

Inked

CULTURE. STYLE. ART.

PLEASURE & PAIN

BETTY LIPSTICK

A fine body
of work

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UFC • Eddie Steeples • Jonathan Davis • Rashad McCants



TANK THEORY ORIGINAL ARTIFACTS
SPIRITUS - SPRING/SUMMER 2008

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letter



Our two topless cover shoots definitely had different vibes.

You can't have pleasure without pain. In fact, that's one of the things people love about tattoos. What the hell am I talking about, you ask? Well, our cover subjects, of course. For this issue, we just couldn't decide who you'd like to see more: Chuck Liddell, who brings the pain as a dominant force in the Ultimate Fighting Championship; or gorgeous Betty Lipstick, a 21st-century pinup model who represents nothing but pleasure. And so we bring you both.

If you picked up the Liddell cover, you'll probably want to learn more about him and the other tattooed fighters of the UFC in "Blood Brothers" (page 38). If you got a Betty Lipstick cover, turn immediately to "Lips Like Sugar" (page 58) so you can check out her body of work.

In this issue, we've also sorted through all the new spring clothes and gear to find the stuff you'll actually want to wear, like the military jackets, graphic T-shirts, and messenger bags in the Inked Life section (begins page 7). Or, if you're feeling a bit more rock 'n' roll, check out the vests and jeans in "Civillains" (page 86). As always, there's also plenty of music, drinks, bikes, games, and girls.

And if you're contemplating some fresh ink in time for the warm weather, you'll want to visit inkedmag.com. Our Shop Locator will help you figure out where to go, and the Tattoo Gallery provides lots of inspiration on what to get. And whatever tattoo you decided on, I trust you'll find pleasure in the pain.

Enrique Pinchazo

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editor-at-large	erich weiss
contributing editor	jennifer chapman
copy chief	aly walansky
west coast editor	nikki sonesen
web master	steven intermill
software engineering	eric g. elinow
photo director	marya gullo
contributing fashion director	risa knight
contributing market editor	julie chen

contributing writers

Eli Ackerman, Matt Bertz, Tyler Blake, Adam Bulger, Chris Doorley, Carrie Estok, Blake Freitag, Meredith Lindemon, Casey Lynch, George Polgar, Scott Steinberg, Mike Supermodel, Emily Kate Warren

photographers

Kenneth Cappello, Laura Crosta, Michael Dwornik, Charlie Langella, Ben Leuner, Shane McCauley, Mike McGregor, Beatrice Neumann, Jonathan Pushnik, Gabrielle Revere, Joshua Scott

stylists

maria aponte, megan terry

interns

joshua clutter, samantha chin-wolner

publisher	nathalie ramirez nathalie@inkedmag.com
advertising sales	kenyon clemons kenyon@inkedmag.com
magazine office	inked magazine 326 canal st., suite 3a new york city, ny 10013
corporate office	pinchazo publishing 121 friends lane, unit 100 newtown, pa 18940
main number	212-537-9347
website	inkedmag.com

president/ceo	don hellinger
chief financial officer	jami pearlman
accounts receivable	chris watson
newsstand consultants	ralph perricelli, irwin billman
fulfillment	prestige fulfillment

contributors



Top Row: Photographer **Joshua Scott** wishes he put more thought into his first tattoo. "My friend was learning how to become a tattoo artist and needed people to work on, I figured, shit, a free tattoo," says Scott. "Joint looks cool but you can definitely tell it's done by an amateur craftsman." When not shooting photos for magazines such as *National Geographic Adventurer* and *Men's Health*, Scott produces beats. In fact, he used his own records as props in one of the photos he shot for this month's Inked Life section (begins page 7). "I made sure to thoroughly check out all the records for any dope samples before smashing them up. Don't want to shatter that golden sample by accident!"

A lifelong punk rock and metal fan, **Adam Bulger** wrote "Got The Life" (page 52), a profile of Korn's Jonathan Davis. "The same afternoon I interviewed him, I had just interviewed Don Rickles, so it was kind of hard to change gears," says Bulger, who lives in Hartford, CT, and is a staff writer for the *Hartford Advocate*. Bulger also collaborates on a series of horror and science fiction comics (spikyjoeandwhitey.com) and has written for *The Believer*, *New York Press*, and *SuicideGirls.com*. A collection of Hunter S. Thompson interviews that will be published by Thompson's wife and Da Capo Press in early 2009 will feature Bulger's 2004 interview with the author.

"It's harmful for whores and bitches to live in the world," read the Russian words tattooed on the forearm of

photographer **Chris Glancy**. "All my tats are done by Regino Gonzales," says Glancy, who has been published in *Flaunt*, *Swindle*, *Vice*, and others. "In the middle of both my arms is script that reads 'Prince of Players' and 'Pawn of None,' which is from T. Rex lyrics." Glancy photographed Eddie Steeples (page 66) for this month's issue.

Casey Lynch loves early SoCal punk enough to have it tattooed on his forearm in the form of a cartoon RKL logo he borrowed from the back of one of the band's albums. Now relocated to Arizona, Lynch writes regularly for *Alternative Press*, *Phoenix New Times*, and a growing list of video game magazines. "If I weren't a writer I'd be touring in a band playing guitar," says Lynch. "Well, I guess I should say if I were 15 years younger and didn't have two kids I want to be with every day, then I would be touring." For this issue, Lynch profiled Tiger Army front man Nick 13 (page 30).

Bottom Row: "I'd describe my personal style as a mix of preppy/hippy/Joan Collins on *Dynasty*, so it was really fun for me to find all these tough, masculine clothes and accessories for *Inked*," says **Julie Chen**, a New York based fashion stylist and market editor. Chen assembled the fashion portion of the Inked Life section (begins page 7). She has also contributed to *Genre*, *Lucky*, and *Page Six* magazines.

Photographer **Kenneth Cappello** set up shop in the back room of the Mandalay Bay Arena to shoot UFC

fighters for this month's "Blood Brothers" (page 38). "I'm a huge MMA/UFC fan so I couldn't have been happier," says Cappello, who also shot Korn's Jonathan Davis (page 52). His photographs have appeared in *Spin*, *Men's Vogue*, *Giant*, *Vanity Fair*, and others. "In reality, if I weren't a photographer I would probably be working in a bar or be a drug addict," says Cappello. "But in my mind I'd be a firefighter or homicide detective."

Inked's new photography director, **Marya Gullo**, is no stranger to tattoos; she had her back inked by Chris Garver in 1999, and would love to return to his shop to have more work done on it. For this issue, Gullo had her hands in almost every story, from producing "Lips Like Sugar" (page 58) and "Civilians" (page 86) to hiring photographers for *Inked Life* (begins page 7). Gullo has worked in the photo departments of *Maxim*, *Vibe*, *Departures*, and *Premiere*, served as a prop stylist for *Harper's Bazaar* and *W*, and modeled for *Italian Vogue*.

Our new articles editor, **Jason Buhrmester**, is a former editor at *Playboy*. His profiles of pop culture personalities and writings about music have appeared in *Maxim*, *Spin*, *Wired*, *The Village Voice*, and other publications. Buhrmester's hometown of Kankakee, IL, was recently rated "America's Worst Place to Live" in *Cities Ranked and Rated*. Accordingly, he lives in Brooklyn, NY, where he recently completed his first novel, *Black Dogs*, which will be published by Crown later this year.



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INKED LIFE

MY FIRST INK

NAME: Seventy Arniotis

OCCUPATION: Hairstylist at Woodley & Bunny, in Brooklyn, NY

"My first tattoo was on my arm. It's a tribute to my father that I got when I was 20, and it was done by the talented James McGrory of Peter Tat-2 in Denver, CO. It started out as a single piece that eventually became a half sleeve the more James and I discussed it. When my mother saw it she was furious! In fact, she ended up telling her entire church congregation that I had joined some sort of satanic cult. But, the more tattoos I got, the better she took it; I think she's finally starting to accept them almost 10 years later. I am far from finished with tattooing. Joseph Aloï, of Saved Tattoo in Williamsburg, is actually working on an amazing back piece for me right now, and I am also starting a sleeve on my right arm with Chris O'Donnell of New York Adorned. I've been blessed to work with such amazing artists."



Clockwise from top left: Cockpit green army jacket; Triple Five Soul hooded army jacket; DKNY camouflage pocket army jacket; Energie jacket with diagonal-zip pockets; Buckler belted jacket with bolt epaulets.

SOLDIER ON

MARKET EDITOR, JULIE CHEN

CLIP ART



Clockwise from top left: King Baby skull and cross bones; Frank Lloyd Wright for MoMA black geometric print; Spragwerks silver and brass Tiki; Gabriel Urist brass Money Tree; Versani skull with garnet eyes; King Baby skull and medallion; Spragwerks silver wing; Tateossian black enamel with etched skull; Gangland Empire Bollocks, available at The Future Perfect, in Brooklyn, NY; Mobtown brass knuckle, available at Lawanna's, in Brooklyn, NY.



Clockwise from top: EFU white "You Fucking Suck Ass Eh" T-shirt; DKNY Jeans black V-neck with white dragon print; Damien Hirst for Levi's white T-shirt with photo print; DKNY Jeans black T-shirt with white coat of arms; Stüssy white T-shirt with graffiti graphic; Alexander Herchovitch black T-shirt with sequined skull.

COTTON BRAWL

INSTANT MESSENGER



Clockwise from top left: Brooklyn Industries canvas bag with front pockets; Stüssy gray nylon bag; Oliver Spencer brown suede bag; Longchamp nylon bag with leather straps; Levi's tan canvas bag with leather straps; Tripp NYC black vinyl bag with plastic spikes.



MP3 players don't mesh well with your record collection. Instead of letting your vinyl collect dust, get the Stanton T.90 USB turntable (stantondj.com), which connects to your computer via USB or S/PDIF digital outputs and transfers your records to CD, MP3, or WAV files.

SPIN OR LOSE

PROP STYLIST, MEGAN TERRY

SOUND ADVICE



DEL THE FUNKY HOMOSAPIEN
11th Hour
[Definitive Jux]

Hip-hop heads spent the past eight years wondering, "Where the hell is Del?" After pulling a disappearing act, the Funky Homosapien surfaced only a handful of times, including Deltron 3030, his collaboration with Dan the Automator, and the debut album from Gorillaz. On his first solo album in nearly a decade, Del strips down his style, claiming his rhymes were too

complex for their own good. His goofy, sarcastic flow is still as sharp as his Dr. Bombay days as he smacks down fakes on the Funkadelic "Bubble Pop." On "Foot Down" Del clowns over an ass-bouncing beat that sounds like it fermented in a New Orleans backyard barbecue. He's back, but for how long?



JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE
The Good Life
[Bloodshot]

With a father like legendary songwriter Steve Earle and a namesake like country icon Townes Van Zandt, it's a shock that Justin Townes Earle didn't collapse with the weight of the two hard-core troubadours around his neck. Not that he didn't come close. The 25-year-old struggled through a few early groups, messed himself up,

and was thrown out of his father's band before finding his own voice. Rather than running from his roots, Earle's first solo album is steeped in country music history. "Hard Living" and "South Georgia Sugar Babe" are pure country swing, while "The Good Life" recalls early Merle Haggard. But the gem is "Who Am I to Say?" where a husky-voiced Earle shows traditional doesn't have to mean unoriginal.



TIME AGAIN
Darker Days
[Hellcat]

Spit-soaked clubs everywhere are filled with by-the-power chords street punk bands. Time Again know the formula well: loud guitars, snarled vocals, and other cues copped straight from Rancid, whose front man, Tim Armstrong, signed the foursome to his own Hellcat Records. On their second album, Time Again blast through a trio of pit-starters before hitting "Lines Are Faded," a buzzing,

mid-tempo sing-a-long that proves why the band is better than most of the street-punk pack. That same energy surfaces on "Lookin' Back," as Daniel Dart slurs his way through a string of hard luck stories while the group muscles around the guitar crunch. "Montreal (Street Kids)," a tale of drugged-up punks taking to the streets, is sure to become a Friday night theme for delinquents everywhere.



FLOGGING MOLLY
Float
[Side One Dummy]

Back when the Pogues drunkenly mashed-up traditional Irish foot-stompers and punk rock, nobody knew the style they spewed up would stagger on without them. Decades later, the seven members of Flogging Molly picked up the idea and injected it with a bigger rock sound. Float is their loudest album yet, filled with blazing guitar solos, bits of feedback, and thundering drums.

Singer Dave King paints a sad image of a washed-up boxer in "Punch Drunk Grinning Soul," as the song builds from an acoustic opener to an explosive ending worthy of Metallica. The tender moment comes on "The Story So Far," which is filled with enough fiddle and accordion to leave you sobbing in a pint.



GOLDFRAPP
Seventh Tree
[Mute]

Goldfrapp fans expecting the sexy electronic thump that made the group a DJ favorite are going to be scratching their heads on the dance floor after spinning Seventh Tree. Long gone are the glammed-up sounds of Supernature, replaced instead with baroque guitars, soaring vocals by Alison Goldfrapp, and beats that rarely reach a danceable BPM. "Happiness" is a goofy Beatles

romp complete with horns, while "Eat Yourself" finds Goldfrapp channeling her inner Carly Simon over a finger-picked guitar and simple melody. During the mellow "Some People," Goldfrapp asks what's left when the glitter is gone, making it obvious the duo are taking a time-out from the clubs and moving in a new



THE RAVEONETTES
Lust Lust Lust
[Vice]

After the subdued vibe of their second album, the Raveonettes' third outing finds the Danish duo searching for the gritty tones that made their early work so creepy and cool. For the most part, the rediscovery works. The Raveonettes' strength lies in the way they marry their Jesus and Mary Chain fascination with their fetish for

'50s rock 'n' roll. "Aly, Walk With Me" shimmies to a drum machine beat built around a reverb-soaked guitar that swells into speaker-crackling fuzz, while later, on "Dead Sound," Sune Rose Wagner and Sharin Foo share singing duties over chiming bells and a driving kick drum. "Sad Transmission," with its dreamy Motown melody buried under a sea of feedback, is the sound of the Raveonettes reborn. —Jason Buhrmester

GOOD HEAD

There's something about getting your hair washed at a salon that elevates the whole cleansing process into a more, shall we say, pleasurable ritual. Undeniably, part of the appeal is surrendering your scalp to the hands of a beautiful woman (that is, if you're lucky enough to frequent a salon staffed with beautiful women).

But there's also something to be said for those high-end shampoos they use. We can't promise you'll achieve a state of stupefied bliss when you wash with them at home, but your hair will probably look better than it does when you use one of the hotel samples you have stashed under your sink. —Jennifer Chapman



AMERICAN CREW ANTI-DANDRUFF

You probably have a lot of black in your wardrobe, which is a problem if you also have dandruff. This fixes flakes with the anti-fungal ingredient zinc pyrithione (yes, dandruff is caused by a fungus).



MATRIX MEN CLEAN RUSH

If you wash your hair every day, it's wise to use a clean-rinsing shampoo like this one. Its moisturizing formula won't leave behind residue that can make your hair look dull.



AVEDA EXFOLIATING SHAMPOO

This shampoo is like a face scrub for your scalp; you use it once a week to remove extra oil and dead skin cells. Why do you need to do that? Simple: A healthy scalp makes for better-looking hair.



REDKEN FOR MEN MINT CLEAN

Want your morning shower to be just a little bit more invigorating? This hair-strengthening shampoo smells like Altoids and makes your scalp feel cool and tingly.

STAIN MASTER



Whiten away a multitude of sins (red wine, cigarettes) with these. Clockwise from top: BriteSmile Whitening Toothpaste; Luster One-Hour White home whitening kit (available in April); Go Smile Touch Up Refillable Compact with On-The-Go Smile Refreshers; Crest Healthy Radiance strips (sold with Healthy Radiance toothpaste); Supersmile Whitening Gum; Rembrandt Whitening Pen.

PROP STYLIST, MEGAN TERRY

Video games are the second best party starter, beaten only by a well-stocked liquor cabinet. In Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock (guitarhero.com), you shred the fretboard to songs from Slayer, Stray Cats, Rage Against the Machine, and more, then face off against legends like Slash and Tom Morello. Bonus? The wireless controller, shown here, is easy to pass around the living room without knocking over anyone's drink.



ROCK OUT

PROP STYLIST, MEGAN TERRY

GAME ON



Battlefield: Bad Company [Electronic Arts]

Platform: PlayStation 3, Xbox 360

Make war, not love, in this balls-out, modern-era blaster that renders you part of a ragtag squad of heavily armed and exceptionally chatty commandos. While the Battlefield series is known for multiplayer showdowns where combatants grab dozens of weapons (machine gun, rocket launcher, etc.) and control jeeps, tanks, and helicopters, this is the first to deliver an equally engaging solo thrill. Drawing inspiration from films like *Three Kings*, this release will allow you to perforate walls and shred foliage in photorealistic environments that are as destructible as they are huge. Corny wisecracks and formulaic approach aside, explosive delivery ensures this is one suicide mission worth enlisting for.



The Club [Sega]

Platform: PC, PlayStation 3, Xbox 360

The first rule of *The Club*—a gladiatorial arena battler featuring mercenaries hunting each other with shotguns, grenades, and small arms throughout seedy urban environments—is that you don't talk about its blood sport leanings. The second rule of *The Club* is that you don't mention how, despite decent controls and rousing shoot-outs, the too-open-ended setup (focusing on speed, accuracy, and continued strings of kills) bores quickly. Playing more like a mindless run-and-gun outing, less a moody, present-day take on *The Most Dangerous Game*, the emphasis here is purely on improving your trigger-squeezing skills, not novel features or eye candy.



Condemned 2: Bloodshot [Sega]

Platform: PlayStation 3, Xbox 360

Take a pinch of *Saw*, add a hint of *Se7en*, season with just a touch of *Hellraiser*. Voilà—it's the perfect recipe for terror in this morbid adventure, viewed through the eyes of hero Ethan Thomas (a former FBI agent turned homeless alcoholic). Wandering crack houses and mental wards filled with flickering lights and discarded wheelchairs, you'll find your missing partner while battling bass-voiced maniacs, snarling dogs, and black-veined cadavers that explode into slimy goo on contact. Incredibly atmospheric, the tale's superb storytelling is matched only by its multiplayer support and brutal, two-fisted close combat system. Hooray for makeshift weapons: Crowbar or prosthetic arm, anyone?



