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Magazine



VOLUME 8 - ISSUE 3 - DECEMBER 2007

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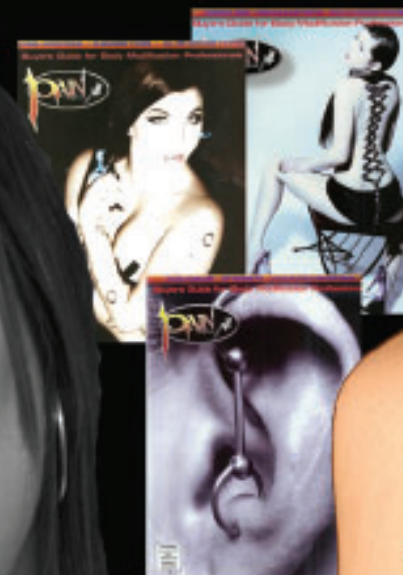
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# PRICK

THE WORLD'S FIRST FREE TATTOO AND PIERCING LIFESTYLE PUBLICATION

DECEMBER 2007 VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

A universal shout out and huge thanks goes out to all our readers, advertisers and supporters for making this a monumental year in the life of PRICK and it's staff. Merry \_\_\_\_\_ (whatever you celebrate). Love and fuzzy thoughts ... Enjoy this issue!  
- Chuck B.

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ON THE COVER:  
Becky Lavender photographed by  
Empireart.de

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Lacey of VH1's *Rock of Love* on stage with her band Nocturne



Joanna Angel licking some of Riki Rachtman's sweet honey



Joanna Angel and Lacey Conner strike a pose for the camera



Steve-O enlightens the crowd with obscenities

# METAL SKOOL TAKES OVER THE SUNSET STRIP

PRICKIN' AROUND L.A.

BY GUSTAVO MONTOYA  
PHOTOS BY JASON FISHER

The historic Key Club on Sunset Boulevard in West Hollywood, Calif. recently held their special Halloween edition of Metal Skool. That's the night that live rockers take over the club, performing a well-spandexed selection of '80s hair-metal standards. The evening was hosted by metal man Riki Rachtman, who came dressed as the loveable Winnie the Pooh. The crazy festivities began appropriately with Lacey Conner from VH1's *Rock of Love* with her band Nocturne. She writhed around on the floor, and rocked out to her own goth-industrial beats and over the top lyrics. The Key Club also held a costume contest, which was judged by Conner and Joanna Angel, former *PRICK* cover girl and founder of *Burningangel.com*. That was followed by the Metal Skool rockers who were joined onstage by Jani Lane, of glam metal's Warrant, for their rendition of crowd-favorite "Cherry Pie." The always charismatic Steve-O, hopped up on stage and amused the crowd with his own brand of charm (mostly just screaming obscenities). The costumed and crowded club loved it all. They proved that they still know how to party it up on the Sunset Strip. ★



Michael Starr of Metal Skool, Jani Lane of Warrant, and Satchel of Metal Skool perform their rendition of Warrant's classic "Cherry Pie," much to the crowd's delight



The crowd of tattoo artists and collectors, most with a Pabst in hand, gather at Aurora Coffee



Artwork hanging on the walls, including works by Josh May

# MEMORIAL TATTOO PRESENTS FAMILY ART SHOW

PRICKIN' AROUND ATLANTA

BY SEAN DETTMAN PHOTOS BY SYLVIA HAGAR

On October 26th, Aurora Coffee – preferred hangout of Atlanta's bohemian hipsterati – hosted a night of fun time art by the good folks down at Memorial Tattoo. The show exhibited the work of Phil Colvin, Dave Kruseman, Josh May, and the shop's newest artist, Mikey Jenkins. All four of these artists have their own personal style, and it was nice to see an exhibition that is able to show how artists in the same field, working with the same sorts of subject matter, interpret and express themselves differently. This art in the midst of catering trays with meat and cheese, libations by Pabst, and a good crowd full of tattooed appreciators, it was ensured that a good time would be had by all. ★

For more information, go to [www.memorialtattooatl.com](http://www.memorialtattooatl.com).



By Dave Kruseman



By Mikey Jenkins



By Phil Colvin

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**GERMAN GLAMOUR GIRL  
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BY SEAN DETTMAN  
 PHOTOS BY BOMMI, PICTURERAIL.DE, EMPIREART.DE,  
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Hailing all the way from Essen, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, Beccy is a full-time modeling mom who's posing predilections lean toward the fiercely fetishistic, the pretty pin-up, and the ardent avant-garde. Her photo shoots often include guns, skimpy clothing, washed-out filters, and a heavy contrast of colors. Let's just say that she's here for beauty's sake. Beccy is a proud parent, professional model, loving wife, overzealous groupie, and—as if you girls weren't already jealous—she's co-conspirator in a plot to overtake the alt-fashion avenue with her own clothing company, Spookabella.

One day she'd like to write a book about her life, but is currently content to tell her stories through her work; and a lovely bit of artistic expression it is. Last year she suffered a stroke and continues to find solace in the important and meaningful aspects of her day-to-day: "I really love my family; they are just the most important people in my life!" And really, who could blame her?

**How long have you been modeling?**  
 I started modeling in 2004, two months after the birth of my son. If you had asked me two years before I started modeling, I would have thought this to be the last thing in the world that I would do. Maybe the hormones during my pregnancy changed a lot. I really love to model.

**Who did your tattoos?**  
 Sascha Sandrock at Sonic Soul Tattoo did my left arm and belly. My leg is by Brambilla Bachmann from Lebenslaenglich. She is such a great artist and I will get a lot more of her work in the future. My tattoos tell something about my past, my future, my attitude, and—sometimes—I just like the idea behind them. It makes me really happy to see my tattoos every day. They are what I am and how I feel.

**What gave you the idea to start Spookabella?**  
 Well, that was my husband's idea. He has a band called The Spook and wanted to do a girly shirt that might fit to the band's character; he came up with the name Spookabella. Later, we thought



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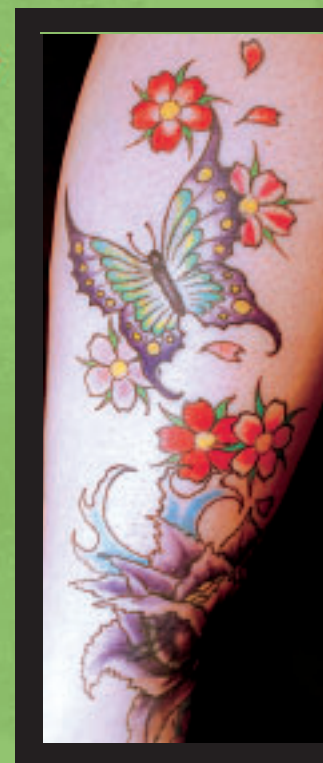
# Billy Monroe's SCREAMIN' INK

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about doing more designs with the name Spookabella and came up with the idea of starting a small, girly brand with cute and gloomy designs. We got a lot of good feedback and lots of models wanted to work for us. We are really happy about so much support! There will be a lot more in the near future.

#### What are you asking Santa to bring you this year?

As a mom, I hope that he brings my son a lot of presents. If he is happy, I am happy. However, I do need some new shoes, clothes, and new cell phone—hey, I am just a girl. ★

For more information, go to [www.beccy.net](http://www.beccy.net), or [www.spookabella.com](http://www.spookabella.com).

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Shannon Cummings' tattoo by Annie Frenzel won 3rd Place Best Color on Friday



Oh Fudge! Another awesome tattoo by Big AI of Smokin' Guns, this one is on Selina Rager



This skull by Nate Beavers of I-45 Ink won 2nd Place for Tattoo of the Day on Friday



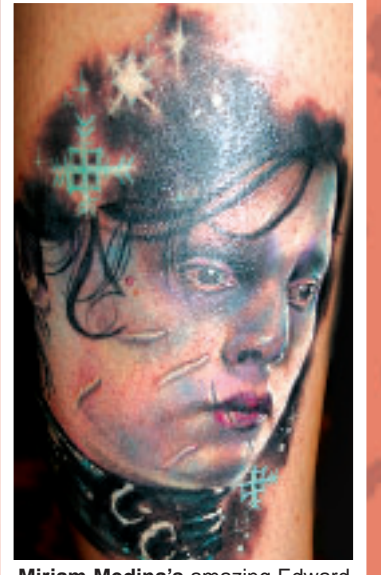
Jason Reed's tattoo by Taylor Cort of Liquid Dragon won Tattoo of the Day on Saturday

# NORTH CAROLINA TATTOO CONVENTION

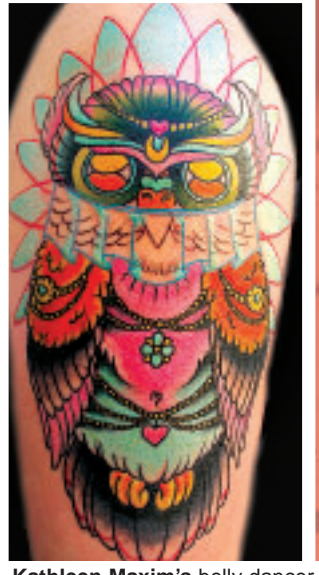
BY SYLVIA HAGAR TATTOO SHOW

This past September 7th-9th Little John, of Little John's Tattoo and Pirate Production, hosted the 13th annual North Carolina Tattoo Convention. The event, held in Greensboro, N.C., drew in a total of seventy-one tattoo artists and over forty shops from across the country which was the fundament of one promising weekend and fun times. The hallways were filled with over 4,500 tattoo enthusiasts, and all artists stayed busy throughout the three days.

