

PRICK

Magazine

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 10 • JULY 2007

FREE

featuring

**THE 2007
FRESNO
TATTOO EXPO**

**HOT INK
KREEPY
LOURDES**



**PRO SKATER
KRIS MARKOVICH**

UNDEROATH

DAN MARTIN

**SHINY TOY
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JULY 2007 VOLUME 7 ISSUE 10



Hello, hello all my fellow tattoo and piercing lifestyleers. Once again we have brought you another fantastic issue of *PRICK*. Every month seems to get busier and busier but we are still able to publish the magazine on a timely and monthly basis. I don't know how we do it sometimes, especially this past month. I spent nine days in Iceland for the second annual Icelandic Rock and Tattoo Fest only

to return the very next weekend to cover the Atlanta Tattoo Arts Festival. You can check out the coverage of both shows in the August issue.

This issue is jam-packed with killer content. Underoath and Shiny Toy Guns are our featured bands, and Dan Martin is our featured artist. Kreepy Lourdes from Miami is our Hot Ink, and we have coverage of the Fresno Tattoo Expo, some Prickin' Around in Los Angeles, party coverage from our old friends at Big Time Customz back home in Georgia, plus much more.

I am very excited, to say the least, to check out the first annual Chattanooga Tattoo Arts Festival in Tennessee on July 6th-8th. It is going to be put on by Tom DePriest and his Ink Monkey productions, as well as former Hot Ink model LaLa and her hubby Shane Hartline of Evermore Galleries. Then it's off to Deerfield Beach, FL for the 12 annual South Florida Tattoo Expo, Aug. 10-12. After that it's to Phoenix, Ariz. to cover the Hell City Tattoo Fest Aug. 24th-26th. Whew, no rest for the media.

With everything we pack into *PRICK* and all the shows we attend it is really amazing that my awesome staff and myself can actually produce *PRICK* on time every month without fail for the last six years and 10 months. How do we do it? The drive is there because we actually care about our readers and customers. We strive to bring you the best and most current coverage of the tattoo and music scene above and beyond all others. Like I said last month accept no imitations. Read *PRICK*, love *PRICK*, support *PRICK*, and don't forget that *PRICK* loves you.

Happy Independence Day and enjoy this issue.
- Chuck B.

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Steve Freeman

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**WALKING BACK TO HOUSTON
SCION ART INSTALLATION GALLERY**

The Scion Installation in L.A. is quickly becoming one of west Los Angeles' premiere art galleries and on May 12, 2007, served as host to yet another opening reception celebrating new, cutting edge art. *Walking Back To Houston*, curated by Union, featured two uniquely diverse artists, Rob Abeyta, Jr. and ZY\$, and showcased their work in a new light and setting. Rob Abeyta, Jr. has already been established in the traditional art world through his graphic design work as well as his art directing and design work for companies such as Nike, Stussy and Adidas. ZY\$ has been most reputable as an underground Tokyo graffiti artist and is now able to display his distinctive style in a more conventional setting.

Conveniently located at 3521 Helms Avenue in the Culver City Arts District, the gallery has recently relocated and sits tucked away at the end of a quiet residential street in a 4,500 square-foot warehouse space. The gallery features free admission, a large, well-lit showroom, restrooms, and an outdoor smoking patio. It also has its own merchandise store for artists to sell other relevant items.

Opening receptions are always the best nights to go; you can find complimentary valet parking, live DJ performances, and beer and wine on the house. This particular event was also topped off with a free gift bag, provided by Scion, full of swag. According to the Scion Gallery, they are "dedicated to fostering independent artistic expression. Scion Installation L.A. is a space that allows artists to explore their creative visions." Their Web site also features an emailing list that provides subscribers with automatic updates on upcoming art shows and events. If you live anywhere near this space, it is highly recommend that you sign up and check out their next event. ★

For more information, go to www.scion.com/space.



A Scion Gallery attendee views artwork by ZY\$



Artwork by ZY\$



"Hammer of the Gods" artwork by Rob Abeyta Jr.

NOTHINGTON & GO BETTY GO

The Scene Bar, located at 806 E. Colorado Street in Glendale, Calif., consistently provides a safe haven for punk rockers and indie kids to check out the best in local talent as well as internationally touring acts. May 24th served up another evening of ass-kicking rock. It's nights like these that the crowd really packs itself in and prepares for a barrage of musical fury.

San Francisco-based Nothington brought their onslaught of gritty, in-your-face rock, reminiscent of artists such as Hot Water Music, Tom Waits, and Mike Ness. Nothington's members have honed their musical skills over the years, finding themselves in several popular bands, and have finally found a formula that will take them to the next level. Nothington has been self-proclaimed as the Bay Area's latest great export of sing-along punk rock featuring ex-Tsunami Bomb members Jay Northington on guitar and vocals and Gabe Lindeman on drums. Nothington is rounded out by guitarist Chris Matulich and bass player Mike Hicks. Signed by classic, punk rock record label BYO Records, Nothington has released their first full-length record entitled *All In* during the month of February 2007.

The night was headlined, and appropriately so, by local favorites Go Betty Go. And let me tell you, Go Betty Go is one of those bands where you stand and watch, completely in



Nothington

awe as the energy comes barreling out of the four girls on stage. GBG are truly one of those acts that have to be seen to be believed. The current line-up of members includes Emily Wynne-Hughes on vocals, Betty Cisneros on guitar, Michelle Rangel on bass, and Aixa Vilar on drums. Fueled by their disparate musical interest, Go Betty Go has grown into a compelling powerhouse who is now circulating on SideOneDummy Records. If you haven't given these bands a chance before, the time is now. ★

For more information, go to www.thescenebar.com, www.nothington.com, or www.gobettygo.com.



Emily Wynne-Hughes of Go Betty Go

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Photo By: Sean Harrgrove

★ *Kreepy* ★ **LOURDES**

BY CALU PHOTOS BY STEVE FREEMAN

SHE MAY GO BY THE NAME KREEPY LOURDES QUINTANA, BUT THERE'S NOTHING CREEPY ABOUT THIS 20-YEAR-OLD HOT MAMA. BORN IN MARACAY VENEZUELA, LOURDES IS HALF VENEZUELAN AND HALF CUBAN. AT THE TENDER AGE OF SIX, SHE WAS BROUGHT TO MIAMI, FLA., THE CITY THAT SHE HAS CALLED HER HOME FOR THE LAST FOURTEEN YEARS.

Pinup model, painter, and aspiring tattoo artist, Lourdes wants it all. As a child, she was a self-described "glamour girl" and enjoyed playing with old-time fashion accessories. She recalls the first time that she saw a pin-up girl on an old Coca-Cola ad – the hourglass figure instantly had her searching for the curvy women that she could relate to.

Lourdes' influences came from such all time greats as Sophia Loren, the unforgettable Rita Hayworth, Constance Bennett, and Esther Williams. Embracing her body and its natural curves, Lourdes has been encouraged to get in front of the camera. As she began her collection of tattoos, she also developed a unique and distinctive look of beauty and art all rolled up into one. This is what has made the working pin-up model she is today.



Dead girl by **Balbino Baquero**, rose and web tattoo, and peoni flower by **Kreepy JakSin** of OchoPlacas Tattoo in Miami, Fla.



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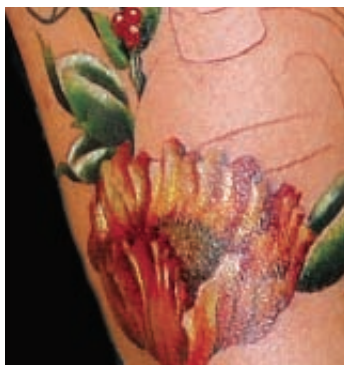
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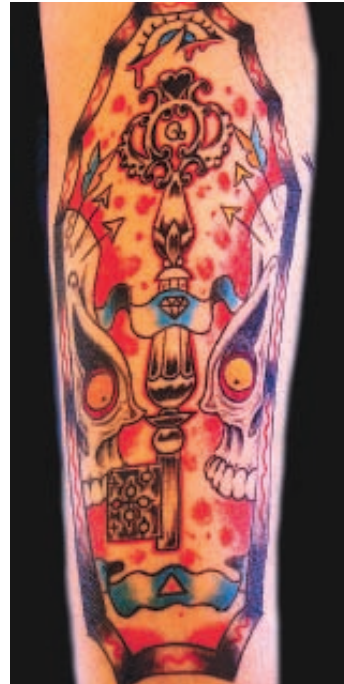
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By Kreepy JakSin of OchoPlacas



By Javier Betancourt of OchoPlacas



Lourdes has been featured in *Viva Las Vegas* DVDs, *Miami Ink*, and numerous other Miami fashion shows. She has modeled for Kreepytiki.com, EF-FECT Clothing, Quis Es Tu, Curl up and Dye Pinups and Burlesque, along with many, many more. Art has always been a huge influence on her, too – from her tattoos, to paintings, and even occasionally tattooing others. This is the fuel that inspires her to create art in photographs, art on her body, and art through painting. Today, Lourdes is working hard to earn a tattoo apprenticeship and maybe, if the Tiki gods allow, this dream may materialize. ★

For more information, go to www.myspace.com/dolphinslovecolchonpelaa.

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RANDOM PRICKS

ROCK 'N' ROLL MONSTER BASH

BY SWITCHBLADE SIOUXSIE PHOTOS BY EVIL JIM

Every year Atlanta looks forward to walking around the sunny, paved hills of the Starlight Drive-In Movie Theater to attend the scariest, or the most entertaining, monster event. The Rock 'N' Roll Monster Bash is an all day event that includes music, food, movies, local artists, and, of course, a haunted tent. This year there was a record breaking attendance, many of which stopped to show *PRICK* their favorite monster tattoos.

Hosted by Professor Morte and including monsters from Netherworld Haunted House, there were several skits that were fun for the whole family. In fact, there were many more children attending Monster Bash than ever before. Youngsters were running between their parent's legs while head-banging to The Exotic Ones, The Heels, The Butchers, and the Luchagors. Miss Monster Bash was even won by a younger, cuter zombie this year. Other features included the rows of vendors and community booster tents. Our favorite girls, the Atlanta Rollergirls were braving the heat, and there was also artwork from Tyson McAdoo and Dave Cook, along with other little spots to go shopping.

