

# Getting a tattoo is an experience in itself

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Staff Writer

Why get a tattoo?

That is what certain preteens, teenagers, jocks, groupies, junkies, yuppies and Navy sailors have asked themselves at some time.

Why not? For what personal reasons do people get tattoos?

On driving to the "Alternative Tattoo" parlor in Beaverton two weeks ago, I contemplated that question. At the drive-thru window at the Burger King off the Beaverton-Hillsdale highway, I asked the attendant her feelings on the subject.

"What do you think is the best part of your body to get a tattoo on?"

"Oh, on your back," she said.

"Why do you say that?"

"Because that way you never see it. You know it's just there! It's like your own hidden secret."

Good enough logic I thought. My reason was a little more archaic though. I wanted to show to world how much Frank Zappa's music has meant to me. I wanted his face forever stamped on my left shoulder!

The motivation for me getting a tattoo has to be a healthy one, for personal satisfaction. It would

be pretty lame if I got a tattoo just to piss off my parents. I may be impulsive, but I do not want laser surgery to be the result of my stupidity.

A week before I got the tattoo, I looked into the *Yellow Pages* to find a business establishment to spike my skin. Several places stuck out with their interesting names, "Deluxe Tattoo", "Sea Tramp Tattoo Co.," etc.

I called these separate tattoo parlors and asked them difficult questions. If they had a good technical and professional understanding of their equipment, I kept their name. But I made my decision based on personal preference.

Also, I made sure the tattoo parlors were licensed and approved by the Oregon State Board of Health. A clean tattoo artist will follow the Oregon Health guidelines religiously.

When getting a tattoo it's good to set up an appointment BEFORE you get the actual product. I met with my tattoo artist, Aaron, once before to discuss the design I was getting. That way I could find out how much the tattoo cost and how long it would take.

The tattoo artist needed to stencil a new tattoo pattern for my skin on his own time. The artist

also gave me invaluable tips on what the tattooing process is like, how long it would take to get the tattoo, how to take care of the tattoo afterwards, and how much pain would be involved.

A \$10 to \$25 deposit is required by most tattoo shops. If you decide to get the tattoo, your deposit is added to the overall cost. They keep the deposit in case they make you a stencil or you do not show up for the appointment. The cost of a tattoo can range anywhere from \$50 to \$400, depending on what you want. My pure black design of Frank Zappa cost me 220 big ones! No, it is not cheap.

Getting a tattoo is an experience that can be rewarding and pleasant for anybody. Tattooing has been around for hundreds of years and is as popular today as ever. If you are interested in getting a tattoo, I would encourage you to read up on the subject and find its real passion. Portland is blessed with many great tattoo parlors that you can find by looking in the *Yellow Pages*. The "Alternative Tattoo" parlor, located at 4642 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway, is a good example of a model tattooing facility.

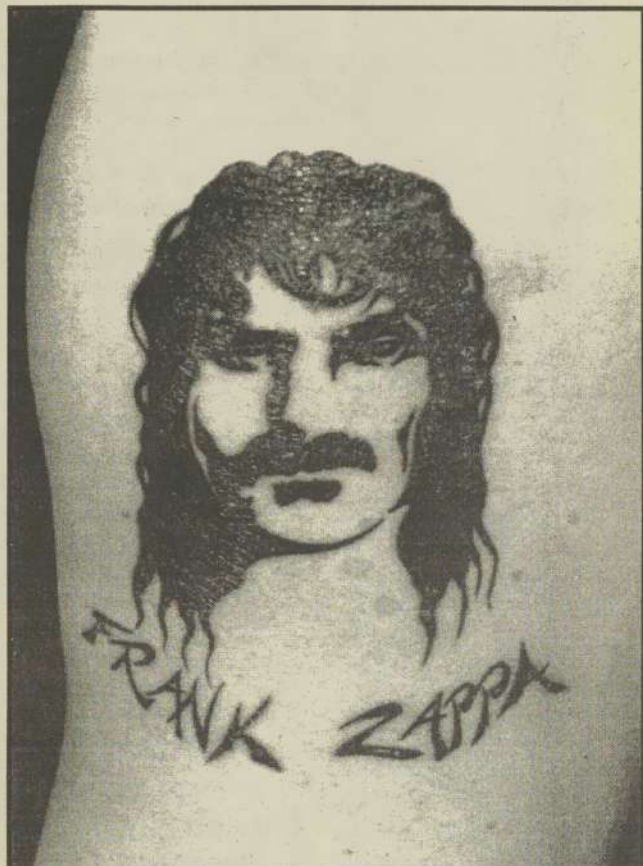


Photo by Joel Coreson

The author's Frank Zappa tattoo cost him \$220. He calls the experience of getting it "rewarding and pleasant."



Photo by Joel Coreson

A student learns programming in the computer-aided manufacturing course.

## Manufacturing Department grows, improves program

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The Clackamas Industrial/Manufacturing Department is blazing a trail of growth and ever-improving education.

