

# THE TATTOO

BRISTOL PRESS

MAKING A PERMANENT IMPRESSION SINCE 1994

VOLUME 5 No. 4

## Central's athletes are back in action on home turf

COLLIN SEGUIN  
The Tattoo

After months of waiting, it's time to play ball on many of the new athletic fields at Bristol Central High School, to the joy of many of the school's fall athletes who will get a chance to use them at last.

"It's good that the sports program is getting some much-needed help," said Jocelin Donahue, a senior on the cross country and track teams.

The soccer teams have used the new fields for games and the football team is practicing on them. With the track completed, the cross country team is doing some of its running there.

Mike Gaughan, a senior on the cross country and tennis teams, said the new fields were worth all of the extra trouble. He was especially impressed with the improved drainage system.

"It rained the day before, and the fields were still dry that day. A definite improvement," Gaughan said.

Chris Melinosky, a senior on the football team, was also impressed.

"It's sure looking green out there," he said.

The \$1.75 million project — which will be duplicated at Bristol Eastern High School soon — was needed for a variety of reasons.

According to Athletic Director John Novakovski, "The fields drained very poorly, which caused some serious problems. When it rained, it took a long time for them to dry. The track was outdated, a stone dust track."

Construction started last fall in the middle of the sports season.

When completed, Central will

have a spiffy, all-weather track, two regulation baseball fields, three regulation soccer fields, a football practice field, five tennis courts, a softball field, and a practice field located in the front of the building.

There were many complaints about the timing of the construction. Some people said the work should have started earlier so it wouldn't have caused as much disruption.

Because of the project, all of the outdoor sports teams, including most of the fall and spring teams, had to be hauled in buses to alternative locations

for practices and games.

"All teams were moved except cross country. Football was moved to Casey Field, the freshman

team to Southside, boys soccer to Chippens Hill, girls to Rockwell, tennis and baseball to Page, the freshman baseball to Riley, and the track

teams had to be combined at Eastern," Novakovski said.

All of this meant extra time for getting on the bus, extra time for the bus ride to the field, extra time to wait for the bus to arrive at the field and extra time for the bus ride home.

It ended up that practices were lasting much longer than they had been before construction. In addition, sometimes bus drivers were misinformed on what time they needed to be at the school, and what team they were expected to bring. As a result, some teams were either left without a ride, or with an increasingly long wait.

This arrangement was, of course, a bit of a hassle for many athletes.

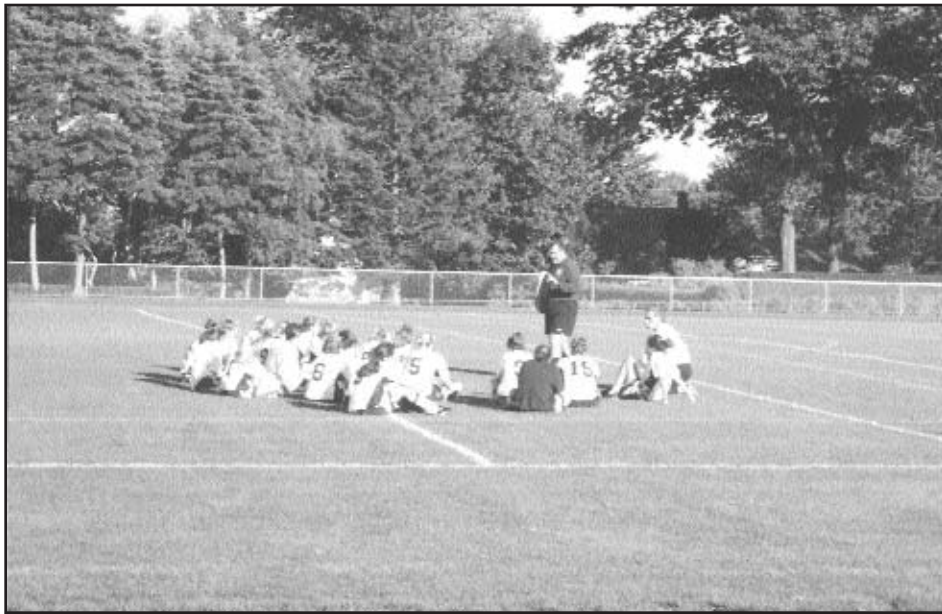
Josh Krampitz, a senior on the cross country and track teams, said that being transported to every practice and meet became "a little tiring and annoying after a while. I started to wonder if the track would ever be done."