When the sun went down, everyone returned to their cars and their portable grills to settle down and watch two classic monster movies, the *7th Voyage of Sinbad* and *Army of Darkness*. Many laughs and good times were shared. Every year proves to be better, and chances are the next one will be just as good. ★



The winner of Miss Monster Bash 2007!



Amy Dumas on vocals for the Luchagors



Professor Morte entertained all with his Silver Scream Spook Show



Josh relaxing on the hood of his contest winning car



Atlanta Rollergirl **Tempest Scorned's** doll tattoos were done by Shane Willoughby of Sacred Heart Tattoo in Atlanta, Ga.



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FRESNO TATTOO EXPO

BY MEGAN MARTEL PHOTOS BY CHRIS SORIANO

For the 3rd Annual Fresno Tattoo Expo, a record-setting crowd packed the Fresno Convention Center on April 28th and 29th. The buzzing began early Saturday morning and went full speed through Sunday night. Whether it was to meet and greet tattoo industry celebrities, such as Kat Von D and The Enigma, or to see bands perform, such as local giants Six Ounce Gloves, everyone will agree that it was the tattoo artists themselves who ultimately took center stage.



Sarah Dixon's tattoo, by Justin Shaw of Faith Tattoo in Santa Rosa, Calif., was a finalist for Tattoo of the Day on Saturday



Travis shows off his backpiece finished off by Oliver Peck at Elm Street Tattoo in Dallas, Tex.



Oliver Peck of Elm Street Tattoo finishes a massive backpiece on Travis



Spider girl tattoo by Brian Mansell of Never Enough Tattoo in Atascadero, Calif.



Model Miss Vanity poses for a picture with The Enigma



Fro of 1st Amendment Tattoo in Augusta, Ga. salutes the camera at the artists' private party the night before the Expo



Amazing half dragon/half koi tattoo shown during judging for the Best Backpiece category



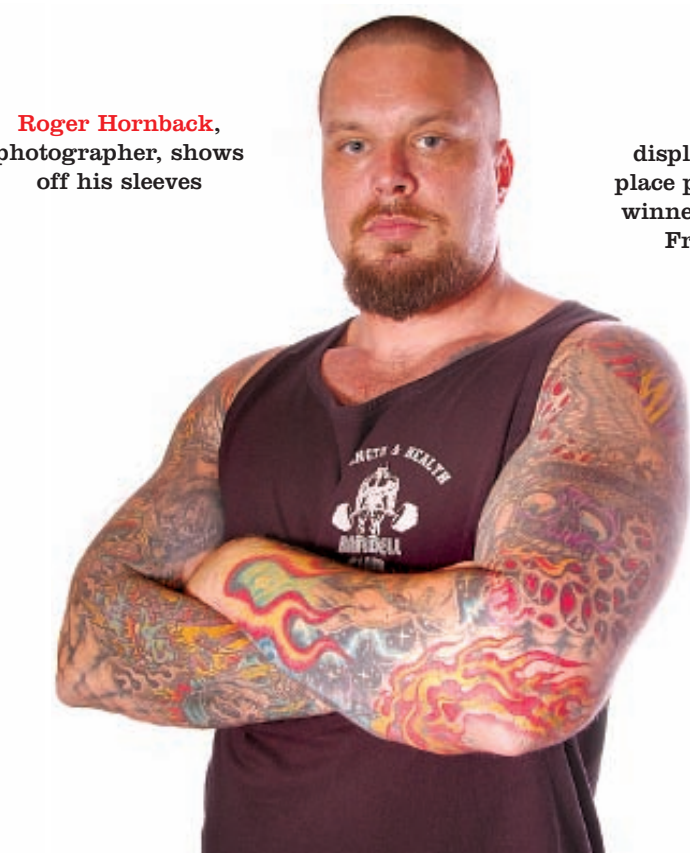
Entrant in the Best Sidepiece category, with unique tattoo on his stomach



Expo visitor with a backpiece done by Inkheadz Tattoo in Santa Maria, Calif., was also a finalist for Tattoo of the Day on Saturday



Expo visitor shows off her underwater themed sleeve



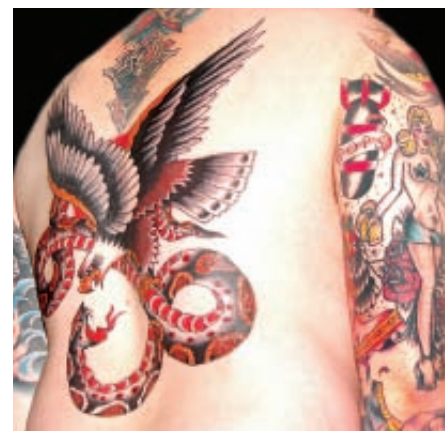
Roger Hornback, photographer, shows off his sleeves



Tiff Mac displaying the 1st place prize for award winners at the 2007 Fresno Expo



Frost from Pain is Beauty in Bakersfield, Calif. tattoos the foot of a happy customer



Entrant in Sunday's contest for Best Traditional tattoo



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Photography by: Sean Hartgrove



Kat Von D prepares for her appointment, which was watched by crowds of people and documented by several camera crews



Oliver Peck of Elm Street Tattoo



Darcy Nutt of Inkvision Tattoo, Boise, Idaho works on a beautiful koi piece

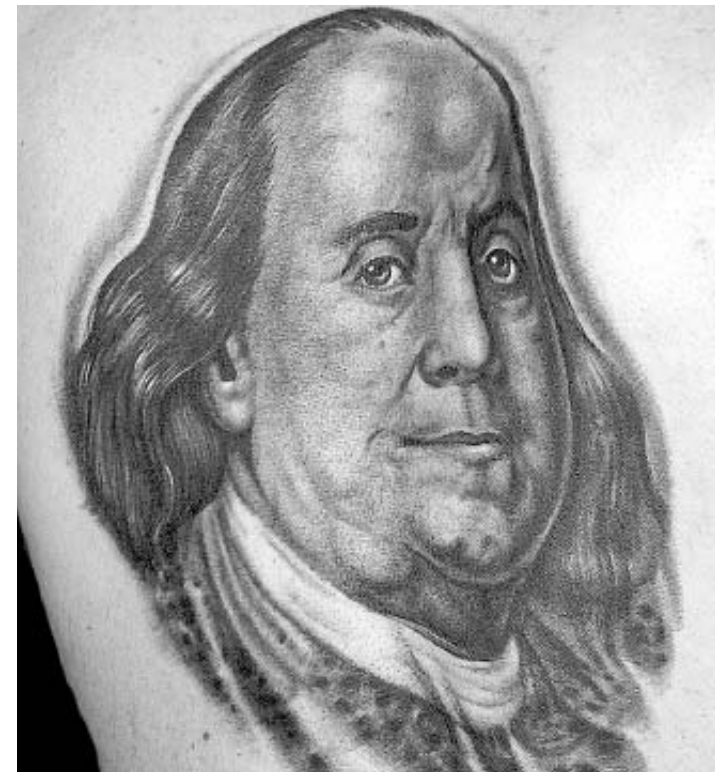
Artists far and wide came to display their talents – from all over California to Idaho, and as far-reaching as Texas and Augusta, Ga. In fact, you would have been able to find over seventy artists from around the world. Some of the more notable artists include Oliver Peck, Mike Ferguson, Justin Martinez, Darcy Nutt, and many more. Tattoo artists also had their work judged for awards and prizes in several categories ranging from Best Full Sleeve to Best Backpiece as well as the obligatory Tattoo of the Day. “Artists love coming to our shows because we focus on tattooing, above all else.” says Jason Pistoresi who, along with Chris Earl, produced this year’s Expo.

This year’s event had everything—music, art, full bar, and a car display. With some great sponsors and wonderful hosts, Fresno’s Tattoo Expo was an all out success. Now all they have to do is top this one with next year’s plans. With their next gathering set to debut August 1st and 2nd in Augusta, Ga. and their annual show in Bakersfield on October 6th and 7th, the artists and their fans have a lot to look forward to until the next convention season. ★

(Check out more pictures from the Expo on page 17.)



Dizzy from Sick Boy Tattoo, Fresno, Calif. finishing a leg piece



This Benjamin Franklin portrait done by Thatcher at Life Sentence Tattoo in Temecula, Calif. won Tattoo of the Day on Saturday



Louie Gomez of Rube's Tattoo in Arcadia, Calif. tattoos a neck on Saturday



Permanent Mark of Golden Eagle Tattoo in Santa Barbara, Calif. tattoos a backpiece

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Fro of 1st Amendment Tattoo in Augusta, Ga. tattoos a neck on Saturday



Will of 1st Amendment Tattoo in Simi Valley, Calif. tattoos Roger Hornback



Noe from Tower Tattoos in Fresno, Calif. coloring in a beautiful elephant tattoo



Justin Foss from Sacred Gypsy Tattoo in Bakersfield, Calif. tattoos a foot at the end of the day on Saturday



Frankie of 1st Amendment Tattoo in Temecula, Calif. outlines an arm tattoo



Justin Shaw of Faith Tattoo in Santa Rosa, Calif. outlines a hip tattoo



Fresno, Bakersfield, and Augusta Tattoo Expos promoter Chris Earl gets a cowgirl tattoo from Timmy Tatts (above) and a tattoo from Aaron Hodges of Idle Hand Tattoo in San Francisco, Calif. (below)



Adjacent to the Tattoo Expo, several musicians performed. Local favorites Six Ounce Gloves performed to a large audience (above). SOG bassist Mike Bass (below)



Amazing leg piece by an artist from Secret Sidewalk Tattoo in Hayward, Calif.

