

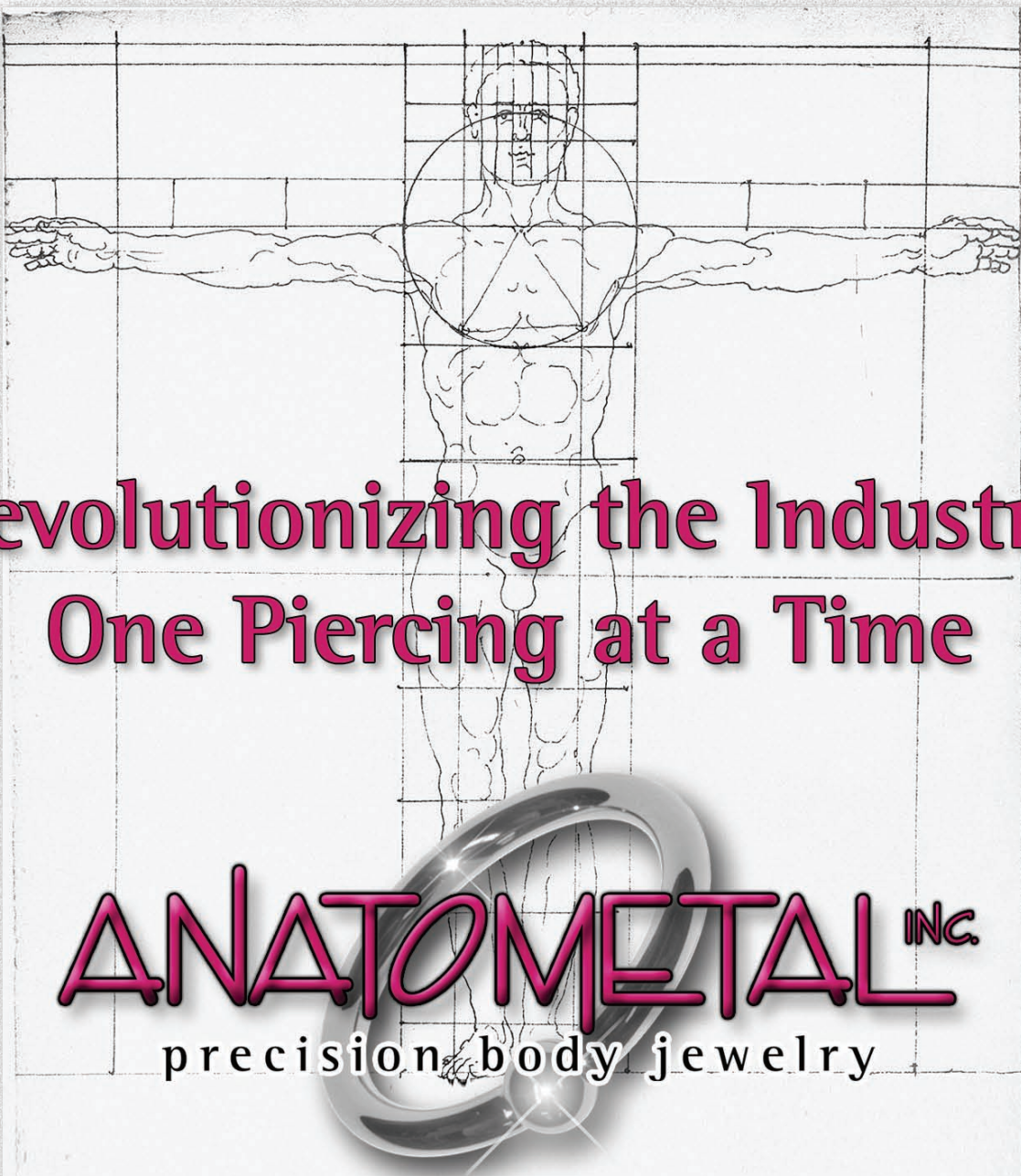
THE POINT

ISSUE 33
FALL 2005

The Quarterly Journal of the Association of Professional Piercers



RITUALS OF LIFE:
THE PHUKET VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL



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FROM THE EDITOR



The members of the new board, like those before us, have had a lot of transitioning to do. Nothing shows this more than in the scheduling of The Point newsletter/magazine. As some of you have noticed, there has been a long lapse between issues. The Point is a huge responsibility, and with everything else going on, its completion was often pushed aside to make way for other work.

As you have probably also noticed, we have a new look as well. The Point, like the APP, has come from very humble beginnings to become an established publication with distribution among not only its membership, but to diverse medical professional and legislators in not only this country, but around the world. I'm excited and proud to be part of this next step forward.

