



Cartoonist

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Person, but I felt frustrated when people thought P.C. was the entire strip."

Shesol said the characters in "Thatch" portrayed typical college students, with the main character of J. "Thatch" Thatcher sometimes mirroring himself.

"Thatch is as close to an alter ego as I've got in the strip," he said.

"He is my voice in the strip more so than anyone else," Shesol added.

This fall, Shesol, a Rhodes scholar, will attend Oxford U. in London to pursue a master's of philosophy in British history.

When he returns from London, Shesol has the option of syndicating a new comic strip with Creators Syndicate.

If Shesol decides to continue cartooning, he will create a new strip, possibly featuring people in their early 20s looking for jobs and stability, he said.

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Anything goes in wild world of body piercing

By **BONNIE BILLS**

Daily Nexus

U. of California, Santa Barbara

Women and men with pierced ears hardly receive a second glance these days, but some students are getting pierced in places that don't normally see the light of day.

In body piercing, anything goes. Bejeweled lips, pierced bellybuttons and ringed nipples are popping up everywhere.

Sarah Seinerberg, a U. of California, Santa Barbara senior, said she has decided to put a purple ring with a silver bead in her navel.

She said the thought of the pain doesn't bother her too much.

"The pain is temporary," she said. "I have three tattoos, so I don't think it will hurt much more than those."

Aaron Mastro does body piercing at his clothing store in Santa Barbara. He has quite a few pierced body parts himself, including his ears, septum, navel and "below the waist."

Mastro, who pierces an average of five people a week, has pierced nipples, noses, navels and genitals. The most popular regions, he said, are ears and nostrils because of their high visibility.

Mastro said he body pierces when he saw that people were unsafe doing it themselves with safety pins. He does all of his work with sterile needles designed for piercing.

With proper care, body piercings will heal without becoming infected, he said, adding that the healing process usually takes about two months for most body parts.

UCSB anthropology Professor Donald Brown said that body piercing dates back to prehistoric times.

In some cultures, body piercing is considered magical and is believed to give you strength and courage, but he doesn't know if the trend will stick. "The time will come when it won't be cool to be pierced anymore," he said.

He said the current trend of body piercing is a fad partially perpetuated by subcultures.

Jozef Meunich, a sophomore at the U. of Minnesota, has both of his ears and nipples pierced.

"Getting your nipples pierced is an important part of gay culture," he said. "Of course, not all gay people have pierced nipples, but it's an incredibly erotic thing for gay culture."

Seinerberg said she doesn't know how long she'll keep her navel ring.

"I'll probably keep it for awhile," she said. "I don't know about forever."

Jon Hunt, The Minnesota Daily, U. of Minnesota, and Jason Ross, Daily Nexus, U. of California, Santa Barbara, also contributed to this story.