PHAT RIDES

RIDE 'N' ROCK 2007

MAY 25-27 AT ATLANTA MOTOR SPEEDWAY
BY SEAN DETTMAN PHOTOS BY SYLVIA HAGAR

Motorcycles, music, tattoos, pinstripping, stunt shows, and one or two mullets. Essentially, this was the 21st century, southern interpretation of cool. Except in this version, the dudes' spit is mostly tobacco-filtered and the girls are known simply as "mamas." Amidst an ambient roar of loud pipes there were a few attractions that made two and a half sun-soaked days at Atlanta Motor Speedway worth the ticket price. Most spectacular was Rhett Rotten's inimitable "Wall of Death."

Imagine a sixty-six year old wooden ring that stands twelve feet tall and is thirty-feet in diameter. After a few minutes of dialogue with the audience, Rhett Rotten mounts his 1927 Indian Scout and rides the walls of death; performing various stunts and maneuvers, even snatching soon-to-be donated dollars from the eager hands and mouths of those bold and daring enough to extend over the sides. Talk about brass balls; thrills like this don't come cheap.

When it came down it, the bikes—with lots of user-modified Harleys and some ground-up masterpieces, served as the ocular draw for the weekend, but only if you discount the bikini contest. Of the custom builders on hand, Hank Young was the most recognized, and he had his "Lakewood Special" on proud display for the ever-roving audience. Other bike builders included Revolution Manufacturing and Don Gray Customs, making up a veritable fleet of one-off bikes that could be enjoyed by everyone.

Each day's schedule also included a good mix of live music that generally consisted of three to four mostly-southern-local acts such as Leslie from Tennessee, Blackberry Smoke from Atlanta, and Sonia Leigh also from Atlanta. The bands rocked it in front of smaller audiences than expected, but still seemed to have fun with the drunks down in front. So, here's to hoping that next year's Ride 'N' Rock is able to pull an even more impressive lineup and still keep everything as Pop-Chopper as possible. ★



Marlina Bartlett has tattoos by Josh Woods, Sean Herman, and Nate Beavers

One of the many hot models who posed with the bikes all weekend

Vanessa Scarborough, an apprentice at ABT Productions. Her right arm tattoo by Jayson McDaniel from ABT



Todo from ABT Productions tattooed at the event



Another hot model posing on a bike



Leslie came all the way from Tennessee to rock the crowd



Rhett Rotten thrilled the crowd with the "Wall of Death"



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Caitlin Coffey's tattoo by Jeremy Sutton at Psycho Tattoo, Brian Finzer's tattoo by AI at Acid Works



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KRIS MARKOVICH

BY SEAN DETTMAN
PHOTOS BY PIN UP GIRL COSMETICS & PHOTOGRAPHY

After skating professionally for almost seventeen years, Kris Markovich has become an icon for the up-and-coming, younger breed of skaters. After riding for big names like Element and Foundation, he decided to start his own company, Crimson Skateboards. Kris has appeared on MTV's *Viva la Bam*, and has played an active hand in designing skateboards and skateboarding accessories – not to mention his own shoes. Throughout his career, Kris has also been recognized as one of the more heavily tattooed characters in the culture, which is where we come in. In short, Kris Markovich is simply living out every skater's wet dream.



Dettman: At what point did you start to get tattooed?
Markovich: When I turned eighteen I got a little one on my ankle. Not long after that I got a couple more. I started to see these guys that thought they were badass with one tattoo on their arm and I didn't want to be one of those guys, so I started going to the shop all the time.



What is your favorite band to skate to?

The Hellcopters for sure!

How did you meet your wife Amy and what influence has she had on your life?

She used to own a skate shop in Indianapolis, and I was supposed to go there for a few demos and never made it. We have a lot of mutual friends, so meeting was inevitable. Eventually, through Myspace, we started talking and I came to Atlanta. We met and it was all over! Everything makes a lot more sense now that I'm with her.

We heard that you're in the process of having a collaborative backpiece done by Phil Colvin and Dave Kruseman at



Kris and Amy Markovich with one of Kris' Crimson Skateboards

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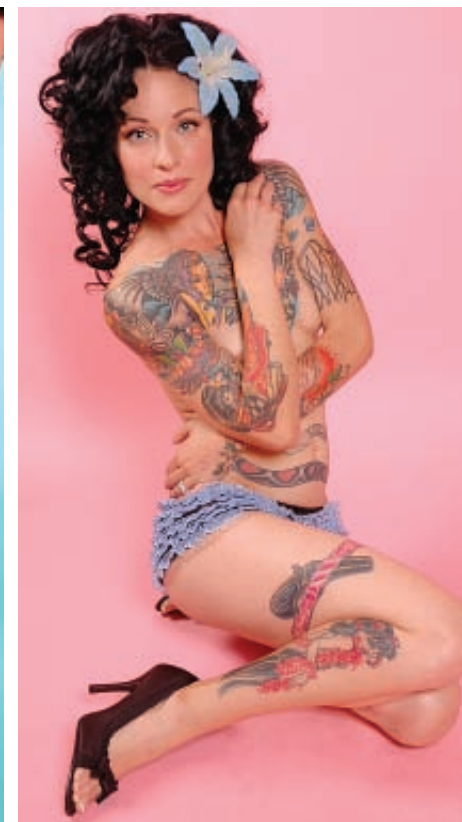
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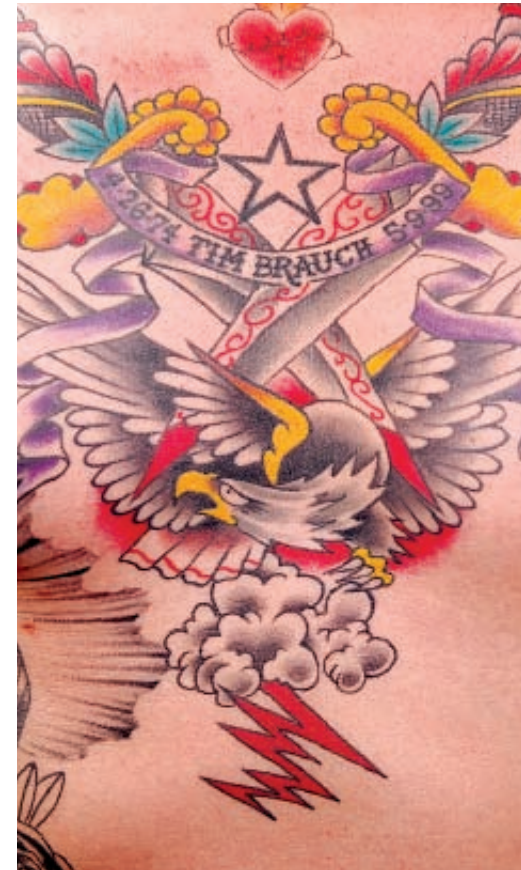
Kris Markovich getting tattooed by Phil Colvin and Dave Kruseman at Memorial Tattoo in Atlanta, Ga.

Memorial Tattoo. How is that going?

Yeah, those guys are amazing! I used to skate with Dave in San Diego a long time ago and we lost contact. Before he moved to Georgia we touched base again and now we're both here. I met Phil through Amy. I was at Memorial talking to Dave about my back and it sort of went from there. I gave them a general idea of what I wanted and they ran with it. I couldn't be happier to have the two of them wanting to do the piece together. It is the best thing! I sat for a bit over three hours with both of them lining my back and I have to tell you, that shit was rough! I'm glad I have experienced two people tattooing me at the same time but damn; I hope I never have to do that again. They are fast as shit, so that was a plus!

What are you plans for the future? Tattoos, skating or otherwise?

Babies! The wife and I are practicing, so hopefully we'll have a little one running around soon. Other than that, more tattoos and a ton more skating. ★



Kris Markovich's chest and side tattoos

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TATS AND TUNES

UNDEROATH

DEFINING GREATNESS THROUGH MUSIC

BY LISA SHARER PHOTOS BY SYLVIA HAGAR

Florida not only produces some of the best tattoo conventions, but it also holds some great musical talent. Spencer Chamberlain and Aaron Gillespie of Underoath give the ups, downs, and inside-outs of becoming who they are today. "It's been great. It's been the ride of our lives, we're very fortunate and very blessed to be here," says Gillespie. From sleeping on urine scented floors to barely escaping death, blessed is probably the best way to put it.

The current lineup is actually much different from the original. Member changes were constant in the beginning, and have modified many aspects of the music along the way. Originally a heavier sound, Underoath's current style has mellowed and taken a more screamo influenced direction. Many fans were disappointed at first, but the band has gone on to change many of those opinions. This sextet has found its way into the homes of people all around the world. Their international traveling and continuous touring has helped to brand Underoath as one of the most loved post-hardcore/Christian metalcore bands out there today. Case in point, their last album, *Define the Great Line*, went gold in a little less than five months.

What kind of ink do these golden boys wear? Pretty much whatever they like. Some tattoos garner deep feeling and some are just for fun, like the T-Rex Gillespie sports on his bicep. His feeling about the chair, however, has changed over time. "The first five or six times you sit down it's fun, you know? Like yeah, I'm stoked I'm getting a tattoo. It pisses me off now when I'm getting it done. I like the thought of getting one, and a week after I get it. Everything in between there...not fun." The worst problem he's found though, is that "they're addictive, so addictive."

Both Gillespie and Chamberlain confess that they received their first tattoos at the ripe old age of 22, which was only about a year and a half ago for both of them. In that short period, both members have already had some pretty big work done, and there are plans for much more in the future. Gillespie explains, "I'd really like to get my torso tattooed, but I'm scared."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 31)



Underoath are (L-R) Grant Brandell, James Smith, Spencer Chamberlain, Chris Dudley, Aaron Gillespie, and Tim McTague (photo courtesy of Underoath)



Spencer Chamberlain on vocals. Chamberlain's neck by Frankie D. at Tattoo Emporium. The rest of his tattoos are mostly Mike Parsons at Doc Dog's Las Vegas Tattoo Co. in Tampa, Fla.