Pursuit Force : Extreme Justice [SCEA]

Platform: PlayStation Portable

Handheld action epics typically get short shrift when it comes to quality control and production values. Not so in this gloriously over-the-top, high-velocity crime fighter, which sends your crew of law-bending bruisers speeding after futuristic criminals. Piloting jet skis, hovercraft, buses, and more, you'll race toward and ram targets, unload clips at shot-popping robbers and high-tech pirates, and hop atop foes' vehicles for action-film-type sequences. Outlandish boss missions, a variety of playable characters, and several multiplayer modes—including head-to-head showdowns and drive-to-survive gauntlets—guarantee a good time, even if realism and modesty aren't strong points. —Scott Steinberg



TOY STORY

I Heart Guts

iheartguts.com

We all know someone who could use a new liver. And now, with I Hear Guts' line of stuffed toys, you can donate organs to your friends without the annoying motorcycle accident. With great names, like "When Urine Love" (a purple kidney) and the yellow "I'm a Liver not a Fighter," these plush toys are cute without being too cutesy. Plus, each comes with information about its namesake organ, so they're educational and fun. Even your uptight sister-in-law can't complain when you give one to your nephew. Who knew our en-trails could be so adorable?

UNKL Ipecac Recordings Series

unklbrand.com

When the UNKL brand started kicking ideas around with music mad-man Mike Patton, they had no idea how far their collaboration would go. By the time the dust settled, not only had they come up with toy figures for his bands, but for every band on his label, Ipecac Recordings. Each piece in this series of 12 (one per month through 2008) is limited to 500, so get them while you can. The Melvins figure (above left) drops in April; the Unsane figure (above center) won't be out until October; and the Tomahawk figure (above right) is already on shelves.

Murko

thunderdogstudios.com

10.Deep is one of New York's original streetwear brands and has been a creative force since 1995. Who better to bring their brass knuckle logo, Murko, to life than the team at Thunderdog Studios? Originally designed by Scott Sasso, this 5-inch Patriot version is decked out in all-American red, white, and blue, with "Freedom Fries Taste Like Shit" on his back. The injected mold PVC figure, limited to 250 pieces, definitely takes no prisoners. With a bit of yellow drool (or is that Cheez Whiz?) dribbling past his gnarly fangs, and a crazy look in his eye, he's actually scarier than a real set of brass knuckles.

Thundermutt 3.0

thunderdogstudios.com

Tristan Eaton is the Babe Ruth of designer vinyl figures. Giving birth to the Dunny, with Kid Robot, his place in the toy hall of fame is secure. He branched out in 2003 and started design firm Thunderdog Studios. Now, Eaton and his partner-in-crime Filth bring us Thundermutt 3.0. You can always count on these guys for bold, clean design, and this 4-inch soft vinyl figure is no exception. Past series have had removable heads with something cool inside, like peanuts or even vials of New York City rainwater. They're keeping quiet on this one so you'll have to open it to find out. —Mike Supermodel

HELL ON EARTH

Shawn Dahl

Lifelong Skateboarder, Loving Father,
Owner of Rustbelt Skateboard Manufacturing.



Shawn is featured wearing the "Traitor" t-shirt and holding the "Repent" skate deck.
Hell on Earth is available through The Mephisto Group and InnerLoop Showroom



THE MEPHISTO GROUP

www.hellonearthcult.com
www.themephistogroup.com
www.innerloopshowroom.com

Clockwise from top left: The interior of L'Art Noir New Orleans; "The Surge" by Derek Hess; "Toxic Art," the first post-Katrina art exhibition.



LOWBROW IN THE LOWER NINE

You wouldn't think that purchasing an art gallery/house in New Orleans' Ninth Ward just five months before the federal levee failures of Hurricane Katrina could represent anything other than the most awful sense of timing. But then you've probably never heard of Jeffrey Holmes or his partner Andrea Garland, of L'Art Noir New Orleans. The couple and their gallery have risen from relative obscurity before the storm to new heights high above the flood line, displaying the work of a truly impressive lineup of artists along the way. This month that lineup continues to grow with a show from Derek Hess, whose prolific collection of rock concert posters has become an internationally recognized staple of the Lowbrow scene.

When the hurricane hit, the couple evacuated to Camp Casey, the Texas base of Cindy Sheehan's anti-war mobilization, and immediately began raising money for relief supplies. They set off for home as soon as they heard news of the levee breaches. Because only media were allowed into the city once martial law had descended, Garland forged press passes for neighbors barred from entering the most devastated areas of the Lower Ninth Ward. This trick allowed the couple to return to their home and gallery weeks before electricity was restored. "We had about three feet of standing water," Holmes explains as he points toward the gallery door. "The line is still marked."

But despite six months without reliable electricity, the couple's creative juices never stopped flowing. Their exhibition "Toxic Art," featuring belongings, equipment, and artwork that the flood waters had turned into debris, was credited as the first post-Katrina art exhibition when it opened in late September 2005. This "garbage" was reinvented once more, as Holmes, Garland, and



available neighbors piled their losses in the middle of the street and manipulated them into several politically charged art installations.

"At that moment, the only way in or out of the Lower Ninth Ward was to go past our house. We had a captive audience of every member of the media going by ten hours a day, every single day," Holmes says. "We took advantage of it." In fact, one piece, "The Field of Silent Screams," was apparently incendiary enough that National Guardsmen attempted to take it down, resulting in a 4 a.m. standoff that ended when Holmes was carted off to prison.

As a result of all the attention, L'Art Noir has had no trouble booking artists of international renown, and their space on St. Claude Avenue has become a showcase for the organic creations of grassroots New Orleans artists not suited for the tourist-centric galleries insulated from the city's ongoing recovery process.

On March 8, the gallery kicks off another significant exhibition, a new show by Derek Hess called "WTF." Hess is a politically passionate artist of world renown, and his concert posters have earned him displays at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, in Hess' Cleveland backyard, and, perhaps surprisingly, the Louvre, in Paris. "He's a true artist. ... He hasn't forgotten where he came from and he's still willing to give a little gallery an opportunity," says Holmes. "I've been a fan of Derek Hess for years. His works seems so simple but it's so damn complex." Hess' work, often featuring depictions of faceless, yet powerfully emotive angels, should fit perfectly at a gallery in a city struggling with its own army of lost souls. Says Holmes, "The post-



Ink, Not Nink

—AMI JAMES

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HERBAL REMEDY

Bartender Kristen Bronson shares her favorite gin cocktails.

Can gin kick-start your kidneys and bladder? Sort of. Like its neutral cousin vodka, gin begins as a grain-based liquor, but it gains distinction with the infusion of juniper berries, an evergreen shrub used as medicine in times past to treat kidney and bladder diseases. Taken in large quantities, gin tends to cause issues with those organs but consumed as it should be, in small amounts, this is a refined spirit imbued with subtle herbal helpers. In fact, each distiller adds as many as a dozen flavor botanicals—ranging from orange peel to coriander, cassia, fennel, and the like—to give gin an aromatic nature that makes for a sublime cocktail base. Here, Kristen Bronson, a bartender at New York City gastropub The Spotted Pig, shares some of her favorite gin cocktails. Or, if you want to go a simpler route, there's always the gimlet (gin, fresh lime juice, and sugar), a brilliant classic that few people recognize as a gin drink. Whichever mix satisfies you, try gin with its best friend, ice. Cheers. —Chris Doorley



GIN AND JUICE

2½ ounces Tanqueray
1½ ounces freshly squeezed grapefruit juice
soda water
lime twist
Place the gin and juice in a cocktail shaker with one cup of ice. Shake until chilled. Add a dash of soda water, then strain into a chilled martini glass. Garnish with the lime twist.



NEGRONI

1½ ounces Beefeater
1½ ounces Campari
1 ounce Carpano Antica Formula sweet vermouth
soda water
orange wedge
Shake the first three ingredients in a cocktail shaker, then pour over ice into a highball glass. Top with the soda water, and garnish with the orange wedge.



CUCUMBER COOLER

1½ ounces Hendrick's
1 ounce freshly squeezed lime juice
1 spoonful raw sugar
6 cucumber slices
soda water
Muddle the sugar, five cucumber slices (diced), and lime juice in a cocktail shaker. Add gin and a scoop of ice. Shake, then pour into a highball glass. Top with soda water and garnish with remaining cucumber slice.

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Clockwise from top left: Ducati Superbike 848; Ducati



HELLO MOTO

SUPERBIKE 848

134 hp
168 kg (370 lbs.)

MONSTER 696

80 hp
163 kg (359 lbs.)

SUPERBIKE 1098 R

180 hp

In 1926, when the Ducati family formed its company with a group of investors in Bologna, Italy, they were seeking to cash in on the burgeoning radio transmissions industry. Less than a hundred years later, Ducati has revolutionized motorcycle design and made sexy sport bikes the ride of choice for a new generation of bikers.

Since rejoining the MotoGP series in 2003, after a 30-year hiatus, Ducati has reinforced its impressive street cred by consistently being the fastest bike on the track, whatever the MotoGP rule changes. And the newest lineup from Ducati continues to garner enthusiastic endorsements and strong sales.

The 1098 Superbike, out since last summer, has a stirring twin-cylinder, 160-horsepower, 1099 cc engine mounted on the trellis frame favored in the Ducati lineup for stiffness and optimum handling. Equipped with Brembo brakes, it features the single-sided swing-arm and the down and forward sweeping stance that makes Ducati bikes so distinctive. The standard 1098 is a two-wheel dream at \$15,995. The race-spec 1098 R version, weighing in at only 364 pounds, is scheduled to appear this spring. It features an impressive 180-horsepower Testastretta Evoluzione engine and is jazzed to max with accessories—and an expected price tag around \$40,000.

Brand new to the Ducati brood is the recently

released 848. Known affectionately as the little brother of the 1098, it features a smaller 849 cc engine, the same design and layout, and a lesser, but eminently competent, brake and suspension package for just under the lucky price of \$13,000.

And finally, this month or next, you'll be seeing the new Monster 696. With its 80-horsepower, air-cooled V-Twin astride a trellis frame, Brembo brakes, and a six-speed transmission, the 359-pound naked sport bike will have a price tag around \$8,500. The Monster 696 also features the lowest seat height of the Ducati lineup, making it ideal for the fastest-growing segment of the bike market—women.

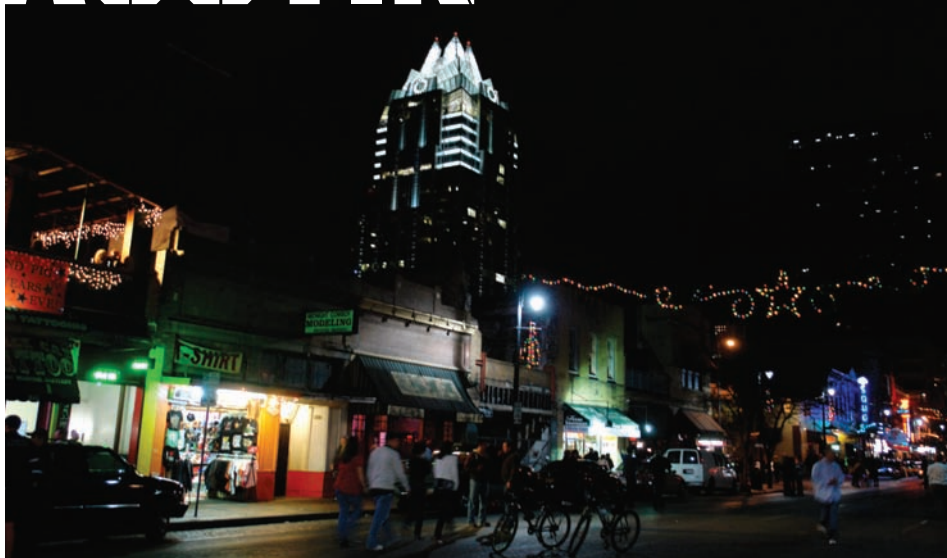
Ducati as a company has had a colorful history since its radio component days, along the way making bicycles, scooters, and a sea of red ink, which was addressed in 1996 when a group of Texas venture capitalists bought a majority stake in the company (Ducati is now owned by an Italian private equity firm). The biggest problem these days, seems to be relentless demand, often making it difficult to get the Ducati you want exactly when you want it. Luckily, there are distributors who go the extra mile, like Fast By Ferracci in Willow Grove, PA (ferracci.com). Founded by former championship racer Er- aldo Ferracci, the company's Ducati experts offer celebrated performance customizing and shipping to all parts of the globe. —George Polgar

HUMAN HORSEPOWER





AUSTIN



Clockwise from top left: Window shopping in Austin's South Congress neighborhood; The Jackalope; art like this La Madre stencil is everywhere in Austin; South By South-



"Keep Austin Weird." That's the mantra that has maintained this bastion of free thinking in a state that's home to "thinkers" like President Bush. And this month, as musicians, movie makers, and techno geeks descend upon Austin for the South By Southwest Conferences and Festival (March 7 through 16), the weirdness continues. If you plan on checking out SXSW—and I recommend you do—here are just a few ways for you to spend your time.

LOOK & LISTEN: Since there are hundreds of first-run flicks and amazing bands showcased in this year's festival, there's something for everyone. I am looking forward to Hori Smoku Sailor Jerry, a documentary on the life and times of tattoo artist Norman Keith "Sailor Jerry" Collins. And how could you not stop by the Austin Music Hall on March 14 for a dose of Dolly Parton? If you want to choose your own adventure, you'll find schedules, events, and other worthy festival-related goodies at sxsw.com.

DRINK: Much to my surprise, the drink of this Texas town isn't a bottle of ice cold Lone Star; it's micro-brewed vodka. Try Tito's Handmade Vodka, produced at Texas' first and oldest legal distillery, or Dripping Springs Texas Vodka, which gets its

smooth finish from Hill Country spring water. Both local spirits are found in many of the drinking holes along the infamous Sixth Street strip. If you decide to brave the stretch, packed with Longhorn frat boys and pimped-out Monte Carlos, you'll have a fun night at **Jackalope**, home of the Helldorado (a ridiculously large concoction of God knows what). Last time I visited, Conan the Destroyer was playing on the big screen, Ronnie James Dio was wailing on the jukebox, and nude velvets were hanging on the wall. Other spots I like are **Casino El Camino**, a dark bar that serves a mean burger, and **Side Bar**, which is just off the strip and has a low-key atmosphere and outside patio area.

EAT: It's Texas, so you have to grub on some barbecue, and you can't go wrong at a classic spot like **Stubb's Bar-B-Que**. Stop in on a Sunday for their famous brunch with live gospel music.

STAY: Directly across from SXSW venue the Continental Club, is **Hotel San José**. Described as "ultramodern" when it was built in 1939, this retro motel attracts my kind of travelers—the kind who like their music loud, their drinks strong, and their cities weird. —Enrique Pinchazo

JACKALOPE

404 E. Sixth St.
512-472-3663
jackalopeaustin.com

CASINO EL CAMINO

517 E. Sixth St.
512-469-9330
casinoelcamino.net

THE SIDE BAR

602 E. Seventh St.
512-322-0697

STUBB'S BAR-B-QUE

801 Red River St.
512-482-0035
stubbساustin.com

HOTEL SAN JOSÉ

1316 S. Congress Ave.
800-574-8897
sanjosehotel.com

INKED PEOPLE

"Tattooing will always be a kind of secret society, where you have to spend time getting to know it and figuring out what it's all about." —*Todd Burnes*



MITCHELL BINDER



There is a balance to accessorizing: You want to look like you're not about to take shit from anyone, but you don't want to over do it and end up more Prince than punk. For some, this balance is an inherent trait. If you're not one of these people, meet Mitchell Binder.

Binder started his accessories company, King Baby Studio—a line of hefty silver rings, pendants, buckles, and more—after working as an apprentice and casting his own silver pieces for friends out of a 500-square-foot studio. In the late '90s, a group of Japanese collectors found his jewelry on eBay, flew to Southern California, and bought his whole stock for cash. He used the money to start King Baby Studio in 2000.

"It was a total rags-to-riches thing. I'm from Jackson, Mississippi, and moved [to Southern California] when I was a teenager and found my niche in life," Binder says. "I've been lucky enough to make jewelry for everyone from celebrities and rockers to a CEO of a Fortune 500 company and someone going to jail."

Despite such disparity among his clientele, Binder has found success because his work speaks to people who recognize craftsmanship and quality. In fact, his first collection sold at Neiman Marcus was the fastest to hit the million-dollar mark in the history of the retailer. "Their customer was different than the

rogue biker," he says. "It was the weekend warrior, someone who wants that cool mystique but doesn't know how to get it, so they emulate it. And actually, it's worked out well."

So where does Binder find inspiration for his pieces? This season it came from his tattoos. "The crowned heart with wings and flames on my bicep is one of the designs that I used," says Binder. "It's my favorite tattoo right now, but I'm going to Mark Mahoney to get two pieces on my chest, so those will probably be my new favorites. With tattoos, it's always the last you get that are your favorite."

Binder's work—and his type of saleable cool—is in demand these days. A production company is currently pitching a reality show of his life, and this past winter he was busy doing voice-overs for the show and dealing with a film crew following him around. In addition to the pilot, he has a high-end apparel line in the works.

True to his roots, Binder says, "I'm happiest when I'm on the bench pouring metal. I used to be worried about making enough money to buy a pack of smokes. Now I laugh every day when I go through those Bel Air gates. I'm like, you got to be joking. That's all fun, but the best part is the people I work with and get to meet. We're kind of going for the ride and enjoying it." —*Meredith Lindemon*







TIGER ARMY

Years from now, when nursing homes fill with tattooed and grommetted punks pushing 70, Kearney Nick Jones, now known as Nick 13, the singer/guitarist of psychobilly juggernaut Tiger Army, won't have any regrets.