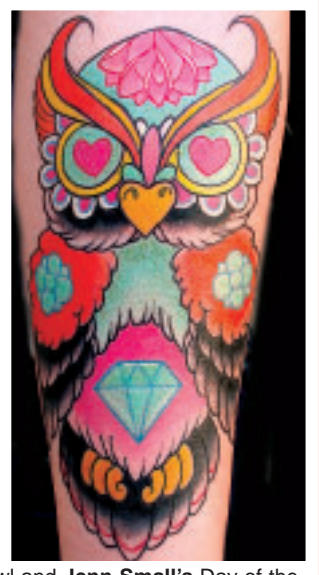
The convention had a great amount of vendors selling merchandise from shirts to tattoo after care, and prints as well as sketch books. Nobody needed to leave this weekend event empty handed. Little John did a fine job with keeping everybody entertained at all times, even the ADHD were kept busy with the abundance of amusement. Besides bands, DJs and sexy hula hoop dancers, one of the highlights was midget wrestling that of course, drew in a huge party crowd.



Miriam Medina's amazing Edward Scissorhands tattoo by Big AI



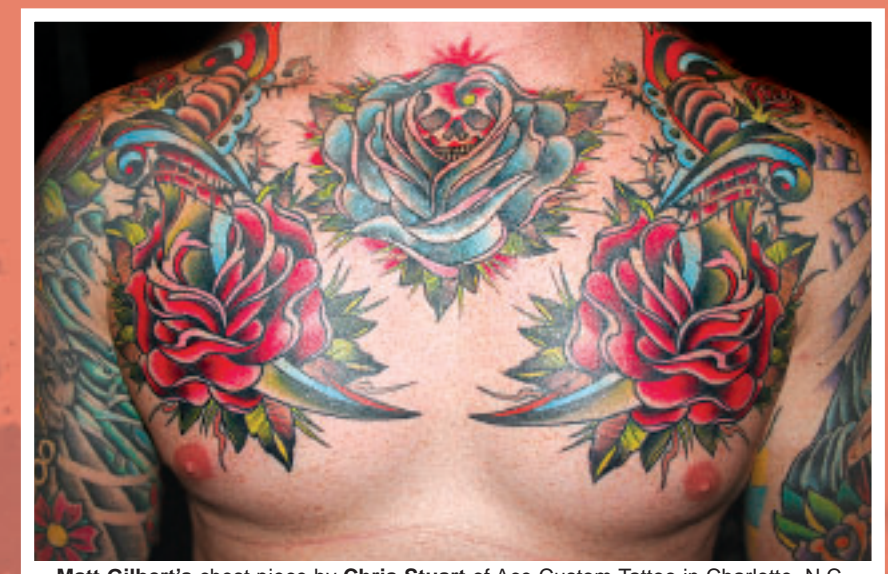
Kathleen Maxim's belly dancer owl and Jenn Small's Day of the Dead owl are part of Annie Frenzel's prodigious owl collection



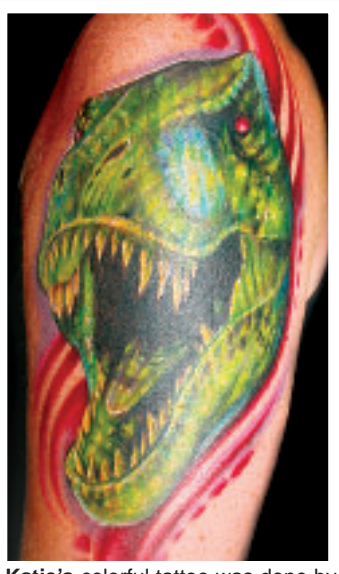
Jenn Small's Day of the Dead owl are part of Annie Frenzel's prodigious owl collection



Ray Wates' side tattoo by Rodney Raines of Ace Custom Tattoo won for Best Large Color



Matt Gilbert's chest piece by Chris Stuart of Ace Custom Tattoo in Charlotte, N.C. won for Best Traditional Tattoo



Katie's colorful tattoo was done by Taylor Cort of Liquid Dragon



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Donnie Bell's tattoo by Caroline Hedgepeth of Gary's Skin Grafix won 1st Place Black and Gray



Josh Higgs' tattoo by Big Al of Smokin' Guns won 3rd Place Best Black and Gray



Debo's beautiful tattoo by Mario Bell of Two Kings Tattooing won 2nd Place Best Black and Gray



Mike Henry's sleeve was done at Glenn's Tattoo Service in N.C.

## NORTH CAROLINA TATTOO CONVENTION



Glenn Wilson of Glenn's Tattoo Service hard at work on Megan Husks' leg

All in all the convention felt like a huge family reunion. There were new faces to meet, familiar faces to catch up with, and even some fist to face conversations. But the most important part is that everyone left happy and the turn out was a great amount of breathtaking tattoos.

To date this was the biggest and best N.C. convention, and according to Daron James the next year will be just as interesting. He told PRICK, "next year's convention is going to be completely underwater; we have discovered the secret city of Atlantis. The guys from H2Ocean should be thrilled." So pack your snorkels and fins kids, and don't miss Greensboro 08! ★

For more information, go to [www.littlejohnstattoo.com](http://www.littlejohnstattoo.com).



Brittany Hinson getting her hips tattooed by Philly John of Imperial Dragon Tattoo

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Amanda and Mike Henry showing off their work by Glenn Wilson and Rex Barnes respectively



Mark's back piece by Harry Aron of Harry's Tattoo Shop in Danville, Va. won 1st Place Black and Gray



The lovely Carla getting tattooed by Frank Thrasher of Smokin' Guns Tattoo

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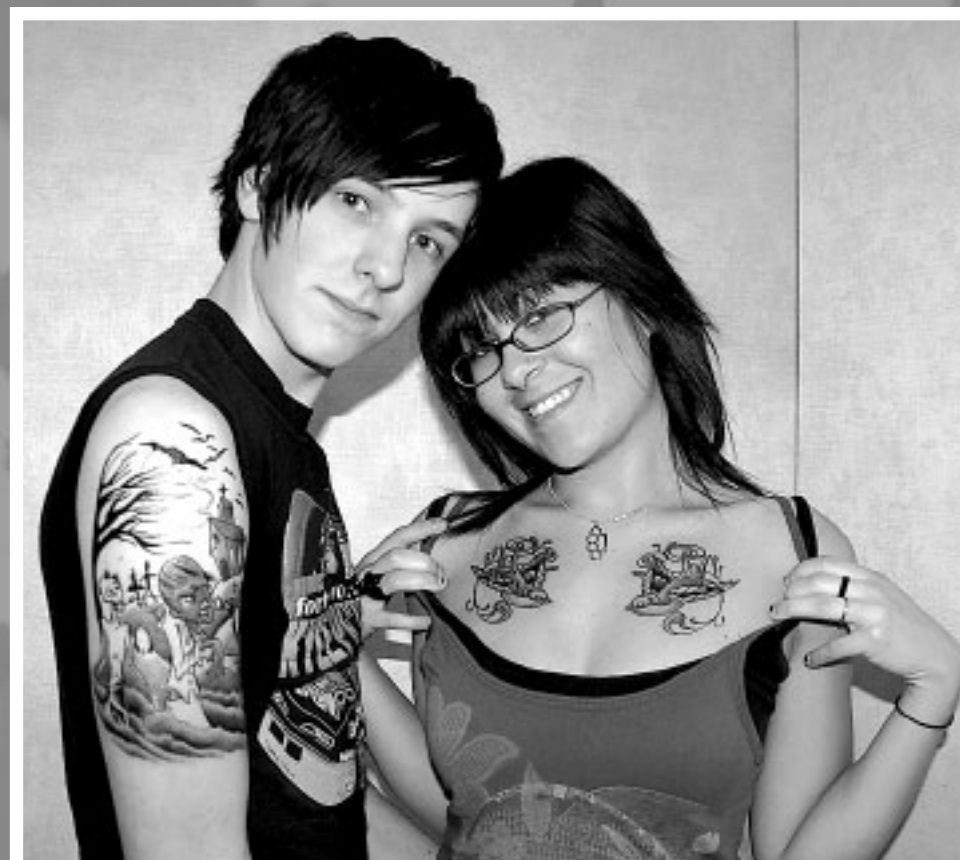
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Will Joyner and Desiree Dejesus showing off their work done at Rocksteady Tattoo



Tattoo convention regulars Gretchen Ellenberg and Jenn Small having a good time



Little John taking the pups for a walk

**MORE COVERAGE FROM THE  
N.C. TATTOO CONVENTION**



Rossalynn Ferguson getting worked on by Adrian Warwick



The "off the wall" midget wrestling spread from the ring and into the hallways



The tuff dude posse: Chew of Jade Monkey Tattoo, Daron of Little John's, and TEO

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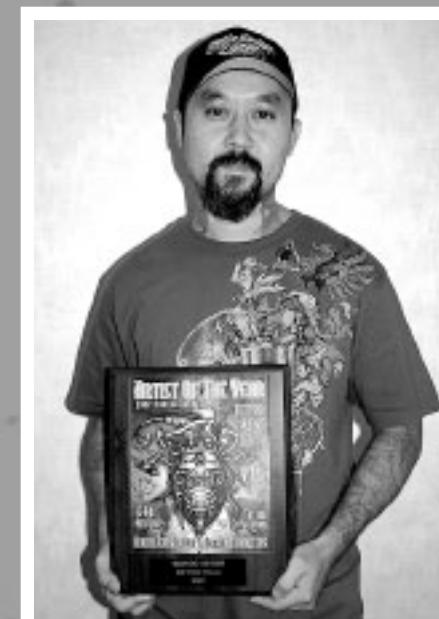
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Lovely Desiree Dejesus excited to get work done by Davy Sheets of Rocksteady Tattoo



