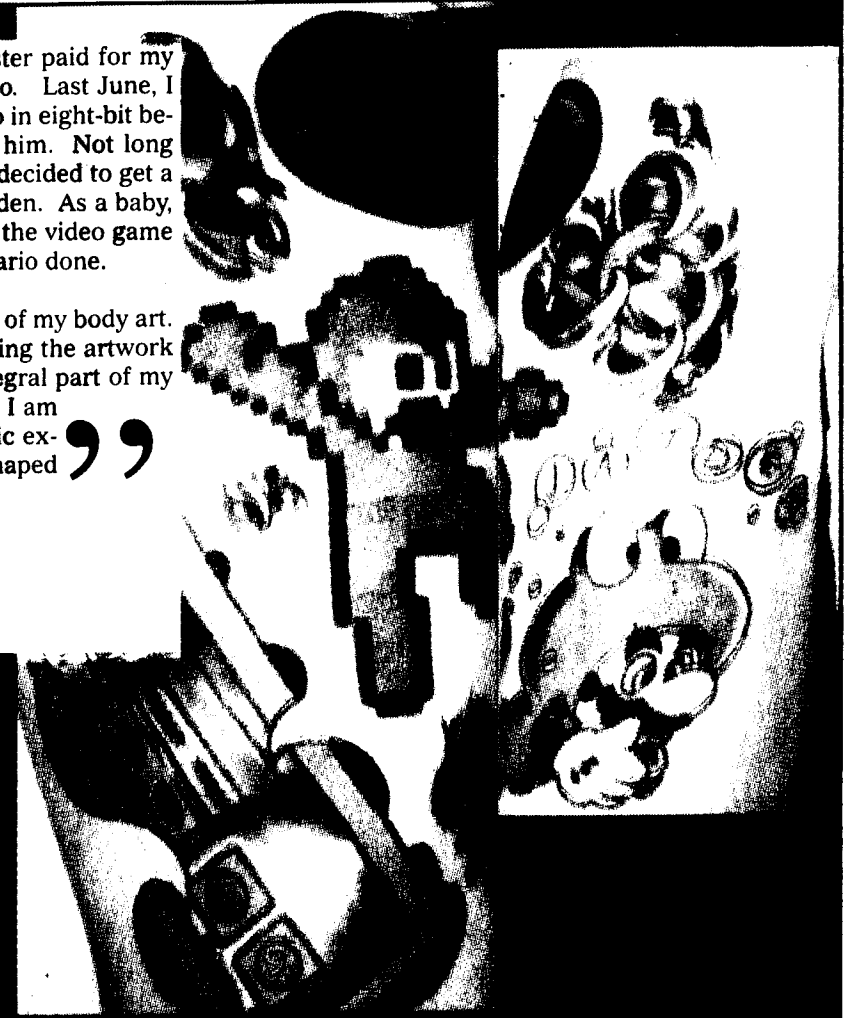


FOREVER

“ On my eighteenth birthday, my sister paid for my first tattoo, the Mortal Kombat logo. Last June, I decided to add the Megaman tattoo in eight-bit because it is the only way I picture him. Not long after, at the beginning of the fall semester, I decided to get a tattoo that would represent my nephew, Jayden. As a baby, he loved to bounce around. Combined with the video game theme, he inspired me to get the frog-suit Mario done.