So was it worth all the aggravation?

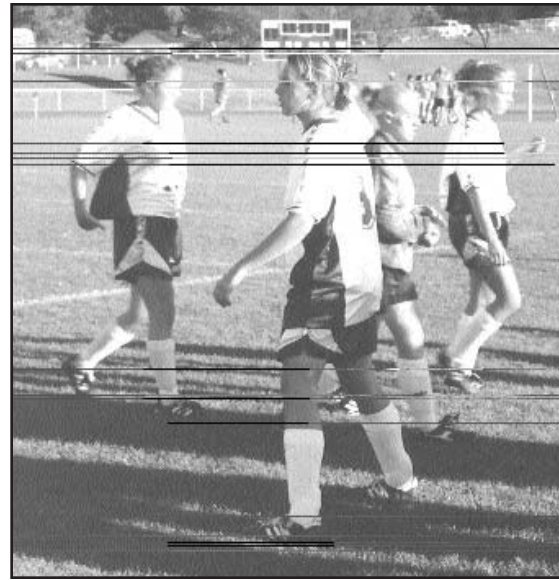
The verdict is still out.

Margo Walerysiak, a senior on the girls soccer team, isn't ready to heap the praise on the new fields just yet.

"The track was outdated, a stone dust track" — John Novakovski, athletic director



Bristol Central High School Varsity girls soccer Coach Tom Moylan gives the team a pep talk during a break in the game last week.



Senior Julie Forcier (center) congratulates teammates after a game against Newington last week.

"Well, I think the wait was probably worth it," Walerysiak said.

She said, "The sidelines are too crooked, but the grass is softer, and you don't run into the baseball field anymore. They didn't do that good of a job planning the fields, but they still are pretty nice. We kind of got used to the fields at Rockwell, and the fact that they were so bad helped us to be able to play on any field."

Bristol Eastern, according to Novakovski, "should be started in the spring. Practices will be handled in much the same manner." The fields used for the Central practices will probably also be used during the Eastern renovations.

At Central at least, there are some very relieved athletes who don't have as many boring bus rides.

## Life under construction

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 1998

Having your school remodeled has its ups and downs, but mostly it's just a pain.

Some kids don't mind it because it gives them an excuse to be a couple minutes late to class. Other times, you could say that it's good to have one of those all too frequent bangs shock you to attention when you're drifting off during a boring lecture.

Personally, I can't say either way, because I'm only a freshman and I haven't experienced Central as a construction-free school, and it looks like I won't be seeing it for awhile. Then again, I don't appreciate starting my high school experience like this in the first place. It's kind of hard to concentrate on what you're doing when the noises above your head are so loud that you think the ceiling is going to fall on your head any minute, or better yet, when the noises make it sound like you're being shot from the next room.

So, while by now I'm pretty much used to it, life under construction isn't the greatest thing in the world, but I know eventually it will make our school even better, and it's not the worst thing in the world. We can all take an extra minute or two to get to class. So, as you're taking that detour towards your next class, just think to yourself how nice the hallways of our schools will look once there aren't any construction workers and debris everywhere.

— Suzanne Gregorczyk, freshman, Bristol Central

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 1998

Sitting in study hall, I'm trying to do my creative writing homework. In front of me sits a clean white sheet of paper, with the words "Where were you last night?"

Ready for my next line, and a good idea strikes. With my pen on the paper, the sound of saws and hammers then slam into my ears from down the hall.

"Last night I was right in the middle of a war zone."

With the construction work going on, I can't even get my homework done.

Every time I got a great idea the construction scrambled my wits about me, so I lost the idea. So I slammed my notebook shut and spent the rest of the period trying to do my chemistry work.

