

The college god of body mod

Dustin Ragsdale

The Clackamas Print

Of the more recognizable students on campus, Kenneth Botsford Jr. is arguably the most modified.

"Modified" meaning "body art" or "body modification."

The most striking of Botsford's body mods are his "lower sleeve" (meaning "from wrist to elbow, covered") tattoo of "Alice in Wonderland" and his ears, pierced and stretched to an inch and a half across.

Though some may find his appearance intimidating, Botsford finds personal satisfaction in being one of the nicest people at school.

"I'm a starving artist trying to make a name for myself," he said.

Botsford, 24, is a full-time art student at Clackamas.

He described himself as "not as scary as most people may think I am." "I'm most likely as weird as what most people think, though probably worse," he added.

Dave Anderson of the Art Department is Botsford's favorite teacher.

"[Dave] has been the best teacher I've ever had," said Botsford. "I fully believe that if I would have met him early in [my] life, I would be a much better artist - and most likely, overall a better person."

Currently working for BossBondage and the BossBondage Asylum, both online fetish pages, Botsford does freelance tattoo design as well. His life revolves around art, school, his girls and his friends.

"When I have time outside of that, I play a lot of video games," he said.

Botsford has his tattoo work done by Brian of Scape Goat Tattoo

and his piercings by Nick of Straight To The Point Body Piercing.

His tattoos and piercings often draw attention - often-times, unwanted attention.

"There [are] a couple of corners I shouldn't wait for the bus on anymore," explained Botsford, "due to rubber-neckers."

"I've oddly caused a pretty high number of minor fender-benders," Botsford continued, "just because people can't keep their eyes on the road. I've [seen] people [...] drive into each other,

RIGHT: Kenneth Botsford's Alice in Wonderland-themed half-sleeve tattoo. FAR RIGHT: Botsford hopes to one day become a tattoo artist. BELOW: Botsford shows off some of his artwork.

parked cars, large rocks, curbs, and even one case of a telephone pole."

However, Botsford has received positive attention as well.

"I was in a crappy strip club playing pool with a group of friends, and I saw someone with some fantastic ink," Botsford said. "He noticed

mine and we ended up sitting down and talking like normal people.

"[I] came to find everyone laughing at me because I wasn't star-stuck. It just so happened the person I was talking to was the guitarist Daisy Berkowitz."

Berkowitz was lead guitarist for Marilyn Manson.

Botsford's upcoming body

mod plans include tattooed eyebrows, finishing his arm (full sleeve) and starting on his chest. When he gets the money, Botsford plans to have genital beading done.

When asked about future body mod goals, he responded, "Everything, covered head-to-toe in ink."

"I want some implanted horns," he said, "implants down my arm, magnetic implants in my fingertips, CBRs on the top of my hands and possibly some facial scarification."

Botsford plans to finish school with an MFA in Painting and BFA in Illustration and Graphic Design; he hopes to earn both from Pacific Northwest College of Art.

After earning his degree, Botsford aspires to apprentice under one of the artists whose work he admires.

"From there, [I want to] get into a shop where I can learn from the people around me and just basically live."



All photos by Adam J. Manley Clackamas Print

History of your pants

Lela Dickerson

The Clackamas Print

Everywhere you look you see jeans on men, women and children. Made from denim, jeans are the most popular type of pants today.

"Denim is one of the world's oldest fabrics, yet it remains eternally young," said a young writer for *American Fabrics Magazine* in 1969.

Though it isn't certain, the most commonly believed origin of denim is from an English mistranslation of the French phrase "serge de Nimes," meaning a twill type fabric from the city of Nimes. Though the name originated in France, and perhaps the fabric originated there, before the end of the 17th century, denim was made in England, not in Nimes, France.

To add another level of confusion to the origin of denim, another fabric known as "jean" existed at the same time. Jean was a cotton, linen and/or wool blend that originated in Genoa, Italy.

During the 16th century, this fabric was imported into England because of its high popularity, and by the 18th century, jean was made completely of cotton. It was highly valued for its durability, even after several washings.

While jean grew popular, so did denim, but denim was more expensive and stronger than jean, though the two fabrics were very similar. The one major difference between the two was the color of the woven threads.

Denim was woven with one

white thread and one thread that had been dyed with indigo. Jean, however, was woven with two threads of the same color. Americans combined the two weaving techniques, using the highest grade of cotton, and dyeing one thread blue, while leaving the other white to make today's denim jeans.

In 1853, Levi Strauss came to San Francisco after emigrating from Germany to New York. He had spent many years learning about the fabric trade, and over the following 20 years, made a name for himself as a well-respected business man. He is considered to be the founder of today's blue jeans.

Jacob Davis, a tailor, was a regular customer of Strauss' who purchased bolts of cloth, wholesale, from Levi Strauss & Co.

One of Davis' customers was a man who constantly ripped the pockets of the pants Davis would make him. Davis came up with the idea of putting metal rivets on the points of strain on the pants, such as the pocket corners and the button fly.

These riveted jeans were so popular that Davis was concerned someone would steal and patent his idea.

Lacking the money needed to file the patent papers, he wrote to Strauss, asking him to hold the patent with him. Strauss and Davis received patent #139,121 on May 20, 1873, and blue jeans were officially born.

All historical information was acquired from <http://www.sloops.com/history.htm>.



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