"If I were a guy sitting in my bed in a nursing home, I would rather have sleeves, even if they're incredibly faded and blurred, than be the guy sitting next to me that has no tattoos," says Nick 13. "I think there would be more respect and affection from the staff because it's evidence that you've actually lived a real life."

If ink in the skin is emblematic of a real life, then Nick 13 wanted to start living much sooner than he actually did. Crediting his father's wishes, he didn't get his first tattoo until his 18th birthday. "I wanted to start getting tattooed when I was 15 and I almost did. My dad was always cool and didn't ask that much of me, but he asked out of respect that I wait until I was 18, so I did," he says. "I probably would've gotten something much worse if I hadn't waited."

Worse than a Celtic arm band? He chuckles a bit when asked about that first tattoo, but not with regret, just the faintest hint of embarrassment. "If you were getting tattooed back then, chances are you have something Celtic. And I didn't just choose it without any thought. Definitely the ancient Celts were of considerable interest to me, human sacrifice and what-not."

These days, Nick 13 doesn't find much time for contemplating past tattoos. Now on tour in support of his band's fourth album, *Music From Regions Beyond*, he is joined by stand-up bass player Geoff Kresge, who left the band in 2004 and recently returned, and drummer James Meza. When time permits, Nick 13 frequents shops in the Bay Area, seeing Scott Sylvia at Black Heart Tattoo, in San Francisco, or Jason McAfee, in Oakland, CA. "It's been a while since I have actually been tattooed," he says. "Touring [makes it] hard to set the appointments and do it."

Though Nick 13 admits there are pros to tattoos becoming more popular, he believes there are just as many cons. "The downside is you have more stupid questions these days. I've always been a pretty antisocial person and I generally want to be left alone. If there was a positive side to things before, [it was] that often times people would not talk to you. Now [tattoos are] more accepted so you're more than likely to answer the same five stupid questions: Did that hurt? How much did it cost? Is that real? Does that come off? Are you going to regret having those when you're old?" Apparently not. —Casey Lynch

SANDY POIRIER



It's freezing in Boston, but Sandy Poirier pays the cold weather no mind—he's sporting his typical uniform. "If I die, I want to be buried in a rock and roll T-shirt, tight jeans, Chrome Hearts jewelry, and sneakas," he says, with a voice that sounds like a scratched-up recording of John F. Kennedy. At first glance, the owner of South Boston's Shag Salon is slightly intimidating, that is until he picks up a glass of champagne, which softens his image a bit. "Girls think it's a sexy drink," he explains. But Poirier doesn't drink often, and he doesn't smoke, though his Tommy Lee-on-a-Harley look suggests otherwise.

Oddly, the self-proclaimed "Rockstar Hair Warrior" began his life working on cars with his father. "I was a gearhead dealing with the elements and getting dirty all day long," says Poirier. Then his life changed after a customer pulled up in a Corvette with a hot chick riding shotgun. He was shocked to find out the guy was a hair stylist. "I hated school. ... But I was artistic, and hair school was only one year," he says. "Plus the classes would be mostly girls." So he traded the wrench and gas rag for scissors and a comb.

Poirier's warehouse-style salon might have new clients wondering if they walked into a tattoo parlor by mistake, since Poirier and many of his employees are covered in ink. Even his two dogs, Chloe and Diesel, have tattoos,

albeit the kind that identify them should they decide to wander off. Poirier's own ink includes knuckle tattoos—LOVE on the left hand, HATE on the right. "Sometimes it doesn't feel right since I'm right handed. But no regrets." He also has a skull on his right hand courtesy of Kat Von D. "Chris Garver actually drew it since Kat's not good with evil. But she did it and added some roses around it." To complement the skull, he's got Chinese dragons on the other hand. And tribal art, stars, fire, flowers, crosses, snakes, eagles, and more skulls and dragons make up two colorful sleeves. He's also a fan of words and admits that if he gets text inked on one side, he's got to get the opposite on the other, hence the "salvation" and "debauchery" tattoos on his hips.

Poirier thinks he'll continue to get more tattoos, just not on his legs. "If it doesn't show, why do it?" he asks. And he'll keep on rocking the hair scene in South Boston. Plus he'd like to do more TV, "I've done an episode of *Made* and *Miami Ink*. I'd also like to get on *Split Ends*. There may be another reality show in the works, but there's nothing signed." For right now, he's trying to incorporate his salon with his side career as DJ Rebel Almighty. "I want my salon to have the same energy as a club or bar," he says, drawing out the "a" in bar as only a Bostonian can. And since he describes his music as "a lot of sexual vibrations," we think Shag will live up to its name. —Emily Kate Warren





TODD BURNES & OLIVIA MINER

As different industries continue to embrace tattoos, the importance of preserving the integrity of the culture has never been more important. That's where Todd Burnes and Olivia Miner, of Canvas Los Angeles, come in.

Originally conceived as a modest boutique, Canvas Los Angeles quickly expanded into a 4,000-square-foot store and gallery showcasing the clothing designs and fine art of the world's most legendary needle artists. "The original vision, which remains the current vision, [was a] place to fully appreciate what tattoo artists are capable of outside tattooing itself." Not a tattoo shop, but an innovative fine-art gallery and retail store exhibiting the non-skin-based work of tattoo masters worldwide. "Tattooing is one of the oldest art forms known to man, yet there has never been a place outside of tattoo shops for people to appreciate it," says Burnes. "Our focus is to showcase the art itself, rather than tattooing as a profession."

Response from the tattoo community could not be more positive. The grand opening this past fall was an exhibit aptly titled "Visionaries," featuring works from the likes of Mike Davis, Horiyoshi III, and the legendary Bob Roberts. "You're never ready to approach Bob Roberts and ask him to do something with you," laughs Burnes. "But thankfully he was into it." Other works included

pieces by the late Mike "Rollo" Malone, Shawn Barber, and Kat Von D. The guest list read like a who's-who roster of tattooing elite, and the event raised tattoos into the world of high art.

But is all the attention a good thing? Addressing concerns that the new appreciation for skin art may threaten its historical reputation as a mantle for social irreverence, Burnes says, "Tattooing will always be a kind of secret society, where you have to spend time getting to know it and figuring out what it's all about. Will it ever be safe? I doubt it."

For the future of Canvas, Burnes and his partner, Miner, hope to expand the project to new locations while continuing to promote the artists. "We would love to see the clothing lines owned by tattoo artists right alongside the high-end brands, and see the fine-art side gain the recognition that it truly deserves."

Burnes, of course, will continue to be a walking advertisement for his gallery's inspiration. Among his tattoos, he's particularly fond of a neck piece done by Jim Miner: "When you're getting your neck tattooed, and Todd Noble Holloway is dancing around the shop with his shirt off, it's a level of pleasure and pain that you didn't think was possible." Hopefully, gallery visitors will share some of that pleasure as Burnes and Miner's vision continues to grow. —Blake Freitag



www.estevanorio.com
www.upperplayground.com

INKED WELL.

"When I first started out, I wanted to be Jim Morrison, you know? I tried to be as fucked up as I could possibly be, all the time."

—Jonathan Davis





BLOOD BROTHERS

Mixed martial arts has become the defining sport of the 21st century, and with it comes a new style of fighter—smart, athletic, and more often than not, covered in ink. Here, a look behind the scenes of the sport's largest promotion, the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

BY ETHAN TODRAS-WHITEHILL AND THEO GANGI PHOTOS BY KENNETH CAPPELLO

PUNCHING SOMEONE IN THE FACE JUST DOESN'T CUT IT ANYMORE.

Where boxers only use their fists, the dominant fighters of the 21st century also kick, knee, trip, and wrestle—anything legal to secure victory. Mixed martial arts and its most popular promotion, the Ultimate Fighting Championship, are undergoing a furious ascent into the mainstream. The gloves are smaller, and the action is faster and harder-hitting, but beneath the brutal veneer, the sport, its fighters (and their tattoos) are surprisingly complex.

The UFC came into being in the early '90s as a way to answer the questions that had been percolating ever since the American public became aware of Bruce Lee and martial arts: "Can a boxer beat a karate master?" "Can wrestling beat judo?" The early events were bloody, brutal affairs, often with one of the two fighters so overmatched it was difficult to watch. In response to political and economic pressures, however, the sport has evolved into a legitimate affair, with gloves, weight classes, sanctioning by state athletic boards, and—most importantly—well-matched combatants who train in all fighting styles instead of just one.

In the past few years, the sport's popularity has exploded. Partially driven by the Spike TV reality show *The Ultimate Fighter*, which matches up young fighters trying to win a UFC contract, and is watched by millions of viewers per episode, the UFC earned more pay-per-view money than boxing in 2006. Measured by online interest, the UFC is now the sixth most popular professional sports league in the United States, ahead of both the

PGA and Major League Soccer, and nipping at the NHL's heels.

This actually makes a lot of sense, as mixed martial arts is the logical fighting sport for the 21st century. Its creation is both a product and case study of globalization, as once isolated and tradition-bound martial arts disciplines have been forced to evolve in response to international challenges. Boxing is a struggle between two athletes that is in the end symbolic, given the sport's restrictive rules. And it fit well in the culture of social restraint that dominated the first half of the 20th century. But in this century, as models and celebrities show more and more skin, and entertainment is constrained by fewer and fewer boundaries, our desire to see two men in a private war is no longer satisfied by a sport where only two of the body's numerous natural weapons can be used—and those even covered in pillow-like gloves. Boxing may symbolize a real fight, but mixed martial arts *is* a real fight. And modern culture no longer accepts substitutes.

The personalities in this new sport are surprisingly diverse. Where once they might have been all white wrestlers from the Midwest, now fighters are emerging from the inner city, college campuses, and all races and classes. And while mixed martial arts may seem mindless and brutal to some, in reality it's a subtle, technical sport that attracts smart, thoughtful combatants—who happen to be covered in ink. Though fighters rarely let down their guard, their tattoos—as seen in the following portraits taken at the UFC 79: Nemesis event held in Las Vegas—show what's really under their skin.

JASON "THE PUNISHER" LAMBERT

AGE/HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 30/5'10"/205

HOMETOWN: Long Beach, CA

FIGHTING STYLE: Freestyle, with an emphasis on ground and pound

On Jason Lambert's powerful frame, the dark ink covering his left shoulder is what first catches your eye. It's a tattoo of a dragon, flying through a vortex of flames. Lambert had a tough childhood, and the dragon is his way of putting his demons, quite literally, outside himself. That single-minded focus will be necessary for Lambert to succeed in the stacked UFC Light Heavyweight division against some of the UFC's biggest names, like Chuck Liddell, Tito Ortiz, and Quinton "Rampage" Jackson. The tat is by Big Ed, of Tattoo Image in Victorville, CA, who also did a '50s-style pin-up on Lambert's leg. While some regret the tattoos of their youth, Lambert thinks all ink, even mistakes, have value: "It's just a history thing. There's a time period for each of them, the present, the past, or the future."





CHUCK "THE ICEMAN" LIDDELL

AGE/HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 38/6'2"/205

HOMETOWN: San Luis Obispo, CA

FIGHTING STYLE: Karate, kickboxing, wrestling

Chuck Liddell is easily the most visible fighter in mixed martial arts. He's done advertisements for the computer maker Dell, has been sponsored by the war movie *300*, and is occasionally a top search term on Google. Known for his devastating, accurate strikes and the ability to knock his opponents out while backtracking, Liddell has some ideas about what has helped to raise his profile. "For one, the recognizable look. Two, my style of fighting." That recognizable look includes the characters of his karate school tattooed on his head beside his trademark, close-cropped Mohawk. As for his fighting style, Liddell likes to throw punches from unorthodox angles and is virtually impossible to take down to the ground—a style known as "sprawl and brawl." A "sprawl" is a way of spreading your legs to defend against a takedown; the "brawl" part needs no explanation. From his first win at UFC 17, in 1998, to his latest in the recent UFC 79 over the once-unbeatable Wanderlei Silva, Liddell is one of the main guys responsible for making televised fights exciting again.



TIM "THE MAINE-IAC" SYLVIA

AGE/HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 31/6'8"/260

HOMETOWN: Eastbrook, ME

FIGHTING STYLE: Karate and wrestling; prefers stand-up fighting

A two-time UFC heavyweight champion, Tim Sylvia is one of the sport's most recognizable stars. That's partially for his exciting, brawling style, but also because at 6'8", he's easy to pick out in a crowd. Sylvia grew up idolizing Superman, and at 18 he got the trademark "S" as his first tattoo on the inside of his left arm. After he broke his arm in a fight and had to get it repaired with a titanium plate, Sylvia built on the Superman tat, making it look like the skin around it was being torn away. Underneath the image of ripping skin, pistons and gears are visible. "I was the man of steel," says Sylvia. "So I made it look like I actually had steel in my body." His stardom is beginning to influence his choice of tattoo parlors as well; Tim plans for his next piece, "The Maine-iac" in script between his shoulder blades, to be done at the *Miami Ink* shop.

SOA "THE HULK" PALELEI

AGE/HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 30/6'4"/265

HOMETOWN: Perth, Australia

FIGHTING STYLE: Freestyle

This big Australian made his debut on the UFC's highly touted December card and lost. But he might have just been unready, spiritually speaking. Palelei is of Tongan ancestry, with a tattoo on his right arm that symbolizes his roots. But Palelei's tattoo is unfinished; eventually he plans for it to come around and cover half his chest, like the Gladiator armor in Roman times. Finishing it will give Palelei honor and respect within his own family, but more importantly, it will symbolically mean he is ready to go to war. That means the next time he fights in the UFC the result should be different. "It does give [me] encouragement to actually get the thing done," says Palelei.





JOSH "THE PEOPLE'S WARRIOR" BURKMAN

AGE/HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 27/5'10"/170

HOMETOWN: Salt Lake City, UT

FIGHTING STYLE: Wrestling; "American Whu-hit-u"

Josh Burkman is a former street fighter who fought almost 200 times (unsanctioned, of course) in high school and college alone. When he beat somebody up and they asked, "What was that?" Burkman, unable to claim a connection with tradition-laced sports like Brazilian jiu-jitsu, would respond "American Whu-hit-u." Burkman's first tattoo was his name on his calf, but he went in for his second tattoo at a turbulent period in his life when his parents got divorced. He took a Japanese house, representing peace at home, started drawing crazy designs around it to symbolize his lifestyle at that point, and had an artist tattoo it on his back. "I put it on my back because I knew my life was going to be hectic," explains Burkman. "But I knew one day I'd be able to put that stuff behind me."

RICH "NO LOVE" CLEMENTI

AGE/HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 31/5'9"/155

HOMETOWN: Slidell, LA

FIGHTING STYLE: Freestyle; was a high school wrestler

"No Love" is tattooed across Rich Clementi's back, and while that may represent his "mean-type fighting style," it doesn't sum up his life. Since being on the fourth season of *The Ultimate Fighter*, Clementi has had a lot to love. With his 13-month-old baby boy, his new wife, and several growing businesses—including "No Love Entertainment" and a tanning salon—Clementi is getting the most out of fighting. He's also happy about his recent victory over rival Melvin Guillard, a fighter with whom no love is lost. After he locked Guillard in a chokehold, forcing his opponent to tap out, Clementi delivered a message in the post fight interview: "Go practice Brazilian jiu-jitsu," referencing the grappling technique he used to end the fight. The "No Love" nickname dates back to when Clementi was on a military tour in Spain, when he left his first wife and began fighting—" [Back then] it represented my personality *and* my fighting style."



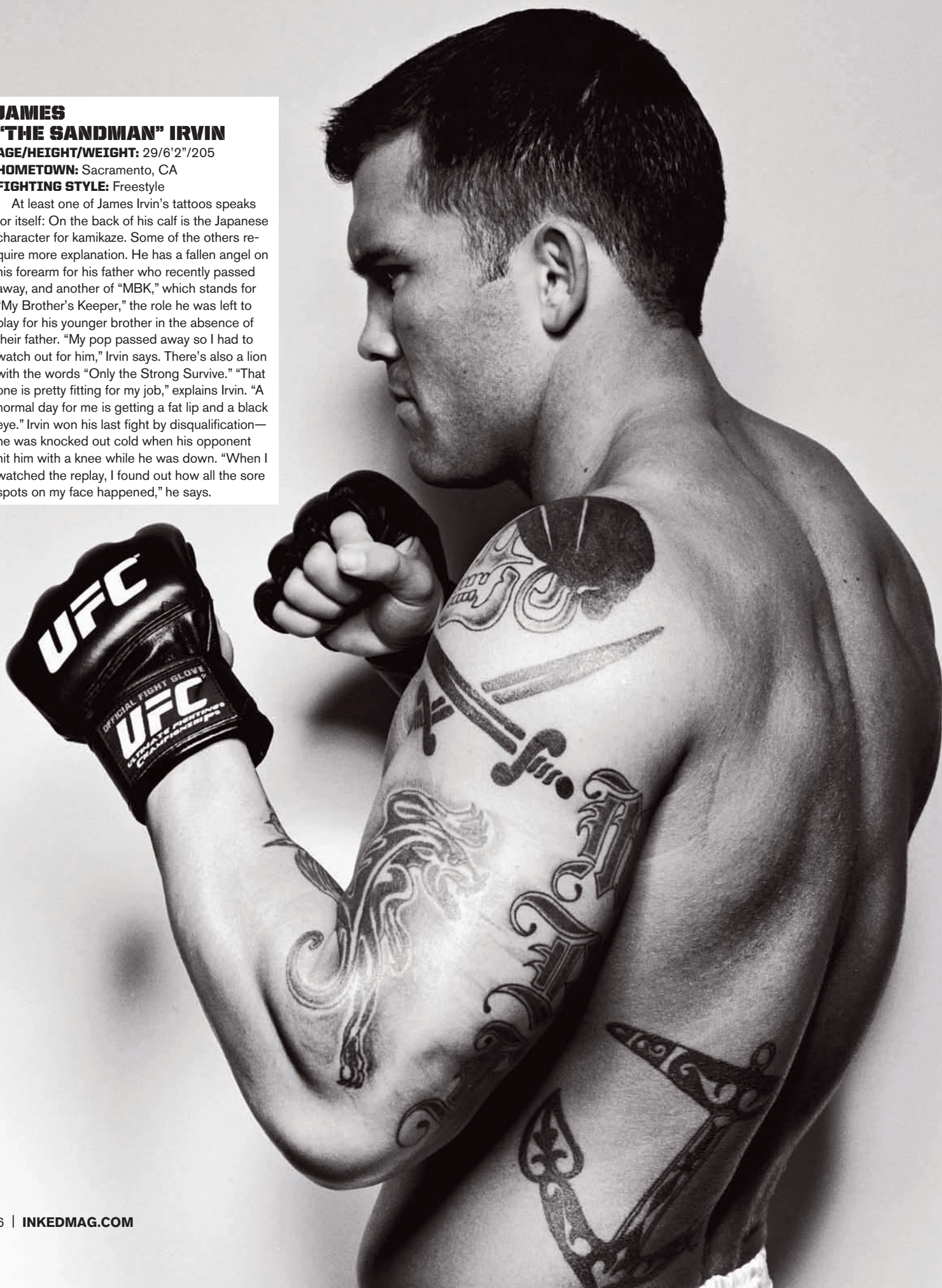
**JAMES
"THE SANDMAN" IRVIN**

AGE/HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 29/6'2"/205

HOMETOWN: Sacramento, CA

FIGHTING STYLE: Freestyle

At least one of James Irvin's tattoos speaks for itself: On the back of his calf is the Japanese character for kamikaze. Some of the others require more explanation. He has a fallen angel on his forearm for his father who recently passed away, and another of "MBK," which stands for "My Brother's Keeper," the role he was left to play for his younger brother in the absence of their father. "My pop passed away so I had to watch out for him," Irvin says. There's also a lion with the words "Only the Strong Survive." "That one is pretty fitting for my job," explains Irvin. "A normal day for me is getting a fat lip and a black eye." Irvin won his last fight by disqualification—he was knocked out cold when his opponent hit him with a knee while he was down. "When I watched the replay, I found out how all the sore spots on my face happened," he says.



