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SHAUGHN BUTTS, THE JOURNAL

A former skinhead displays his anti-Semitic tattoos. Some of them have been digitally altered to protect the man from being identified.

ARYAN SYMBOLS

Here are some of the signs and symbols associated with the white supremacy movement, says Daniel, a 30-year-old ex-skinhead:

- **PUBLICATIONS** — Hate literature has become significantly more available with the advent of the Internet. While much of the largely U.S.-based industry's products were confiscated at the border in the past, the web now greatly assists white supremacists with their key recruitment tool.
- **MUSIC** — White supremacist music is widely available on the Internet. Daniel says the local "black metal" music scene is also rife with racist bands.
- **SYMBOLS** — In addition to the swastika, skinheads favour two ancient Nordic runes: the odal rune, which looks like a diamond with tails, and the life rune, which is similar to a trident. Other symbols include drawings of white fists; Celtic crosses that look like targets; and the number 88 (representing the phrase "Heil Hitler": each eight stands for H, the eighth letter of the alphabet). White supremacists also tend to have an uncommon fixation with German memorabilia from the Second World War.
- **CLOTHING** — Doc Marten boots are still frequent favourites of the skinheads, but the accompanying colour-coded shoelaces and pants braces are no longer as prevalent. Still widely used in the skinhead uniform, however, are military-style pants and bomber-style flight jackets. Two common skinhead patches used in the Edmonton area are those belonging to two gangs: Hammerskins, and Blood and Honour.

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