Tim McTague on bass



Aaron Gillespie on drums. Gillespie's tattoos are mostly by Mike Parsons



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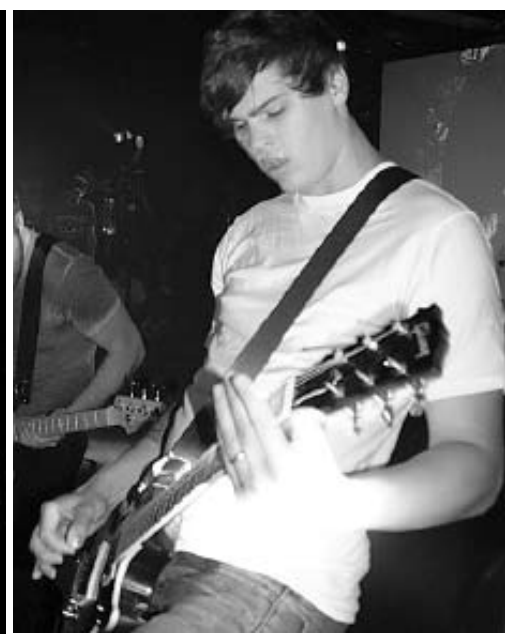
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Spencer Chamberlain catches his breath



James Smith on guitar



Spencer Chamberlain excites the crowd

Even those tough musicians you look up to get a little nervous when facing the chair.

As declared Christians, you might think that they would find tattoos blasphemous, but there are many temples being inked everyday. Gillespie has an interesting theory that might shine some light on the subject. "When you really think about it, what I believe, I believe the Bible is perfect truth. When Jesus died on the cross he said you're free from the curse of the law. All the laws you read about your body being a temple and do not mark your body are in like Leviticus law, which was about 2,500 years before any of that happened. And you go in to a church, and the church is what...it's decorated. Just my theory, without getting too theological on you." Tattoos have become a decoration and celebration of art for these temples and many like them.

Tattoos and all, it's been a tough ride for Underoath. Gillespie recalls how the friends became one unit, "from high school and life and just very, very many crazy stories and happenstance to where we sit today." Like many bands, Underoath found it difficult to be taken seriously in the beginning. Chamberlain agrees, "touring all the time in a van playing for nobody, sleeping on people's floors." All of which are uncomfortable situations for guys trying to hit the big time. "Cat houses. Everybody has that story, you know, when they were in vans, sleeping on floors in the cat house. You go to this chick's house that's got like nineteen cats, and the house smells like ammonia so bad you can't even breathe. The cat houses are the worst," says Gillespie. "And they're always messing with your feet," inserts Chamberlain.

More intimidating, however, may be Gillespie's new found loathing of airplanes. "Flying is negative. It's not natural. Going through the air in a metal tube...not natural." His opinion based deeply in his experience. He described a time



Grant Brandell on guitar and Chris Dudley on keyboards

when he had taken a flight to record some vocals, and the plane actually caught on fire. "The cockpit just caught on fire. It was really scary, and it's ruined my perception of flying ever since." In spite of this incident, Gillespie toughs through it for the fans. "We just did a tour this last year that was around nineteen flights to Japan, Australia...It was all overseas and I didn't sleep on one flight. We had three flights that were twelve and a half hours long. I was awake the whole time."

The fans have made Underoath humble musicians. When asked what has been the most positive influence, Gillespie replies, "It's all been positive." Chamberlain concurs, "Those kids out there, that's positive. Good vibes." He looks towards the sea of concert goers wrapped around the huge building waiting patiently to flow into the venue. With this modest approach and several records under their belt, Underoath has gained a huge and dedicated following. For those of you that love the music, you'll love the new DVD, 777; there is tons of behind the scenes and backstage footage. Get to know Underoath up close and personal. ★

For more information, go to www.underoath777.com.



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ARTIST OF THE MONTH

DAN MARTIN

★★★★ THE DEDICATED MAN ★★★★★

INTERVIEW BY WILLIAM THIDEMANN

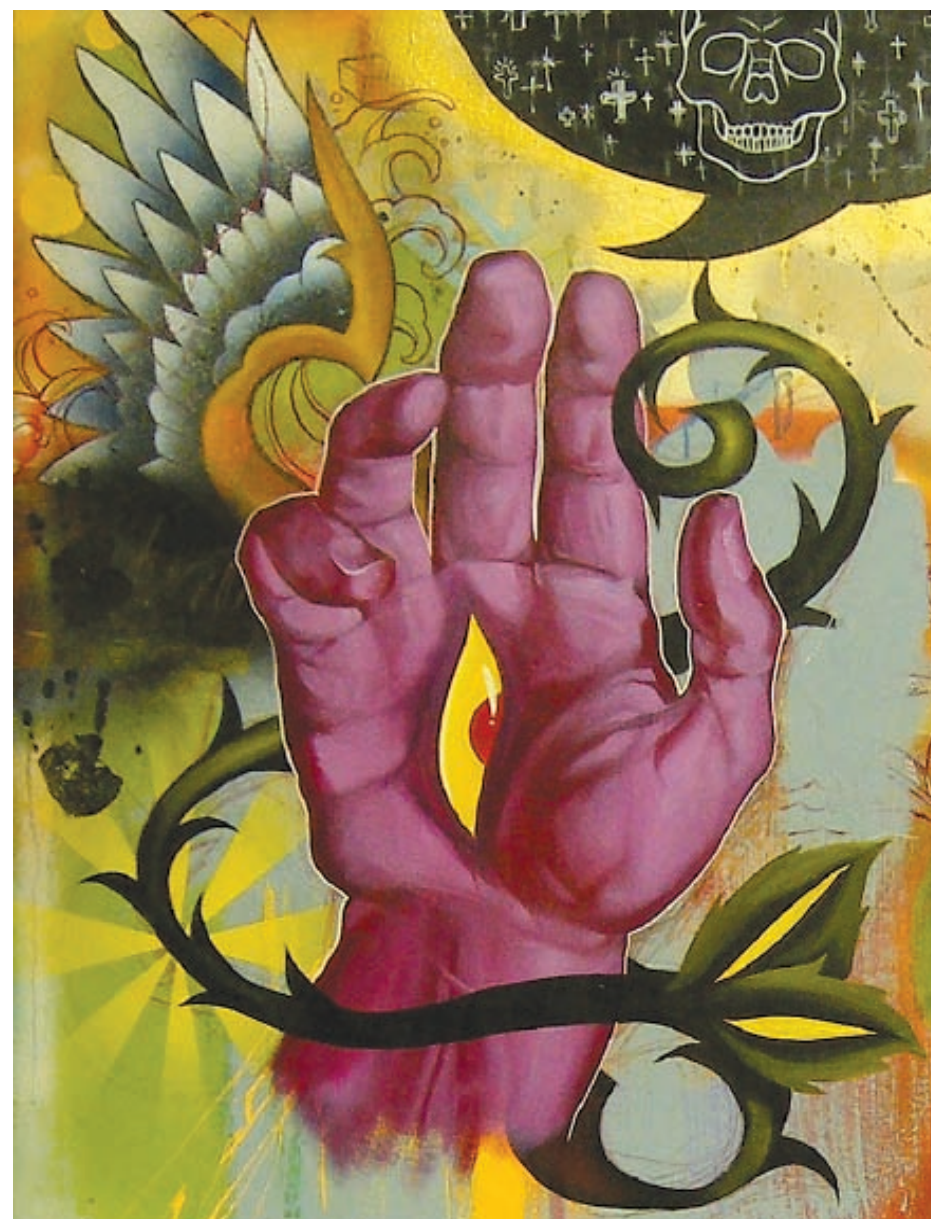
Photos courtesy of Dan Martin and Scorpion Studios

So who is Dan Martin? He has a name that rings a familiar tune to people who know tattoos. He has been a longstanding presence at Scorpion Studios in Houston, Tex. as both artist and owner. He also travels to conventions while maintaining his position at home as a father. Taking all of this into consideration, it is amazing that he has any time at all for interviews or anything else for that matter. I've known Dan for many years now, and it is evident what kind of a dedicated artist he is. So, without further ado, here he is:

Thidemann: So, how long have you been tattooing?

Martin: It'll be thirteen years coming up in July.

Have you been in Houston the whole time or did you move around? Where did you get your start?



I got my start here in Houston, and Scorpion Studios is the third shop that I've been employed by. I've been here nine years, and before I bought the shop I had only been tattooing for four years.

Did you travel around? Did you get an apprenticeship? How did you get into it?

Matt, the owner of Scorpion at the time, wasn't the original owner. Richard Stell started Scorpion Studios and his apprentice was Matt Wojciechowski. Matt was going to take me on as an apprentice. At the same time, he also took on another apprentice, and I guess he was just waiting to see who would pan out. The other kid was pretty much a trust fund baby and didn't really have a job or anything. He would spend every waking moment up there and I had to make ends meet by working at Whole Foods. After a while he let me go, because I had a little conflict with one of his artists. I basically went down the street and started another apprenticeship. This guy showed me the basic basics, you know, how to put the needle in the tube kind of thing. It was very, very self-taught.

All the basics, the rudimentary stuff?

Yeah, he was using plastic tubes and stuff like that. All I had for making needles was a piece of pipe with holes drilled into it. When you ran out of threes you would start using fives even if you needed a tight line, you know, stuff like that. Ultimately, that's how I got fired. I sent somebody somewhere else because I didn't have anything to work with. They wanted this little, five-line eagle and all I had was an eight round. There was no way I could do it.

How did you end up back at Scorpion Studios?

Following my second apprenticeship, I worked at Fine Line Tattoo for a year and then Matt looked me up again and said, "Hey, are you still tattooing? I've seen your stuff around and it looks good. Come back and work for me." By that point I had gotten my foot in the door.

