

A'impit

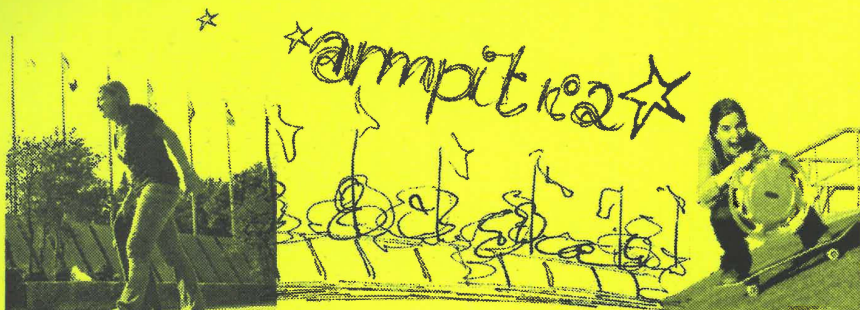
montreal zine

#2



photo: Daniel Mathieu

2\$



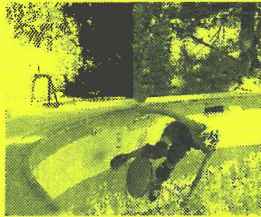
It took so long, but here it is, at last...

Almost a year went by since the 1st issue, but the MTL girls are still here, skating, having fun, creating...
 ☆ Enjoy this new issue of Armpit! ☆



Thanx to all the contributors of Armpit #2:

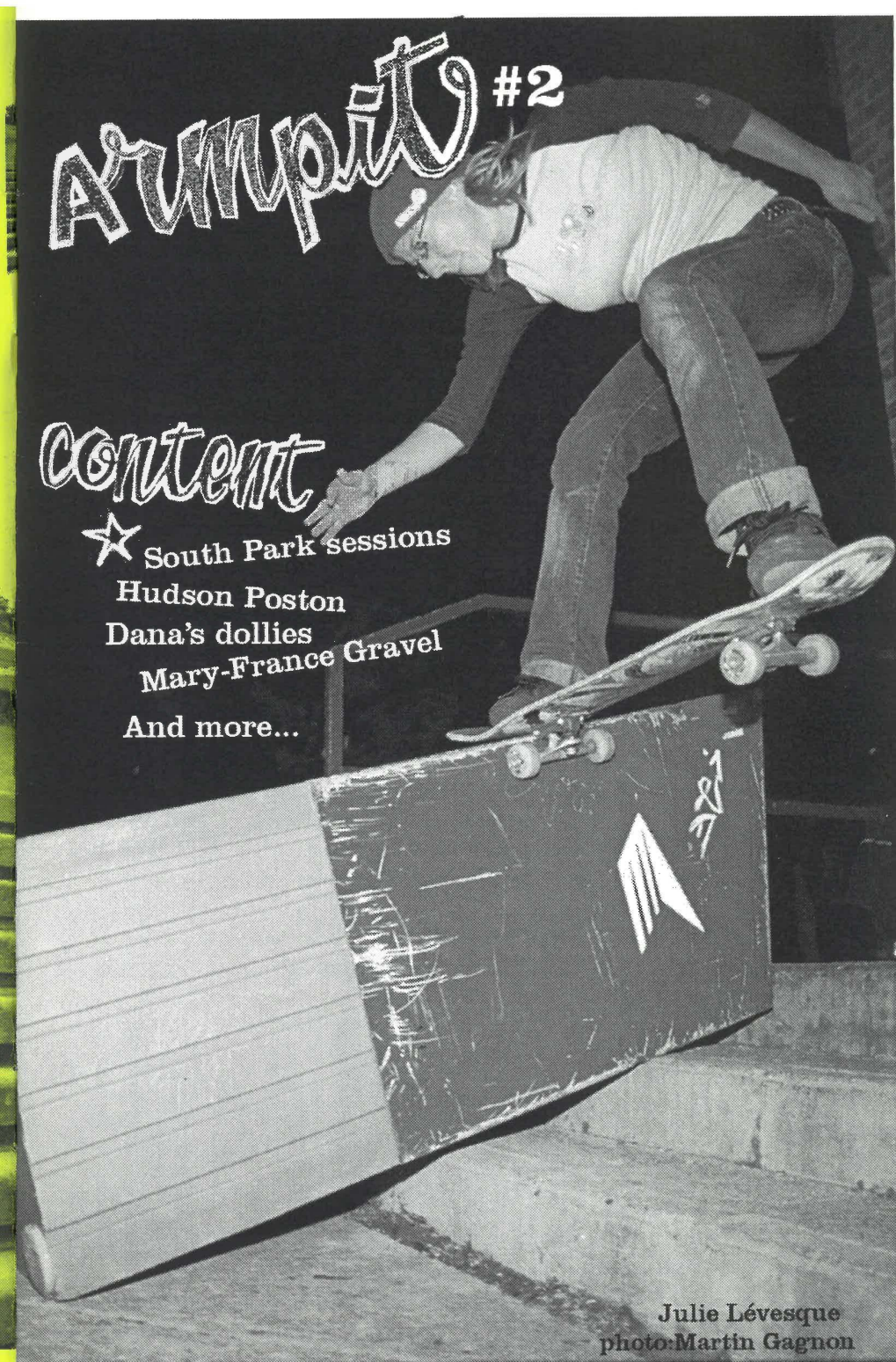
-Marie-France Gravel-Nathalie Porter-Julie Lévesque-Mélanie Nadeau-
 Louise Hénault-Ethier-Mathilde Pigeon-Guy Lévesque--Dana-Martin Gagnon
 Margaux Walker-Anne-Sophie Julien-Eloise Théoret-Frédérique Luiyet-
 Chloé Morin-Shane Keller-Daniel Mathieu-Brigitte Emond-Lili Bastien-
 Cherry Skateboards-Emily Oliver-South Park-
 Hudson Poston-Nicky Robinson-
 ☆ and to everyone I forgot!