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Robert Pho proudly showing off his trophy for Tattoo Artist of the Year 2007



The tuff dude posse: Chew of Jade Monkey Tattoo, Daron of Little John's, and TEO

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The cameras rolled as Seth Ciferri tattooed a traditional piece on Chase Lisbon's leg in Boston (photo by James Lindley)

## TATTOO WARS

BEHIND THE SCENES OF TLC'S TATTOO REALITY TV SHOW  
BY STEPHEN JEFFERSON

As the first tattoo-based reality TV show to focus on the actual tattoo and not drama or personal meanings, TLC's recent *Tattoo Wars* set itself apart from the crowd. Each episode pitted two of today's best tattoo artists against each other in a friendly head to head competition. After a little back story on each artist, the show traveled to a tattoo convention where the real action happened. The tattoo artists had limited time to draw and tattoo a specified theme using the artist's own style. The winner was then picked by the convention crowd. The handful of episodes were interesting and insightful, and offered a deeper look into the creation of a tattoo.

*Tattoo Wars* gained quite a cult following in the tattoo community for its realism and integrity, even though the show was not advertised or promoted by the network. *PRICK* was on hand at many of the conventions where the show was being filmed, and we captured some of the magic happening from behind the scenes. A lot of truly amazing work was created by all of the modern day tattoo masters. As fans of the show, we look forward to either another season of *Tattoo Wars*, or more reality TV shows that focus on the true art of tattooing. ★



Graffiti artist **Saber** was lucky enough to get both of his arms tattooed at the same time by biomechanical masters **Guy Aitchison** and **Aaron Cain** at the Hell City Tattoo Fest. Aaron Cain won this battle. (photo by Max Brand)



*Tattoo Wars* producer **Hugh King** smiles as **Tom Renshaw** congratulates winner **Deano Cook** in Calgary



**Michelle Myers** tattooing **Kevin McGoey** at the Boston show. Myers won against Ciferri. (photo by James Lindley)

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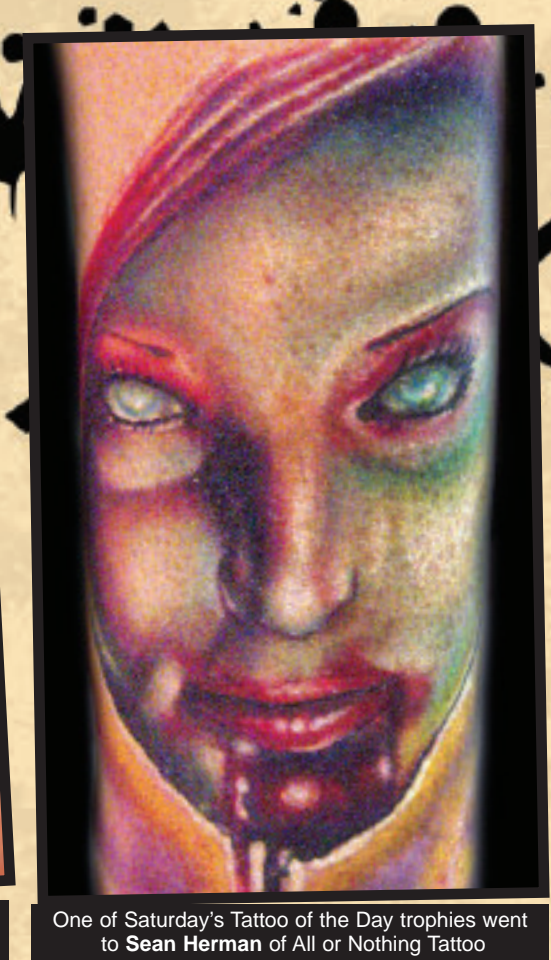
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THE FUTURE IS NOW



American Psycho tattoo done by Matthew Lukesh of Seppuku Tattoo in Savannah, Ga.



One of Saturday's Tattoo of the Day trophies went to Sean Herman of All or Nothing Tattoo



Florida has it all: beautiful women and beautiful tattoos. Rachael (L) has tattoos by Graham of 8th Day Tattoo, and Danielle (R) has tattoos by Mike Webb of 13 Roses Tattoo

# JACKSONVILLE TATTOO CONVENTION

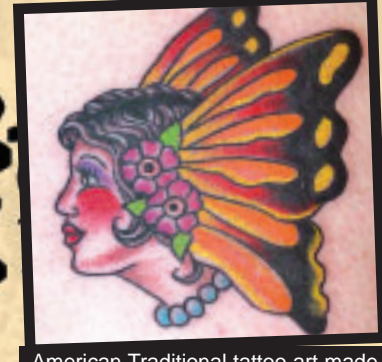
BY MAX BRAND

TATTOO SHOW

For three years, Jacksonville has been treated to a weekend of fun, sun, and tattoos. Brought to you by Convention Pros and Oddity Ink, the 3rd Annual Jacksonville Tattoo Convention was held at its new home in the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel, just across the river from last year's event. The first weekend in September is a beautiful time to be in Florida. The days near the river are warm and breezy, and the nights are hot and long. Bringing a group of tattoo artists and fans together is about the only thing that could make it better. On the convention floor, this show isn't about music, or sideshows...it's about tattoos. Be sure to check out the 2008 convention in Jacksonville. Plans are already underway at [Conventionpros.com](http://Conventionpros.com). ★



Jax Tattoo Convention promoter Santana of Oddity Ink with Paul Rogers



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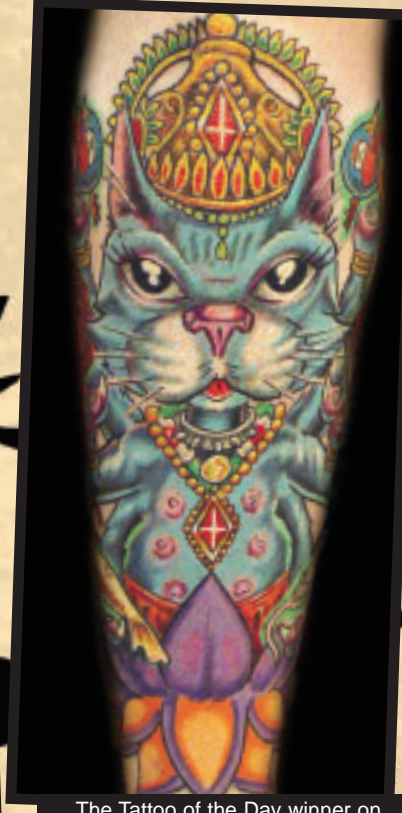
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This crazy portrait was done by Matt Lukesh of Seppuku Tattoo



"I'm Seeing Red" by Josh Woods of All or Nothing Tattoo, and a winner of Tattoo of the Day on Friday



The Tattoo of the Day winner on Saturday was Trevor Wilson of Lucky 7 Tattoo

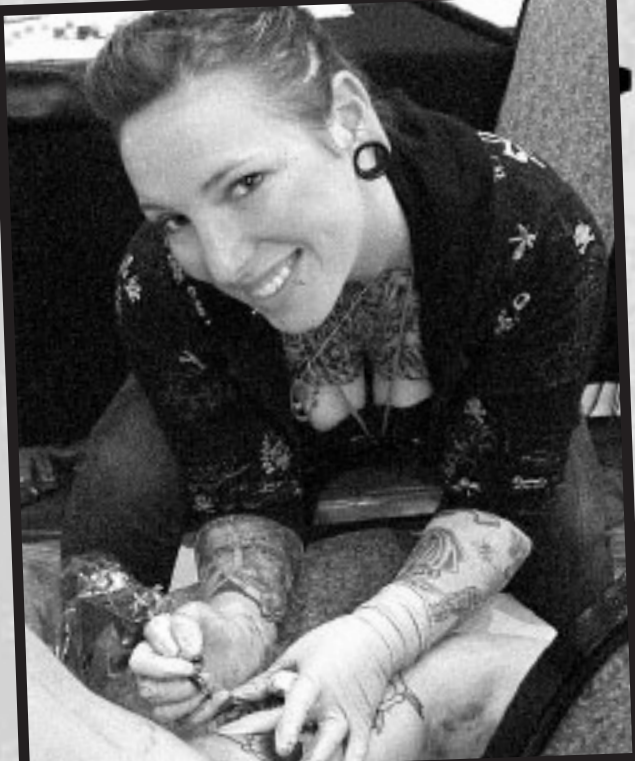




Stevie Floyd is a popular face at most Florida tattoo conventions



Brett Bennett of Aftermath Tattoo in Lake Worth, Fla.



It's a good thing James Brown isn't around, cause it turns out, it isn't a man's world afterall...



"Let It Be" tattooed by Rod Cruz of 8th Day Tattoo



Tattoo by Tom Depriest of Sacred Heart Tattoo in Norcross, Ga.

