

# Tattoos: a business, a lifestyle, a form of expression

by Christopher Haberman  
Staff Writer

"I wish I was born with a tattoo," shouts Beavis of *Beavis and Butthead*. "You're not born with them ... you have to be in the Navy," Butthead replies.

Tattoos have really evolved since the "old days" of dirty back-room studios packed with drunk sailors. Today's tattoos are an emergent of the past and the present, a large mesh of art and expression. Tattoos are a business, a lifestyle and a form of expression.

"People get tattoos for different reasons, some people get tattoos to symbolize something in their life," said John Eddy, owner of *Family Tradition* tattoos. "Others get them to show something to the world."

Tattooing has reached a modern revolution. Detail and color have changed to simpler designs, such as "neo-tribalism," also called Celtic writing. The simpler designs are a return to native tattoo designs. The Indians had been tattooing long before we picked up tattoo guns.

"The public is more aware," said Lyon King, owner of *A 21st Century Studio of Tattoo*. "It has taken full circle. It's bold and basic ... the dark ages of tattooing are over."

According to King, who has been tattooing since 1972 and is covered in tattoos himself, people are reclaiming their awareness of spiritual aspects. People are expressing themselves through their body.

Tattooing has been grasped by every class. The most "normal," conservative person walking on the street may be covered with tattoos. The strangest may not have any. The pre-judgement of tattooing seems to be passing, as is the image of the old tattoo parlors.

"There is a lot of prejudice about tattoos ... they see tattoos and say scum," commented Joel Garrett. "Sometimes it's art, sometimes it's not, it depends on who's wearing them."

"Seventy-five percent of my clients are women," said King. "Some people get them when they are in college ... rites of passage kind of thing, it sets us apart from the animals."

According to D.E. Hardy, a famous tattooist in Hawaii, a tattoo is an affirmation: you put it on yourself with the knowledge that your body is yours to have and enjoy while you here.

Others say that tattoos are "talismans" to help empower the holder of the tattoo with power and

confidence. Whatever a tattoo may show or symbolize or mean, it is still expression.

"I saw a tattoo of a Dragon when I was a little kid, and that's when I knew I wanted one," said Grady Anderson, a Clackamas student. "I love the style. I can hide it, but I still have the option to show it. I also really like the philosophy and art involved with my tattoos."

The idea of pain is a question of many who are not tattooed. Yes, it does hurt and yes it does bleed. But tattoo shops are not "dirty," and take many measures to ensure the customer's safety. They wear gloves and use new needles in their guns, and many places emphasize a "sterile, clean and comfortable environment."

"I try to explain to people when they ask me about pain, and I tell them that it feels like someone with really long nails scratching really hard," Anderson explained. "It will hurt the worst anywhere the sun don't shine."

"Tattoos are great. They are a symbol of individualism and every one is unique and different," said Clackamas student Sheila Wilkin.

After getting a tattoo, many



photo by Anjanette Booth

Clackamas student Grady Anderson expresses his individuality with tattoos.

return for a second or third tattoo.

Tattooing has broken from a former secret among expressionists to "mainstream" society. "I encourage people to get them. Think ink," Eddy concluded.

"Tattoos are different, it scares people when things are different, it takes a lot for people to accept them," Anderson said. "But I'm

willing to accept the stereotype, because they make me happy, and if it makes you happy, get it."

Tattoos are quite permanent even though an expensive removal process has been developed. "It must be a mature decision (to get a tattoo)," King said. "It is an investment that no one can ever take away for the rest of your life."

## New intensive English program helps international students

by Justin Fields  
Staff Writer

The Learning Center now offers a new Program of Intensive English for international students who wish to study English as a second language at Clackamas.

PIE allows students from around the world to gain admission to Clackamas before they have mastered the English language. An extended passport, called an I-20, permits them to stay in the United States for up to two-and-a-half years as a student.

This fall, 12 students from Hong Kong, Japan, China, France and the United Arab Emirates are in the program. The revenue that is generated from charging these students out-of-state tuition is used to fund the ESL program for local residents.

"A lot of people think that foreign students coming to our schools just use money provided by taxpayers, but in fact, the revenue generated by these students pays tuition for 60 immigrants and 60 night students who are residents," said Program Director Molly Williams.

Refugees, immigrants and foreign students all participate in the ESL/PIE program together, creating a truly international population. "It's a chance for residents of this com-

munity to interact with foreign students," Williams said.

Operating funds for the ESL were provided by federal grants from 1986, when President Reagan initiated a new immigration policy, to 1991, when the five-year plan lapsed. That created a shortage of funds that could not be provided by the post-Measure 5 school budget.

According to Williams,

day classes are held on the college campus while night classes are offered at Clackamas and Canby High Schools. Community residents can attend non-credit classes free of charge. Residents who choose to take classes for credit pay normal tuition fees, and international students in the PIE program are charged out-of-state tuition.

"We get a lot of students

"When he (Keyser) presented the challenge, we capitalized on the opportunity, I think the plan is very innovative."

-Molly Williams

College President John Keyser "issued a challenge to the whole school" to find alternative funding for school programs. Williams, who has been involved in ESL programs at Clackamas since 1979 came up with the winner.

"When he (Keyser) presented the challenge, we capitalized on the opportunity," Williams said. "I think the plan is very innovative."

There are three levels of instruction offered, with both credit and non-credit courses available. PIE classes and courses taken for credits are only offered during the day. ESL

who come to us through word of mouth," Williams said. "It's a really good idea for foreign exchange students."

For more information regarding the ESL/PIE program, call Molly Williams at ext. 2596.

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Photo by Khanh Pham

Community vendors, including churches, banks, the Navy and the Army Reserve, provided information to students about their services at the Community Fair held on campus Jan. 5.

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