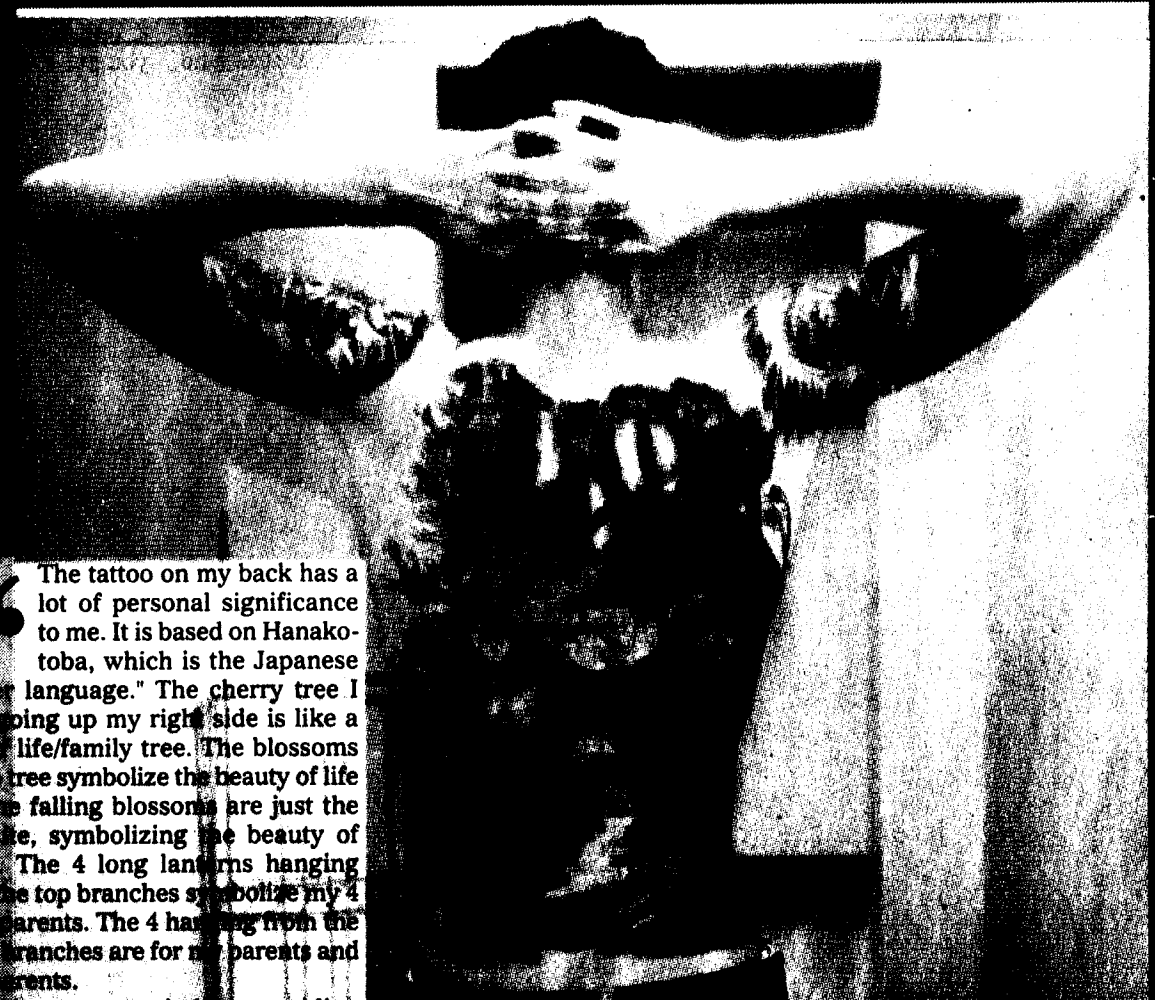
Some people have questioned the legitimacy of my body art. What I told them, and still say when defending the artwork on my arm, is that video games were an integral part of my adolescence; they symbolize my childhood. I am also a defender of video games as an artistic expression, and more importantly, an art that shaped me personally.”

John Dennis Hadlock
sophomore English literature major



“ The tattoo in question represents a balance struck between youth and adulthood. It is a cherry blossom tree with books hanging from one side and children's toys hanging from the other. Growing up may be a fast life, but I don't want to end up every other person being along the river of time. I want a certain amount of my childhood playfulness, creativity and curiosity to think these things are looked upon in the "professional" world. This carefree attitude is not without negatives; on the one side of the tree, all the flowers have been plucked and put in a vase. On the "adult" side, then, shows knowledge, understanding and respect. Thus a balance is struck. I want to be someone that myself as a child would have looked up to.”

Merk Medwid
junior math education major



“ The tattoo on my back has a lot of personal significance to me. It is based on Hanakotoba, which is the Japanese "flower language." The cherry tree I have going up my right side is like a tree of life/family tree. The blossoms on the tree symbolize the beauty of life and the falling blossoms are just the opposite, symbolizing the beauty of death. The 4 long lanterns hanging from the top branches symbolize my 4 grandparents. The 4 hanging from the bottom branches are for my parents and my grandparents.”

The lanterns symbolize a guiding light. The cherry tree is a symbol of life and death. The falling blossoms are a symbol of the beauty of death. The lanterns are a symbol of guidance. The cherry tree is a symbol of life and death. The falling blossoms are a symbol of the beauty of death. The lanterns are a symbol of guidance.

Don Trill
senior marketing major