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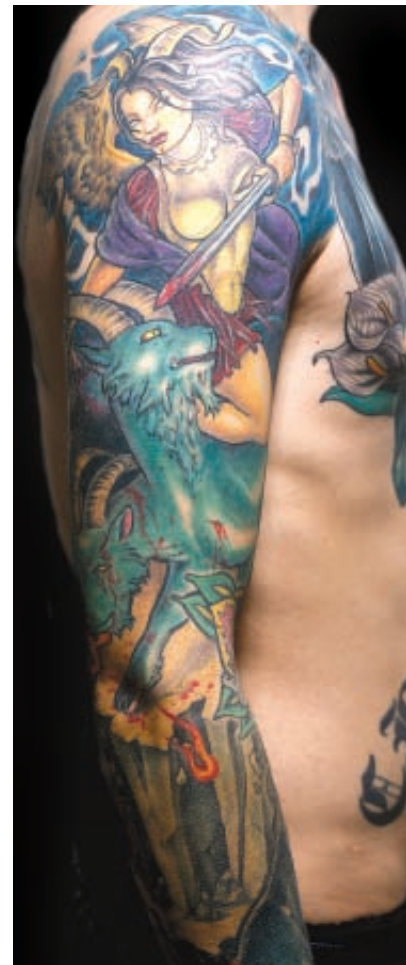
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And then Matt sold the shop to you after a couple years?

Yeah, it was really unexpected. He just called me out of the blue one day and said, "Wanna buy the shop?" He wasn't coming around; he was missing appointments and had some personal business to tend to.

Did you have any formal art training?

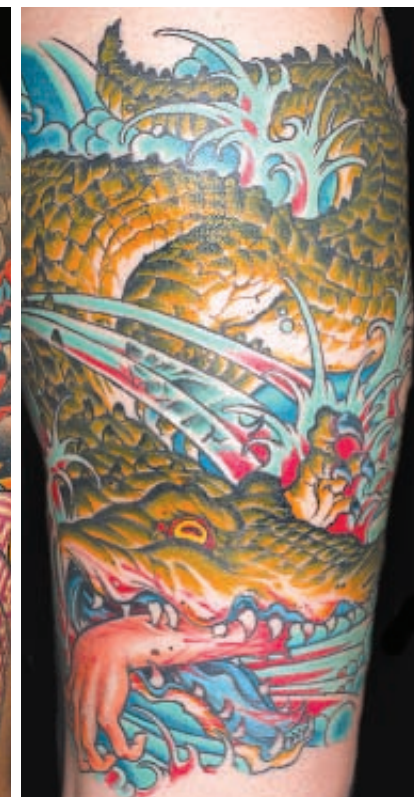
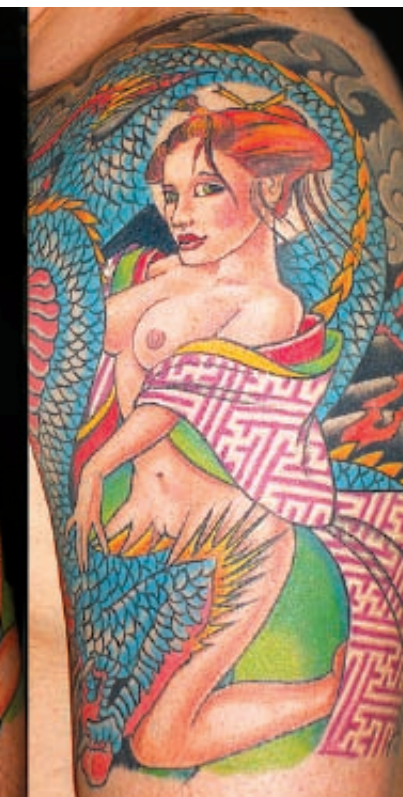
Yeah, I came to Houston to go to the Art Institute. I wanted to be an illustrator and they said, "You don't draw well enough. You should go into computers." So I did graphic design for six years, took a couple community college art classes, and still graduated from the Art Institute with a degree in graphic design.

Who are some of your influences?

In the past, I was really influenced by Marcus Pacheco. I liked the way he worked with figures; he's such an innovator. I've got a half sleeve by him and I'm very proud to look at it. I'm still blown away by his stuff. Because of him I went more towards the new school type stuff. Now, I'm kind of into Japanese a little bit. I'm getting away from multiple light sources and learning how to flatten stuff out. I've always been a big fan of Timothy Hoyer as well.

You're a family man now. How does that relate to being a tattoo artist?

I turned 30, bought a shop, and had a baby all in the same year. Everything was basically okay. My family fuels my desire to be good at what I do. The more I can push myself, the more it is going to affect them positively in the long run. Without them, I don't think I would have been nearly as motivated. I would have been out partying and doing a bunch



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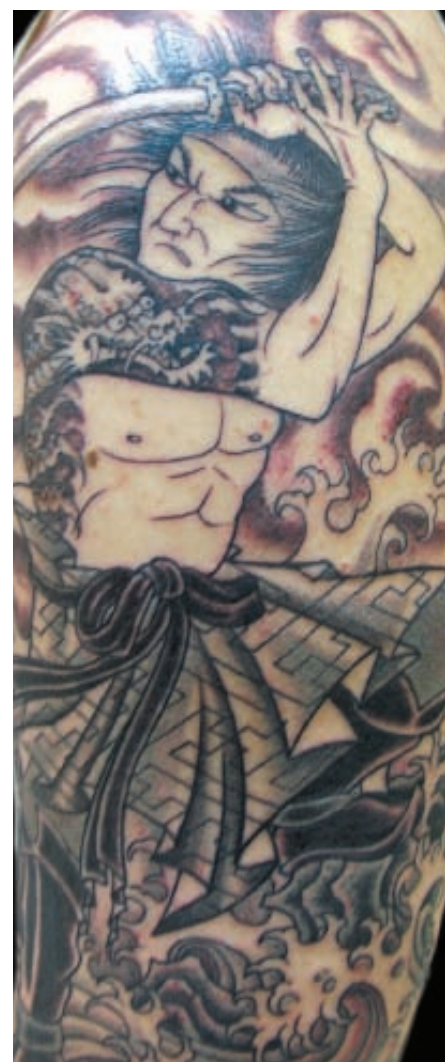
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of that stuff. When you have a family, you tell yourself, "Oh, the kids are in bed. What am I going to do now?" I'm going to draw and try to get better.

**What are your plans for the future?
Staying in Houston for a while?**

Yeah. I've got family here, extended as well as immediate. Right now I'm working with the most talented people I've ever worked with and I've got a really good crew; they all inspire me so much. It's like they light a fire under my ass. I see stuff they're doing daily and I think, "Oh man, I better get back to the drawing table." As long as that's going on, I have no desire to go anywhere else. Maybe someday I'd like to have another shop, but that might be too much homework and it would be more like big business and that's not really what I want. I like everything being somewhat small; it affords me the ability to focus on the art, which is what it's really all about for me.

Do you want to throw down some final comments?

I just try to keep my nose to the grindstone. It's my main thing. ★

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MUSIC NOTES

BANDS WORTH HEARING & SUPPORTING



COLORSINTHEAIR - On The Inside
 The Workshop Group - Myspace.com/colorsintheair
 Here's a disc worth hearing! I tend to gravitate towards the heavy stuff, but even I can't deny that there's something magical about this band. Fluctuating from smooth indie to more aggressive pop punk, this disc is diverse and entertaining. Subtle hints of piano mix with rock instrumentation to form captivating melodies and catchy hooks. There's a lot going on here, and even if you're not into the light stuff you might want to give this a spin. - Patricia (Evilneedles.com)



THE DEAR & DEPARTED
Something Quite Peculiar
 Science Records - Squarewell.com
 It's an eloquently violent mating of dark rock 'n roll, somber synths, and a deep lugubrious voice. Taking cues from early new wave and punk bands, this disc provides the listener with an infectious dose of '80s synthesizers and rhythms as it manages to be both classic and contemporary at the same time. I'd compare it to an AFI and Alkaline Trio milkshake with a Depeche Mode cherry on top. - Patricia (Evilneedles.com)



THE DEAD SEE - Through The Veil
 Pluto Records - Myspace.com/thedeadsee
 With slow, brooding riffs, these guys claw and grapple through 40 minutes of doomy, groovy, sludgy grit metal. It's not too technical; instead the band goes for power over finesse. The production is slightly noisy which adds a nice jagged edge to an already rough mix of sounds. It's beyond heavy, it's super loud, it's mega brutal, and it's even catchy. - Patricia (Evilneedles.com)



FRAMING HANLEY - the moment
 Silent Majority Group - Myspace.com/framinghanley
 A more radio friendly choice in music, Framing Hanley will appeal to your more pop and gentle side. This CD should be saved for those times when you're not trying to look cool, and you just want some lulling music to follow you around in your own music video. Slow guitar riffs, calming bass lines, light drum beats, and perfectly audible lyrics dominate much of the album. From time to time, however, you'll be surprised by a few of those screamo yells, and a heavier drop to shake things up. Hardcore lovers, buy this one for your softer side. - Lisa Sharer



AQUA TEEN HUNGER FORCE COLON MOVIE
FILM FOR THEATERS COLON THE SOUNDTRACK
 Various Artists - Adultswim.com
 Whether you've seen the movie yet or not, go get the CD. It is just the silly and entertaining type of music you need for one of your summertime parties. With songs from Master Shake and Soda Dog Refreshment Squad, you'll laugh and giggle. While joining with songs by Mastodon and Andrew W.K., you'll jump around and get out your air guitar. There's inserts from your favorite characters throughout the tracks, and a few hip hop and reggae influenced tunes. Basically, all genres of music threw up on this CD, and came together for a good cause—Aqua Teen Hunger Force. - Lisa Sharer



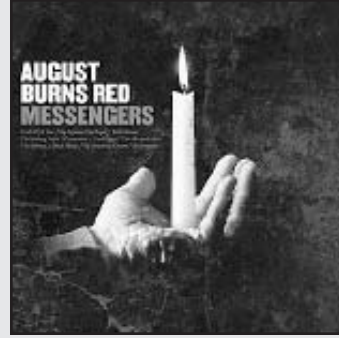
QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE
Era Vulgaris - Interscope Records - Qotsa.com
 On *Era Vulgaris*, Josh Homme and company continue their trend of putting out records with material they want rather than worry about what is expected of them. *Era Vulgaris* is another departure from previous QOTSA records, yet it's still full of their trademarked experimental sounds, riffs and melodies. Former band members are still missed, but guest appearances from Mark Lanegan and Julian Casablancas help give the songs a greater dynamic. This album gets better with every track and every listen. - Brenda Stephens