Armpit #2

Content

- ☆ South Park sessions
- Hudson Poston
- Dana's dollies
- Mary-France Gravel
- And more...



Julie Lévesque
 photo:Martin Gagnon



Mary-France Gravel

born: March 20th-1969

How I got interested in circus:

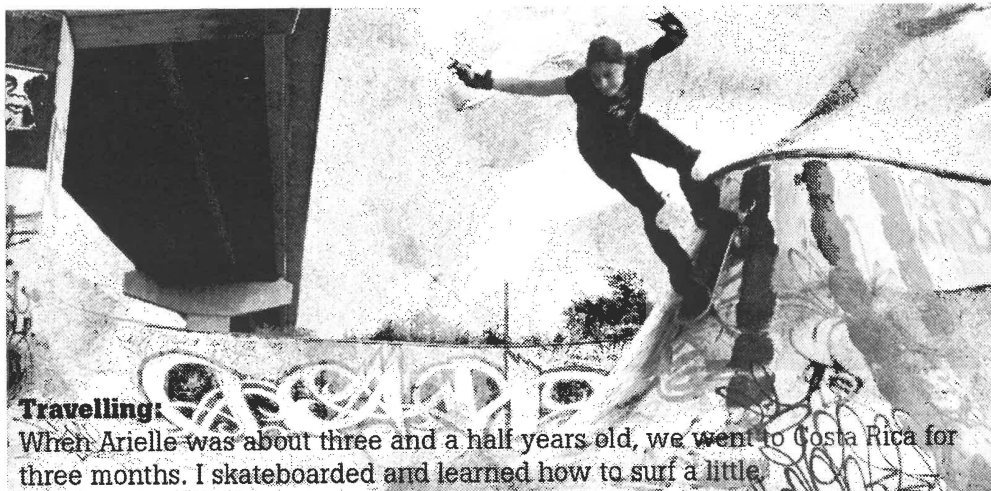
It's something I always wanted to do since I was a little kid, but my parents didnt think it was a good idea for me to join a circus. When I was living on the street, I was panhandling a lot. Sometimes I would make really good money, like 100\$ an hour, because I was funny and entertaining. People thought I was actually good at making sketches, making people laugh...Unfortunately drugs and booze pushed me away from my goals and I became too busy feeding my addiction to work on what I liked.

About my daughter Arielle:

I quit drugs when I was 20 years old and had Arielle at 21. The fact that that my daughter was born severely handicaped changed my life around. For years, I was spending all my time running around to hospitals and specialis to give my daughter the best opportunities to get better. She is now a wonderfu teenager who loves life so much despite her handicap, which is a good lesson to everyone. BAD ATTITUDE IS THE ONLY HANICAP THAT ONE CAN HAVE IN LIFE.

What is important in life:

You must do what you love. The summer Arielle was three years old, I started to juggle, unicycle and skateboard. These were things I always wanted to do, but for various reasons never did.



Travelling:

When Arielle was about three and a half years old, we went to Costa Rica for three months. I skateboarded and learned how to surf a little. About a year later, we went to Ecuador and traveled all around showing kids how to juggle.

Sacrificing:

Besides when I was traveling, I barely ever had any time for myself. So many times I had to quit juggling, unicycling and skateboarding because Arielle was needing me too much. About three years ago, I realised that Arielle had improved her independancy and had progressed enough for me to go back to what I loved to do.

