



BRIAN GILLIAM



STEPHEN DETOMA

Anatometal, Inc.
Santa Cruz, CA

The morning of April 12th, 2012 started off the same as most at Anatometal. But after waking up the computers and pouring a cup of coffee, a shop meeting was called, and the news we were given knocked the wind out of each and every one of us.

Our dear friend Brian Gilliam, “Daddy,” had taken his life the previous night.

A great majority of you reading this know Brian, and have for many years. There have been dinners, birthdays, meetings, conferences, conventions, hotel rooms, cab rides, airline flights, hotel lobbies, back-deck BBQs, and early morning breakfasts with the kids. For the benefit of those who never had the pleasure of having Brian in their lives, on a personal or professional level, let me share a little of him with you.

Brian was a Santa Cruz local, through and through. He was massively involved in the local punk/hardcore scene, taking an active role in many well-known local bands through the years—for which he will never

be forgotten in this town. He loved his mom, like all good sons should; he was a devoted father who spoke fondly and often of his kids.

Brian was active in the body modification community from early on. He maintained a substantial presence on rec.arts.bodyart and BMEzine.com. Brian was, in addition to being well versed in CAD software, a skilled machinist responsible for many designs that are commonplace in the industry today. A part of the APP from its inception, Brian was constantly involved in the progression of quality modern body jewelry.

Brian’s love of music led him to study sound engineering at Ex’pression College for Digital Arts, where he graduated at the top of his class. He was an honored speaker at his graduation; as a classic example of how Brian did things, he left his graduation ceremony—still in his suit—and flew to Las Vegas to work a convention with us for the weekend, looking sharp as a knife.

Most recently, Brian had begun a CrossFit

regimen. He had lost weight, gained muscle mass, and at lunch would constantly talk about the circuits he ran with his team.

Brian Gilliam was the best kind of friend any of us could hope to share this life with: unquestionably loyal and willing to help anyone at any time without expectation of reward. Never one to take himself too seriously, his face always wore a smile, and if you didn’t have one, he always had a spare. Many of us have tattoos matching Brian’s that we can always look back on and laugh at because, “well, seemed like a good idea at the time!”

In addition to his extended family, Brian leaves behind two beautiful children, Indigo and Violet. A Paypal account has been set up to accept donations. Anatometal, Inc. will be matching donations to this account dollar-for-dollar, and the proceeds will be placed in a trust fund for Brian’s children to help in the days ahead.

To make a donation in any amount, please visit briangilliam.com **P**