"Success can be seen in the 140 students enrolled in Industrial/Manufacturing who go directly into the job market and there are another 140 students in customized training," said Tom Laugle, Manufacturing Department Chair.

Over 27 of the Northwest's top industrial manufacturing and investment casting companies hire Clackamas students. Some of these companies in Clackamas County include Warn Industries, Precision Cast Parts, Oregon Cutting Systems and the Carlton Company. Some Industrial/Manufacturing students are already at work for these companies.

"We give our students life-long skills so that they can work for many industrial manufacturers," said Laugle.

"All our graduates are able to find jobs where the starting pay

can be as much as \$12 dollars an hour. After a few years of experience it can go to \$20," Laugle said.

The Industrial/Manufacturing Department is split into two groups, the computer-aided manufacturing area and the manual machining area. New students all start out in the manual machining area. There they learn how to operate machines like lathes, mills and surface grinders. After they have learned the inner workings of the manufacturing floor, they move onto programming the machines to run automatically.

In the computer aided manufacturing the student's role is to write codes on the computer to simulate the movement of the machinery. The code is then downloaded to the machine tool and the machine can be set to run by itself, manufacturing a wide range of parts.

With three full-time and 12 part-time faculty members, the Clackamas Industrial/Manufacturing Department fulfills its goal of providing on-the-job experience to help students reach their goals.

After living on the streets of Portland...

## Student recovering from drug addiction

by Anna Phillips, Christina Mueller and Mairin Moore

Editor's note: the following story is based on a recent interview. "Marie" is a Clackamas student, but that is not her real name.

Marie, a nineteen year old college student, has overcome an addiction that threatened to take her life two years ago.

Marie was born in Beavercreek and, at 10 years old, she moved to Gladstone with her family.

At 13 years old, Marie took her first intoxicating drink. Two years later, alcohol was not enough.

At 15 Marie smoked her first pot; she soon became familiar with many drugs.

"It was then that I couldn't control myself," she explained.

When Marie was 17 she moved into an apartment with her boyfriend at 19th and Burnside in downtown Portland.

"It was the kind of apartment complex that when you walked in it, would always smell. It was totally insane! People were always being arrested, bums laying around and syringes everywhere," she exclaimed.

Some of that time was spent with acquaintances who called the streets their home. High and tired, she would settle for an evening in a stranger's home.

"I always had a warm place to stay. Kind of risky, but I wasn't very smart," she said.

Marie's boyfriend would not let her leave except to go to work in a retail store at Clackamas Town Center. Life got crazier as the drug use escalated.

"I was wearing business suits and heels when I worked at the mall and, on my break, I'd go out to my car and do my dope," she said.

The addiction got worse when "I lost touch with the real

world. I lived with a guy who controlled me with drugs. I was doing a lot of drugs then. I figured it was time to move out and get away from everything," she said.

It was at her addiction's peak that she moved back home. Marie contemplated suicide with an overdose of heroin. Her then ex-boyfriend offered to supply her with the drugs.

"I don't know what held me back. I am glad I never met up with him that night," she concludes.

It was awkward for Marie and her parents when she moved home. Her parents had always been conservative people and did not seem happy that she was back home.

"They were pretty insane

much.

"You had to go to bed early and get up really early to do aerobics," she said.

But Marie survived and left the hospital clean of drugs.

"I changed things. I don't do things I went there doing," she continued.

After Marie's rehabilitation, her parents let her come back home on their terms. She has had a hard time with their rules.

"My parents? Oh, they just think I'm a freak. I've been through total hell; I can't believe I'm still alive."

Since Marie got off the drugs she has gained 50 pounds; she was down to 70 pounds when she went into rehab.

"It's amazing how I thought I was fat, and I really wasn't," she said.

Fun is limited for Marie as she must separate herself from the temptation.

"The boyfriend I have now doesn't even do drugs. He drinks," she said.

For Marie, staying away from drugs is hard.

"It's like a job, and you're working it all the time," she explained. "I've had to walk out on friends. I lost friends when I did it, and now I lose friends because I don't."

Marie has earned her GED and begun to move on. She is attending Clackamas, but she does not have a plan for a career.

"It takes school to get me there. I want to get on with my life and out of my parents house. Then I will be fully happy," she said.

Marie has overcome her addiction and turned her life around. Feeling older than her 19 years, she says, "I shouldn't have had to go through it. I put myself through it. I don't regret a thing."

Where she is now is wiser, sober and stronger.

**"I've been through total hell and I can't believe I'm still alive."**

about it," she said. "When I was trying to stop and couldn't, I knew there was something wrong."

Admitting her addiction, Marie asked her parents to place her in a rehabilitation center. She was put in a ten-day lock-up program at Providence Medical Center. At 18, she was the youngest client in the facility and was locked up and sick for the first 10 days of her stay.

Patients were not allowed to have sugar, caffeine or salt so, when her friends went on walks they would stand on the corner and pay passersby to buy them cigarettes, candy and chips.

Overall, Marie felt the structural aspect of the hospital was too