## MORE COVERAGE FROM THE JACKSONVILLE CONVENTION



Lil Rat of Beyond Taboo Tattoo in Macon, Ga. gives Katherine Flakes a pin-up tattoo of herself



Jason June of Daredevil Tattoo in NYC and JJ Dunbar of Oddity Ink in Jacksonville, Fla. working on a collaboration



Freddy Krueger was tattooed by Eric Blair of Autograf Tattoo



Staci Black of Limelight Tattoo working on Kim's shoulder



Trevor Wilson of Lucky 7 and his happy client Jackie show off their 1st place trophy.

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Alan Bresnei won 1st Place Best Sleeve, and 1st Place Black and Gray with tattoos by Tony Unbaneck



Angel wearing an "Angel Wing Corset" pierced into her back by Retro of A New Dimension



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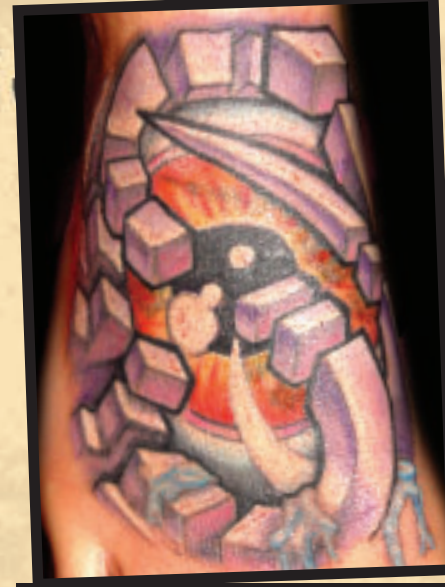
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Kyle Miller of 8th Day Tattoo did this colorful snail on Autumn



Trevor Wilson covered this foot with a new school color bomb

## MORE COVERAGE FROM THE JACKSONVILLE CONVENTION



1st Place Best Color went to Shannon P. for her tattoo by Matt Lukesh of Seppuku Tattoo



This cute little guy won a trophy for Tattoo of the Day on Friday, and is by Jeff Paetzold of All or Nothing Tattoo

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# SEBASTIAN BACH



**BACH IN THE SADDLE AGAIN**  
**TATS AND TUNES**

BY LISA SHARER  
PHOTOS BY SYLVIA HAGAR AND COURTESY OF SEBASTIAN BACH

**T**oday, '80s hair metal has come around full circle. Whether you found yourself strumming your air guitar fifteen years ago, or now...almost everyone can accredit some cosmetology efforts to the stylings of icons like Sebastian Bach. Ex-frontman of Skid Row, accomplished TV personality, and star of Broadway; Bach has become a household name. His lyrics made you pump your fists as a teenager, and now he's back at it with more gripping ballads and hair twirling breakdowns. This holiday season can be filled with an *Angel Down* and a

mistletoe tradition that is pretty hard, or not so hard, to believe.

Bach is not your average rocker covered in tattoos from head to toe, but the ones he does have are worth a thousand words. He admittedly doesn't love all his tattoos, but most represent Bach for who he is today. A simple flower on his shoulder, a few art pieces and lyrics on his forearms, and a roadrunner on his hip, says rock star all the way; or it just says that this guy has a great sense of humor.

The flower on his shoulder was an adventure in itself. On a trip to Japan in 1989, Bach decided that only a tattoo could commemorate the amazing travel experience. "You're not really allowed to get tattoos in Japan, but we knew some dudes. I had to explain why I wanted a



Sebastian Bach's new tattoo on his forearm by Kat Von D, which was filmed for *LA Ink*

tattoo. It's all like this heavy respect thing there. They won't give you one because you want one, there has to be a reason." In an attempt to explain himself, Bach came down from the pedestal some might place him on and joined the ranks of the humble. He told them, "well I never thought in a million years that I would ever come to Japan, let alone play music that ya'll know and...you dig it. And it's just mind-blowing to me that [it's possible to] come to this country that's so foreign to a guy like me."

In their best judgment, this group of guys decided to honor Bach with their tradition of a bamboo tattoo. "So it was a really covert operation. They put me in a car, and then we literally changed cars, you know half way there. I'm not making it up; we got in another car where these dudes are like shuffling me around. I'm not going to say who I was really with because I can't, but they're some scary dudes. So, I end up in this back alley kind of road that's not really a road, knocking on this door, going up these stairs. It was crazy." Upon entering a room of drapes, Bach found flash adorning the walls. He tells us how he walked around deciding on a tattoo when he was told, "no, no, no we pick your tattoo."



Sebastian Bach in the studio with the Axl Rose. The reclusive Rose sings on three tracks of Bach's new CD, *Angel Down*



Sebastian Bach rockin' out on stage!



Sebastian Bach caught holding his *PRICKS*



"They're all sitting there like [statues] and they all have suits and ties, and then they take off their [clothes] they were full body sleeves, every inch of their bodies. The guy that's doing my tattoo is grinding up the ink in a wood bowl with like a spoon or something. It was very archaic, "old school" to say the least. And I notice he didn't have half his finger. And I was lying down with these dudes around me. And the guy that's giving me the tattoo is looking at me. Half of me starts freaking out that they were going to chop off my fucking finger. I'm not even joking you. They let me have my finger, and I got a cool tat with a cool story."

the song and looking at the tattoo. I got this tattoo man, and he's always going to be by my side."

As you can see, his passion goes far beyond the music, in fact another tattoo on his arm is in dedication to his son, Paris. The road runner tattoo on his hip is the same exact tattoo that his father had, in the same exact place. Bach talks very fondly of his family, and is looking forward to a rest at home for the holidays. "I'm going to put mistletoe on my belt buckle! Time for a kiss, Merry Christmas!" All smiles, Bach is looking forward to the response of his new album, and maybe some new tattoos. ★

For more information, go to [www.sebastianbach.com](http://www.sebastianbach.com).

## "I'M GOING TO PUT MISTLETOE ON MY BELT BUCKLE!"

His most recent tattoo, is a bit more recognizable. He was recently a guest on *LA Ink*, where Kat Von D tattooed Bach's new cover art on his forearm. This striking piece of art was actually a piece done by Bach's late father, David Bierk. "Just because he's dead doesn't mean that his art has to die. So, I figure what better way than to get his art tattooed on my arm," says Bach.

"One of the songs on my new record is called 'By Your Side'. After I got this [cover art tattoo] done, I was running. I was listening to my new album on my iPod, while I was running. And I didn't even think about this, but the song by your side is about [my dad]. Bach described the feeling of running while listening to the lyrics repeating "I'll be right there by your side, by your side." His arms pumping by his side, the tattoo popped into his peripheral vision over and over again. "To me [the tattoo is] him, he's in heaven. And he's here by my side, and I just started crying. This is the first tattoo that's made me cry. Because it just hit me and it was so weird, and I was listening to



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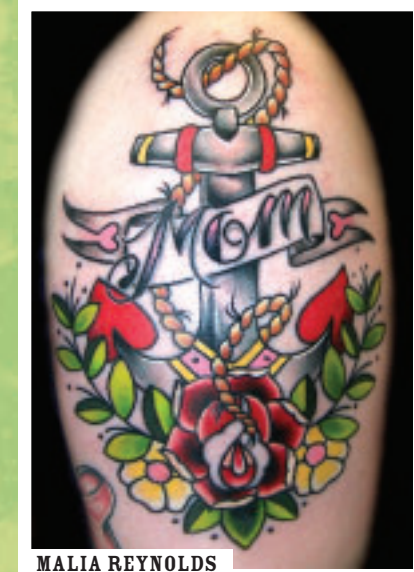
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## INK & DAGGER TATTOO PARLOUR

BY GEOFFREY STEPHENSON  
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF INK & DAGGER

SHOP OF THE MONTH

Nestled away in a quaint location sits Ink & Dagger Tattoo Parlour, one of the Atlanta area's newest tattoo shops. Ink & Dagger is owned by artist Russ Abbott, who is no stranger to *PRICK*. Abbott's tattoos have been featured plenty of times over the years in our magazine, and many of our staff wear his work on our sleeves, literally. Ink & Dagger recently held their grand opening party, which received a great response from the local tattooed community. We had the opportunity to sit down with Abbott and find out more about his new spot.



