

HOMELESS IN PARADISE

October 9-15, 2020

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD - Part 50



*would you cast your vote
for this tattooed pioneer
if she ran today
olive oatman's folks
were killed in 1851
indians raised her
rescued as a teen
this young woman's blue tattoo
branded her for life
unlike girls today
this abductee had no choice
about being inked*

WOULD YOU VOTE FOR A PIERCED OR TATTOOED CANDIDATE?

By Wanda Sue Parrott

VOTING is under way. If you haven't yet received your mail-in ballot, it should come by October 10.

Mine came Saturday. I got side-tracked as I studied the issues and spent hours researching "body art" as it appears in the community-at-large. Very interesting!

First come artists, who design the messages tattoos convey. They work with mixed media, from henna-based reddish-brown tones, that fade from fingers and toes in a few days, to permanent inks that last a lifetime. Love, hate, fear, sorrow, joy and anger are projected in indelible ink.

They create transfers for do-it-yourselfers who stick them on and then peel them off.

Or they do face painting for kids!

Others are jewelry-makers who create everything from copper, steel and silver

ear, nose, lip and finger rings to gold, diamond, rock, bone and metal studs that pierce tongues, lips, chins, cheeks, noses, eyelids, eyebrows, ears and private body parts like the human navel.

Last are consumers who constitute the market for body decor like the painted parchment skin on Ancient Egypt's mummies proves was the case thousands of years ago.

Some of today's political candidates are tattooed.

Who are they?

National Presidential Contenders

A Google search spotted Joe Biden in a photoshopped pose with different cars, his bare-chested biceps sporting tattoos on both arms.

Incumbent Donald J. Trump now has Covid-19 but no body art.

One link states: “. . . members of subcultures, like bikers and sailors and soldier grunts. . . have been fanciers of tattoos, because those people live precariously. . . So, tattooing and piercing and all that stuff is a reversion to a more primitive, simpler, pre-rational state of mind and civilization.

“You can bet he (the Donald) doesn’t have any tattoos. A bullying billionaire of his stripe doesn’t NEED the dubious psychological comfort of body modification or tattoos. . . “

<https://www.redstate.com/diary/mermerus/2015/08/25/donalds-hidden-tattoos-mean/>

I found no evidence online that either Dr. Jill Biden or first lady Melania Trump has any body art except for, perhaps, pierced ears, which are so standard today that even studs have studs.

Tramp Stamps appear

Following release of Nirvana’s early-1960s rock music video of tattoo-covered teen cheerleaders dancing to “Smells Like Teen Spirit,” young women started acquiring ankle, arm, shoulder and back tattoos commonly called “tramp stamps” which wielded socially transformative power.

The website cited above continued:

“Is it any wonder that post-modern-day human beings, like young people in America starting in the 1990s, feeling overwhelmed by the explosive growth of incomprehensible technologies and global economic and social forces around them, turned to tattoos as a safety valve for relieving mounting subconscious anxieties?

“And teenage girls and young women especially, confused and overwhelmed by incessant overpowering pornographic and sexual imagery inundating them 24/7, began fancying tattoos more and more as something cool and stress-relieving, without even knowing their own basic motivations. . . “

By the 1990s, tattoo parlors were rising to prominence and elegant retail stores started to degentrify as white supremacy showed signs of weakening.

Thirty years later, tattoos appear on every part of the human body, male and female, with designs ranging from abstract black-ink designs to fluid floral pastels and persons, pets and poems.

Tattoo studios/galleries have moved to uptown’s high-end districts alongside cannabis dispensaries in a repetition resembling Ancient Rome, where tattooing was eschewed until Rome fell and barbarianism blanketed the empire.

Tattooed Women Of The Old And New West

During the Westward Expansion in 1851, Olive Oatman had no choice when abducted by the Yavapai after her Mormon parents were massacred; they traded the virtually homeless child to the Mohaves, who tattooed her chin with blue ink before trading her back to the whites. A wealthy Texas banker married Olive despite her hairless beard. <https://www.amazon.com/Blue-Tattoo-Olive-Oatman-Women/dp/0803235178>

If Olive Oatman was a freak around 160 years ago, she might win a beauty contest today, since tattoos on women’s faces are common procedures that include permanent lip-liner.

I found no evidence that Dr. Jill Biden and Melania Trump have any body art, but a local candidate for office has three tattoos.

*women often choose
vines flowers and butterflies
as their body art
loved ones' names and hearts
are very popular themes
with tattooed women
eyeliner and brows
gold nose rings and bright lip studs
serve as beauty marks
primitive or cool
body art has been around
for 10,000 years
would you cast your vote
for this tattooed candidate
if she ran today*



Jessica Hare, 37, of Seaside, whose largest tattoo is a pastel floral vine cascading down one leg and wrapping gracefully around her ankle, is running for Monterey Unified School District, Governing Board Member Trustee Area 2.

Jessica is a registered nurse at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She's also chair of the Seaside Homeless Commission and partner of controversial Seaside mayoral candidate, Jon Wizard, city councilmember who was harassed last week by a caravan of critics cruising their cul de sac.

Jessica filmed their cars circling the house while Jon was elsewhere campaigning.

Since her lovely tattoo sends a message of love, beauty, peace and healing, and Jon has no body art to express how he feels, I asked him to speak from his heart.

Jon Wizard said, "Seaside can't afford to be anything less than bold in its vision for a more vibrant future."

He spoke for America.

Your ballot should arrive by October 10.

Please vote!

###

CREDITS: Photo of Olive Oatman from Wikimedia; woman's tattooed leg courtesy of Google Free Images, used per Fair Use, no copyright infringement intended. Haiku quintets by Wanda Sue Parrott.

About this Column: "Homeless in Paradise" is a free public service self-funded and produced by the author. During the Covid-19 pandemic, this column appears regularly on the last week of each month in the Cedar Street Times at www.cedarstreettimes.com (and as periodic FLASH columns).

It also appears on Facebook, in Nextdoor and on private email lists. If interested in being added to the list, submit your request to the contact info below.)

Copyright 2020 by Wanda Sue Parrott

Contact Wanda Sue Parrott at 831-899-5887, amykitchenerfdn@hotmail.com