You will also see as you look through our pages that we have expanded our list of advertisers. This is a way for the organization to help out those companies that support our goals, and to expose our readership to others that they may not be as familiar with. As a non-profit, this ad revenue makes a big difference with the Point's printing and mailing expenses. It would be difficult to make these issues possible without these advertisers.

That being said, for anyone who wishes to advertise, you can e-mail Schane at adsforthepoint@gmail.com, or phone Caitlin at 1-888-888-1APP.

And remember, the APP is run by its members, the board simply organizes things a bit at the top end. Any submissions for future issues of The Point are always welcomed. I can be reached at medical@safepiercing.com if you have information that you feel our readership would be interested in. I can't always promise a prompt reply, but any content is always appreciated.

I'm looking forward to the next three years as not only a member of the board, but as The Point editor as well. I have some pretty big shoes to fill in both positions, and I hope to serve the membership well.

Jim Weber
APP Medical Liaison

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THE POINT

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- April Johnson - Vice President
- Christina Schull - Secretary
- Schane Gross - Treasurer
- Phish Goldblatt - Outreach Coordinator
- Luis Garcia - International Liaison
- Jim Weber - Medical Liaison

APP Administrator-
Caitlin McDiarmid

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OLD BOARD MEMBER *Goodbyes*



BETHRA SZUMSKI

Outgoing President

My time on the APP board has been one of the most rewarding and educational experiences of my life. I have learned things about diplomacy and leadership that have changed me into, I hope, a better person. Words can barely express my deep and sincere gratitude to the general membership and my fellow board members for both their support and faith in me. It has been a privilege to serve.



JASON KING

Outgoing Vice-President

Looking back at the last three years, there have been many positive changes within the Association, although I've noticed the most significant changes have been more personal to me. I believe that my time on the Board has improved my understanding of

piercing and our community at large. Specifically, I came to realize the piercing industry is much bigger than any one person's opinions and procedures. It was easy for me to forget the other quality-minded piercers that do things differently, especially since my studio sets the precedent for my area. It is very eye opening to learn different techniques from piercers whom I respect, which in turn will continue my growth as a piercer.

I would like to thank the APP members, everyone who attends Conference and especially the Board I was so lucky to serve with.



CRYSTAL SIMS

Outgoing Secretary

The three years I have served on the board of the Association of Professional Piercers have been some of the best of my life. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to give back to the industry that has given me my livelihood. The work entailed in my position, while challenging at times, has been more

rewarding than anything I have ever done.

I have received enormous amounts of help and inspiration from the current board and from the membership. I have had the support of my business partner and my staff; without them

I could not have accomplished anything for the APP. In addition, incoming Secretary, Chrissy Shull, has been working as my assistant for the past year and a half, which has helped me more than words can express. I appreciate all that these people have done for me and I feel so fortunate to have them in my life.

I have a tremendous amount of faith in the incoming Board and the APP's (god-sent) Administrator, Caitlin McDiarmid, to continue carrying out the mission on a larger scale than ever before. It is so exciting to see the dissemination of information making a difference in how our industry, as it becomes safer, more professional and more respected. I consider it such an honor to have been involved in this work, and I sincerely hope that I will always be able to serve the organization in some fashion.



MEGG MASS

Outgoing Outreach Coordinator

Serving on the Board of the APP has been the highpoint of my career. It has been a privilege to have a chance to give back in some small way to the industry that has given me a home for the past eleven years. I am proud of the contributions our board has made to

the industry, and I regret that I did not do enough to pay

back all I have received. After three years I have just begun to understand how this organization works, where it can go next, and what I can do to help. There is so much more to be done, and the APP is on the verge of fulfilling its charter on a large scale – to educate, unify and support members of the piercing community and larger society. I hope I can continue to help.

Working with Caitlin and the Outgoing Board has been an honor and learning experience. I have continually been awed to work with these folks and call them my friends. We came from many places, but were united in our dedication to this organization and working toward what is best for it. That always came first and had the final say. I love you all.

New Board: I hope you find as much friendship, productive challenge and spirit of service as we did. This is a hard job – much harder than anyone told you – and you will need each other, your staffs and families, and good committees to do it all. When it gets hairy, remember that the APP is a Non-Profit that exists to educate, protect and unify piercers and the public. Raise money and increase membership only with these goals in mind, and never at the cost of the community, and you will leave a positive legacy. I wish you the very best. I have great faith in Alicia's energy and integrity to guide the APP into the next phase of its future.