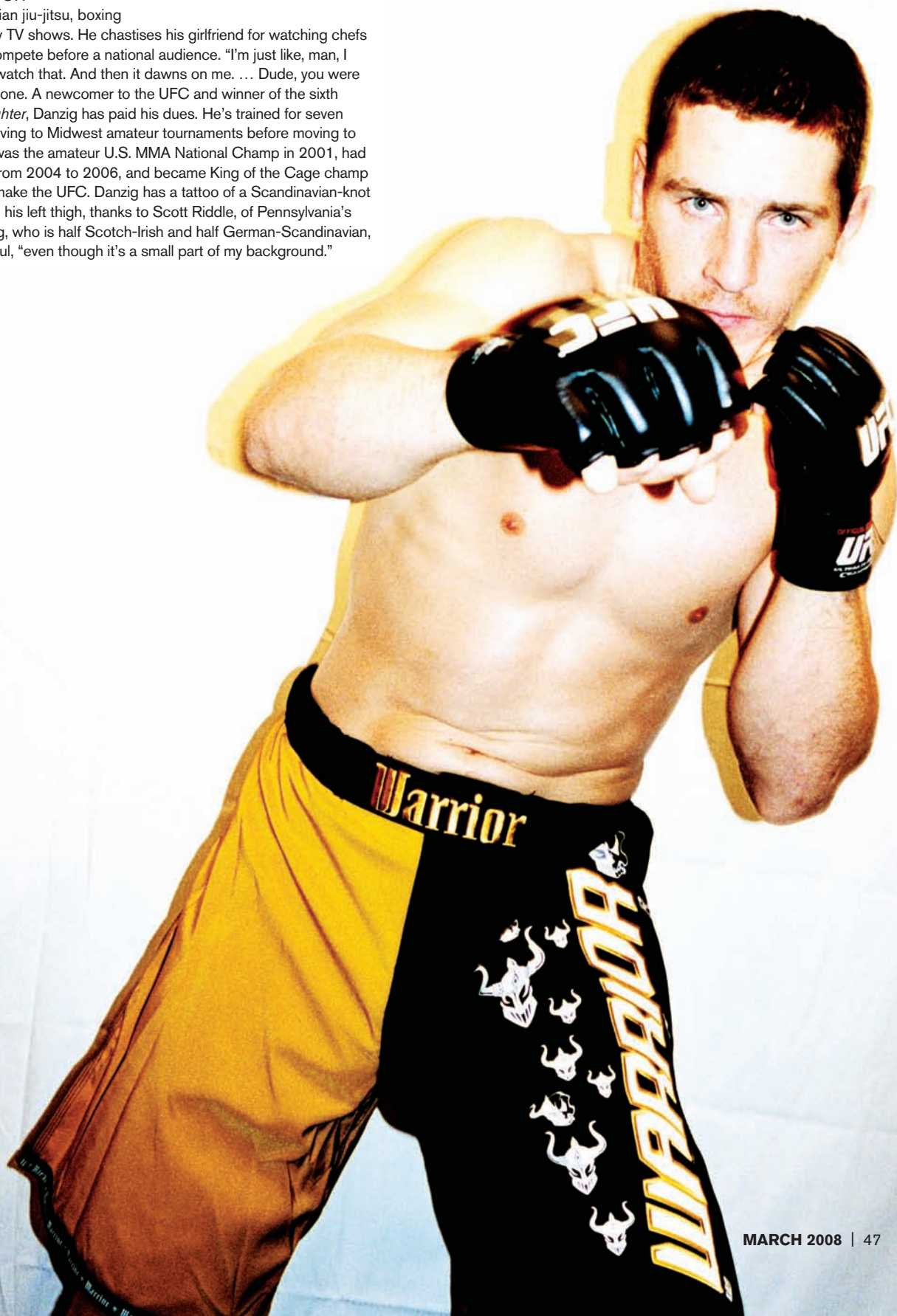
MAC DANZIG

AGE/HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 28/5'9"/155

HOMETOWN: Cleveland, OH

FIGHTING STYLE: Brazilian jiu-jitsu, boxing

Mac Danzig hates reality TV shows. He chastises his girlfriend for watching chefs and designer wannabes compete before a national audience. "I'm just like, man, I can't believe people even watch that. And then it dawns on me. ... Dude, you were just on one." He even won one. A newcomer to the UFC and winner of the sixth season of *The Ultimate Fighter*, Danzig has paid his dues. He's trained for seven years and fought for six, driving to Midwest amateur tournaments before moving to Los Angeles in 2002. He was the amateur U.S. MMA National Champ in 2001, had a 12-fight winning-streak from 2004 to 2006, and became King of the Cage champ in 2007, yet he still didn't make the UFC. Danzig has a tattoo of a Scandinavian-knot work Viking dragon around his left thigh, thanks to Scott Riddle, of Pennsylvania's Mark of Thor Tattoo. Danzig, who is half Scotch-Irish and half German-Scandinavian, says the tattoo is meaningful, "even though it's a small part of my background."



A full-page photograph of Melvin Guillard, a muscular Black man with short blonde hair, standing in a bathroom. He is shirtless, wearing a silver chain necklace, black boxing gloves, and red and black shorts. He has extensive tattoos on his arms and chest, including a large Superman crest on his left chest. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. In the background, a toilet and a sink are visible.

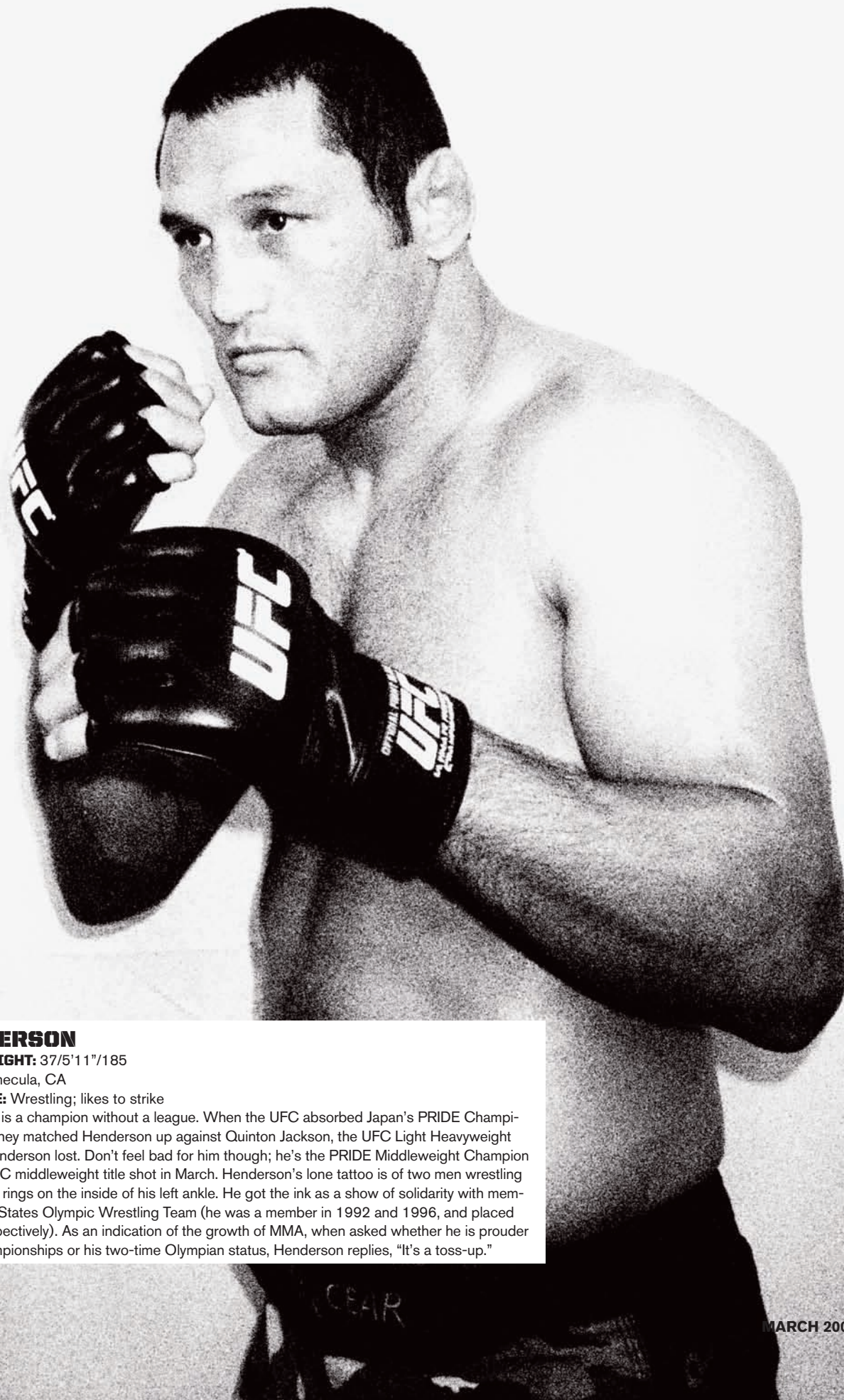
MELVIN "THE YOUNG ASSASSIN" GUILLARD

AGE/HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 24/5'9"/155-175

HOMETOWN: New Orleans, LA

FIGHTING STYLE: Wrestling, Muay Thai

Melvin Guillard came to the UFC stage in the second season of the wildly popular *Ultimate Fighter* reality show. Although only 24, he already has 45 fights (37-4-4), as many as fighters twice his age. In the UFC, though, he is 3-3, including a devastating loss recently to Rich Clementi in an authentic grudge match (the two are training partners turned enemies). As for his ink, Guillard has a cross inscribed with the name of his father that passed away, the symbol of his Zodiac sign (Aries) on his chest, and a Superman crest inscribed with "MG" instead of the "S." And, of course, there are his spider webs. "I have a thing for spiders," says Guillard. "They're small but very dominant, like me as a fighter."



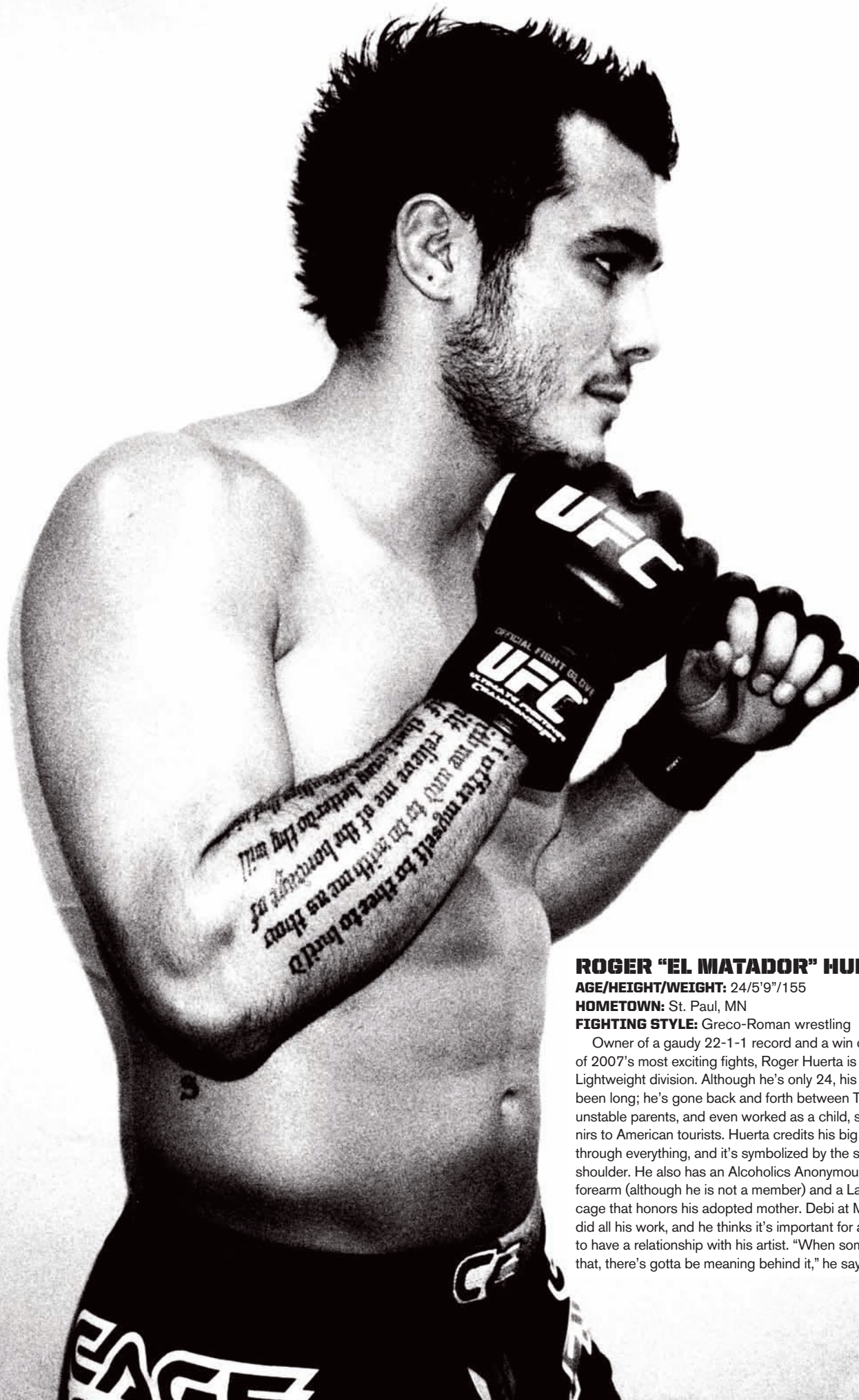
DAN HENDERSON

AGE/HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 37/5'11"/185

HOMETOWN: Temecula, CA

FIGHTING STYLE: Wrestling; likes to strike

Dan Henderson is a champion without a league. When the UFC absorbed Japan's PRIDE Championships last year, they matched Henderson up against Quinton Jackson, the UFC Light Heavyweight Champion, and Henderson lost. Don't feel bad for him though; he's the PRIDE Middleweight Champion and is getting a UFC middleweight title shot in March. Henderson's lone tattoo is of two men wrestling above the Olympic rings on the inside of his left ankle. He got the ink as a show of solidarity with members of the United States Olympic Wrestling Team (he was a member in 1992 and 1996, and placed 10th and 12th respectively). As an indication of the growth of MMA, when asked whether he is prouder of his PRIDE Championships or his two-time Olympian status, Henderson replies, "It's a toss-up."



ROGER "EL MATADOR" HUERTA

AGE/HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 24/5'9"/155

HOMETOWN: St. Paul, MN

FIGHTING STYLE: Greco-Roman wrestling

Owner of a gaudy 22-1-1 record and a win over Clay Guida in one of 2007's most exciting fights, Roger Huerta is a rising star in the UFC's Lightweight division. Although he's only 24, his road to this point has been long; he's gone back and forth between Texas and Mexico with unstable parents, and even worked as a child, selling Mexican souvenirs to American tourists. Huerta credits his big heart with getting him through everything, and it's symbolized by the sacred heart on his left shoulder. He also has an Alcoholics Anonymous prayer on his right forearm (although he is not a member) and a Latin phrase on his rib cage that honors his adopted mother. Debi at Mom's Tattoos in Austin did all his work, and he thinks it's important for anyone who gets a tattoo to have a relationship with his artist. "When somebody touches you like that, there's gotta be meaning behind it," he says.