— Leslie Marshall, junior, Bristol Eastern

Thursday, Sept. 24, 1998

Driver's Ed. I was confirming in No.2 pencil that one should always come to a complete stop before turning right on red. "TRY TO REMEMBER WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED ABOUT 'K-TURNS'!" yelled the teacher over a symphony of hammers, nails, and god knows just what else. "WHAT?!" We wailed back.

I had decided to kill them all, one by one, when suddenly it stopped. All of it. Silence. Through the wide gap just below the ceiling on the back wall, there came two voices:

"Hey, you know we went to Red Lobster last night?"

"No...what'dja have?"

"Chicken."

"Chicken?"

"Yeah, chicken."

"OK."

"What? What's wrong with chicken?"

"Nothing. There's nothing wrong with chicken. I didn't say nothing."

"No, you didn't SAY nothing, but..."

We all put down our pencils, looked around us, laughed because we thought that we might cry.

— Joe Wilbur, junior, Bristol Eastern

Thursday, Sept. 24, 1998

While sitting in Mr. McMahon's English class, I was fully enraptured by the lecture he was giving us and actively taking notes (being the wonderful student that I am). When I looked down at my paper and prepared to take notes, I noticed a few little white specks of something on decorating my desk. After poking the suspicious substance a few times to be sure it wouldn't spontaneously jump up and bite me, I shrugged and flicked it off my desk. A short time later, one of those familiar loud bangs that you hear coming from down the hall echoed throughout the classroom, disturbing the attentive students trying to concentrate on their English assignment. Rather amused and slightly annoyed, I looked up at the ceiling, the general direction that the noise seemed to be coming from.

Just my luck. As I lifted my face up to the ceiling, a shower of little white flecks rained down like snowflakes onto my face and desk. Great.

The ceiling was falling on my head, and the rest of the day I got the honor of walking around looking as if I had a severe case of dandruff, all thanks to the lovely renovations.

— Jen Rajotte, freshman, Bristol Eastern

## Mooove over, Bessie... Consumers milked in plastic war

By SHAINA ZURA  
The Tattoo

We know your milk moustache is tres chic, but is your bottle up to snuff?

As if it isn't enough to negotiate the environmental ethics of paper-or-plastic, you now have a choice about the plastic encasing your moo juice.

There's the so-called 'natural' plastic jug with a supposedly environmentally friendly label offered by Garelick Farms, a "light block" bottle that Hood claims saves vitamins, or the old non-nonsense plastic jug used by Guida Dairy.

When tackling your grocery list, this may seem like a trivial concern.

But to the dairies, it's cut throat competition.

Last spring, Hood introduced a bottle like no other. The company claims extensive research showed that light can damage some vitamins found in milk.

Up to 50 percent of some vitamins can be lost after 24 hours of fluorescent light, according to

Hood researchers.

So, in an attempt to prevent the loss of nutrients in milk, they created the "LightBlock" bottle. Made of a pigmented white plastic, it supposedly blocks out seven times more light than the classic clear jug.

Despite the release of Hood's findings, most milk bottlers are sticking with clear plastic.

Mike Guida, vice-president of Guida's Dairy in New Britain, said Hood's claim about light damaged milk is nothing but a "sales gimmick."

Guida said the "last time I climbed into my refrigerator and closed the door, the light went off."

John Kellogg, vice president of Garelick Farms, said the company looked into various bottling techniques for the past two years.

Kellogg said their research showed "inconclusive scientific evidence of a loss of beneficial ingredients" from light exposure, swaying them to opt for the traditional translucent bottle.

Garelick Farms says that their bottle is more environmentally friendly than a pigmented bottle.

They use plastic that can be recycled easily and efficiently in New England recycling centers. They also created a new kind of labeling system. They use recyclable plastic instead of paper and adhesives, making it easier to break down.

Guida said his dairy considered changing the bottle, but decided against it for several reasons.

Guida feels that "the recycling factor is a bigger problem than any loss in milk."

Another factor in the decision for Guida's to remain using a clear bottle is the preference of the consumer.

Guida remembers when glass was still in use, and the company switched from a clear bottle to an amber colored bottle. He says this caused dissatisfaction among the customers because they "could not see if there was anything in there, or if the bottle had been tampered with."

