



TATTOOS & Piercings

EXPRESS YOURSELF *Or Not*

Thinking about a tattoo or body piercing - think again!

Think about pain, scarring, needles, and even infection. Sure tattoos can be bright and attention grabbing but for how long? Over a period of time tattoos begin to fade. Tattoos need a lot of care. This becomes another responsibility to add to the millions that teens already have.

Both tattoos and body piercing require needles - big needles.

Needles that are often not sterilized properly. Unsterilized needles lead to infection and/or the spread of disease hence the incurable HIV which leads to AIDS, one of the top reasons for teen death.

Tattoos are very permanent.

Getting a tattoo removed is painful and costly. It costs about sixty dollars to remove a tattoo depending upon its size, and it leaves a scar. It costs an additional one thousand dollars to remove the scar.

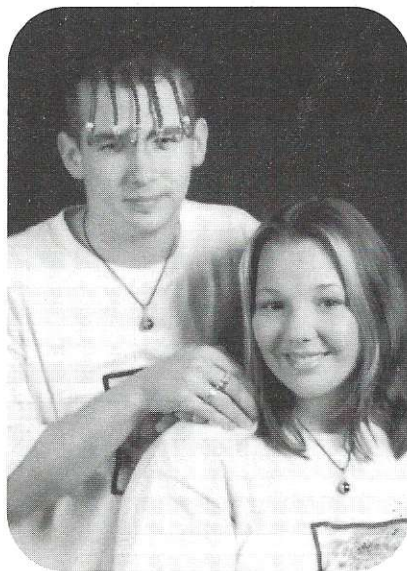
Tattoos hurt! A needle punctures the skin so fast that it hurts from having a needle constantly going in and out; it creates friction which makes skin burn. **In piercing the degree of pain depends upon what is being pierced.**

Planning on showing off a tattoo in the sun? Well, the sun fades tattoos; they become old and hard to notice over time. To make the tattoo shine again, an ink fill in is required. Can anyone say ouch? That old familiar pain is back.

-Shantel Middleton



WHAT DO YOU THINK?



"I think body art is a form of self expression, but I can't stand it when people see me and automatically assume that I do drugs. Just because I have body piercings and a tattoo does not make me a bad person. I do it just to stand out from the crowd."

-junior Chris Harsey

"Tattoos and body piercings aren't the end of the world. They're simply a form of self-expression that doesn't automatically make someone do drugs and commit crimes. In fact, both tattoos and body piercings have been around since long before our country was discovered, and if people can't see past their small-minded stereotypes, I wouldn't expect them to understand the joy of being different anyway."

- senior Claudia Boensch