WANDERLEI "THE AXE MURDERER" SILVA

AGE/HEIGHT/WEIGHT: 31/5'11"/205

HOMETOWN: Curitiba, Brazil

FIGHTING STYLE: Muay Thai, Brazilian jiu-jitsu

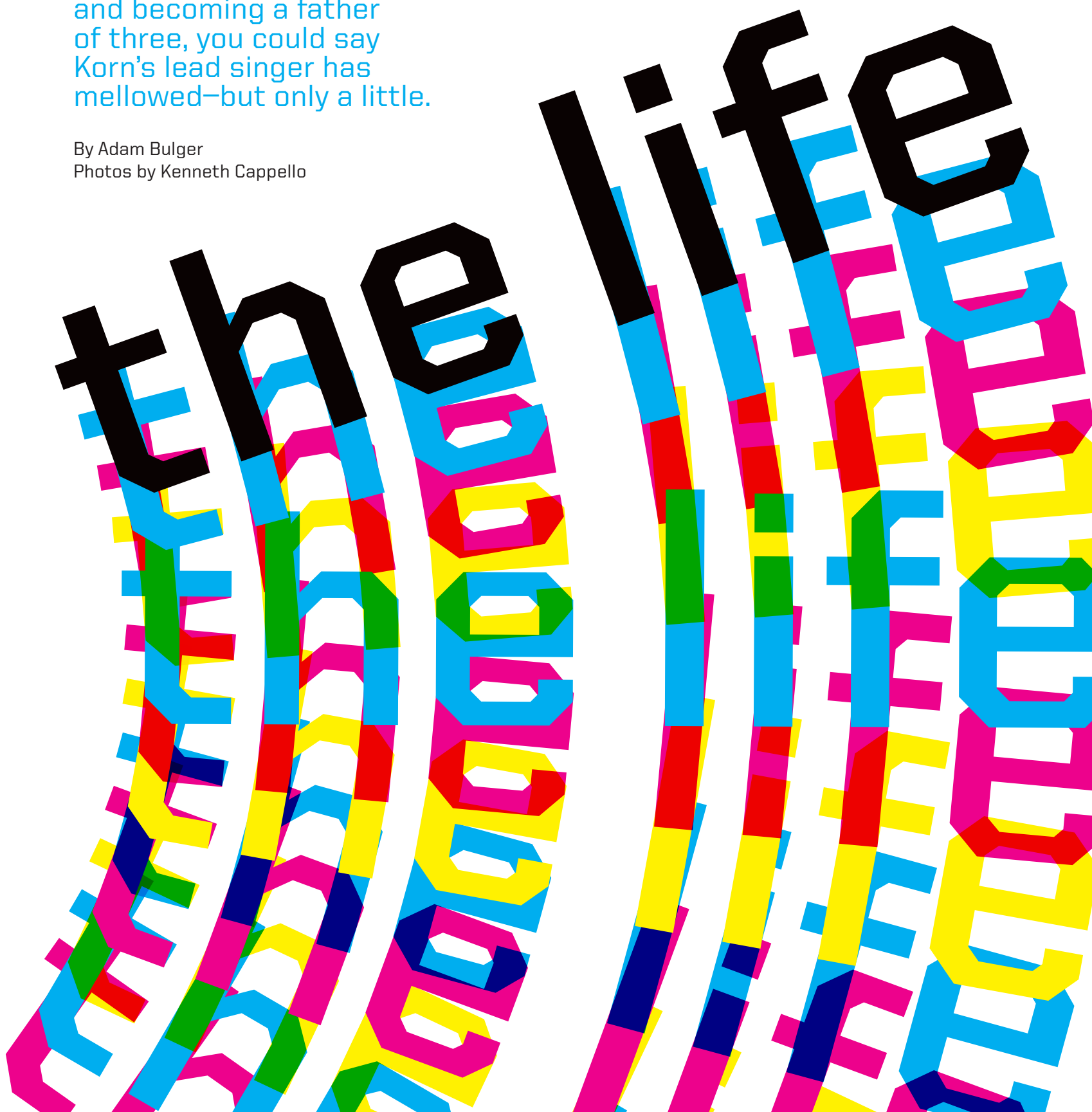
Wanderlei Silva, pronounced *vun-der-LAY*, is perhaps most famous for an 18-fight PRIDE winning streak from 1999 through 2004. A Brazilian native, his Portuguese nickname "*Cachorro Louco*" translates to "Crazy Dog," for the wild aggression in his eyes when facing off before a fight. One of his tattoos wraps across the lower half of the back of his skull, a curling stretch of jagged tribal lines pointing outward. In December's UFC 79: Nemesis event, Silva faced off against former UFC Light Heavyweight champ Chuck Liddell in a fight MMA fans have demanded for five years. The match-up was to settle the score between the two major MMA organizations—UFC versus PRIDE. Unfortunately for Silva, the UFC came out on top.





After battling a
life-threatening disease,
confronting his addictions,
and becoming a father
of three, you could say
Korn's lead singer has
mellowed—but only a little.

By Adam Bulger
Photos by Kenneth Cappello







Jonathan Davis is the last guy in America you'd expect to be well adjusted. Think about it: The guy's whole career has been built on being a fuck-up. For the last 15 years, Davis has battled and exploited his inner demons as the lead singer of Korn, gaining legions of fans that empathize with his tortured childhood and share his dark fascinations.

Born with severe, nearly life-threatening asthma, Davis was abused by a family friend as a boy, ostracized and ridiculed by his classmates as a teen, and became a drug addict and a rock star in his 20s. By the time he hit 30, he was one of the most famous singers in the world, with a legendary reputation for drug consumption and skewed fixations.

I spoke with Davis the day after he finished his first solo tour, a two-month slog he described as a blur of "shitty little showers and fucked-up shit holes." Logically, a goth rock deity like Davis should have been clubbing baby seals for fun, snorting the elephant man's ground-up bones, or at least paying off a private detective to bury a bizarre sex video. Instead, he was resting at his Malibu home looking forward to the following day, when he planned to take two of his children camping on the beach. "I love it. I set them out there in the sand and a tent and that's it," Davis says.

What? No drugs? No sex? No blood? Sun, sand, and children? Frankly, it doesn't sound like a day in the life of a rock star. "I don't give a fuck. What's a rock star? Trying to be a rock star is what got me in trouble in the first place," Davis says.

These days, Davis spends his time off the road earning his World's Greatest Nu Metal Dad coffee mug. Sober for almost a decade, he is a happily married father of three boys: 12-year-old Nathan, 2-year-old Pirate, and his newborn baby, Zeppelin. During our conversation, Davis's voice rarely rose above a

"I'm not going to go and try to repeat myself, write some fake shit. With each new record, I'm tapping into new things and just exploring different ideas."

whisper, but he booms with happiness on the subject of his kids. "I really love my children. It's the one thing in this world that makes me truly happy, other than music," Davis says.

For Korn fans, Davis's contentment is potentially devastating news. Is it possible that Davis could some day be too well adjusted to sing for Korn? "No chance. I got issues, bro. I'll always have issues," he says.

Davis might be living the straight and narrow, but his version seems wider and more crooked than most. His adoring wife Devon is a former porn star (for the record, she was only in girl-on-girl films, which is like the Coors Light of porn). He sings through a microphone set on a \$50,000 stand designed by H.R. Giger (the Swiss artist who created the alien in *Alien*). Between Korn records, he's collaborating on an opera with Clive Barker (the sicko British horror writer behind the *Hellraiser* movies).

And as a former collector of serial killer art—a topic, he says, he now can't talk about—Davis used to go to evil places for inspiration. That's a literal statement, by the way; he would sit in serial killer Ted Bundy's Volkswagen to brainstorm lyrics. "I've gone to those places and I've written what I needed to write there," Davis says. "I'm not going to go and try to repeat myself, write some fake shit. With each new record, I'm tapping into new things and just exploring different ideas."

And while he doesn't party anymore, well, he still kind of parties. "I'm at the parties and I'm chopping up lines of cocaine, rolling joints, and pouring drinks," Davis says. "I can hang out with everybody, but it's not for me. I just can't do it."

When Davis grew up in Bakersfield, his hometown was about as close to the farm town in *Footloose* as a southern Californian city can get. While its demographics have shifted a little since then, the town is still called the "buckle of California's Bible Belt." Not surprisingly, Davis had a tough time fitting into the sunny, Reagan-loving community, and his tattoos are a testament to that. He has a monstrous bishop on one arm, and HIV—the nickname his tormenting high school peers gave him—on the other.

Even though he grew up listening to English new romantic bands like Duran Duran—he didn't embrace metal until hearing Pantera in his 20s—Davis was

"The first guy I cut open was in a motor vehicle accident. The guy was smashed the fuck up. I'll never forget the sound of the scalpel opening up his flesh."

cautioned against becoming a musician by his father, a touring musician himself. "My dad didn't want me to be a musician because he tried and he went out. It was hard and he wanted to protect me," Davis says. So he followed his father's suggestion and, at 17, he became employed in a more wholesome profession; through a high school program, he got a job at a mortuary.

"It was a very fucked-up line of work," Davis says. "I did it 'cause I really like dark, sick shit. It sounded interesting to cut up dead bodies." He was interested, but not entirely prepared for the experience. "The first day ... I was terrified. I went back to school and I was ghost white. I had just faced my mortality. The first guy I cut open was in a motor vehicle accident. The guy was smashed the fuck up. I'll never forget the sound of the scalpel opening up his flesh. It still rings in my ears to this day."

But despite finding success, or at least stability, as a coroner, Davis retained his passion for music. He formed the band SexArt, which gained the attention of two Bakersfield guitar players, James "Munky" Shaffer and Bryan "Head" Welch. Impressed by Davis' stage presence and voice, Shaffer and Welch asked him to join their band. Loyal to his SexArt cronies, Davis consulted a higher power of sorts. "My aunt's a psychic and astrologer. She told me all of this stuff was going to happen. It definitely impacted my decision to join the band," Davis explains.

Welch and Shaffer were experimenting with new dissonant and down-tuned guitar styles. Davis started mining painful childhood memories for lyrics. Korn and the genre of Nu Metal was born. The music was gnarled and aggressive, the vision was dark and personal. Their self-titled debut album was something increasingly rare in popular music: a truly original sound. The lifestyle the band's success afforded them, while epic and dangerous, was stolen wholesale from classic rock icons. "When I first started, I would watch that Doors movie. I wanted to be Jim Morrison, you know? I tried to be as fucked up as I could possibly be, all the time," Davis explains.

By 1998, Korn had attained a new level of popularity. They headlined their first Family Values tour. Their album *Follow the Leader* debuted at number one on the Billboard chart. But the years of partying and touring had taken their toll on Davis, and he hit rock bottom in front of the worst possible audience. "[My son] Nathan saw me fucked up, and two days later my grandfather passed away. That's when I got sober. Two drastic, traumatic things in my life happened back to back," Davis says. "I flew into Atlanta for a show. I sat down at the bar. I said it was my last Jack and Coke and my last cigarette. They all laughed at me, but I haven't touched them since."

Getting sober changed his life, but it didn't make it perfect. In 2003, Welch left the band to become a born-again Christian. In his 2007 book, *Save Me From Myself*, Welch renounced his wanton rocker ways. Surprisingly, Davis has read it: "It could have been a lot worse. There are a couple of things in there he didn't need to say, but he did." But, Davis adds, while most of Welch's

accounts of rock star debauchery were essentially true, some aspects were sensationalized. "He never partied a lot like he said in the book. He never had chicks. That was never his style."

Davis says Welch is now living in a Christian community in Arizona that maintains a cult-like hold over the former Korn guitarist, and he also believes they prevent Welch from communicating with his former band mates. But despite the apparent rift, Davis wishes him luck. "I'm glad he found something to get him sober and make him happy. And the whole God thing, if he needs that, it's fine. People need God and all that stuff to do something positive in their life. In my opinion he traded one addiction for another. But at least it's a positive one."

Welch's departure didn't stop Korn, but while on tour in Europe in 2005, Davis had a health scare that almost did. After noticing a series of mysterious bruises on his body, he was diagnosed with a rare blood disease called Immune Thrombocytopenia Purpura, or ITP. His blood couldn't coagulate, which posed a unique occupational hazard for a heavy metal singer; head banging became potentially lethal. The six-month steroid cure was as painful as the disease.

"Steroids make you just go crazy in your head. You're aggressive and your body aches when you're coming off of them. You can't sleep. And when they start weaning you off of them, your joints ache. It really fucks with you," Davis says.

Now completely recovered, Davis is excited to work on his solo projects and more music with Korn. But even more than that, he's glad to spend time with his kids. "I'm not saying I'm some boring dude. I'm just an artist that's a really good father. That's rare. People trip out on that."



"My chest piece
that reads
"Blessed" is by
Sky Winchester,
who's currently
at Chameleon
Tattoo in
Cambridge, MA."

Hugo Boss
black hoodie.





LIPS LIKE SUGAR

Betty Lipstick shows off her ink.

Photos by Charlie Langella

Styled by Risa Knight



“Rueben Kayden at Chameleon Tattoo did the purple rose on my left shoulder, the heart-diamond-and-rose “Mom” tattoo on my left arm and wrist, and the armored sea horse on my left arm.”

Vintage Kiss T-shirt from Search and Destroy in New York City; The Baroness latex shorts and black and red shoes; La Crasia red glove.

"Genius and mastermind Marcus Khun, owner of Just Good Tattoos, in Portland, ME, has been working on my back piece and suit for about nine months now."

Lost Art lavender hot pants; Steve Madden black boots.







"Clay Decker,
the owner of
True Tattoo
in Hollywood,
created the
traditional
Japanese dragon
adorned with
cherry blossoms
that's on my
right arm."

H&M vest; Jean Paul
Gaultier shorts; Steve
Madden boots; Bliss
Lau body chain.

"Asking someone to pick her favorite tattoo is like asking her to pick her favorite child. You just couldn't. So, with that in mind, I think all my tattoos are my favorite."

Carolina Herrera black vest; Lost Art black leather hot pants; Bliss Lau body chain; La Crasia glove.



"I'm a klutz, so I got Jeff Rassier of Black Heart Tattoo, in San Francisco, CA, to tattoo my right forearm with a heart that has a dagger through it and a banner that reads "Accident Prone."

The Baroness black and red shoes.

Hair: Michael Silva at Aartist Loft
Makeup: Mario Dedivanovic at Aartist Loft





2000

FORD DELTA 2000 PRO



my name is eddie

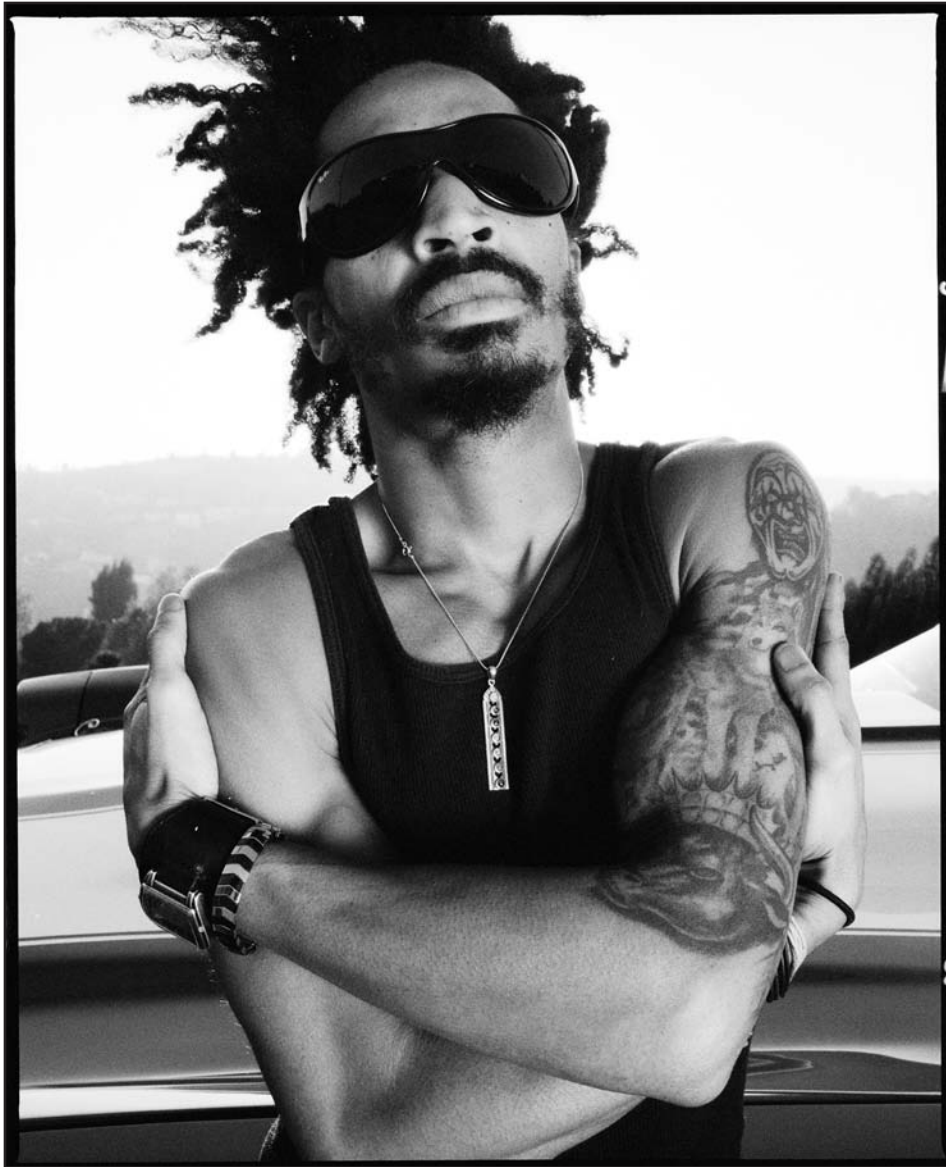
Actor Eddie Steeples' tattoos tell his life story—and as far as we can tell, it's going to be a comedy.

By Tyler Blake
Photos by Chris Glancy

Writers' strike or not, a hit comedy on NBC is doing Eddie Steeples pretty well. Or so it would seem for the *My Name Is Earl* star, who is nearly impossible to track down. When I finally get him on the phone, he's chilling in Hawaii. "I just really needed to get away for a minute, real last minute. So I figured okay, Hawaii," Steeples explains, after apologizing profusely for his elusiveness. It seems the Texas-born, Missouri-raised actor hasn't lost his manners since moving to Los Angeles. No doubt he was brought up right by his large, close-knit family, since they've influenced his career as well as his most meaningful tattoos.