To Everyone: I am a better person for having served on this Board. Thank you for giving me the chance to grow and trusting me to serve you. To Jim and our staff, who did all the work so I could do this: Thank you. Your turn now.

Teaching classes has been both uplifting and very humbling. Again and again I stood up to talk and then heard brilliant ideas I never thought of from the audience. I can't help but recognize that this is an incredible, talented, wise

group of people with many talents and kinds of knowledge. We have much to teach each other, and I have learned from you all. Thank you.

It also makes me realize how powerful and strong the APP can be if each of us just donates even one of our own special abilities to the group effort. The great variety of new classes this year – and the enthusiastic turnout we had for them – shows that there are many directions open to us as an organization, limited only by our participation. Whether it's through committee work, The Point, the website, Conference, whatever – just think how many things can be improved if you pitch in your own talent. The Board can't do this alone, and can't think of all the new directions we could take. If the APP is an organization of and for piercers, we all need to be involved. Remember that powerful coming together energy everyone felt at Conference, and figure out how you can be more active. What we do with this organization is all up to us. I love you all and I can't wait to see what will happen next.



ELAYNE ANGEL

Outgoing Medical Coordinator
Former Outreach Coordinator

At the end of my second three-year term on the APP Board I feel a great sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve the organization and to make strides in educating piercers, piercees, medical professionals, and the public. I am happy to have participated in professionalizing and advancing our industry.

I do not feel that my service with the APP must end at this juncture. I've enjoyed my involvement with the APP tremendously, and I've found it deeply rewarding. I'm acutely aware of how welcome volunteers are in the organization, and

how needed they are to make functioning of the APP possible. Therefore, while I will no longer be serving on the Board, I plan to make myself available to the new Board for input, guidance, and support. And I intend to continue to be available to the membership and others in the piercing community to lend my support and knowledge wherever I can.

To APP Administrator, Caitlin McDiarmid: YOU are an angel, and the APP is extremely fortunate to have your capable hands on its pulse.

To the outgoing Board: Y'all did a fantastic job and can pat yourselves on the back for a job well done. It was an honor and a pleasure serving with you!

To the incoming Board: Bring your energy, your ideas, your skills, and jump on in!

To all of the members who have upheld our mission throughout the years: Thank you, and keep up the good work!



ALICIA CARDENAS

Outgoing International Liaison

"Seek not to be like the Masters, seek what the Masters sought" - Zen Saying
Over the last three years, while serving as International Coordinator, I have watched the previous Board take the nation by storm. Attending every outreach event possible. Researching and writing articles on a variety of topics. Representing each and every one of the professional piercers out there with integrity and class. Setting a new standard for those who want to be a part of a movement in the piercing industry. As a team, the old board had unstoppable contenders.

I had no idea I could learn so much from a group of people who live thousands of miles apart. It's hard to put in your two cents when PAUL KING beats you to the most righteous and ethical stance there could possibly be and nothing you could

add would be smarter. Or ELAYNE ANGEL is power-writing letters to the higher-ups in huge companies, putting their verbiage and preconceived notions about piercers to shame. Or try writing an article after JASON KING or MEGG MASS put their knowledge on paper – Jeez! Enough said. I can't count how many times I have read CRYSTAL SIMS' management articles and put her words into action. Last, but certainly not least, BETHRA SZUMSKI -- she's like the Energizer bunny. I have never seen someone give and give and give so generously of her time, while running two shops, raising a great kid, emailing people all over the nation and constantly working on the betterment of self. Needless to say she's a hard act to follow.

Where did she come from? Who IS she? Well She came from heaven and her name is CAITLIN. She IS the APP. She's the hard drive of the Association. She started out working for us and we all now work for her. Hiring her was probably one of the biggest accomplishments we made as a board.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

APP ATTENDS AMERICAN COLLEGE HEALTH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE



Elayne Angel

Outgoing APP
Medical Coordinator
Rings of Desire,
New Orleans

The APP made a successful second annual appearance at the American College Health Association (ACHA) conference in June. The meeting in San Diego, California was very well attended by medical personnel and staff from college and university student health centers from around the country. APP Administrator Caitlin McDiarmid and I staffed the booth during the two-day vendor expo.

Our booth was located across from “Booth 1” so it was the starting point for the majority who entered the exhibit hall. We had many curious and interested conference-goers approach us to discuss body piercing.