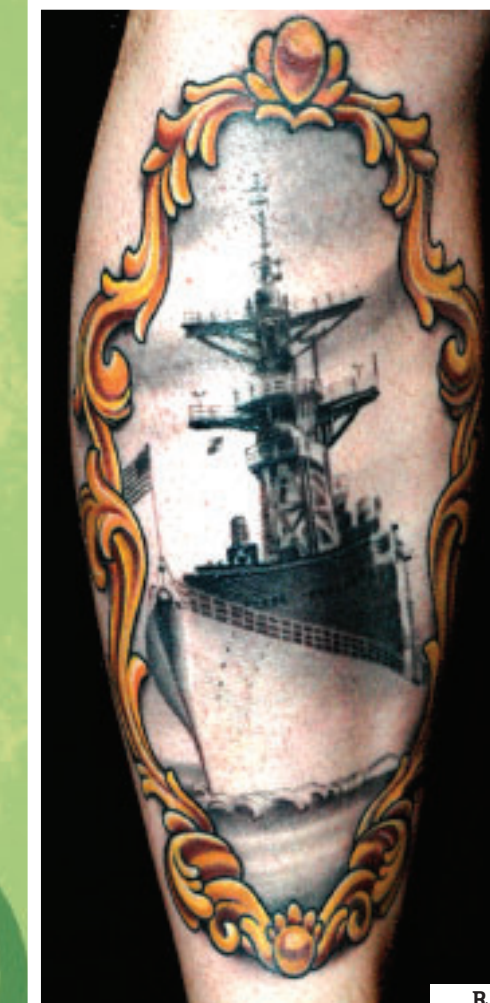
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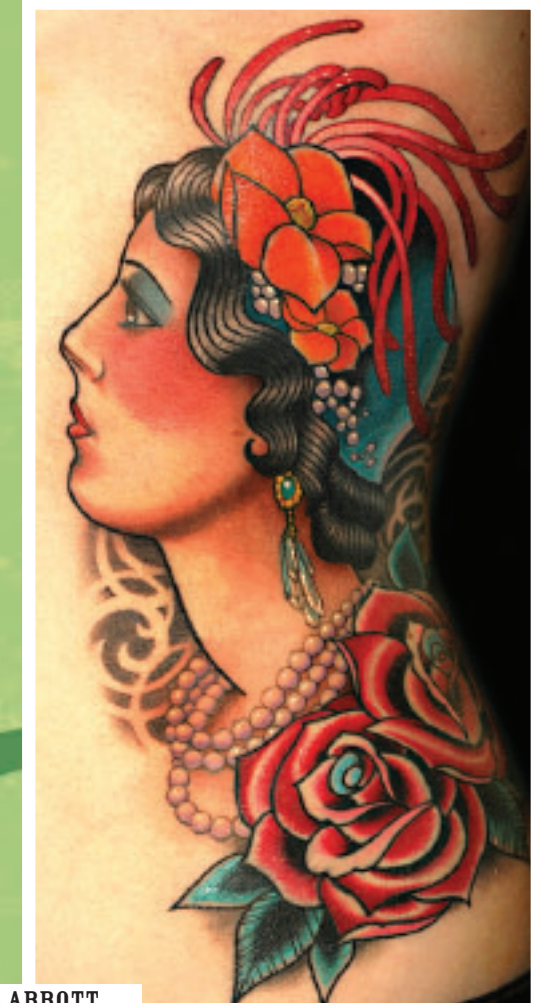
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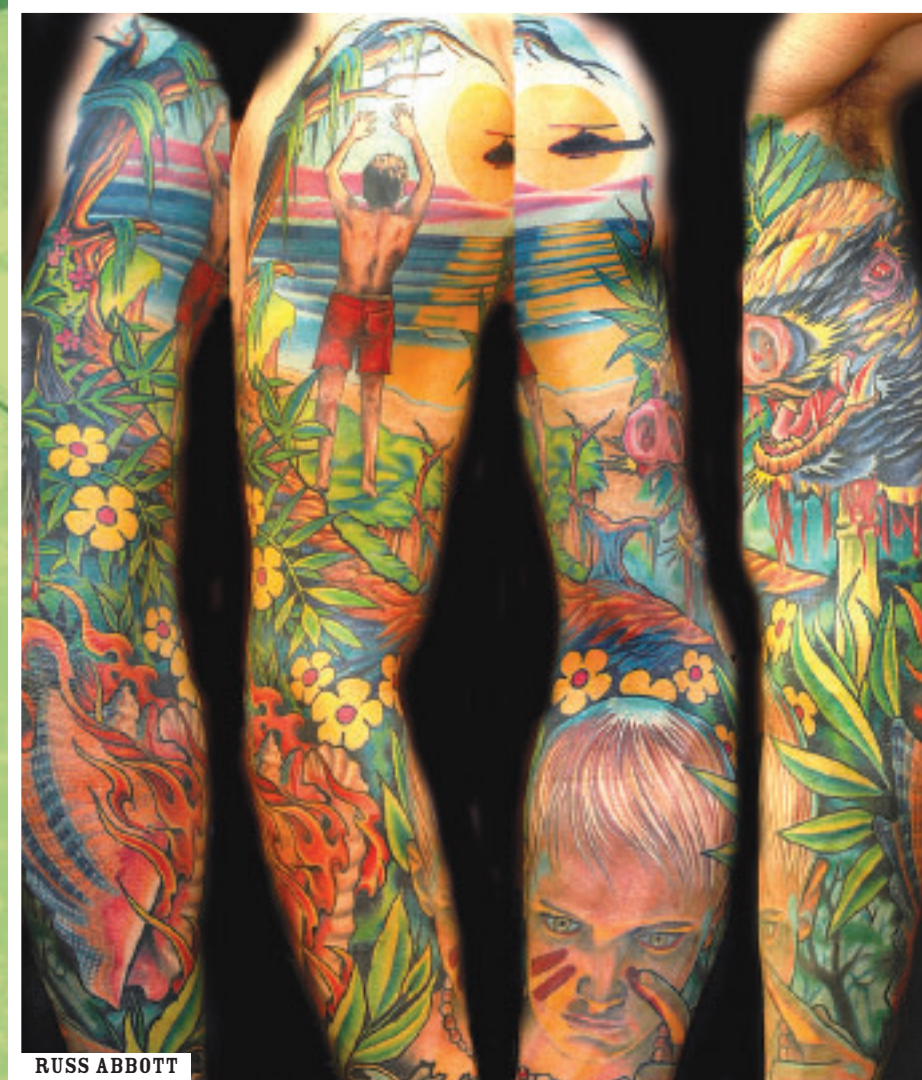
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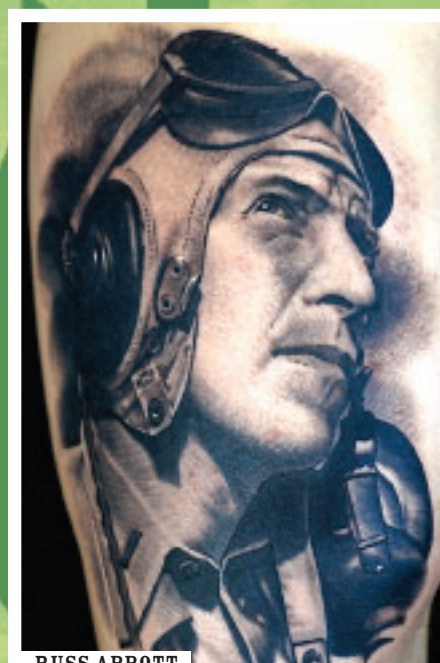


**"I'M TRYING TO RE-DEFINE WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF AS A TATTOO"**

With 10 years worth of return clientele to rely on, Abbott had finally reached a place in his life where he was ready to open his own tattoo shop. "Since I started tattooing, I've been dreaming of opening my own studio where I could call the shots. Ink & Dagger Tattoo Parlour is my way of giving back to the craft that has given so much to me. I chose the city of Decatur because it was close to home and just minutes from all of the coolest parts of Atlanta. It's a great mix of city and suburb." The shop itself is a reflection of Abbott's love for the craft of tattooing. A large collection of traditional American and Japanese style tattoo flash and paintings adorn the walls of this old brick building. The antler chandelier and fancy woodwork gives the feeling of an old gentlemen's club. The custom-built artist's stations look like genuine antiques. "Overall, I couldn't be happier with how the shop came out, but I'm definitely glad the construction is over so I can get back to tattooing."

Without a doubt, there's plenty of tattooing to do. Over the last few years, Abbott's bold and illustrative tattoo style has caught the eyes of many collectors who seek him out for large, multi-session tattoos. Unable to restrict himself to one style of tattooing, he has pretty much tried it all. "These days, most of my tattoo projects seem to focus on epic story-type themes. I also really enjoy interpreting traditional American and Japanese style themes. With my more adventurous projects, I'm trying to re-define what people think of as a tattoo while still respecting the hard-learned rules of what makes a tattoo stand the test of time."

If you're not quite ready to commit to large-scale tattooing, Ink & Dagger has another talented artist you may be interested in. Malia Reynolds, who began her tattooing career three years ago, recently



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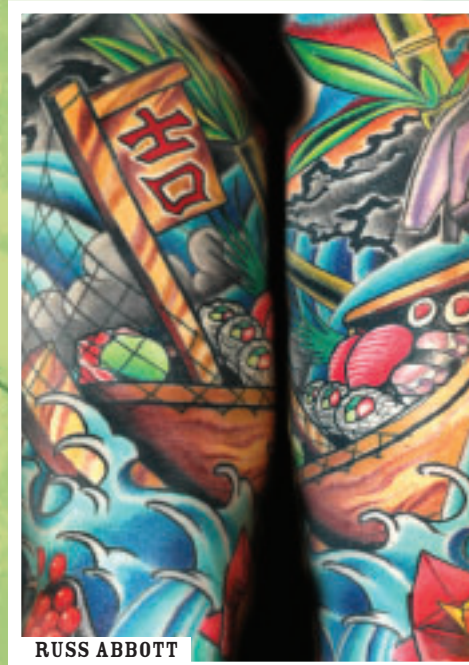
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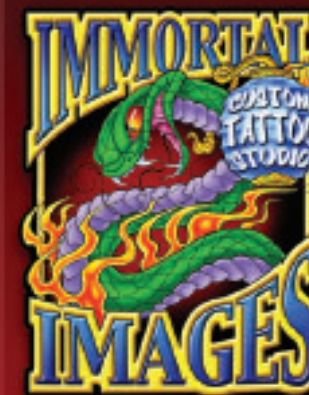
moved to Atlanta to work at Ink & Dagger. “She would come to town and get tattooed by me. I was impressed by her work and her personality. She makes customers feel so comfortable. I’m so lucky to have her at the shop. For now, she does walk-ins while she’s building up her clientele.”