In addition to that, he expressed concern that people cannot see how much milk is left in the bottle, making it difficult to be sure you have enough for the next morning's breakfast.

As far as Bristol is concerned, Garelick Farms and Guida's Dairy are correct on the recycling angle. According to Jonathan Bilmes, director of the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility Operating Committee, the regional trash plant prefers uncolored plastic.

Before recycling, Bilmes said, the bottles are sorted into groups of colored or clear.

The problem occurs for the people who process the bottles. There is a higher value for the 'natural' plastic.

So, when Bristol residents recycle LightBlock bottles, plastic processors get less money.

For the consumer, scientific evidence varies depending on who you ask.

So if marketing claims have swayed your choice, it's time to ask yourself: got milked?

## Vampire hot spots and a big smooch

Blade

Wesley Snipes hits the big screen as Blade, the day-walking vampire half-breed who is out to avenge the vampire who killed his mother. In the movie, Snipes roams the cities of the world, mainly a New Yorkesque metropolis, sniffing out vampire hot spots, and destroying his fair share of vampire cronies.

Along the way Blade exposes the whole evil chain of vampire command that has bought out the police and is moving to a city near you. Eek! More frightening than that is Reverend Frost, Stephen Dorff, a young revolutionary who wants vampires to take over the world by awakening the long dormant blood god. After all, vampires are at the top of the food chain.

But there's no way Blade and his two human sidekicks are giving up that easy.

With enough severed body parts to fill up a morgue, this film is rated gory, but good. It has tons of action packed fight scenes, a plethora of life threatening weapons, and a little bit of the sci-fi element woven in.

Blade is a perfect pick for action and horror lovers alike. Hematophobics need not apply.

— Amanda Lehmert

### Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss

Let's start by saying that I'm not an independent film guy. This established, you'll understand why I had to spend the first five minutes wondering what I was doing in the audience of a movie I'd never heard of, by an unknown director, with no big names and a shoestring budget. It also occurred to me that I was probably the

At the movies

only straight male at a homosexual romantic comedy.

Twenty minutes into the movie I'd abandoned all reservations. Tommy O'Haver directs what I'd say was one of a handful of romantic comedies of the last decade that I could stomach. The genre has grown as bloated by uninspired plots with big name players as "independent" film has stale in the warm glow of admiration from the coffee house crowd.

Billy Collier, a struggling gay photographer, is bored with sure where his next latte's coming from. That is, until he meets Gabrielle, the striking Brad Pitt clone waiting tables at the local coffee house. Billy's not only smitten, but uses Gabe as a model, finding instant success. Billy's head over heels, but is Gabrielle gay? I'm not telling. Suffice to say this is a humorous look at relationships, straight or gay, platonic or romantic. Finally, something worth your \$7.50.

— Joe Wilbur



### Understanding our rating system

- 1 - No Tattoo:** Quite obviously, no tattoo is the best tattoo. Go see this right away.
- 2 - Rose on the shoulder:** Slightly tasteful, still not your best assertion of sophistication. You could do worse things with your Saturday night.
- 3 - Reptile on the ankle:** Cute but crude, wouldn't you rather read a book?
- 4 - Spider in a prominent area:** You'll wish you hadn't done it in an hour and a half, but if you need an excuse, you can always claim that you were intoxicated.
- 5 - Ex-boyfriend's name on forehead:** What were you thinking? Save your \$7.50.

## The Tattoo: Bristol's finest are teen journalists

The Tattoo is published occasional Mondays in The Bristol Press. It is produced by a group of area high school students working under the direction of volunteer advisors Steve Collins and Jackie Majerus, both veteran Bristol Press reporters.

We welcome your suggestions, comments and questions about this page or about The Tattoo.

To reach us, phone Collins or Majerus at 589-5316 or e-mail us at

SteveJackie@prodigy.net

Keep watching on Mondays. We are still on a roll. More editions will be printed soon!

Now in its fifth year, The Tattoo is also on the Internet.

If you would like to be notified via e-mail when we go to press, drop us a line and we'll put you on the list. The Tattoo's web site is: [http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Majerus\\_Collins](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Majerus_Collins)