PELICAN
City of Echoes
 Hydrahead Records
 Hydrahead.com/pelican



Pelican returns with their third release, this time with surprisingly shorter and poppier songs. On this album, Pelican has dropped most of their progress in favor of tightness and structure. One thing these boys still have going for them is that they can write some truly heavy and intense post-metal instrumental tracks. The guitar riffs on *City of Echoes* are truly a treat for your ears. Highlights include the title track, "Lost In The Headlines," and the closer, "A Delicate Sense of Balance." While none of the tracks quite reach dynamically epic proportions, you should still expect to be transfixed by the beauty and brutality of their sonic metalness. - Stephen Jefferson

AUGUST BURNS RED
Messengers
 Solid State Records
 Augustburnsred.com



This metalcore group puts out another windmilling, picking up the change good time. The thick heavy riffs, lung shaking beats, and the low grumbling vocals prove to be metal all the way. With several power beat breakdowns the newest album from August Burns Red does not disappoint. The lyrical content was contributed by all members and converged to make a passionate statement that could be connected to the band as a whole. A little more established and a lot more distinct, this album is a grown extension of their last. - Lisa Sharer

THE KING KHAN & BBQ SHOW
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Montreal's own The King Kahn & BBQ Show! Their second release since their debut in 2002, *What's for Dinner?* is an appropriate title in itself. Drummer/ singer/ guitarist Mark Sultan (BBQ) is, to say the least, ahead of his time. In addition, Khan's howling over janky guitar riffs range from '60s garage punk, to doo wop love songs and sing-a-long melodies, to improvised riot-starters. This duo of true songsmiths to the highest caliber can be compared to The Users, The Gonn, Sam Cooke, The Sonics, Jerry Lee, and the like. This record is impressive all the way through. It even pays homage to the Circle Jerks' with "Operation", swoons you soulfully on "Into the Snow" and "Too Much in Love," and rubs one out on "Zombie." Seeing them personally launch a cow tongue repeatedly through the crowd, they also put on a hell of a show. - Casheena Frison

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Let me just start off by saying that with a name like this, you'd better have something on the shiny side of that little piece of plastic that will at least hold its own. This album delivers what it seems to promise and so much more. Older offerings from Sadaharu made me want to light myself on fire and do back flips with only the record as a soundtrack – just to prove a point. This record makes me want to walk around in the sun and sing these lyrics as loud as possible. If the world were filled with people that understand what it takes to love music and what it takes to make music that people really feel, this one would be platinum already, and it's not even out yet. - Garrett Range

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JULY MUSIC CALENDAR

Mon July 02, 2007 9:00PM Pearlene, Stone Rider (ex Fight Paris) Adam McIntyre & the Pinks	Wed July 11, 2007 9:00PM St. Vincent, Scout Niblett Tacks, the Boy Disaster	Sat July 21, 2007 9:30PM Richard Buckner (with full band) Six Parts Seven Trapper's Cabin
Thu July 05, 2007 9:30PM Thee Crucials, Can Can Auditioning Alice	Thu July 12, 2007 9:00PM Warm in the Wake Hymns, Mary O Harrison	Tue July 24, 2007 9:00PM Bishop Allen, Page France The Teeth
Fri July 06, 2007 9:30PM Gentleman Jesse & his Men allnightdrugprowlingwolves Dan Melchior, Thomas Function	Fri July 13, 2007 9:30PM The Features, The Hot Pips The Jennifers	Wed July 25, 2007 9:00PM Untied States, NYMPH Russian Spy Camera
Sat July 07, 2007 9:30PM The Fiery Furnaces, Deerhunter	Sat July 14, 2007 9:30PM Charles Walker & the Dynamites, Cadillac Jones, DJs Agent 45 & T1	Fri July 27, 2007 9:30PM Detroit Cobras The Willowz, The Hiss
Mon July 09, 2007 9:00PM Noot D' Noot, Vampire Weekend Batatadoce	Sun July 15, 2007 8:00PM Pela , Scissors for Lefty Kiwis of the South Pacific	Sat July 28, 2007 9:30PM Bishop Don, The Judies, Skylarks
Tue July 10, 2007 9:00PM Jason Isbell & the 400 Unit Justin Townes Earle, Ben Trickey	Thu July 19, 2007 9:30AM presents: "Support Our Poops" Attractive Eighties Women Fox Trotsky, Insane-O-Flex	Mon July 30, 2007 9:00PM The Comas, Great Northern
Fri July 20, 2007 9:30PM Rudy Ray Moore (Dolemite)		

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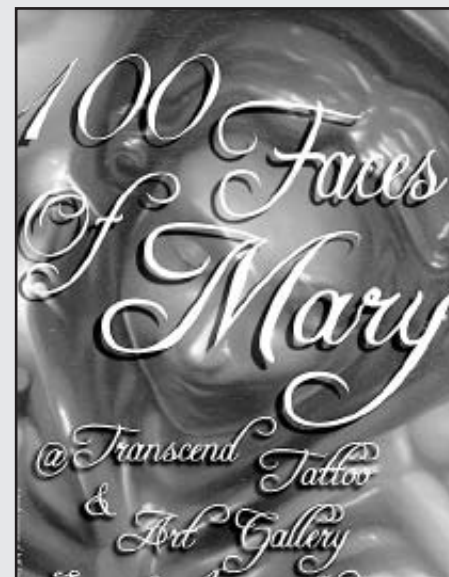


Showing until July 14 ROBOT INVASION ART SHOW Blackout-creations.com

Just in time for the *Transformers* movie craze, Blackout Creations in St. Petersburg, Fla. presents *The Robot Invasion Art Show*. The exhibit showcases artwork from 20 world renowned digital artists influenced and inspired by the robot. Some of the artists involved includes Ben Her, Chris Parks, Josh Bertrand, Dave Rau, Brandon Dunlap, Erik Holmen, Joshua Smith, and more. Blackout Creations loves robots and so should you.

Showing in July 100 FACES OF MARY Transcendtattoo.com

Transcend Tattoo & Art Gallery in Branford, Conn. and Luna Press Publications presents the *100 Faces of Mary* art exhibit. The Virgin Mary is one of the most recognized iconic images in art history. Because the Virgin Mary is so widely used in art as well as tattooing, Transcend decided to do an art show based solely on her image. Transcend also wanted to showcase these amazing tattoo artists ability to do artwork in a medium other than skin. Some of the artists involved include Nick Baxter, Nikko, Michele Wortman, Dan Henk, Lou Jacque, Ant Plaza, Jason D'Aquino, Carson Hill, Adrian Dominic, Canman, Luca Natalina, Sean Herman, Davey A, and many more. In association with Transcend, Luna Press Publications will be publishing a book by the same name. The book will feature 100 of the best pieces of art sent in to the show.



Showing until July 21 E PLURIBUS VENOM Jonathanlevinegallery.com

Jonathan LeVine Gallery in New York City presents new works by the infamous Shepard Fairey of Obey Giant fame. The *E Pluribus Venom* exhibit is comprised of artworks designed to question the symbols and methods of the American machine and American dream and also celebrate those who oppose blind nationalism and war. The art addresses monolithic institutional power and authority and the role of counter culture and independent individuals to question the dominant paradigm. Fairey's new body of work contains politically-charged paint, screen print, stencil, and collage mixed media pieces which use metaphor, humor, and seductive decorative elements to deliver provocative but beautiful results. These works blur the perceived barriers between propaganda and escapist decoration, political responsibility and humor with the intent of stimulating both viscerally and intellectually.

Showing until July 14 VICEGRIP ART SHOW Toyroomgallerytattoo.com

Toyroom gallery in Sacramento, Calif. is hosting the Vicegrip art exhibit. Labeled the anti-themed art show, the exhibit features works by Mike Bell, John Bell, Bruce Gossett, Rob Struven, and Kepi. The art is as warped as the heatwaves bouncing off the blacktop. The motivation for these select artists is everything from the hot and dirty race track to the seedy underbelly of society. No themes, no rules, just wrong...and amazing art, too.



On Tour in July & August VANS WARPED TOUR 2007 Warpedtour.com

This summer brings about the 13th year of the Vans Warped Tour, the music festival that provides punk music for the masses. Coined "Lucky 13th," this year's installment includes quite an array of musical stylings under the big punk umbrella. Bands playing select dates include Bad Religion, Pennywise, Norma Jean, The Briggs, The Toasters, Underoath, Flogging Molly, A Static Lullaby, Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Hawthorne Heights, Lorene Drive, Circle Jerks, Alkaline Trio, Poison The Well, Maylene and the Sons of Disaster, Nothington, Pepper, The Almost, The Vandals, Tiger Army and many more. Check the listings to see who's playing in your town.



On Tour in July & August SOUNDS OF THE UNDERGROUND Soundsoftheundergroundtour.com

The Sounds of the Underground tour started as a way to feed the need in the rising interest of metal, hardcore, and metalcore. Now a potent force on the summer circuit, SOTU rivals Ozzfest for metal festival supremacy. Presented by Hot Topic, this year's lineup includes GWAR, Shadows Fall, Chimaira, Every Time I Die, Darkest Hour, Amon Amarth, Heavy Heavy Low Low, Goatwhore, Lamb of God, Hatebreed, Suicidal Tendencies, Testament, Mushroomhead, and more.

On Tour in July & August OZZFEST 2007 Ozzfest.com

Ozzy Osbourne made metalheads everywhere smile from ear to ear when he announced that Ozzfest 2007 would be free. That makes it the first free U.S. touring music festival, an astonishing idea in this day and age. Not surprisingly sold out, this year's lineup includes Ozzy, Lamb of God, Static X, Lordi, Hatebreed, Behemoth, Nick Oliveri and the Mondo Generator, Nile, In This Moment, and more.



On Tour in July & August FAMILY VALUES TOUR 2007 Familyvalueslive.com

Korn returns with the Family Values Tour for the second straight year after their five year hiatus. Joining Jonathan Davis and company on the well documented tour is Evanescence, Atreyu, Flyleaf, Hellyeah (featuring Vinnie Paul Abbott and members of Mudvayne and Nothingface), Trivium, Neurosonic, and Droid.

