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Item of the Week: Kamibashi dolls at FABO Cafe

Owner's goal is to create one that looks like Jon Stewart in time for the DNC

by Allison Campbell

In anticipation of the Democratic National Convention, FABO Café owner Amy Aussieker hopes to create a doll that looks like Jon Stewart. She's been stalking the TV news funnyman for eight months. She has a Stewart shrine in FABO's bathroom called Jon's John. She's even created a "Stalking Jon Stewart" campaign. Her mission? Get Stewart to come into FABO during the DNC.

Stalking Jon Stewart isn't Aussieker's only preoccupation. She's all about her dolls. Not many coffee shops carry dolls, but Aussieker's does. She sells \$10 customized Kamibashi dolls made of string — each with their own superpower. "Everyone who has seen them loves these little guys," she says.

According to the [Kamibashi website](#), the String Doll Gang made its debut in May 2005 with 16 members, and has quickly expanded to more than 150. Each doll stands 2 to 3 inches tall and is hooked to a lobster claw key ring. Customers can personalize their dolls by choosing custom hair colors, clothing and accessories.

The three dolls featured on FABO Café's Facebook page are Riot Grrrl (amps your inner rock star), Lady Liberty (ensures you receive a warm welcome wherever you go), and Frida (empowers you to paint your own reality). Our favorite, Riot Grrrl, has a teased-out mess of stringy black hair, wears a red vest and leather pants, and holds an electric guitar.

"For Jon's doll, I would have his power be to get the one thing that you want," Aussieker says.

"We have postcards of lil' Jon that people take to different places and snap a picture to post on our Facebook page," Aussieker continues. Lil' Jon postcards have been spotted at Common Market in South End, Polished Nail Bar in Myers Park, The Lobster Trap in Asheville, Foundation for the Carolinas, airports, post offices, and many more locations. Keep up with the campaign at www.facebook.com/StalkingStewart. FABO Café is at 2820 Selwyn Ave. www.faboparty.com.



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