Ever since Steeples was 4, he knew he wanted to be an actor—and his mom played a huge role in that. "She used to do these coat commercials on TV. Just local TV in St. Louis. ... She wasn't hardly famous, but it seemed like we were in a way, and I guess I liked that feeling," he says. "Plus, I was always being silly, making my family laugh, and entertaining."

And Steeples sure as hell is still entertaining to this day, delivering every line he gets as Darnell "Crabman" Turner with an earnestness that makes viewers wonder if he's the smartest or the dumbest character on the show. Darnell, who is married to Jaime Pressley's character, Joy, and works in a crab shack (hence the moniker), doesn't speak very often. But Steeples, a master of the befuddled grin and well-timed eyebrow raise, makes every scene he's part of hilarious. Typically, actors are quick to distance themselves from their on-screen characters, but Steeples says he has a lot in common with Darnell. "He's just a chill, laid-back, no-rocking-the-boat-type cat. Like me, I'm chill,



"I had my first tattoo redone. When I was 18, I didn't have the money to get anything too detailed. Two hundred dollars seemed like a lot of money then."

laid back, and also in the Witness Protection program," he deadpans.

It doesn't take long to realize Steeples is as full of jokes as his body is of ink. "Aw, I hate when people ask me about my tattoos 'cause then they always want to know who did 'em, and I never remember the people's names on the spot," he says. If names elude him, the stories behind his ink certainly do not. His first tattoo was by a guy in Oakland who had a self-made tattoo factory in his house and "barely charged anything." It's his mother's name on the left side of his back. "It's been redone since then, so now it's actually nice," says Steeples. "Because when I was 18, I didn't have the money to get anything too detailed. Two hundred dollars seemed like a lot of money then." Now, sunrays surround his mother's name, and the rays are tipped with the initials of all seven of her children.

Other pieces include an image of drama and comedy masks that represent his career, the word "Entity," the names of the guys in his crew, his Chinese sign (the Ox), and an assortment of others. The funniest and most noteworthy is his tattoo of the tic-tac-toe game with the letters O and X filled in the boxes to spell Ox (his sign). Having fallen for his jokes several

times already, I ask if he's for real. He laughs, "Yo, I could play tic-tac-toe for hours."

Of all that ink, the only tattoo he has in color is a heart with a lock inside it. "At the time I was searching for that person to turn the key," he starts to explain. "Listen, I know that's corny. In fact, it's the only one I kind of regret. I'm thinking of getting it removed, but I don't know." I tease him for being a sap and he admits he'd love to find a girlfriend and get married, but that it just doesn't look like it's going to happen anytime soon. "I haven't traveled enough. ... Or just gone to random places around the world, you know? Taken that time to explore the world on [my] own."

So, the ladies are out of luck; it looks like this funny man has plenty of jet-setting left to do. He's also got other pursuits to keep him occupied: He's a member of the hip-hop group No Surrender and is expanding his behind-the-scenes work, having already produced the Sundance Film Festival entry *In Time* and written the comedy *When Is Tomorrow* with director Kevin Ford. With all that going on, who can blame a guy for sneaking off to Hawaii for a much-needed break?





DO NOT DISTURB

Photos by Beatrice Neumann Styled by Risa Knight

On Erin, Stewart +
Brown white knit
dress; Bliss Lau
body chain. On Lisa,
Stewart + Brown
black knit dress and
model's own body
harness.



On Erin, American
Apparel black mesh
underwear; Christian
Louboutin black
studded heels. On
Lisa, Calvin Klein
black underwear.








On Lisa, Brian
Lichtenberg black
shirt; Sugarwear
Swimwear black bikini
bottoms. On Erin,
Brian Lichtenberg
silver shirt.





On Lisa, American
Apparel bikini top;
minedenim Lycra
bottoms. On Erin,
Hugo Boss black bra
and underwear; Bliss
Lau body chain.



Brian Lichtenberg silver shirt;
Boss silver bikini bottoms.

Makeup: Cheri Keating using MAC
for Artists by Timothy Priano
Manicure: Beth Fricke using O.P.I.
for Artists by Timothy Priano

Photo Assistant: Jordan Freid
Models: Lisa Alvarez and Erin Miller
Retouching: Mizue Asada and
Kristen Lotto for Gloss Studios, NYC
Shot in Los Angeles at
The Standard, Downtown LA





Rashad McCants

The Minnesota Timberwolves guard talks tattoos, injuries, and being labeled “borderline psychotic.”

BY MATT BERTZ PHOTOS BY JONATHAN PUSHNIK

Rashad McCants played possessed. In high school, he ripped through the competition, earning state MVP honors in New Hampshire while taking his team to the state championship. College was no different. At Air Jordan's alma mater, University of North Carolina, McCants scorched opposing defenses with his silky smooth skills, earning All-Conference and second team All-American status as a sophomore while leading his storied conference in scoring; he went on to help the Tar Heels cut down the nets as the 2005 NCAA national champions.

The 6'4" guard also became one of the most controversial college basketball players in history. The press latched on to McCants' lone wolf personality and his inflammatory statements about playing at Chapel Hill. The media labeled him “bipolar” and “borderline psychotic.” He memorialized the adversity in ink, tattooing “Born to Be Hated” on one arm and “Dying to Be Loved” on the other.

When McCants declared for the 2005 NBA draft, he might as well have declared himself eligible for purgatory. The Minnesota Timberwolves selected McCants with the fourteenth pick in the NBA draft, and the rookie guard hit a three-year run of road bumps and bad luck. Multiple injuries kept the eager young player sidelined for much of his first two years. Doctors declared him healthy just as Timberwolves management traded star player Kevin Garnett, turning the team into a total rebuilding project. None of it keeps McCants up at night. He's more concerned about taking this chance to prove himself to the NBA and the rest of the world.

INKED: Tell us about your first tattoo experience.

MCCANTS: My first tattoo was “Born to Be Hated, Dying to Be Loved.” I got it when I was 21 and in college. I was going through a lot of controversy. People said I had a bad reputation and a bad attitude. I just wanted something that kind of said where I was at.

During college, members of the media referred to you as “borderline psychotic” and “bipolar.” What is it about your personality that brought these comments?

There's nothing about my personality. The people who don't know me assume things about me. I'm a private person and a lot of times people take that the wrong way. When I step on the court, I'm there to get the job done and win. Some people are all smiles, but I take my job seriously as a professional, and some people don't understand that.

You once said of playing for the Tar Heels: “You're not allowed to say certain things, but once you get out of jail, you're free. [I'm] in my sentence, and I'm doing my time.” You later clarified the statement, saying your comments were directed at how much your days were planned out by others. Has being an NBA player been a more- or less-regimented lifestyle than it was in college?

It's a big difference. You show up and do your job every day in practice and then you have a ton of free time to do whatever you want. You have no free time in college because when you're not at practice you are either in class or study hall, and you go to sleep when you get home. Now I practice from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and then I have the whole day to myself.

“I talk to a lot of guys about their tattoos, like Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire. They’ve got some good ones. There are a lot of other players with great ink work.”

Your high school team won the state championship, and your college team won the NCAA championship. How did you handle the change from a winning tradition to playing for the Minnesota Timberwolves, one of the NBA's struggling teams?

It's tough, but it's something everybody has to go through. You have to fail to succeed. You have to start at the bottom to get to the top.

The Target Center hasn't been filled for many of your games this year. Is it tough to keep your focus and your pride when you're playing in front of such small crowds?

Not at all. You play for the love of the game, and sometimes fans don't make it to the game. You can't judge your own performance by the fans or the crowd. You got to keep playing hard and hopefully turn this thing around.

You've struggled with injuries most of your NBA career, but now you're finally healthy. Do you feel like you've still got a lot to prove to your peers and the fans?

Most definitely. Since I didn't play much my first year and I was hurt much of last year, some people already consider me a bust. For the rest of my years in the NBA I have a lot to prove. No matter what you do it's never going to be enough, and the league is always demanding more from you.

How did you deal with the injuries on a mental level? It must be hard to miss that many games.

It's really tough. You basically rehab every day 24/7, and you don't get to travel with the team. But I was fortunate when I got to talk to players like Grant Hill and Jason Kidd about their injuries and how they came back. When I talked to players like that, who have gone through with it, I got a lot of confidence about coming back.

What were the emotions that ran through you when you heard that Kevin Garnett was traded from the Timberwolves to the Boston Celtics?

It was kind of crazy. We had been talking about it for two years because of all the rumors every year. He loved Minnesota and loved everything about it and didn't really want to leave, but when the decision is made you just have to move on. He's the type of professional that will do his best no matter where he is.

Your sister plays college basketball and your cousins played in the NFL and MLB. Where do these athletic genes come from?

I have no idea. I think the biggest part is that we're passionate about our craft and we work hard at what we love to do.

What is the hardest thing about NBA life?

The mental grind of staying focused and staying consistent. When the days get long and games come back to back, your mental focus can go away,

and it's hard. In the NBA you go from city to city. Everyone wants to go out have a ball, but at the same time you have to rest your body. It can be tough to distinguish between what you should be doing and what you want to be doing sometimes.

NBA groupies are notorious for finding their way to the hotels and bars that players frequent. How do you deal with it?

I don't know about groupies showing up at the hotel, but they know who you are when you go out. They attach themselves to you. A lot of them are pretty good and know what they are doing. They want to be associated with the players. They never come up to you. A lot of times they try to dance in your vision to get your attention, or they will holler at your boy or have one of their friends go up to your boys and introduce them. They get pretty creative.

What's the craziest thing one of these girls has ever done?

I've seen a lot. The craziest? This one followed me around the club everywhere I went and never said a word. She just kept staring the whole night.

Do you get tattoos done on the road or do you have a specific shop you stick with?

I don't have one place. I kind of get it done everywhere. Anywhere that's open and will take me.

Which tattoo is your favorite?

I have flames on my shoulders; underneath it says "Always Ready, Never Scared." Those are probably my favorite.

Do you talk with other players about their tattoos?

I talk to a lot of guys about their tattoos, like [Denver Nuggets forward] Carmelo Anthony and [Phoenix Sun center] Amare Stoudemire. They've got some good ones. There are a lot of other players with great ink work.

Who has the worst ink in basketball?

That's tough. There are a lot of bad ones, but I can't think of one that I can say is the worst.

What is the craziest tattoo experience you've heard about from another NBA player?

One of my homeboys, [Minnesota Timberwolves forward] Justin Reed, got a tattoo on his hand. That night, he was wrestling in his apartment with one of his boys and he scarred up his whole hand and the tattoo ended up smearing.

Do you think tattoos have exploded in popularity in the NBA over the last few years?

It's definitely gotten big. There are a lot of players who feel like people don't understand them or they feel that they have something to say.





TATTOO YOUR SCION



THE WINNING ENTRY

IF YOUR SCION GOT INKED, WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE? In September, *Inked* challenged its readers to design a tattoo for the Scion 2008 xB. After reviewing hundreds of entries, our panel of judges (turn the page for more information on them) chose Grin Stylez's dragon-wrapped masterpiece, below, as the winner.



MEET THE WINNER: GRIN STYLEZ

Age: 28

Hometown: Bronx, New York

Aspiring tattoo artist Grin Stylez grew up in the South Bronx, the cradle of hip-hop and graffiti art. Both impacted his art, and the 28-year-old Stylez made a name for himself tagging subway trains and other areas of his neighborhood. In the mid-90s, he began tattooing and later inked one of his idols, recording artist Big Pun. He currently owns his own studio in which he tattoos clients including NBA players and entertainers.

THE JUDGES



BILLY MONROE Screamin Ink

Billy Monroe is the proud president and owner of Screamin Ink Tattoo and Hotrod Gallery, in Fair Lawn, NJ. Monroe has been in the industry for years and knows more about tattoos than most. When not sporting around the shop, Monroe is also a proud member of the Beatniks Car Club. Check out his work at screaminink.com.



JIM WHITE Screamin Ink

Jim White, along with Monroe and Shafer, is an artist at Screamin Ink Tattoo and Hotrod Gallery. He's been at the location for about three years. Check out his work at screaminink.com.



GEOFF HORN Jinx Proof Tattoo

Artist Geoff Horn has been working at Jinx Proof Tattoo, in Montclair, NJ, for almost eight years. Like the masters before him, he learned how to tattoo the hard way—through trial and error. He started as a shop boy, then learned to pierce, then tattoo. Says Horn of his work, "I try to keep my tattoos deep rooted with tradition and build them to withstand the test of time." Find out more about him at holeintheskytattoos.com.



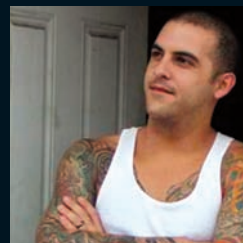
JASON GOLDBERG Olde City Tattoo

Jason Goldberg, also known as JAG 13, is the owner of Olde City Tattoo, in Philadelphia, and Baker Street Tattoo, in Media, PA. He was the lead singer of the legendary hard-core outfit The Bad Luck 13 Riot Extravaganza, and is currently fronting the bands Knecktie and The Dead Meat. Goldberg is an avid fisherman and has the wit and panache of a Catskills comedian. Check out his work at oldcitytattoo.com.



IAN SHAFER Screamin Ink

Although he doesn't look that old, Ian Shafer is the senior artist at Screamin Ink Tattoo and Hotrod Gallery. He has been at the shop for more than seven years, and continues to grow in his position. Shafer has won several awards for his work, including the Best Back Piece at the New York City Tattoo Convention in 2006. Check out his work at screaminink.com.



DAN CASTELLANO Tattoo Nation

Dan Castellano works out of Tattoo Nation, in Wayne, NJ. In 2005, he got the opportunity of a lifetime when he began studying traditional Japanese tattooing under Horisei of the Horitaku family. "I'm one of only a handful of Westerners offered to train in Tebori, hand poke, tattoos," says Castellano. "Everyday is a learning experience for me and I'm thankful for every tattoo I get to do."

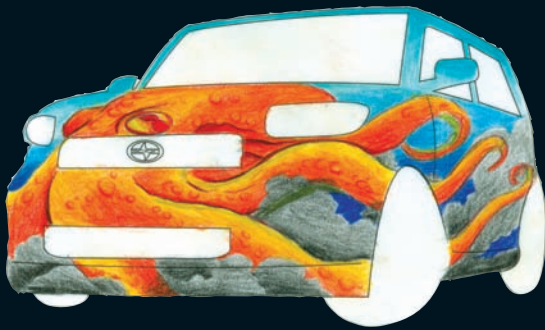
THE FINALISTS



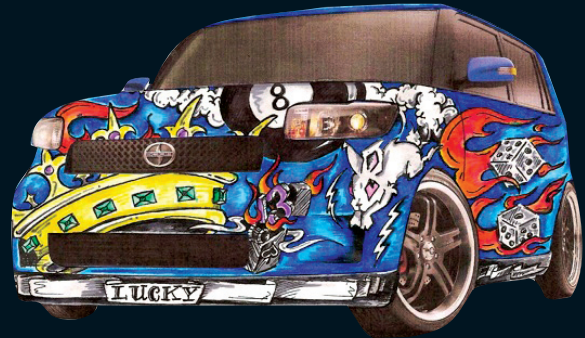
Brent Muir



Harry Aron



R.L. Maxwell "Mad Max"



Leslie Ebert



Harry Aron



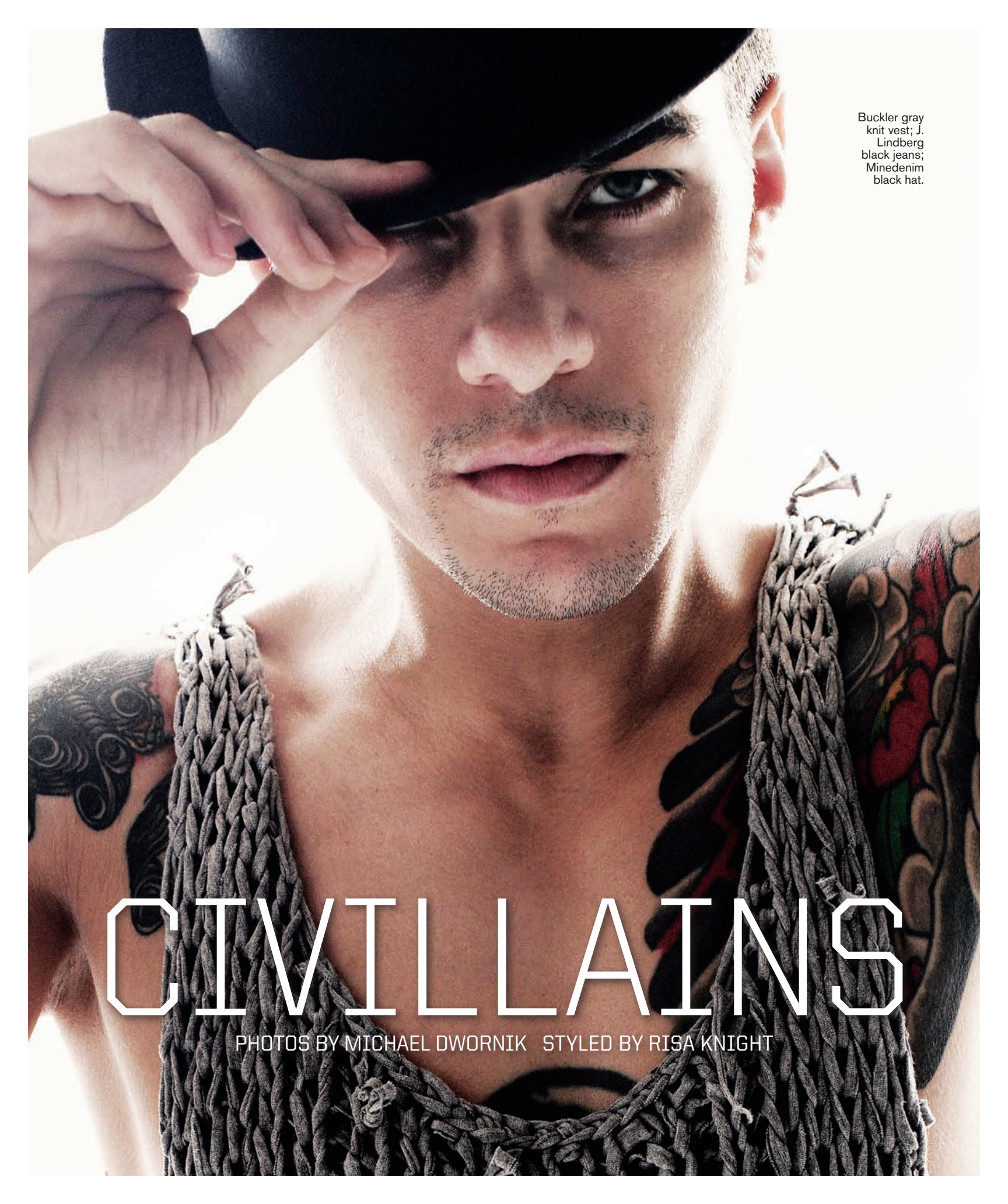
Phil Hatchet



Leslie Ebert



Brent Muir



Buckler gray
knit vest; J.
Lindberg
black jeans;
Minedenim
black hat.