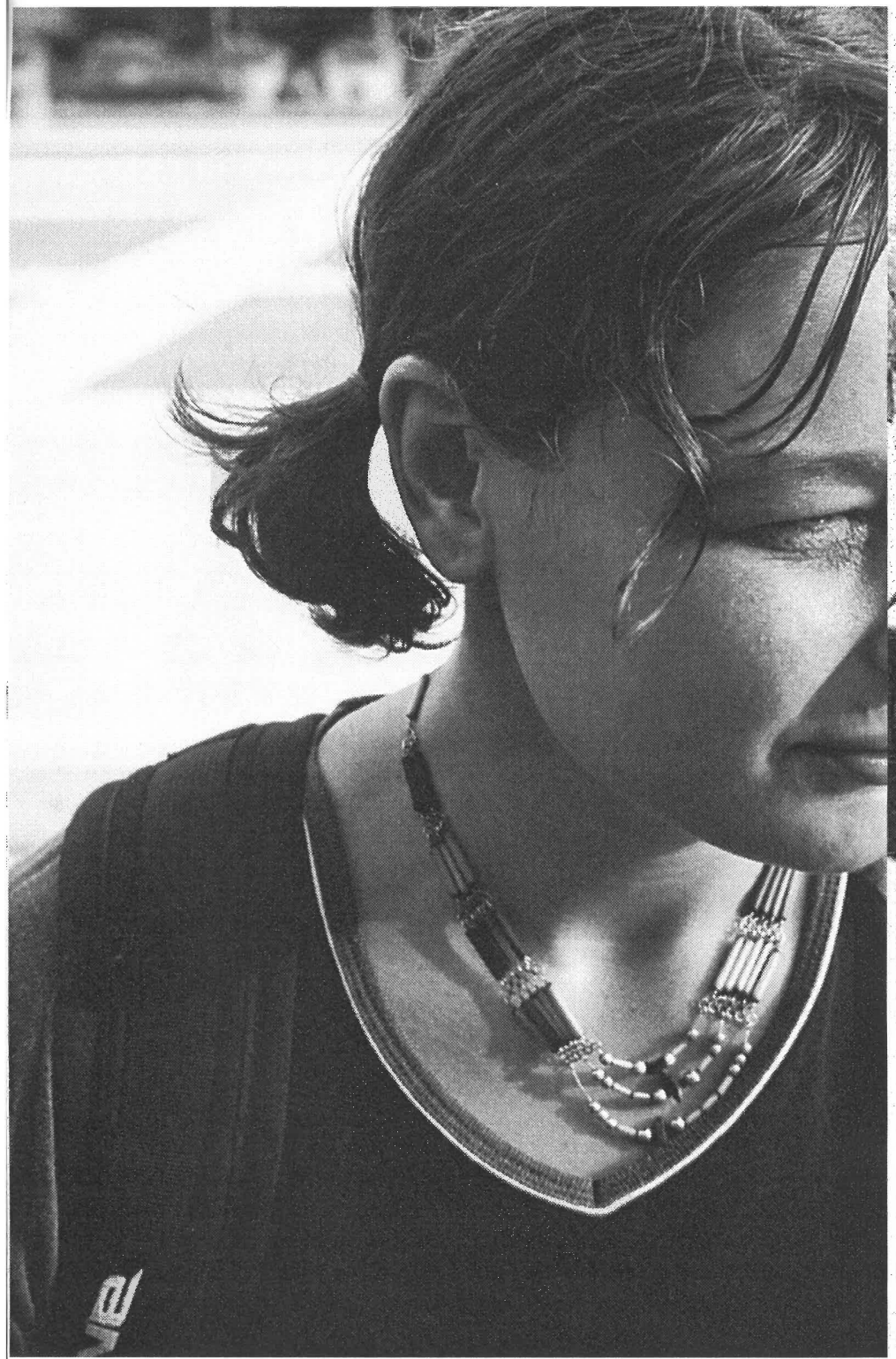
Training at La Caserne:

A year and a half ago, I was given the opportunity to join the community circus La Caserne. I started training seriously in september 2002. I also take different courses and stages to improve my technique and give me the accreditation necessary to teach different circus disciplines. I have a few acts that are doing good, individually and with other people. Lately I have been working on improving my juggling and passing technique. I am also learning a new discipline called the freestyle ladder, which is very scary!

Goals:

My final goal is to create a one hour solo show that I can sell to schools or various festivals. I would also love to be able to perform in other countries. My goal in skateboarding is simple: to keep improving and keep having fun. I also want to keep travelling to explore new places to skate..and keep skating until I am at least 85 years old! It will be funny to see that old woman with white hair going down the street, rolling around cars, telling them to get off the way, to show respect and let old ladies go first. I wonder if the cops would still fine me for making noise at Peace Park...

photos by Shane Keller and Erika Dubé



A typical day in my life...

6h30am: I get up, having only one hour to get ready. I wake Arielle up, or try to. I get breakfast ready and hope Arielle will eat... instead of feeding the dog twice!

7h30am: Oh no! The school bus is in front of the house 5 minutes early this morning...too bad for me! This is when you learn how to do miracles. Arielle is gone, now it's time to walk and feed the dog and clean up the morning mess.

7h45am: Taking some time to read a little bit: Bible, magazine, anything I feel like. I love this quiet moment before the rush of the day.

8h15am: Time to go. Métro Place St-Henri to Place Joliette, studying chinese on the way, using all the free time I have to improve my brain.

9ham: Arriving at circus La Caserne, starting my warmup(60 stairs, 10 times each, all the different ways you can go up them, plus the pushups in between). We then practice various disciplines throughout the day: juggling and passing, unicycling, hand-standing, the free style ladder, the GIRAFFE, swich is a 6 feet unicycle, stretching and of course a half hour lunch time.

3hpm: As I am having someone to pick up Arielle from school, I am heading to Bérry Square to meet Nathalie and skate. I am tired but I can always find energy to skate, thanx to energy drinks!!

During those two hours I skate like crazy, 'cause I love it so much, it's so fun and I like the feeling of freedom I get when I skate...

5h30pm: Gotta run home to prepare supper and spend time with Arielle. I help her with her homework, read her something or simply play and have some fun for couple of hours.

7h30pm: Gotta run to my acrobatic course. In the metro, I study chinese or read something interesting.

8h30pm: Acrobatic class until 11hpm.

11hpm: No more energy to read or learn anything on the way back home. I just sit and observe people around me. It could be useful for future imitations.