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# MUSIC NOTES

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## CHANGE CD/DVD

Various Artists

[Hopeless Records/Sub City/Hot Topic]

If you're heading to the suburban mall this holiday to shop at Hot Topic, the mecca for the newly acquainted to the "underground" goth, hardcore, and punk scenes, make sure and keep an eye out for this release. For sale only at Hot Topic is this CD/DVD combo, which contains 21 audio tracks and 17 videos all for under 10 bucks. A few of the repackaged compilation's highlights include HORSE the band, See You Next Tuesday, August Burns Red, and Maylene and the Sons of Disaster. As an added bonus, the proceeds go to charity; it's the hardcore gift that keeps on giving. - Gustavo Montoya



## BATTLES

Tonto + EP CD/DVD

[Warp Records]

Battles, the math-rock extraordinaires whose recent *Mirrored* release was hailed by almost every single music magazine as one of the best releases of the year, offer up an offshoot to the glorified album in the form of the *Tonto* + EP. Although the single doesn't in any way particularly overshadow the full length release, the real substance here is the accompanying DVD, which contains videos for "Tonto" and "Atlas," plus a quick look at the making of the uber-cool "Tonto" video. This release is the cure for those math-heads who just need one more quick Battles' fix. - Geoffrey Stephenson



## THE WARLOCKS

Heavy Deavy Skull Lover

[Tee Pee Records]

If one thing's for certain about The Warlocks, it's that you never really know what to expect to hear on their new albums. Never known for being musically consistent, *Heavy Deavy Skull Lover* finds the band drifting off into space—almost literally. Paired down a few members, gone are most of the melodies and dual drummer driving beats. What's left remaining is a musician's view of pure neo-psych music; made by and for the artists' sake. Think sprawling and moping lullabies performed by introspective, indie-goth shoegazers. In the end, it's worth the trip. - Geoffrey Stephenson



## HAIL HORNET

Hail Hornet

[Dwell Records]

Featuring members of Weedeater and Alabama Thunderpussy, this disc is a brash, unrefined study in heavy, stoner metal. It's not quite as sludgy as Bongzilla, and it's definitely not as bluesy as Clutch, but it slides right in between Facedowninshit's aggressiveness and Eyehategod's garage-y, crustiness. I imagine this is what Sabbath would sound like if they adopted Cam Pipes of 3 Inches of Blood as their lead singer. - Patricia (Evilneedles.com)



## SKELETONWITCH

Beyond The Permafrost

[Prosthetic Records]

From their "Halloween tales of horror" name right down to their "heavy metal is the law" mantra, Skeletonwitch is a titanium forged killing machine that's been bred on Exodus, Deicide and Judas Priest. They incorporate raspy screams and deep growls along with thrashy guitars and blast beat double bass. Things are kept interesting with lots of tempo changes and crisp melodies. This band will make you wanna bang your head 'til your dead. - Patricia (Evilneedles.com)



## BRITNEY SPEARS

Blackout

[Jive Records]

Britney is back bitches! That's right, it's the new Britney CD, and everyone who reads this magazine should check it out. Unlike other albums, this one has an air of intellect that may go beyond the imagination of some. With a subtle hint of sexuality, Britney touches on some very important issues in songs like "Ooh Ooh Baby" and "Get Naked (I Got a Plan)." She even points out some very thought provoking metaphors in lyrics such as, "I'm cold as fire baby, hot as ice." The complex

polyrhythmic layers of music go beyond your average pop sound and shoot into something so multifaceted that it is music of the future. All I have to say is leave Britney alone, because this may be an album that surpasses all generations, all time, and all species. Of course, none of this is true, but it does make my gay friend Steve dance around in his underwear. - Lisa Sharer

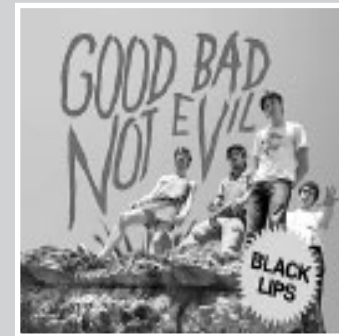


## BLACK LIPS

Good Bad Not Evil

[Vice Records]

Musiholics—the Black Lips have released yet another album. I must say this record took a bit getting used to. I found myself spoiled on the more raw sound of the band. But *Good Bad Not Evil* still delivers. Songs like, "Veni Vidi Vici" and "Navajo" show a more tribal aspect of the band's influences and really touch an area previously unexplored. While tracks like "Off the Block," "Step Right Up," and "Slime and Oxygen" give you a more mature sound, but still maintains the original persona; reminiscent of the 13th Floor Elevators. It also includes first singles, "Cold Hands" and "O, Katrina." It's definitely a charming surprise for old listeners, and a good start in supporting their already wide fan base. - Casheena Frison



## EVERY TIME I DIE

The Big Dirty

[Ferret Records]

This band turned the hardcore scene upside down a few years ago when, instead of getting heavier and more technical, like everyone else, they did a complete 180 and put out an album loaded with riff-centric, gritty, southern style rock. *The Big Dirty* is still low-tech, but it's a little too heavy to be called "rock." The title, cover art, and lyrics say white trash rock 'n' roll, but the delivery screams, "I'm too tough for my own good-hardcore." - Patricia (Evilneedles.com)



## IRREVERSIBLE

Sins

[Hero Entertainment]

*Sins*, the first full-length release from Atlanta's Irreversible, delves into a psych-metal land already inhabited by the likes of Pelican and Isis. Although obviously influenced by the progressive peers in their genre, Irreversible is too perspicacious to be labeled as derivative. Their sludginess and equally epicly massive metal soothes your ears with relentless passive intensity. Expect the musical journey to stray ever so slightly into the land of drone for momentary stops, only to return once again to the land of rapturous euphoria. Highly recommended for avant-garde metalheads. - Geoffrey Stephenson



## SAY ANYTHING

In Defense of the Genre

[J-Records]

Max Bemis, everyone's little sophisticate of effectual pop-punk, is back at it. With their second major label release, *Say Anything* hits another vein in the arm of 20-something emotional confusion with twenty-seven songs that, for some of us, have been a long time coming. These two discs are abundant with references to pop culture and boast of their intelligent vocabularies. However, this ain't *Is a Real Boy*. Since their last album, *Say Anything* has undergone a change in line-up and in style; this record relies on a slightly more adult set of problems while maintaining its ties to the youth at large. We hope that you didn't drop the bong on this one, bruder. - Sean Dettman



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Wed. December 05, 2007 Championship Comedy Brian Tribble	Wed. December 12, 2007 wordproductions presents: Brass Castle Lay Down Mains Chopper	Sat. December 29, 2007 wordproductions presents: Band of Horses Tenement Halls \$16 ADV. - \$18 DAY OF SHOW
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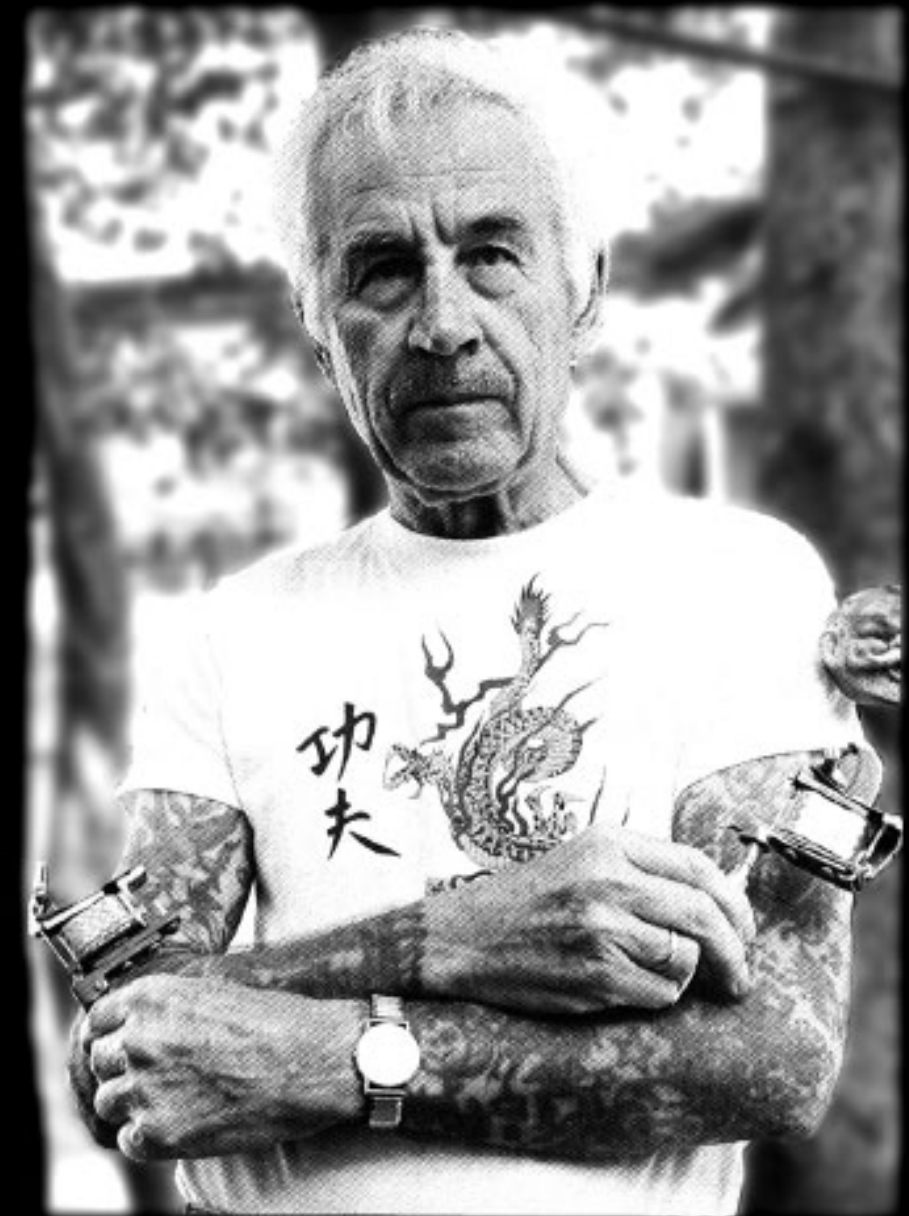