July 13-15 PITCHFORK MUSIC FESTIVAL Pitchforkmedia.com

The Pitchfork Music Festival returns to Chicago's Union Park again this year, this time expanding to three days. The festival includes a plethora of popular indie rock acts. The opening night will be devoted to performers - Sonic Youth, Slint, and GZA - each doing a classic album in its entirety. The weekend features an impressive lineup, including performances by Cat Power and Dirty Delta Blues Band, Mastodon, Battles, The New Pornographers, Stephen Malkmus, Of Montreal, The Sea and Cake, Deerhunter, Grizzly Bear, Yoko Ono, De La Soul, Clipse, Iron and Wine, Professor Murder, Califone, The Twilight Sad, The Cool Kids, and more. This may well be the best music festival in the Windy City this year.



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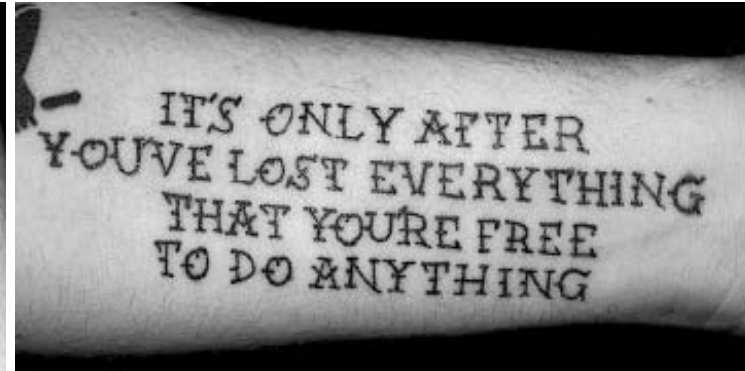
SHINY TOY GUNS

They might call Los Angeles home, but the four members of indie/rock/electonica band Shiny Toy Guns have been perpetually on tour since merging their sonic powers in 2002. "It's really hard, but at the same time we have a goal, and we're working towards that goal. It will always be worth it," explains singer Carah Faye Charnow, who shares the vocal spotlight with the dynamic and stylish Chad Petree. Jeremy Dawson on synthesizers and Mikey Martin on drums round out the quartet.

With the help of Universal Records in the U.S. and Mercury Records in the U.K., the love of Shiny Toy Guns is spreading. They've gone from selling demos in the back of a van to unleashing *We Are Pilots*, their only officially released album, upon an electro-rock-hungry world. As Charnow explains, "We've always had a vision of what we wanted to do, and now we can do it on a larger scale and with more force behind us." With tour plans for Europe, Australia, and eventually Japan,



Shiny Toy Guns are (L-R) Mikey Martin, Carah Faye Charnow, Jeremy Dawson, and Chad Petree

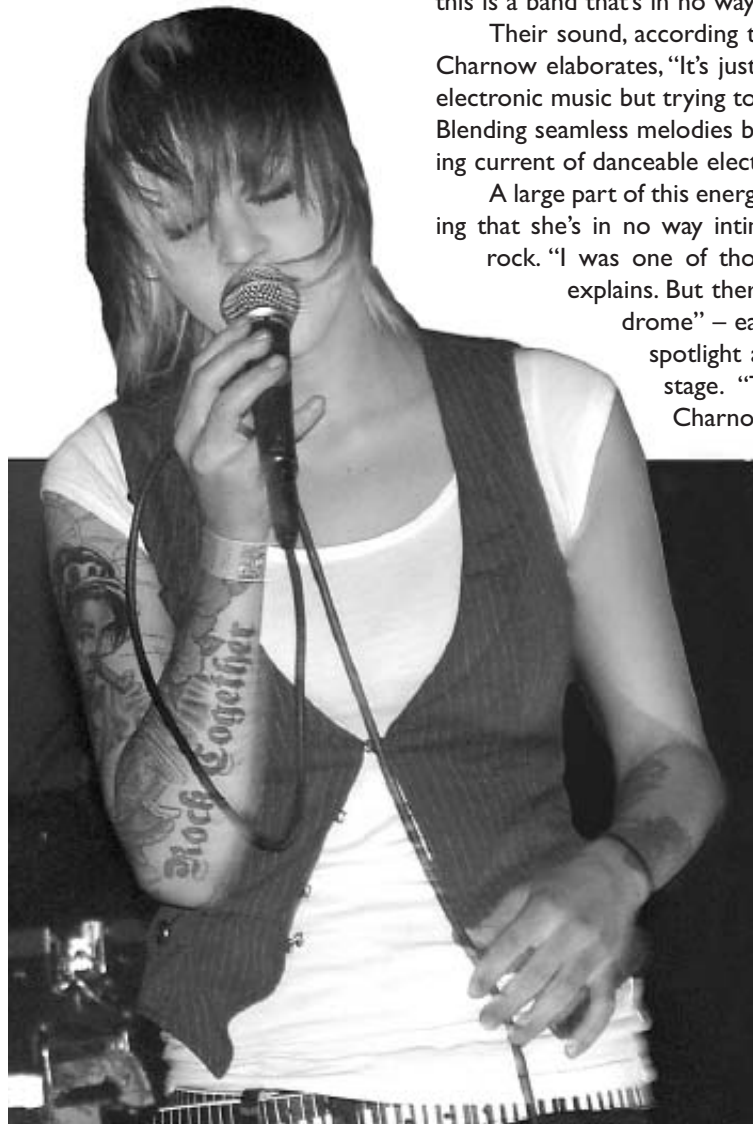


Mikey Martin's tattoos (above left). Martin, Petree, and Charnow perform live (above)

this is a band that's in no way shackled to North America.

Their sound, according to Dawson, can be described as "future forward rock." Charnow elaborates, "It's just basically the combination, or summation, of rock and electronic music but trying to tastefully blend the two together with our own style." Blending seamless melodies backed by both male and female vocals with an underlying current of danceable electro-beats, the energy of Shiny Toy Guns is palpable.

A large part of this energy comes from Charnow's frenetic stage presence, proving that she's in no way intimidated by the traditionally male-dominated world of rock. "I was one of those girls who was always with guys growing up," she explains. But there's no threat of the band contracting "No Doubt syndrome" — each of the four members share an equal amount of the spotlight and display an unwavering vibrancy and connection on stage. "They're definitely my best friends and my family," Charnow says.



Jeremy Dawson on bass



Chad Petree on vocals and guitar (right) and his tattoos (left)

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Carah Faye Charnow's "Rock Together Walk Together" tattoos by Lil D at 13 Roses, Geisha by Jim Hayak, B-17 bomber by Nick Vargus

If you think your ears are the ones having all the fun at a Shiny Toy Guns show, you might want to open your eyes. "The aesthetics of the band are definitely important to us," explains Charnow. "We don't want to hit our fans with just our music. That could definitely be enough, but there are more senses to the human body."

Such emphasis on their look is also evident in the band's dynamic, progressive, and downright beautiful photography – the genius of photographer and visual director, Benjy Russell. "We respect him artistically, just like a member. Every time we have a photo shoot or a music video, he's there artistically helping us. It's not all his decision, but a lot of it is his genius," says Charnow.

Such visual attention also spills over into Charnow's tattoos. She has crossing swords on either side of her stomach and B-17 bombers on the back of her legs, both done by Nick Vargus in Santa Barbara. She's also covered in words, touting a Suicidal Tendencies quote on her back ("How will I laugh tomorrow if I can't even smile today?") and a 7 Seconds quote on her forearms ("Walk together, rock together"), done by Little D at 13 Roses Tattoo in Atlanta. Currently working on the completion of her right sleeve, a large Japanese-inspired piece done by Jim Hayak in Newbury Park, Calif., concert-goers will eventually be able to see a Geisha with a parasail, bonsai trees and cranes.

With the music, art, and downright dancing fun, Shiny Toy Guns are an all-around must see band. Their energy and charisma and their love for the music and art, hold them in high regards to many critics. Their songs have been featured on *Grand Theft Auto III*, *America's Next Top Model*, and *The L Word*, proving that this band is loved by all different types of people in all different types of places. They are currently touring in promotion of their album, so look for them in a city near you. ★

For more information, go to www.shinytoyguns.com.

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TATTOO EVENTS

BY MAX BRAND

LUCKY 7 WEST SIDE PARTY AT BIG TIME CUSTOMZ TATTOO IN DOUGLASVILLE, GEORGIA

Atlanta loves tattoos, and Atlanta loves to party. Well, it turns out they love tattoos and parties in Douglasville too! Just fifteen minutes west of Atlanta, Big Time Customz Tattoo Studio held their 1st annual party and tattoo contest on Sunday, June 3rd in the lot in front of their shop on Douglas Blvd. The party was held to celebrate seven years in business for Big Time Customz.

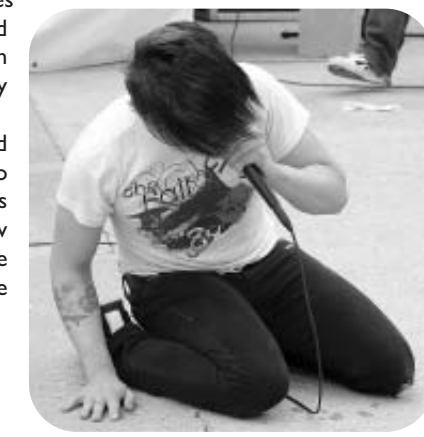
Tony LOCO and apprentice Daniel were on hand with the Big Time's family and friends to bring a little flavor to the streets of Douglasville, Ga. Motorcycles lined the lot after a morning ride that ended at the party, and bands rocked out on the temporary stage. The blazing sun in the middle of the day was a perfect backdrop for the body parts revealed at the tattoo contest.

In the end, Caycee Jones won best overall female, and Brian Rowland won best overall male. Trophies were also given for several motorcycle categories, including people's choice, and best old school. Tony says he's excited to throw more parties, and there will probably be another before the 2nd annual throw down. Keep an eye out for Big Time Customz, and we'll see ya in Douglasville. ★

For more information, go to www.bigtimecustomz.com.