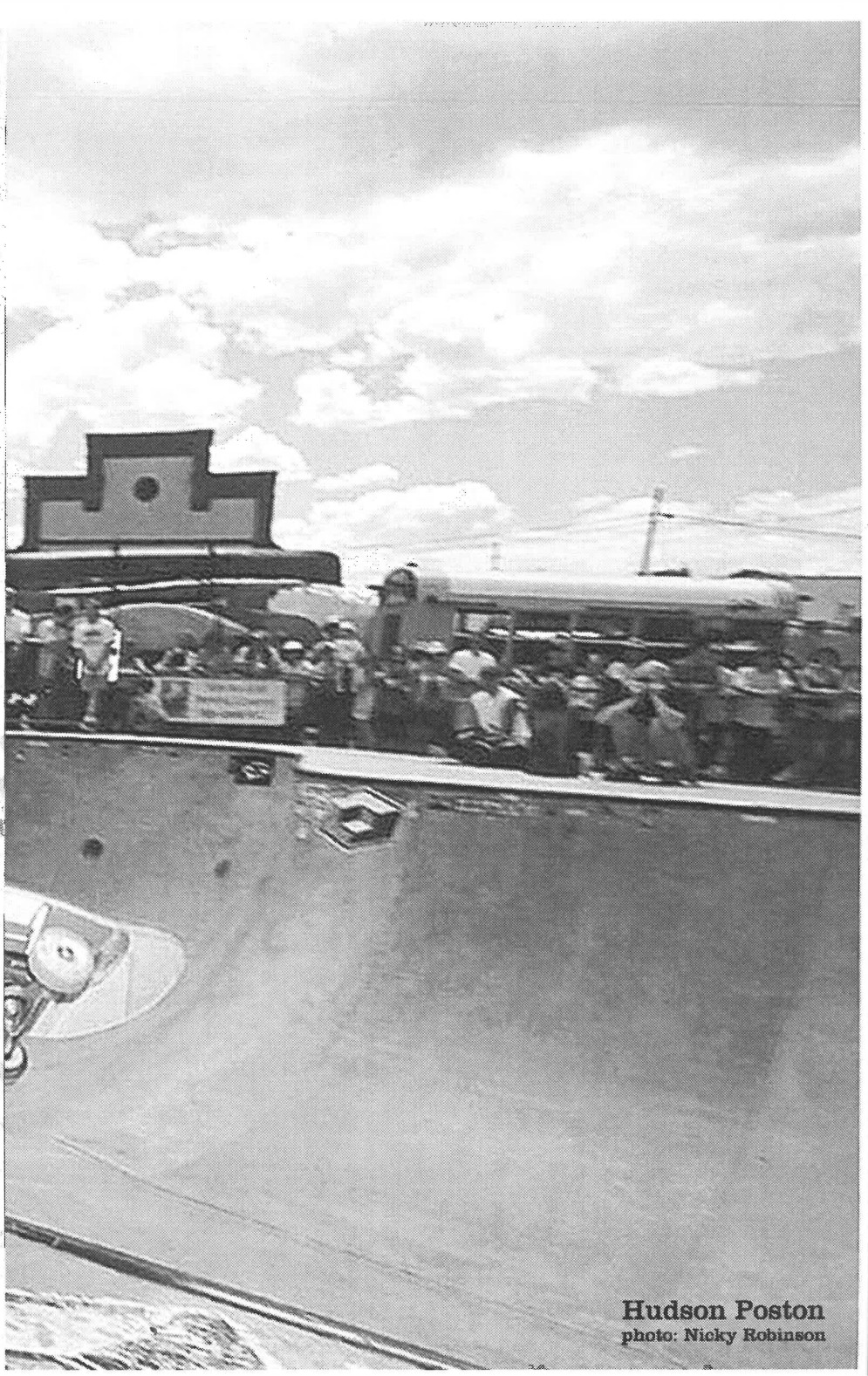
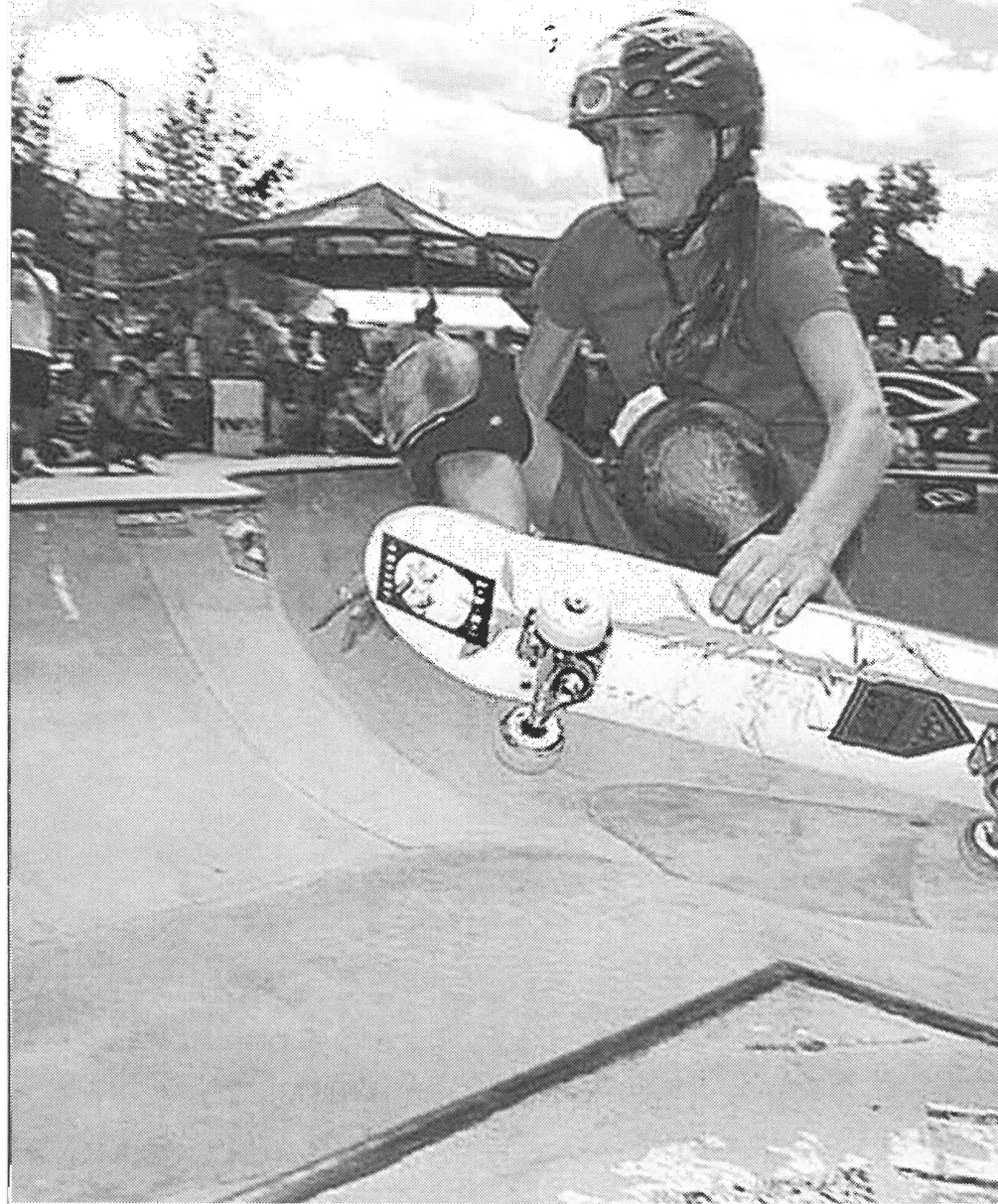
11h45pm: Finally in the shower and a few minutes away from my bed. Gotta sleep good, tomorrow I have to get up at 6h30 for another day...

