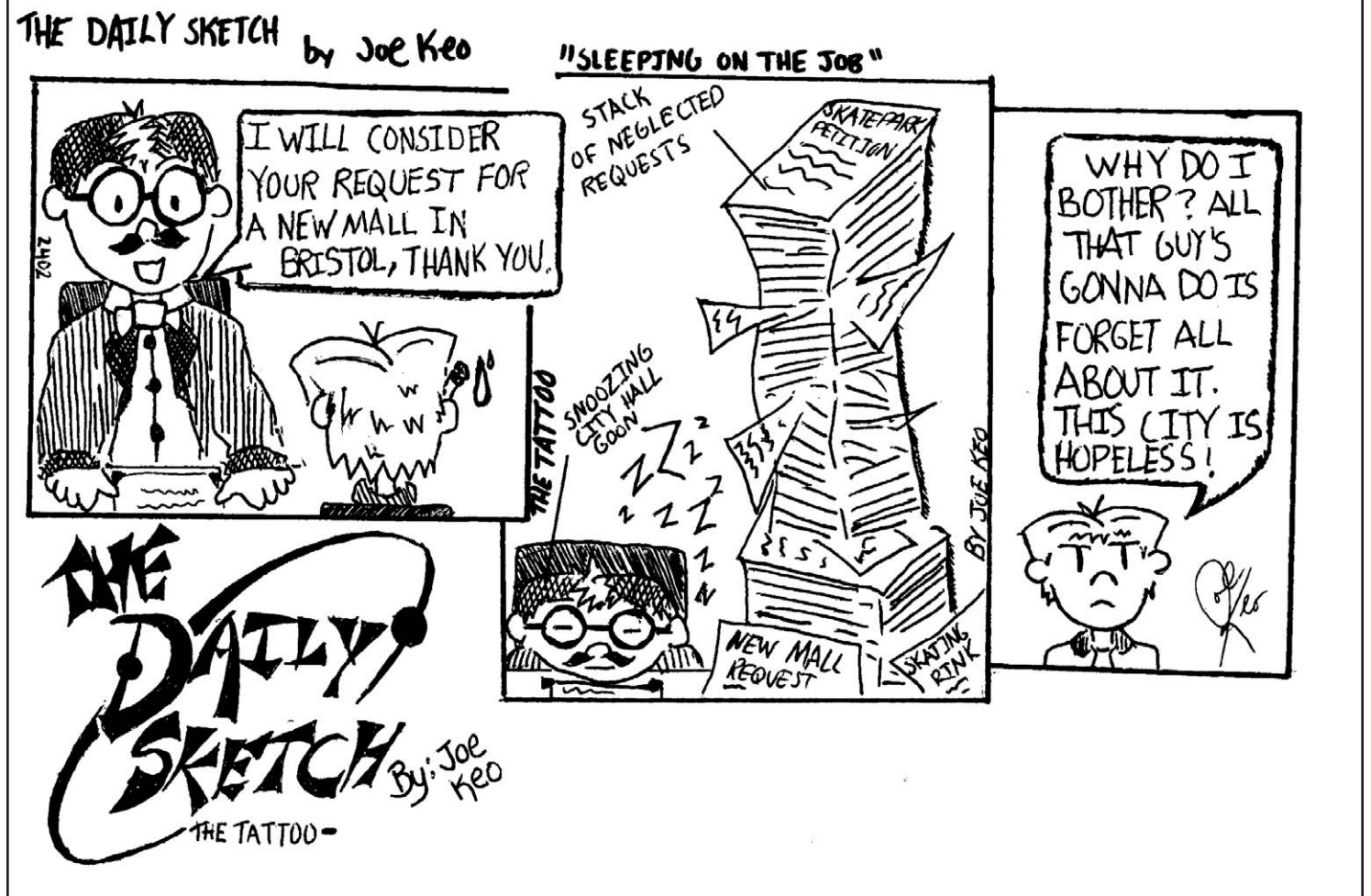
He had a huge heart off the court and he was and remains one of basketball’s best coaches.

All the hype this movie has received was worth it because everyone will enjoy “A Season on the Brink.”

To read a longer version of this review, go to [www.ReadTheTattoo.com](http://www.ReadTheTattoo.com).

**‘A Season on the Brink’**

A review



Joe Keo / The Tattoo