CIVILLAINS


PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DWORNIK STYLED BY RISA KNIGHT



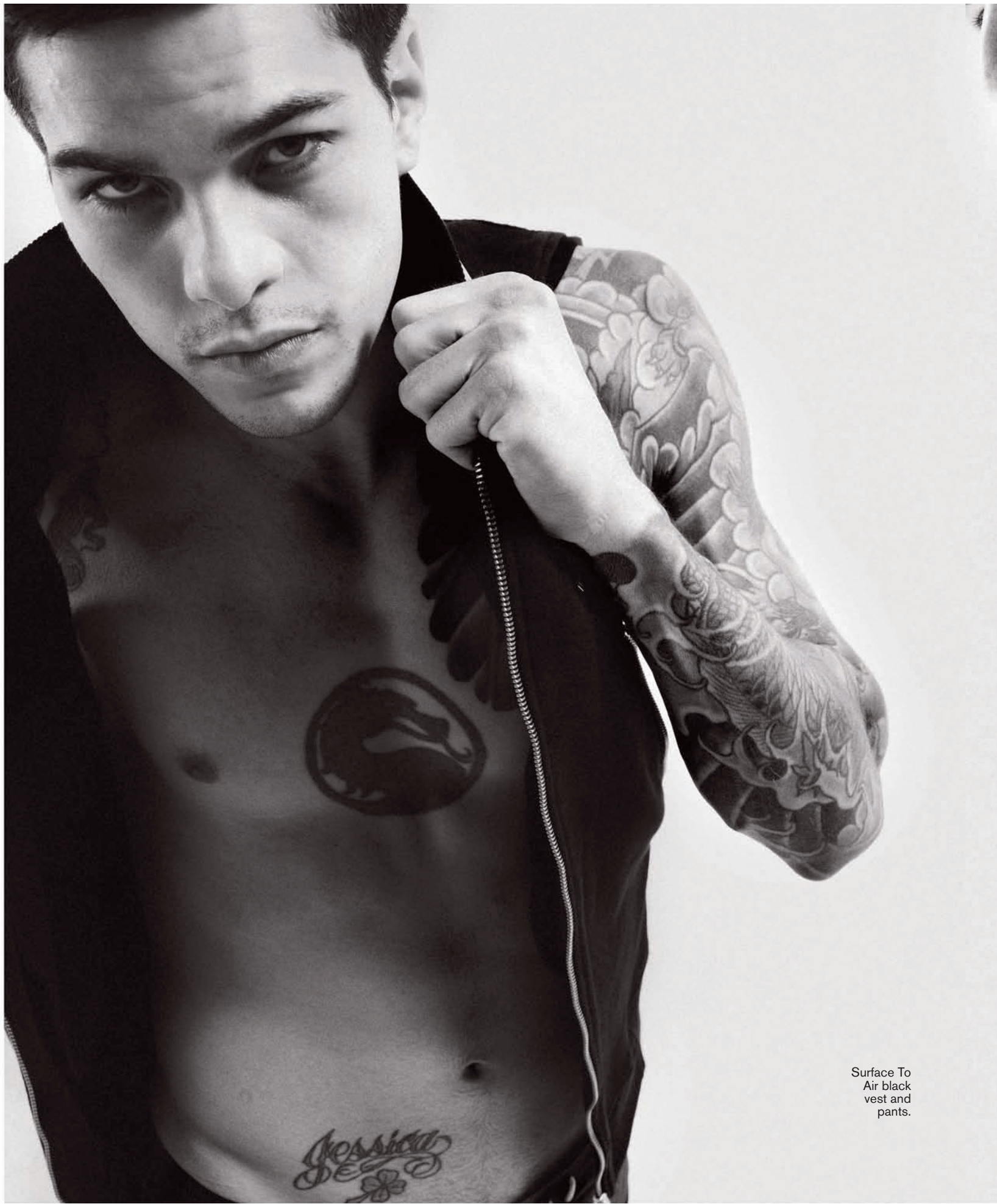
On Eduardo: Uniqlo black jeans; Buckler black mesh tank; Hugo Boss white belt. On Kelley, H&M black dress; Hugo Boss white patent leather belt, boots, and Lucite bracelet. On Paul Anthony, Calvin Klein white tank top; Buckler white vest; H&M pants; Hugo Boss chain (on pants).



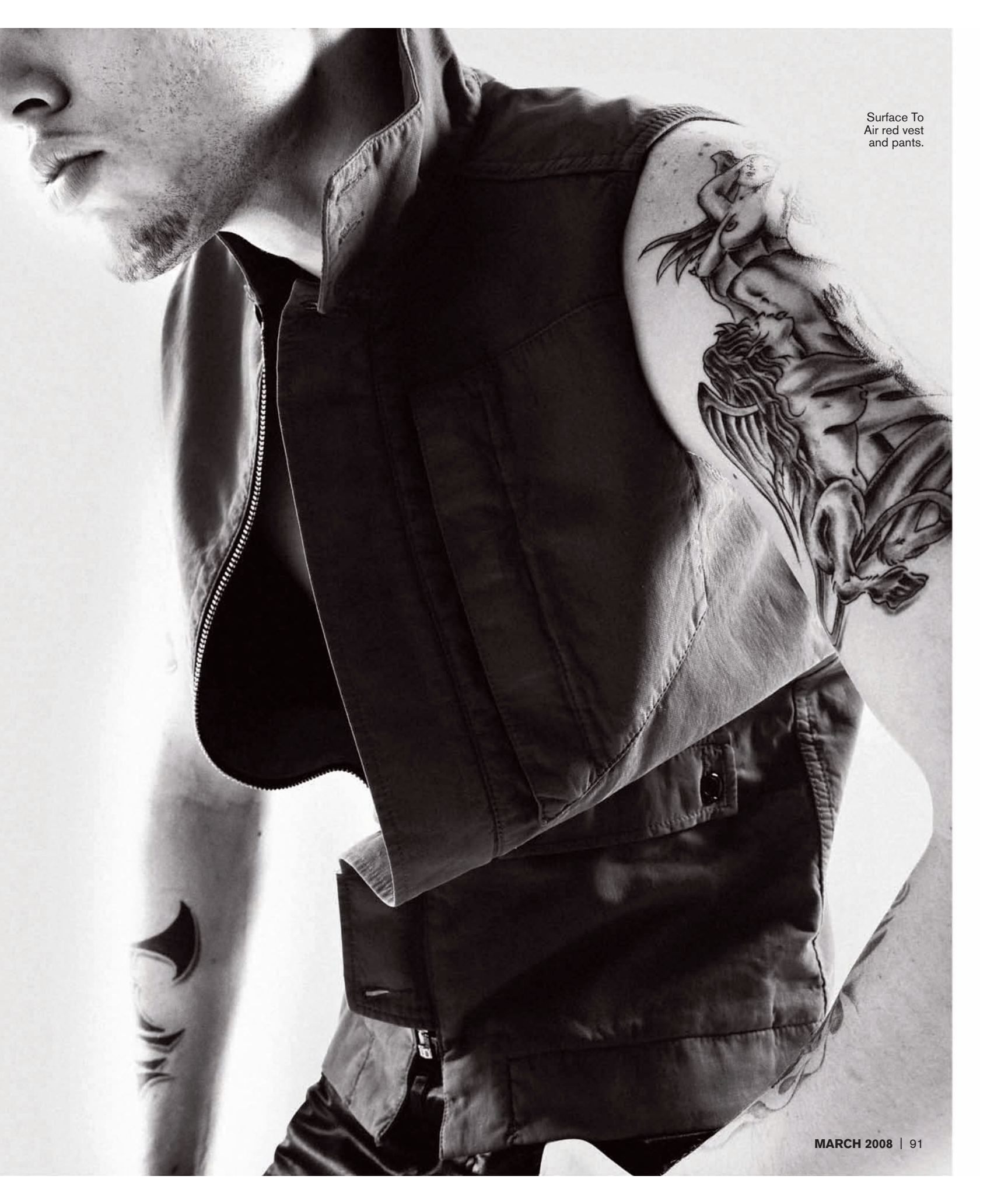
H&M white
jeans and
sleeveless
T-shirt.

A black and white fashion photograph featuring a couple in a close embrace. The woman, on the left, has long, wavy blonde hair and is wearing a black, sleeveless, backless dress with a wide white patent leather belt. She is also wearing a clear Lucite bracelet on her left wrist. The man, on the right, has dark hair and is wearing a white tank top under a white vest, with light-colored plaid pants. He has extensive, detailed tattoos on both arms, including a large sleeve piece on his left arm. They are both looking towards the camera with serious expressions. The background is a plain, light color.

On Kelley, H&M black dress;
Hugo Boss white patent
leather belt and Lucite brace-
let. On Paul Anthony, Calvin
Klein white tank top; Buckler
white vest; H&M pants.



Surface To
Air black
vest and
pants.



Surface To
Air red vest
and pants.



This page: On Alanna, Jill Stuart black dress; Hugo Boss earrings. On Eduardo, Acne jeans; model's own chain. Opposite: On Alanna, Surface To Air black jumpsuit; Minedenim belt (worn as bracelet); Jill Stuart shoes. On Paul Anthony, Surface to Air vest and jeans; Hugo Boss shoes.



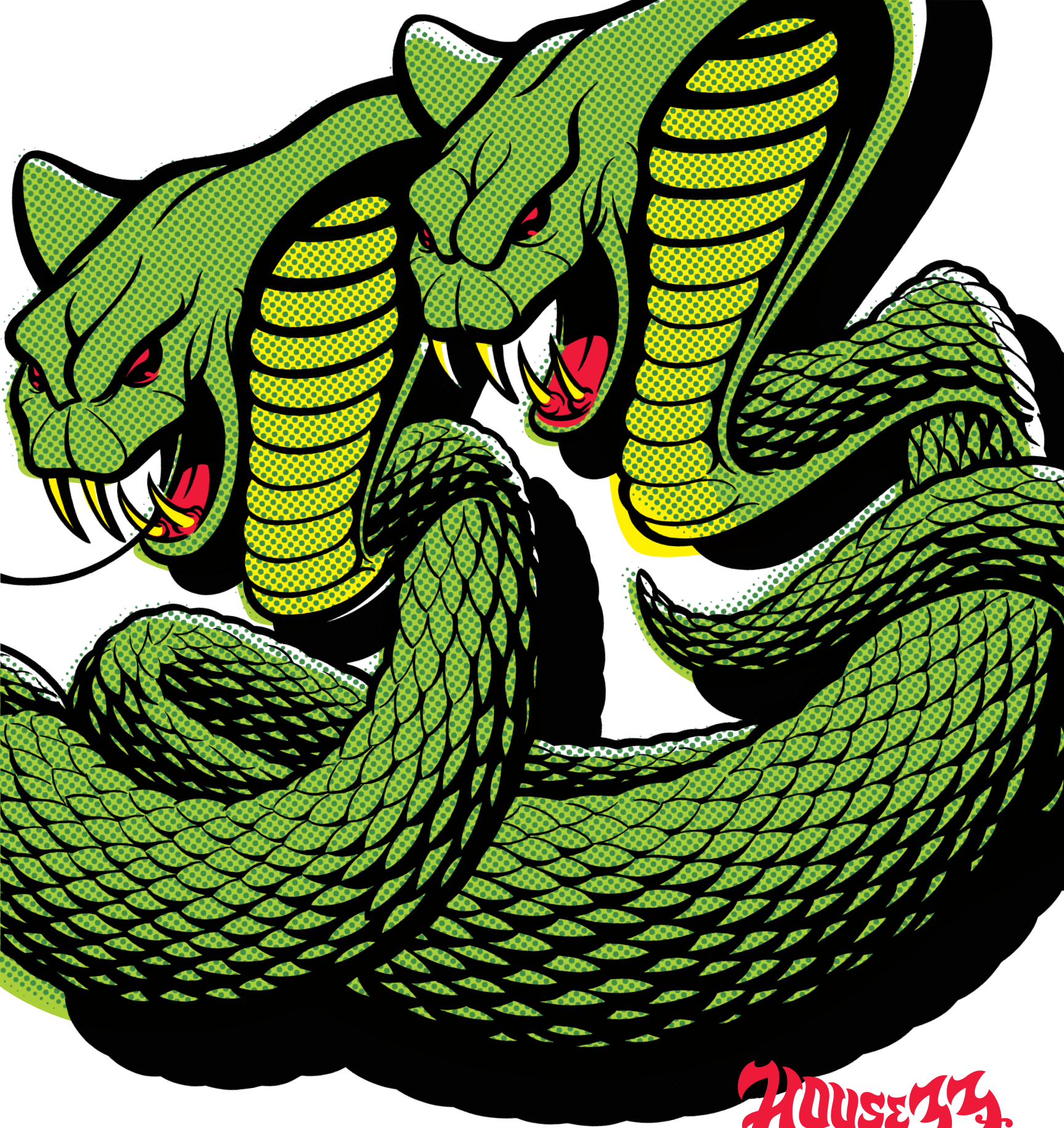


H&M black jeans and brown button-up vest; Hugo Boss brown shoes.

Models: Eduardo and Paul Anthony at Request Models and Alanna and Kelley Lynch at Rocket Garage
Hair: Regee Drummer at Oliver Piro
Makeup: Melanie Harris at Oliver Piro



G-Star black
jeans; H&M shirt;
Buckler shoes.



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INKED SPOTS

PHILADELPHIA

Meet some of our favorite artists and tour the best shops in the city, then check out our picks of where to eat, drink, and spend.

Olde City Tattoo

Philadelphia Eddie's

Philly Ink

Philadelphia Eddie's Tattoo Haven

Chinatown Tattoo

Kadillac Tattoo

Jason
Goldberg
of Olde
City Tattoo



Jason Goldberg, Gabby, John Gues, The Gus, Steve Tiberi, Martin LaCasse, Josh Hoffman

OLDE CITY TATTOO

44 S. Second St.
Philadelphia, PA
215-627-6271
oldecitytattoo.com
Established: 1999
Artists: Jason Goldberg, Steve
Tiberi, The Gus, Josh Hoffman,
Martin LaCasse, John Gues

Sure, Olde City Tattoo has a street-shop vibe, but they're really the city's go-to guys for quality custom pieces. The shop has a staff of six artists, so you can be sure that someone will give you what you're looking for, whether it's a portrait or black-and-gray piece from owner Jason Goldberg or Japanese stylings courtesy of Martin LaCasse. "This is a talented group of guys," Goldberg says proudly. "Everyone here has been tattooing for well over 10 years so we know what we're doing." Indeed, the staff is a mix of formally trained artists and self-taught purists, but they've all come together with the shared goal of producing work they can be proud of. Make sure to take a close look at the flash that lines the walls of the shop; it was all hand-drawn by the crew of Olde City Tattoo themselves.

EAT: Gianfranco Pizza Rustica, 6 N. Third St., 215-592-0048. What this tiny storefront lacks in physical space they make up for with crispy crust, sweet sauce, and a vast selection of fresh, mouth-watering pies. The debate over the best pizza in Philly is fierce, but these guys are serious contenders for the coveted title.

DRINK: The Khyber, 56 S. Second St., 215-238-5888. Just four doors south of the shop, The Khyber is Philadelphia's historic underground music spot. With two floors, one for DJs and one for live music, it's the place to catch a good buzz and a good show.

SPEND: AKA Music, 27 N. Second St., 215-922-3855. In a digital age, it's good to know that there are still a few stores out there where a music lover can while away the day looking through a diverse collection of vinyl and CDs. Even if you worship at the altar of iTunes, you'll still enjoy scoping out new bands at the listening stations located throughout this shop.



Topper, Jason Stewart, Jerry "Reds" Donohoe, Tom Napp, Mike Supermodel

PHILADELPHIA EDDIE'S

605-607 S. Fourth St.
Philadelphia, PA
215-829-9833
Established: 1995

Artists: Jerry "Reds" Donohoe, Tom
Napp, Jason Stewart, Topper, Frank
Murphy, Charlie Eastwood

For those who appreciate a walk down memory lane, there's only one shop in town to visit: Philadelphia Eddie's. Opened 13 years ago by (you guessed it) "Philadelphia Eddie" Funk, it was passed down five years ago to two of his longtime colleagues, Jerry Donohoe and Tom Napp. These guys are the real deal for both authentic traditional work and the history of Philadelphia tattooing. "We were introduced to the profession when it hadn't changed much from the turn of the century. All the secrecy and mystery still existed. It was incredibly hard to become a part of that world, since you couldn't just open some catalog and order equipment, or expect that someone would take you on as an apprentice," says Donohoe. "But now it's a totally different world, and we're passing on our experiences down to these guys at the shop so they can do their thing." Some of the most prolific artists in the city work out of this large space, and they're all passionate about being part of a straight-up street shop. "We stay loose and crazy in here," Napp explains. "We give a good tattoo and try to have fun while we're doing it."