photo: Erika Dubé



Nathalie Porter
Ladner, BC
photo: Maya Credico

**INTERVIEW WITH
HUDSON POSTON**
Cherry skateboards team rider

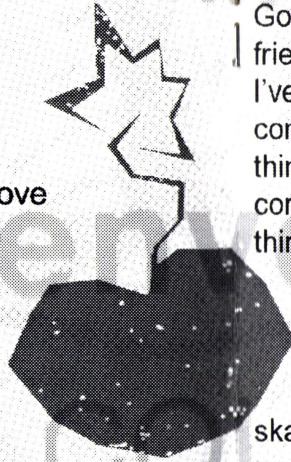


Hudson Poston
photo: Nicky Robinson

How did skateboarding enter your life?

I had a skateboard when I was three years old. I was so young I don't even remember when I rode it. My brother skated, and my friends and neighbors too. We skated and biked and rode launch ramps a lot. It was fun times. Then we moved to Kenter Canyon and I still skated but I became a fanatical die-hard rollerskater. I skateboarded here and there with my guy friends over the years, but I had more passion for rollerskates, gymnastics, horseback riding and soccer. Then in 1989, when I was 18, I fell deeply in love with skateboarding. I mean I fell hard and never looked back.

cherry



I hope I've done the same for other females, both friends and strangers.

What do you think about contests?

God, contests are really strange. Being competitive with female friends and strangers is a pretty fucked up feeling in some ways. I've done so many sports over the years that I'm naturally very competitive and feel comfortable in competitive atmospheres. I think it's extremely healthy but it's hard to look at other girls as my competition. It is also hard being judged on skating. But the good thing about contests is that competition will only make women better

skateboards

skaters in the end. It is the nature of competition and I know it has pushed me to skate better. **I have at certain times skated the best I ever had in my whole life during a contest.** How can I not push myself when so many people are watching? Besides, all my friends want to see me skate well and doing that can be extremely gratifying in the end. It's very important to me for people to know that girls can skate well, especially the female spectators, as well as all the people little sisters and daughters. Contests are a good way to show people that.

Have you suffered many injuries throughout the years?

I have been through some really bad injuries from skating, but it will never stop me. I have learned to hate time for making me wait to skate and love time to let me skate again. I am no longer the reckless skater I was when I was younger, but I still push myself, progress, and **have so much fun.**

Were there other girls skating with you?

Back in Santa Cruz, I used to skate with a handful of girls. I never got close to any of them particularly or skated with them very much, but they were definitely cool. I worked at Skateworks and skated Derby a lot. It was odd at times and a bit lonely being the only girl skater, but everyone was very supportive.

Now I skate with a lot of amazing girls such as: Ashley Honeyman, Nikky Robinson, Lisa Huff, Sara Mickus, Kyla Duffy, Leonore, Kara, Nova, and others. They are amazing people and skaters. They are my greatest inspiration right now.

Do you see a difference between guys and girls skaters?

I think watching guys skate for so long only got me so far. It's like being inside looking out a window when you skate with guys. **Skating with other females is like looking at a mirror of yourself.** Now, after skating with girls that really rip, I can actually see how possible it is to skate with the best of my abilities.

What kind of work do you do?

I earn money as a licensed acupuncturist and herbalist, and I also work at Cheers Tavern in Old Town Arvada.

What is your favorite terrain to skate?

Pools, anything with a thigh tranny, a lot of vert, and pool coping... I also love mini-ramps and spine ramps. I always have a good time at the parks built by the Oregon guys, as well as The Hanger The Humbler, Wanchese, and the pools at Skatopia. I love all transitions pretty much.

By Erika Dubé

being able to measure one thing against another. You measure your own judgments, you measure your own values against things that have happened to you. And you measure the value of an art against things that have happened in that art in the past. Every creative act draws on the past whether it pretends to or not. It draws on what it knows. There's no such thing, really, as a creative act in a vacuum.

