



(intermission) January 10, 2002

arts and entertainment supplement to The Daily of the University of Washington



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Stephen King teaches you how to write! p. 5



Ever hear of a band called Dispatch? No? Go to p. 6

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local tattoo artist
leaves his mark
on people
and canvas



has dog?



STORY BY
BRIAN KIDD

Imagine driving down the road and then suddenly, "BAM," you smack right into a person. Was too rare of an occurrence on the open highway, you feel a bit sorry for the poor little guy except this time instead of sticky, gooey guts and metallic blood raining and clanging all over you, you can and the asphalt, scattered pieces of candy, snow all over the road. "BAM!" bellow. You must be dreaming. Well, either that or you might be a mere subject in a painting done by local print and tattoo artist Christopher Thompson.

Thompson has been creating and selling unique art for almost 10 years. Some might be familiar with his works that have occasionally graced the cover and inner pages of the album *Blurry and Love It* by the band *Something On My Mind*. However, Thompson hasn't just remained affiliated with *Something On My Mind*; he's now a full-time artist and tattoo artist. His paintings have appeared at a few small galleries and coffee houses in town, his most recent exhibit was last summer at the Visual Arts Gallery in Seattle. Thompson has also traveled as far as Nashville, Tenn., and more recently, Tempe, Calif., where in San Diego, so the tattoos. Locally, he works at the House of Tattoos in Tacoma.

"Ever since I was really young, I drew — all the time with crayons or pencil. I know that was the only thing I wanted to do," said Thompson. "Tattooing came about by chance on a way. A friend of mine was a tattoo artist and the owner of the shop was looking for a new apprentice, so I showed him my artwork and got the apprenticeship. I have been tattooing for about seven years."

Thompson's paintings are very humorous and even a bit ironic. His tattoos are so detailed and hard that they seem to stand up on their own and become a work of art. One of his paintings depicts soldiers, heavily armed, taking up a rocky slope, approaching an enemy fortress made of pup-sicle sticks. Another shows a whale, leaning over the bow of his small boat, looking forward, in an attempt to spear floating twinkies. His tattoos usually do not originate in his mind's eye, but this has not decreased his passion and desire to make them equally good as his paintings.

"Painting and tattooing are both passions of mine and it is sometimes hard to have equal passion for both at the same time," Thompson said. "I find particularly excited about painting something. I'd have to take time off from the shop to paint. When tattooing is in the back of my mind, I don't paint that often. I have to separate the two in my mind."

BY THOMPSON

Chris Thompson is a local tattoo artist and painter. He is currently working on a tattoo for a client. He is also working on a painting of a person. He is a very talented artist and has been working in the field for many years. He is a very hard worker and is always looking for new ways to improve his craft. He is a very creative person and is always coming up with new ideas. He is a very dedicated person and is always putting in his best effort. He is a very hard worker and is always looking for new ways to improve his craft. He is a very creative person and is always coming up with new ideas. He is a very dedicated person and is always putting in his best effort.

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