(L-R) DJ Tommy Gunnz, Caycee Jones, Brian Rowland, and Daniel the apprentice



Ann Bolynn kept the crowd rockin'



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TATTOO NEWS



FRANKIE ABERNATHY

Frankie Abernathy, who appeared in MTV's *Real World: San Diego* and was *PRICK's* Hot Ink and cover girl in the May 2005 issue, lost her lifelong battle with cystic fibrosis on June 9. She passed away at age 25 in her mother Abbie Hunter's home in Shorewood, Wis. She lived her life to its fullest and on her own terms. She will be dearly missed. A scholarship fund has been established in Frankie's name at Blue Springs High School — her alma mater. Fans can send donations to the Frankie Abernathy Scholarship Fund, c/o Jackie Langston, 1205 NW Roanoke Drive, Blue Springs, MO, 64015.



CAPTAIN DON LESLIE

On the misty morning of June 4th in Chico, Calif., Captain Don Leslie peacefully slipped through the eye of the needle into the big circus show in the sky. His dear life long friend Lyle Tuttle sat by his side as he passed. Captain Don Leslie lived his life to the hilt, and went out like a puff of smoke. Forever, he will be in our memories. Long live Mr. Sideshow!
- Mr. G. and Madame Chinchilla (Art with a Pulse)

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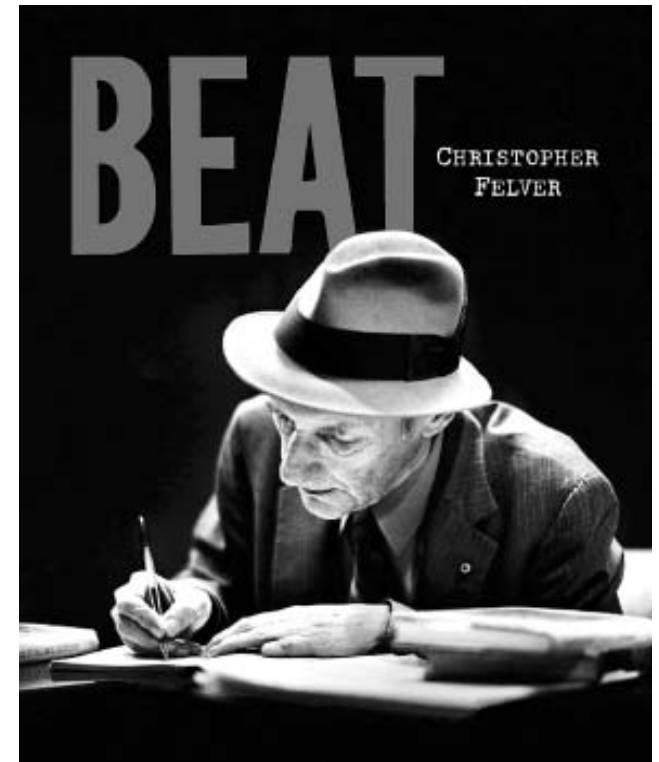
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Guitarherogame.com

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By Christopher Felver

Lastgasp.com

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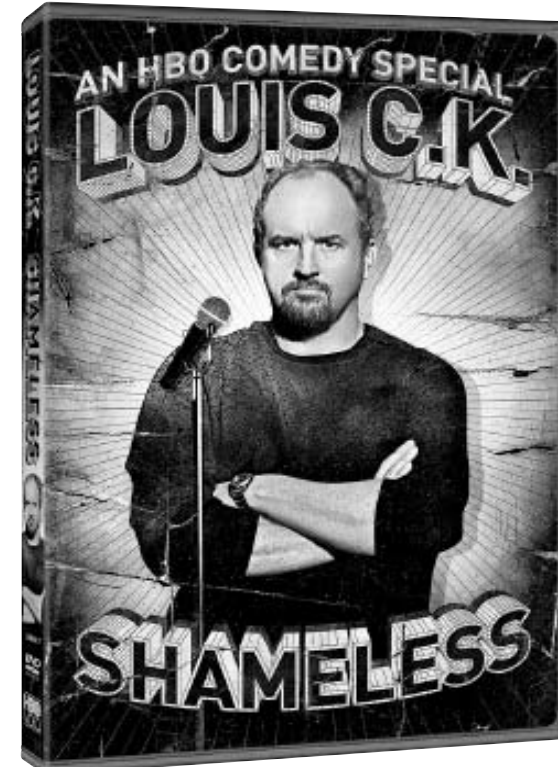
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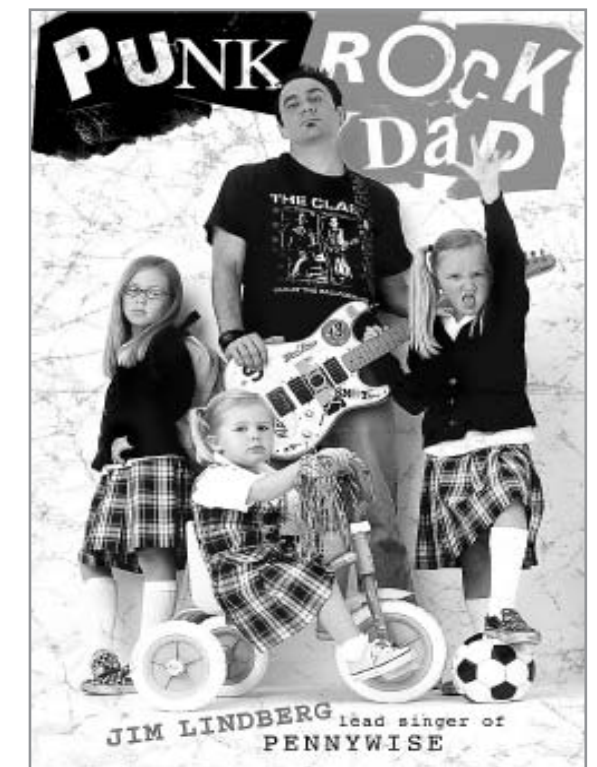


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Deerfield Beach Hilton
Deerfield Beach, Fla.

August 10-12, 2007
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Seattle, Wash.

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AUGUST 28

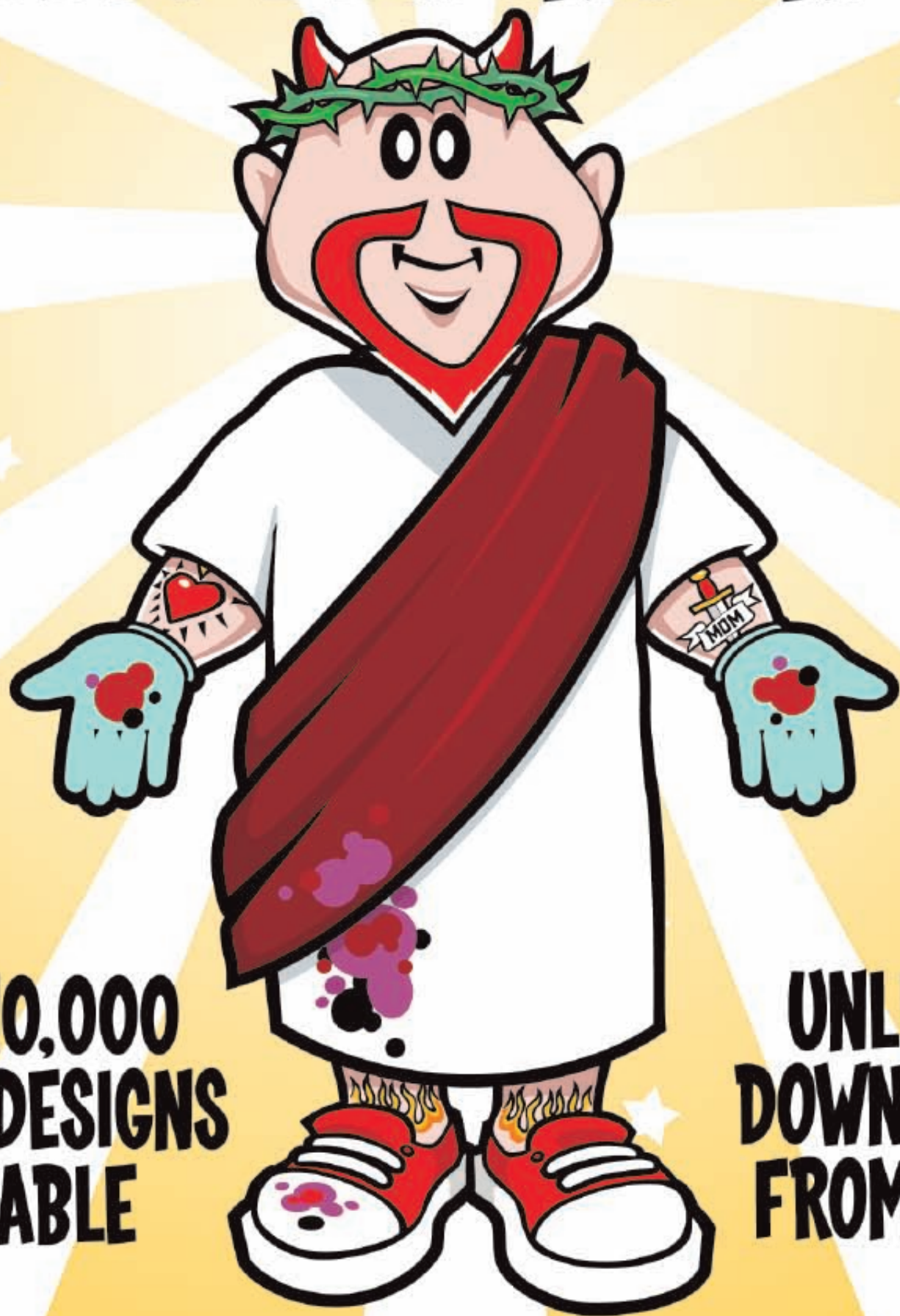
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