ADA LOUISE HUXTABLE



hey ladies!
get up!

words and photos: Erika Dubé

SOUTH PARK

Memories

from our
Sunday
morning
sessions

WINTER 2003-2004

The collage features a large clock face at the top right, a small portrait of a woman on the left, and several photos of people skating. The text 'SOUTH PARK Memories' is prominently displayed in a stylized font, with 'Memories' in a larger, more decorative script. Below the title, it says 'from our Sunday morning sessions' and 'WINTER 2003-2004'. The background of the collage is a pattern of small, repeating floral or geometric motifs.


 south park
 winter 03-04
 ladies sessions



Julie Lévesque

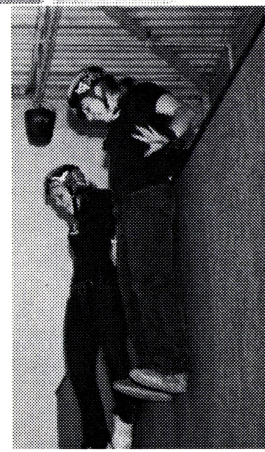
At first, we didnt think anyone would get up to go skate that early on sunday mornings. But then, more and more of us started showing up, and we always ended up having a blast. Seriously, these sessions were so much fun!



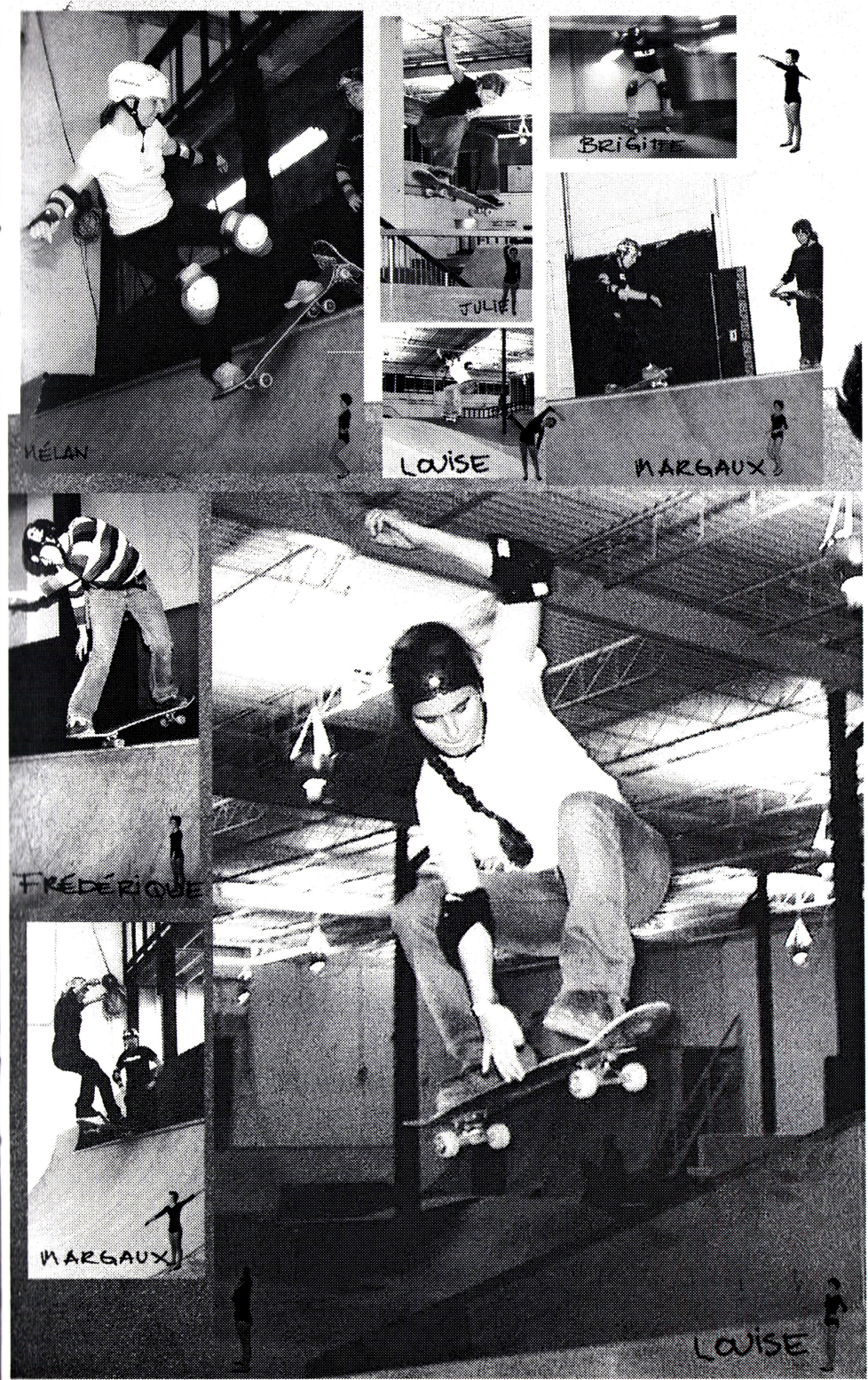
Chloé Morin



Anouk

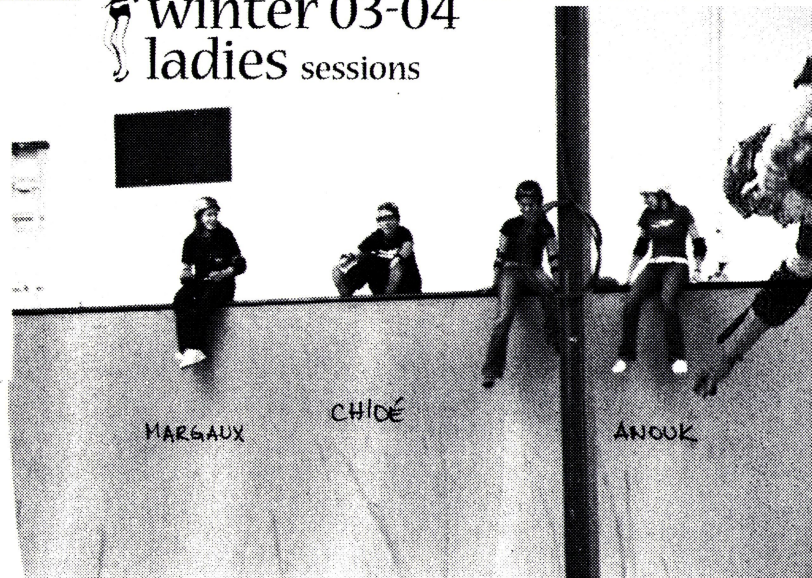


Margaux & Chloé

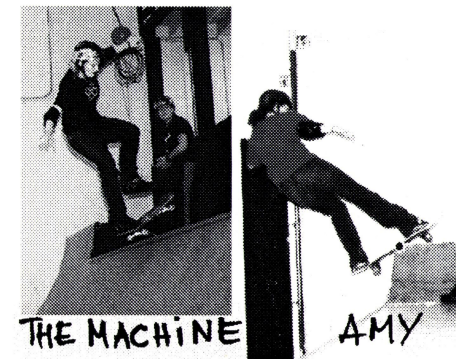




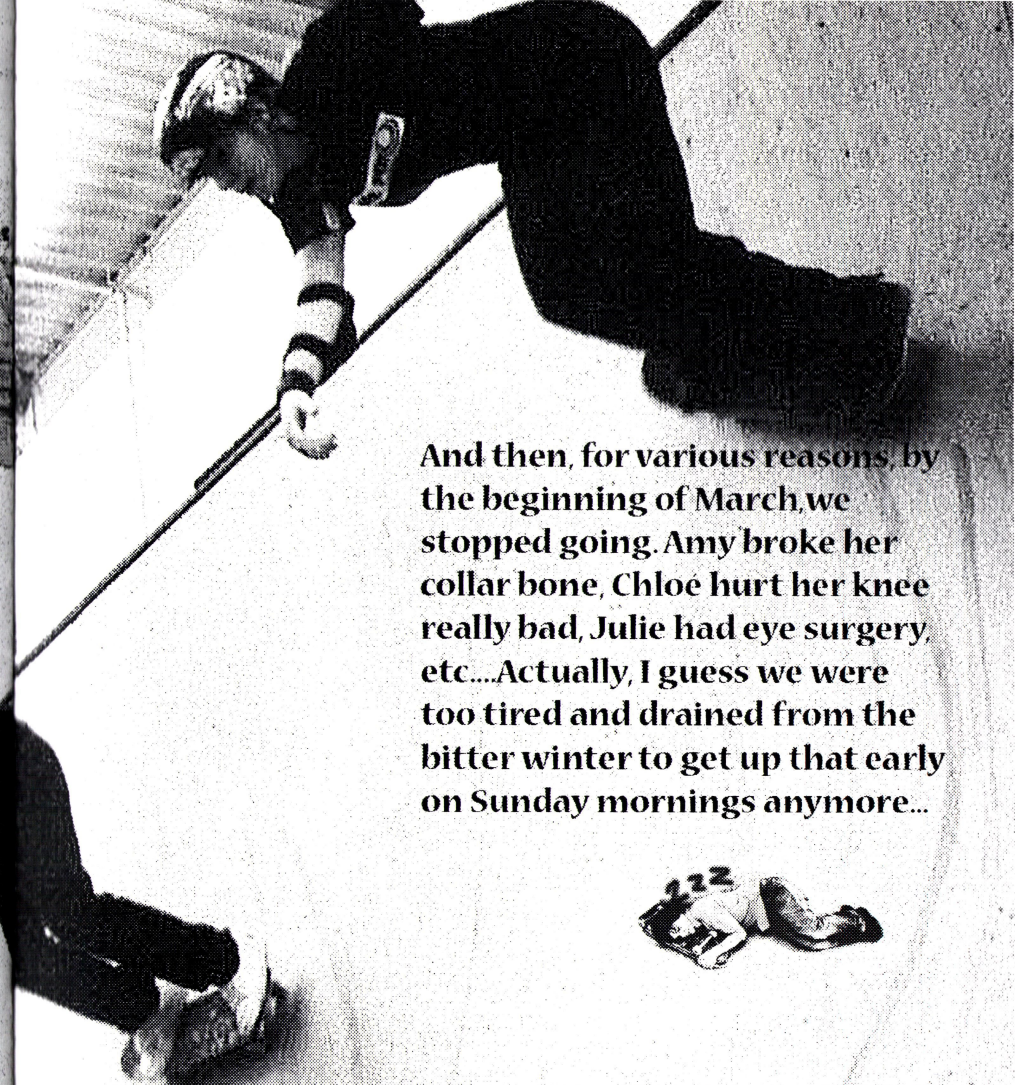

south park
winter 03-04
ladies sessions



We went almost every week, from 10am till noon, and they would usually let us skate for another hour or two after that for free..it was great. Since we had the park to ourselves, we could do any weird set up that we wanted to, like putting toilet paper from wall to wall to practice our ollies..



AMY



And then, for various reasons, by the beginning of March, we stopped going. Amy broke her collar bone, Chloé hurt her knee really bad, Julie had eye surgery, etc...Actually, I guess we were too tired and drained from the bitter winter to get up that early on Sunday mornings anymore...



But then Spring arrived and soon we could play outside. We started skating the pipe and some of us kinda forgot about South Park... until the first week of June, when the bowl was being finalized and we started earing all about it. I skated it as soon as I could, it was slippery but MARVELOUS. Now I dont care if it is summer, as soon as my body heals I will spend as much time as I can at that bowl. The sessions are back...



She's Crafty... Dana and her "Damned Dollies."

