

INK OF THE WEEK



MIRANDA RAPOZA
JUNIOR MECHATRONICS
STUDENT FROM DURHAM

KARRIGAN MONK

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What's your tattoo?

My tattoo is of two hibiscus flowers and a hummingbird, and they are in watercolor style.

Nice. Why'd you decide to get it?

I got the orange hibiscus for my mom, the pink/purple one for my aunt and the hummingbird for my grandmother. She has a hummingbird bird-feeder right outside her window so I've always really liked that.

Did anything interesting happen when you got it?

Yeah, I actually drove all the way down to Orlando. I was on the waitlist with Marcus Lund. I was on his waitlist for seven or eight months.

Wow.

Yeah. So I drove all the way down to Orlando, got a kind of sketchy Airbnb,



PHOTOS BY KARRIGAN MONK

stayed a couple of nights, got it done. The two flowers were done on the first day and the hummingbird on the second day.

Are you close to your mom, your aunt and your grandmother?

Yes. We're not like sisters, I don't tell them everything, but we definitely have a very strong connection.

Cool. Is there any advice you'd give to someone getting a first tattoo?

Sit on it for three months. Because I've got a really cool tattoo and a few very not-so-cool tattoos that I wish I would have thought of for a longer time.

What are those?

I've got an infinity symbol with a devil tail. I'll just leave that one up to interpretation.

If you would like your tattoo featured, email kmonk@unca.edu.

Sewing is a passion and a job for the Nickerson sisters

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A shared passion for sewing unravelled a new realm of possibilities for sisters and business partners, Bailey and Tivoli Nickerson.

Bailey first learned to sew as a crafting hobby when she was young.

She began making small figures and animals from felt, and used to give these little projects as gifts to her younger cousins.

"Then I ended up getting a sewing machine — like a little, tiny, junky one that you can get for 30 or 40 bucks. It was really cute before it died," Bailey said, and added with a laugh, "We killed it."

A few years later, Bailey began her own sewing business, Candy Capsule, with her younger sister Tivoli. The plushy business began at the Nickersons' house, where they have their own sewing room.

The sisters would take their finished products to the Old Depot in Black Mountain and sell them there, but the plushies did not catch on too quickly.

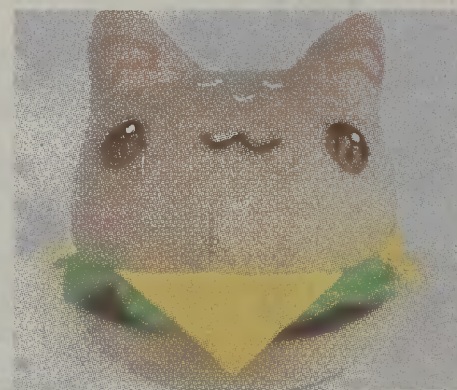
The Old Depot in Black Mountain is a non-profit and volunteer organization where the two first began selling their creations.

Bailey said it is a good starting place for new artists, but their art style did not pick up much traction.

They soon changed venues and began selling their crafts at local conventions and took commissions through their Etsy and DeviantArt pages. This audience was much more receptive to the sisters' designs. Bailey said the change was refreshing.

"I got to sell more closely with my target market. With Black Mountain, you wouldn't think there would be such a difference, but there definitely is. The people strolling on into Black Mountain, North Carolina are looking for a very different thing than monsters covered in icing and sprinkles," Bailey said.

Beyond their small business, Bailey and Tivoli also work as seamstresses at a local uniform company. Bailey said she and her sister get along very



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BAILEY NICKERSON

These are a selection of some of the creations of the Nickerson sisters. They cover a range of cute fictional characters.

well. The two have always worked together, but Bailey said it never feels exhausting.

The Nickerson sisters primarily

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