EAT: Southwark, 701 S. Fourth St., 215-238-1888. This elegant restaurant is one of Philadelphia's best-kept secrets, and it has a loyal following that appreciates the chef's commitment to using local ingredients in the inventive dishes. If you go, try the house-smoked duck breast.

DRINK: The Latest Dish, 613 S. Fourth St., 215-629-0565. Drink yourself around the globe in this intimate bar/restaurant that serves a vast selection of beer—from 11 countries and counting—as well as an extensive wine list and cocktails that pack a serious punch. There's dancing and more upstairs at Fluid, which hosts only the best DJs in the city.

SPEND: Jinxed, 620 S. Fourth St., 215-978-JINX. Is it a toy store? Is it an art gallery, clothing shop, or bookstore? It doesn't really matter; this eclectic storefront is a hell of a lot of fun to visit. Recent exhibits have included work by Steff Bomb, Albert Reyes, and tattoo artist Dave Fox.



Danny Emery Jr., Danny Emery, Jaime Boehm

PHILLY INK

3216 Kensington Ave.
Philadelphia, PA
215-426-9977
phillyink.com

Established: 1980s

Artists: Danny Emery, Danny Emery Jr.
Piercer: Jaime Boehm

Philly Ink may be off the beaten path, but it's well worth the trip into the Port Richmond section of the city. The shop, another former Philadelphia Eddie's, is now run by Danny Emery, who grew up just six blocks away. "I used to get chased out as a kid because I was always coming around wanting to get tattooed," he laughs. "It's pretty ironic that I now own the place." Emery found his legs as an artist at this street shop (he's been here for 13 years) and fondly recalls the on-the-job education he got from Tom Napp and Charlie Eastwood. "Those guys really showed me the ropes and taught me how to work for Eddie." The name of the business may have changed, but you can still expect the same level of passion and precision from this neighborhood kid who has always known he'd end up tattooing. "I love what I do, and I think my clientele knows it. This still doesn't feel like a job to me."

EAT: The Crazy Leprechaun, 3589 Richmond St., 215-423-3194. So it might not look like the ideal place to order a steak, but believe it: This unpretentious restaurant/bar serves up a damn good cut of beef. It gets a little crazy on game day and on the weekends (they've hosted everything from dwarf tossing to Kiss tribute bands), but if you're looking for the heart and soul of Philly, this is the place.

DRINK: Byrne's Tavern, 3301 Richmond St., 215-634-8707. If you're still searching for local flavor, keep your eyes open for the three-story-high shamrock sign that marks Byrne's. Just make sure to heed their warning, "Be Good or Be Gone," as you wash down a hot pork sandwich with a 20-ounce glass of Guinness.

SPEND: Aside from the local florist, appliance store, and CVS, there aren't many retailers in this part of town. Save your money for cab fare back and forth to the neighborhood—if you're not a local, you'll most likely be staying in another part of town.



Troy Timpel, Furry, Bird, Nick, Karel, Don Juan, T

PHILADELPHIA EDDIE'S TATTOO HAVEN

621 S. Fourth St.
Philadelphia, PA
215-922-7384
philadelphiaeddiestattoo.com
Established: 1989
Artists: Troy Timpel, Don Juan,
Furry, Bird, T, Karel

Yes, you read it correctly; this shop is also called Philadelphia Eddie's. "This was the first shop that Eddie Funk opened on Fourth Street," explains Troy Timpel, who has owned the business along with Furry since 2002. "When he retired he offered ownership of the different locations to the guys who helped run them. We're keeping his legacy going strong." Today, Philadelphia Eddie's Tattoo Haven is known as a stellar custom shop and has gotten plenty of recognition thanks to the work of Japanese-style artist Don Juan and the rest of the close-knit staff. The group produces everything from large-scale pieces to portraits to the old-school, traditional style that put Philadelphia on the map as a serious tattoo town. In addition to running the shop, Timpel also owns Tattooed Kingpin clothing and organizes four major tattoo conventions, including the Philadelphia Tattoo Arts Convention, which takes place this year April 18 through 20.

EAT: Beau Monde, 624 S. Sixth St., 215-592-0656. Indulge your more sophisticated side with sweet and savory crepes from this sexy European bistro that's located just off the hustle and bustle of touristy South Street.

DRINK: Tattooed Mom, 530 South St., 215-238-9880. Soak in the heavily illustrated eye candy at this loud and cheap hangout. Bumper cars, couches, pool tables, and Taco Tuesdays make this South Street haunt a favorite of locals and wanna-hang-like-a-locals alike.

SPEND: Sub Zero Skate Shop, 520 S. Fifth St., 215-925-9376. This shop has been a vital part of the Philadelphia skate scene for more than a decade, and it's known just as much for its skilled skate teams as it is for the incredible selection of boards, shoes, and accessories.



Dave Steele, Braden Kendall, Eric Eaton

CHINATOWN TATTOO

904 Arch St.
Philadelphia, PA
215-440-9997
myspace.com/chinatowntattoo
Established: 1970s
Artists: Eric Eaton, Dave Steele
(Snakeface), Braden Kendall,
Topper, Patrick Haney

Walk around the streets of Philadelphia and you'll quickly notice it's a city that takes tattooing seriously. "In the summer you'll see ink all over everyone," says Chinatown Tattoo co-owner Braden Kendall. "It crosses all genres; I've sleeved out two doctors recently." The shop sees a lot of action from walk-in clients—"We do names all day," Kendall says—and has earned a reputation as a good place for first-timers looking for a positive experience. Here the legacy of traditional tattooing is still going strong, as Chinatown Tattoo has the distinction of being the oldest consecutively operational shop in Philadelphia. And yes, it used to be a Philadelphia Eddie's. "The history of this shop and the city in general is amazing," muses Dave Steele, who also goes by the name Snakeface. "It's really cool to be able to be a part of it all."

EAT: Pho Xe Lua Viet Thai, 907 Race St., 215-627-8883. Hey, it's Chinatown so you could eat yourself into a food coma if that's your thing. But for some good, cheap pho, there's no better place than this much-loved no-frills eatery.

DRINK: Trocadero Theatre, 1003 Arch St., 215-922-LIVE. Grab a drink and catch a show or a movie at the Troc, a 138-year-old former vaudeville and burlesque theater that has hosted a mishmash of acts including Patti Smith, The Suicide Girls, The Wu-Tang Clan, and more.

SPEND: Reading Terminal Market, 51 N. 12th St., 215-922-2317. Where else but here can you find freshly caught fish, authentic Southern cuisine, and whoopie pie made by Lancaster County Amish folks? More than 80 merchants have stalls at this 115-year-old Philadelphia landmark that is easily one of the biggest tourist destinations in Philly.



Drew Rash, Cosmo

KADILLAC TATTOO

4371 Cresson St.
Philadelphia, PA
215-487-0360
myspace.com/kadillactattoo
Established: 1995
Artists: Cosmo, Drew Rash,
Erica Barfield, Matt Runks

"First and foremost, we're a neighborhood shop," declares Cosmo, the owner of 13-year-old Kadillac Tattoo. "This ain't no hipster hangout." Located in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia, this clean, bright shop prides itself on being a mainstay of a neighborhood that has struggled to stay true to its blue-collar history, despite the chic shops and restaurants that have popped up. They're obviously succeeding: "We're now tattooing some of the kids of our original customers," says Drew Rash, one of Kadillac's artists. Anything goes at Kadillac, which is also home to artist Matt Runks and fine-line expert Erica Barfield. "We're in the business of getting along," says punk legend Cosmo, who was a big part of the local music scene in the early '80s and was featured in the documentary *American Hardcore*. "We're all just a bunch of ornery old people trying to have a good time."

EAT: Machismo Burrito Bar, 4330 Main St., 215-508-3333. Stuff yourself with a monster burrito at this small, vegan-friendly restaurant, where everything is made-to-order with fresh, local ingredients. If you love spicy, make sure to add the aptly named Deathwish and Pyromania hot sauces to your already flavorful meal.

DRINK: La Colombe, 4360 Main St., 215-483-4580. Grab a cup of premium-roast coffee at this European café, home of the best latte in town. Indoor and outdoor seating makes this spot a perfect place to watch the people strolling along busy Main Street.

SPEND: Benjamin Lovell Shoes, 4305 Main St., 215-487-3747. Spend your cash on a pair of steel-toe Blundstone work boots or slick Donald J Pliner gator lace-ups at this shoe shop where the focus is on comfort.

STAR OF TEXAS TATTOO ART REVIVAL.

The Sixth Annual Star of Texas Tattoo Art Revival was held in Austin, TX, January 4 through 6 at the Palmer Event Center. Special guests included tattoo legend Thom Devita and fine artist Keith Weesner. More than 130 artists and vendors attended, and there were daily contests and a rather extensive art show. As these photographs show, the Lone Star State was definitely well represented.

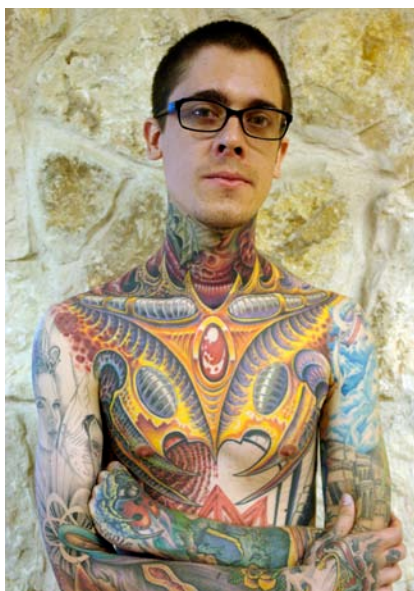


Clockwise from top: Austin flash; the booth from New Tribe Tattoo; a backpiece by Richard Stell.

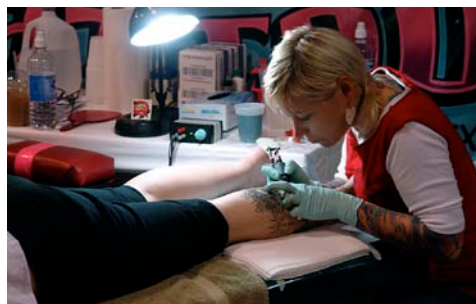
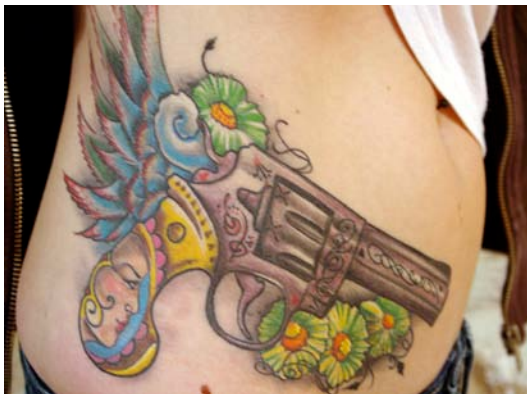
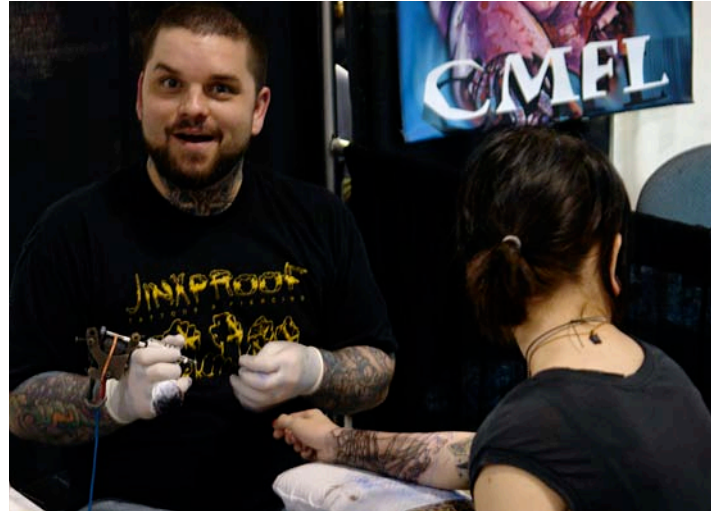
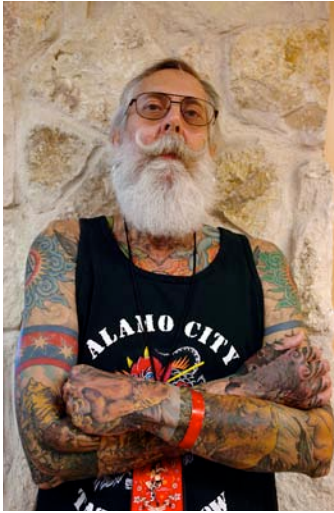


Clockwise from top left: Backpiece by Jeff Ensminger; Pineapple from Shaman Modifications Tattoo, in Austin, TX; McLovin tattoo; Kristin Gunn; Chirs Trevino hand outlines.

inked spots | CONVENTION WATCH

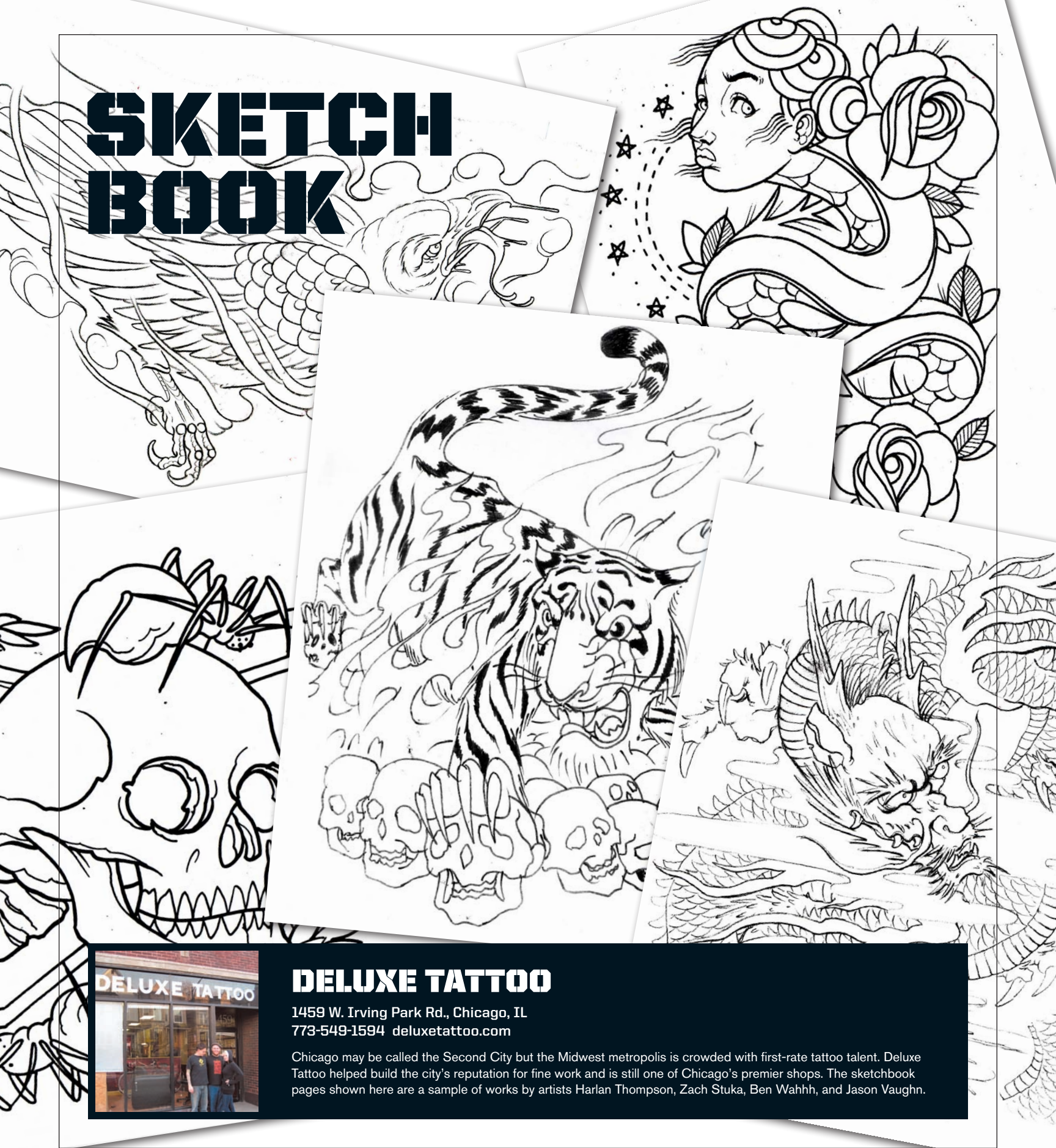


Top row: Prints by Norm; Electric Ladyland's Annette LaRue. Center row: Tattoo artist Nathan Kostechko; Thom Devita shows his wares to Scott Harrison; Miss Jamie. Bottom row: Miss Inkaholic; Jedi Reid, of Element Tattoo Studio, in San Antonio, TX, laying it down.



Clockwise from top left: Dan Adcock with tattoos by Mike Paluso; Erin Valkner with tattoos by Joel Valkner of Custom Tattoos from the Soul, Austin, TX; Cory Rogers at work; Keith Underwood tattooing Thom DeVita; armadillo ain't roadkill; Carnie Marnie at work; a black-and-gray winner; revolver tattoo by Wendi Ramirez of Shaman Modifications Tattoo.

SKETCH BOOK



DELUXE TATTOO

1459 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago, IL
773-549-1594 deluxetattoo.com

Chicago may be called the Second City but the Midwest metropolis is crowded with first-rate tattoo talent. Deluxe Tattoo helped build the city's reputation for fine work and is still one of Chicago's premier shops. The sketchbook pages shown here are a sample of works by artists Harlan Thompson, Zach Stuka, Ben Wahhh, and Jason Vaughn.

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