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## TATTOO NEWS

### FAST FOOD FOR TATTOOS

BY LISA SHARER

Recently, I found myself watching television, when I caught the tail end of a Taco Bell commercial. I noticed a girl with what appeared to be a half sleeve. Of course, I had to look into it further and found that it was actually a clever little commercial that seemed to airily joke about skin art. I know, for the past few years specifically, the discussion about tattoos in media has been "is the commercialism good or bad?"

Some artists feel like these shows, clothes, and other materials are making a mockery of the art; while others are excited about the acceptance of a subculture that has been shunned for so long. So, who's right? Well, no one of course, but it brings up an interesting topic of discussion. The tattoo is a beautiful form of art, and should be respected as such. However, I wouldn't have a job if people weren't interested in tattoos as entertainment.

Tattoos on TV, for example, have put tattooing on the map. However, they have also made the business look like a drama filled, and sometimes irresponsible, institution. The clothes have gone from one tattoo on a t-shirt to couture fashion from head to toe. Tattoo designs can be found on just about everything these days. This has been very lucrative for some artists, but other amazing talent is left in the shadows of their more famous peers.

What do you pull away from this? Are you more inspired to work harder, and do you want to create more art on the side? Do you want to be famous and make the big bucks? Or do you like your humble artist abode where you will be more appreciated after you're gone? Do you hate that it has come to this? You can't be blamed for wanting to support your family, but what happened to Bohemia?

All of these views and others are logical, but the simple truth is that the art is going to continue to be commercialized. Clients will still come to your shop in search of something unique. The world will keep turning. It's your decision to jump on board or not. To buy tattoo products or not to buy tattoo products? That is the question. Maybe, we just need to think outside the bun. ★

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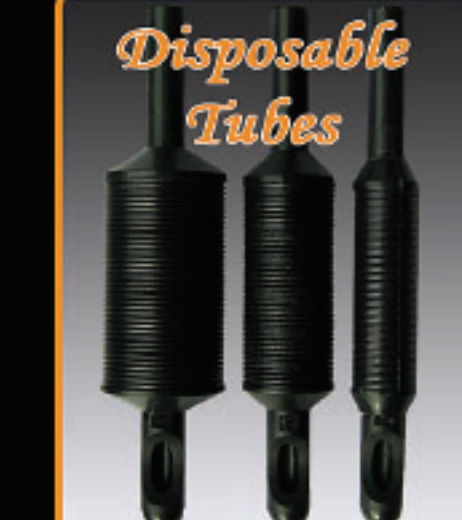
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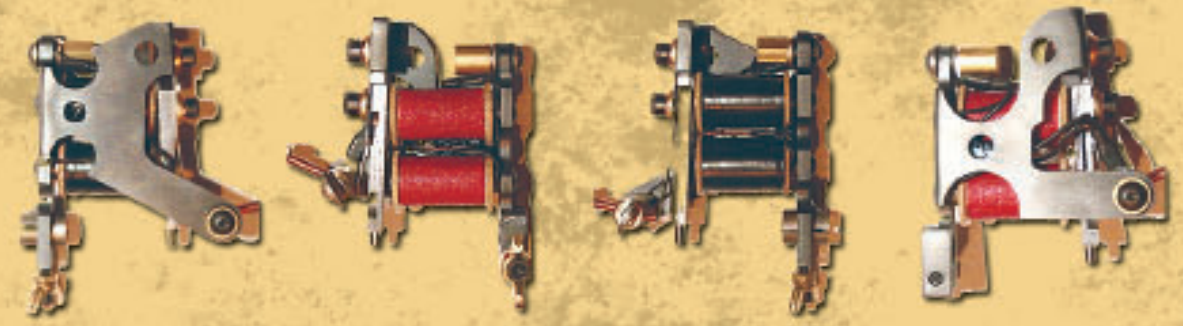
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ARTIST OF THE MONTH  
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BY CHRIS COLLINS OF STEADFAST BRAND  
 PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOSH FORD



Josh Ford is one of those guys whose friends don't understand how more people don't know this guy. Originally from Atlanta, Ford can now be found at Lifetime of Sol in Denver, Colo. His personal endeavors are as varied and as well executed as his tattoos. I caught up with him on the phone and, unless you are getting tattooed or are on the mat defending yourself from his attack, that's the only real chance you may find him available.

**What got you into the business?**

Just being young, getting tattooed, and thinking that being a tattoo artist would be right in line with that young, tough guy mentality. Plus, I wanted to do something art based and graphic design didn't seem like the field for me.



**How old were you when you got your first tattoo and where did you get it?**

I was thirteen and in my friend's bedroom. It was a hand-poked teardrop on my ankle.

**Where did you begin your journey to working in a real shop?**

The beginning was kinda hazy because I couldn't find any place that would apprentice me for less than \$5,000 to \$10,000. I started piercing to get my foot in the door and everything sort of started from there.

I moved to Atlanta during the Olympics and started working at Urban

Tribe. I was trying to finish my apprenticeship there. Then, I met a tattoo artist—a crazy speed freak—who started teaching me about tattooing. He started showing me about tubes and needles and machine basics. I took the money I was going to use to go to the Fakir School and bought tattoo equipment instead. The guy kinda threw me into tattooing and had me doing a couple tattoos here and there. One day he comes into the shop and says that he isn't responsible enough to teach me how to tattoo. That was the end of that, and I moved back to Denver.

I moved in with an old friend who was apprenticing under Mike Nickels. I started working construction and other odd jobs just to pay the bills. During my free time, I was getting tattooed and watching Mike work, which gave me the jolt to start tattooing again. So I found a really crappy shop in Golden, Colo. They told me to bring a portfolio and when I said I didn't have one, they told me to bring someone to tattoo. So I brought a guy up and did a tattoo that was way too big for what I should have been doing, and they hired me anyway. So, at this point, I



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had done about a one-month apprenticeship by a speed freak, and I was working full time at a biker shop.

I was working for these people for a couple months, and they kept writing me paychecks that were bouncing because of their crack addictions. I went to work at another shop in town that was overstaffed and that gave me a ridiculously small percentage. In the midst of all this, Mike was still tattooing me, and I was still asking questions to gain more of an understanding about tattooing.

At the same time Mike had decided to open a tattoo shop, Twisted Sol, and in my free time I was going down to help build it. Once that shop had been open for a month, Mike offered me a job and a real apprenticeship. From that point on I learned what tattooing was all about and how to respect tattooing.

**Who were some of the artists that first inspired you?**

Grime, Guy Atchison, Adrian Lee, and Aaron Cain. Guys like that were blowing up. The big influences around me were Mike Nickels and Jeff Kopp, who I also worked with at Twisted Sol.

**What about their styles motivated you?**

My work was influenced by graffiti art and '90s new school—bold line, colorful pieces that were being produced by people like my friend Mike. He was motivating me to constantly work on my art and try to make my work more dynamic. He was also turning me on to guys like Timothy Hoyer, Chris Trevino, and others who were pushing the limits of tattooing. Mike was good at making me look at the big picture instead of the small pond-type of outlook.

**When did your tattooing start to go in the direction that you're now taking it?**

What I do now is a cultivation of different periods of my tattooing. I went from straining to work on my artwork to working on more of the technical aspect of tattooing. I think that because I apprenticed in a full custom shop, I went in reverse a little bit. Instead of having tons of flash to practice my technique on, I had to focus on my artwork just as much. So I took a step back from the art for a year and worked at a flash shop in Arkansas doing tons of flash.

After feeling more comfortable with my technical ability, I went back to focusing on my art. I started working on realism, traditional, and then Japanese. The last few years, I have tried to become as versatile as possible, and I feel that one of the biggest challenges of being a tattoo artist is not simply defining your own style, but having to satisfy your customers by creating a mix of your art and their ideas.

**Current influences?**

Mike has been a steady influence throughout my career. Even though our styles are drastically different now, it's his drive to add something new to his style and not just do the same thing over and over again that pushes me. I also draw a lot of influence from Jime Litwalk. Traveling with Jime for so long and watching his illustration style and how he approaches his art, I see new ways to approach my own style illustration.

Even though he might not admit it, Grime has been a long distance mentor to me. He has critiqued me many times through the course of my career and has been a hard word of truth, but he also helped me push past boundaries. I got lucky enough to work with Deano Cook, who is one of the best portrait artists in the business. He taught me a lot about realistic tattooing and seeing tattoos from a different perspective.