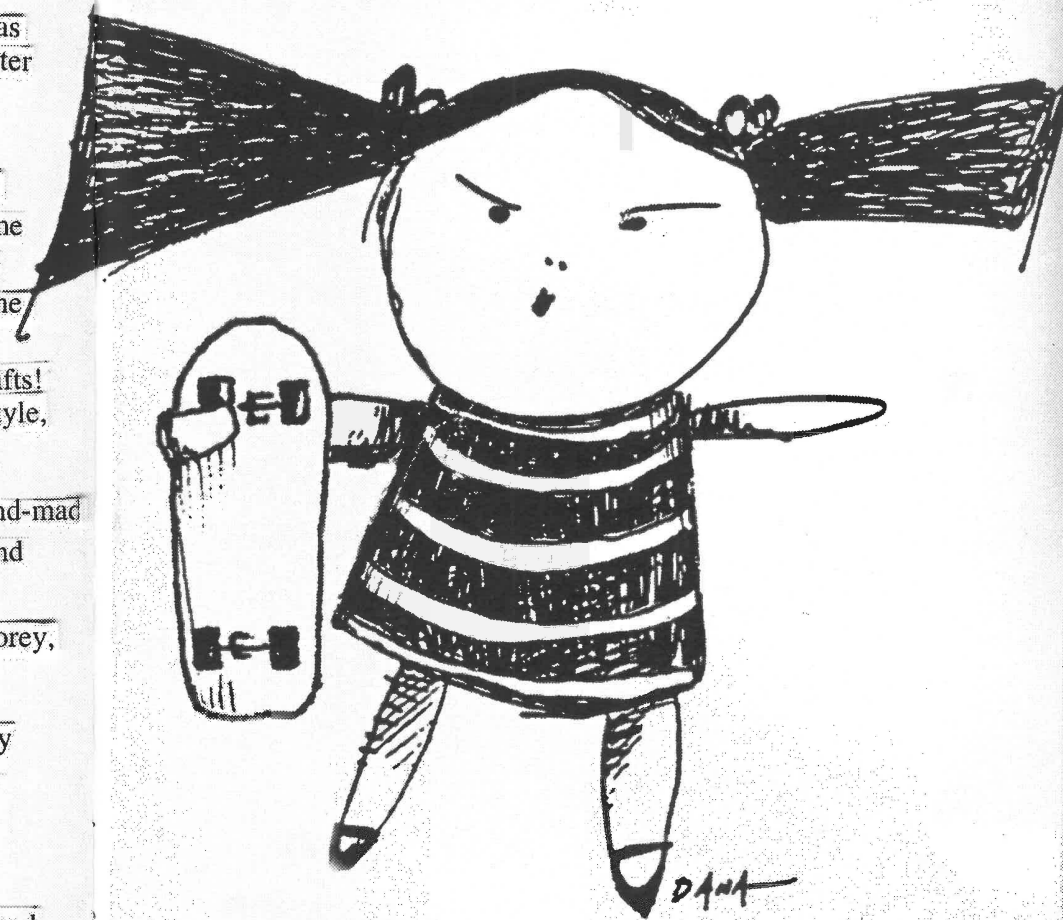
~Natalie Porter

When I first arrived in Montréal I checked out some "stitch'n'bitch" parties at my friend Jen's house, which involved a group of girls (and the occasional guy) getting together and being creative, making collaged cards, bizarre bracelets, hand bags, etc., while enjoying a good chat and a cup of tea. This may sound like something your grandma and her pals might be down with, but it was actually a great time and it eventually expanded into the Montréal chapter of the "Church of Craft" (www.churchofcraft.org) where crafting is transformed into social activism and encourages a Do-it-Yourself mentality. The craft sessions are held at Elle Corazon (175 Bernard Ouest, near Ave. du Parc) on Sundays at 2pm, where some of the more experienced members give instruction and provide supplies (donations appreciated) with different projects each week and everyone is welcome! You can also purchase craft creations at Elle Corazon, and look out for their annual Craft Fair to find unique, non-corporate gifts! During these crafty get-togethers I was fortunate to meet Dana, whose style, attitude, designs and dolls really impressed me. I'm not talking about dainty dolls with porcelain faces dressed in baby clothes, but hand-made bitchy little treasures. These dolls feature gnarly facial expressions and sometimes resemble a 2-year old in the midst of a full-blown tantrum. Dana explained that, "My favourite artist is Edward Gorey, and my drawings really show that, and as far as my dolls go, they are sort of a 3-D version of my drawings... I've always been pretty crafty. Since I was a kid I always liked art, drawing, and then one day I decided to make a shirt based on my drawings. I did that and then I was asked to make a doll for an exhibit, I did that and then I kept making them." The dolls are amazing with their individualized outfits and wacked out hairstyles! Dana also mentioned that as a child she had played with dollhouses, Barbie, the Barbie camper, and G.I. Joe dolls, but when I asked about how different her dolls are in comparison, she simply stated that, "Well, you know,

everybody gets a little angry." Some of you may be familiar with Dana's drawings, since she designed a skater-girl for me that was then transferred to a silkscreen and applied to t-shirts! Recently, Dana has been able to make a living through her craft endeavours

and will be featured in an up-coming article within *Strut Magazine*. She plans to expand her product line and continue to develop her company,

"Damned Dollies" www.damneddollies.com. Her dolls are also on display



and for sale at MoJo's located at 3968 St. Laurent street in Montréal.

So, check them out, visit the website, and support people like Dana who are pursuing something they are passionate about, and can find alternative

ways to survive!

Good luck Dana! ★



Anne-Sophie, bank on Pie-IX
photo: Erika Dubé

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stories, pictures ... info@armpit.ca

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photos: Erika Dubé