Adam Ciferri has not only been one of the most critical people in helping me with my control of the equipment that I use to tattoo, but has also been a powerful figure in teaching me how to approach my illustrations in tattooing. Many people know Adam for his machine-building prowess, but he's also one of the best tattoo artists I know. There have been a lot of other guys along the road: Matt Rousseau, Gunnar, Jeff Zuck, Horiyoshi, guys who I've either been involved with personally or from a distance who I see unlock something better in the art.

**Tell us about Lifetime of Sol.**

Lifetime of Sol was an opportunity that just kind of jumped in my lap. To me, it was a sign of a crossroads in my life. I had begun to feel that I had become stiff and bored. It kinda



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**3 STEP PROCESS**  
To Start the process, take a picture. Step 1) steam pores open, then 2) apply prep solution generously with a swab (best when used as a lubricant). 3) Tat Gone Ink is applied by a professional tattooist with standard equipment. The ink is packed into the skin and left to dry. Moments later the pigments migrate to the surface, mix with and become trapped in the TGI as it dries hard like clay. Additional drops may be added to help create a seal; thereby no bandage is necessary. Take a second picture now.

**3 STAGES of AFTER CARE**  
Stage 1) Apply and let dry. Keep clean. Restrict movement, pressure and direct contact to the area until the crust is off. Stage 2) It will take 7-14 days for the skin to reject this crust completely. Take the third picture now. 3) Then TGI After Care cream should be applied until the skin recovers 100% (typically 6-8 weeks after the crust is off). This step is key, each time, to retain normal skin in the future.

Age, depth and density of a tattoo are factors to the number of applications required. Generally 3 - 7 sessions are needed for a complete fade.  
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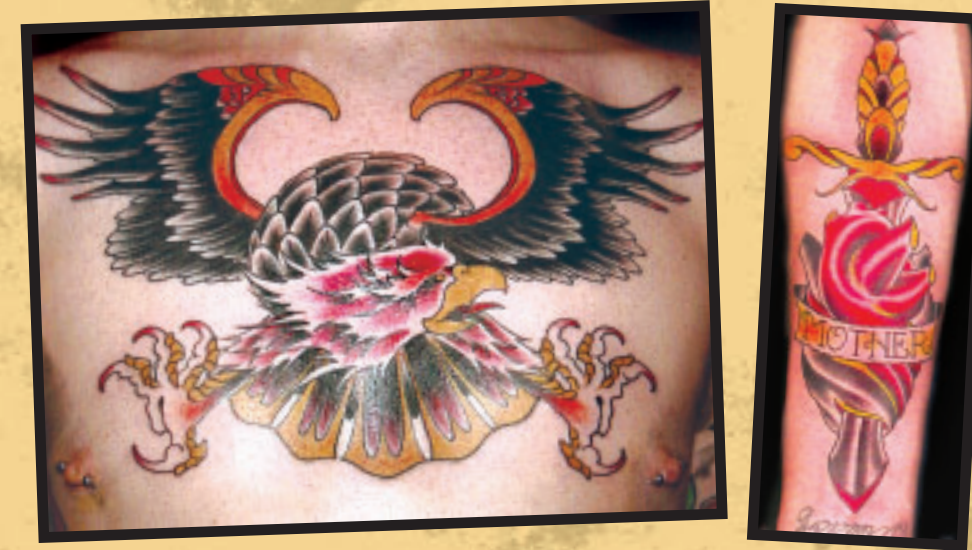
gave me the opportunity to push myself again—not just in tattooing but also in my life. The shop has been there as Lifetime Tattoo since 2001, and I took over in February of 2006. I have a solid staff that I love; and we've been pretty well received.

**Tell us about your Honorable Irons.**

I started messing around with machines a few years into tattooing and after about five years, I decided to really learn about them. I ended up emailing Adam Ciferri about his machines and he invited me to San Francisco to see his workshop. Basically, I went and stayed with Adam and did about seventy hours worth of work in his machine shop over a week. It was the start of a beautiful friendship. That's where I got some good, solid knowledge about tuning machines and, under Adam's guidance, I spent the next few years doing nothing but re-tuning and fixing machines.

In that span of time, I also met Joey D. of Infinite Irons. Joey is not only a great machine builder, but his knowledge of machinery and its efficiency is unbelievably motivating. Between the knowledge I got from Adam, Joey, and some other machine builders here and there, I feel like my machine building became a work of cultivation—just like my tattooing. I took influences from many builders and found what worked for me. After a handful of years, Adam told me that it was time to start building machines based not only on what I knew, but also on what I wanted out of a machine. If I were to build a machine exactly like Adam or Joey, what was the point? They were already doing that.

I feel that if people respect the technical aspects of your tattooing, then it's easier for people to believe in your machine theories. It follows the adage of never trusting a skinny chef; you're not going to trust a tattoo artist without any tattoos. If my line work looks like crap, why would you buy my liner? If my color is choppy and patchy, why buy my shader? That's the way I see it.



**What's your favorite pastime outside of work?**  
Hanging out with my wife and two beautiful children is a given and is, additionally, a blessing. My other love and life outside of that is teaching and training Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, which helps keep me healthy both mentally and physically. It's my little sanctuary where I can go and focus for an hour or two a day on nothing but being in control of my body and free of outside issues. I also like to travel when possible, but it's getting harder and harder as my kids get older. ★

For more information, go to [www.lifetimeofsol.com](http://www.lifetimeofsol.com), [www.myspace.com/lifetimeofsol](http://www.myspace.com/lifetimeofsol), or [www.myspace.com/honorableirons](http://www.myspace.com/honorableirons).

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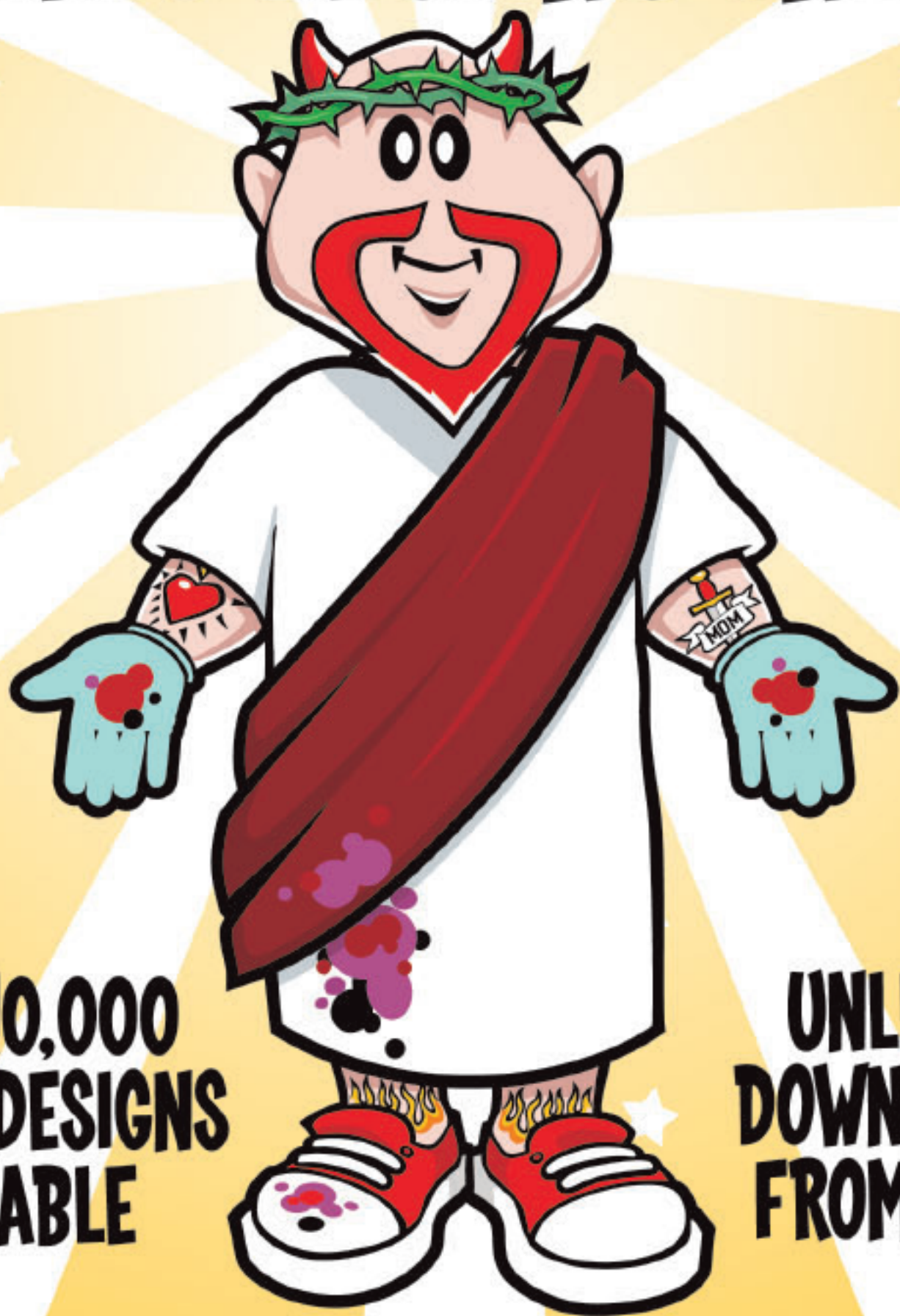
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