A large number also came to reintroduce themselves after meeting us at our first ACHA conference in New Orleans last year. The returning attendees greeted us very warmly and expressed how pleased they were to see us again. We also got positive feedback from a lot of the folks who have been using the APP literature in the student health centers on campus. Again and again we were told, “We use your brochures and they’re great!”

This year we added several new items to our display table, including the red APP pens (they were a big hit!), www.safepiercing.org bumper stickers, and the ever-popular “No Guns” graphic stickers picturing an ear stud piercing gun with the international red “No” symbol emblazoned across it. This was the amusing start of many conversations, when the people remarked in confusion, “No uzis?” Then we had the opportunity to explain about the potential dangers of ear stud guns. Some of the crowd were already clear on the concept, while others—including some doctors—had no idea that many problems could stem from ear stud gun piercings and jewelry. This became the topic of much discussion throughout the conference.

Also new was a brochure about the APP, done in the same style as all of the updated literature. It includes content on our mission, our membership requirements, and what we do as an organization. Additionally, we had three posters that were hot new items this year, designed with places like campus health centers in mind. One is geared towards students to let them know the APP is available as a resource to help them with piercing information, another encourages students with preexisting medical conditions to discuss the matter with a healthcare professional before getting pierced, and the third lists the Pierces’ Bill of Rights. These were very popular, and numerous conference-goers took all three home.

We also had our handy display of good and poor quality jewelry, which always proves useful in demonstrating how jewelry opens and closes, and differences in threading, finish, annealing and style. This highlighted the need for a brochure on the subject of quality jewelry, which is slated to be the next one produced by the organization.

We were happy to see Reginald Fennel, the past President of the ACHA organization and the gentleman responsible for our attendance. Fennel met the APP Board at a previous

American Public Health Association (APHA) conference, and invited us to attend this particular event. He is a pierced-and-proud professional who wears his septum and eyebrow jewelry full time!

The conference days started at 7 a.m. with breakfast inside the expo hall, which got the crowd into the room bright and early. We had so many visitors asking questions and talking with us at the booth that by 9 a.m. we seriously wondered if our voices would hold out to the end of the event! Throughout the conference we educated a steady flow of doctors, nurses, and health center personnel, and even other exhibitors. As usual, the APP definitely had one of the visually more interesting booths. Other booths featured less striking but essential items such as academic health plans, Hepatitis Vaccines and computer software.

American college health workers are clearly a professional population that sees many pierced patients. Overall they were a body art savvy group, with a reasonable percentage of the healthcare professionals there understanding that simply removing jewelry seldom effectively solves piercing complications. From years past, we can see some distinct improvement in the relative knowledge about piercing.

Like our own conferences, ACHA offered many educational classes for attendees in addition to the expo hall. The final day brought a course entitled, “It’s My Body and I’ll Pierce/Tattoo If I Want To.” One of the two instructors, a student/peer educator specializing in sex education, stopped by our booth to introduce himself. He thanked me for the information he had taken from my studio’s website, and mentioned that the body art topic was relatively new to him. Since the class took place after the expo ended, I was able to attend.

The class opened with the disclaimer that the course was intended for college students, although the conference audience was mostly medical professionals. I offered my assistance and was warmly welcomed by the presenters. The information they shared was mostly factual, and the presentation was solid. They had several audience-participation segments that were excellent. When the presenters were unable to answer a number of questions raised by the audience, I stepped up to the plate and assisted. We did some good, if impromptu, teamwork, and my input seemed well appreciated. After the conference I was contacted by the presenters’ instructor and asked to critique the program and assist with accuracy. I was gratified to see that they care about getting all of the information correct!

All in all, it was a very successful expo and the APP shared a great deal of information to many interested parties.

The class opened with the disclaimer that the course was intended for college students, although the conference audience was mostly medical professionals. I offered my assistance and was warmly welcomed by the presenters. The information they shared was mostly factual, and the presentation was solid. They had several audience-participation segments that were excellent. When the presenters were unable to answer a number of questions raised by the audience, I stepped up to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

RITUALS OF LIFE: THE PHUKET VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL DVD



Written by **Paul King**,
Narrated by **Elayne Angel**
Videography by **Jane Dempsey,**
Grant Dempsey and **Paul King**
Photography by **Paul King**
Review by **Alicia Cardenas**, APP President

In a time when traditional rituals from all over the world are disappearing either because of natural disasters or globalization, the documentation of these practices is important in keeping these sacred traditions alive. This DVD takes you deep into the heart of a festival which most onlookers keep a safe distance from, and is a rare and insightful look into the modern vegetarian festival in the vibrant culture in Phuket, Thailand. Not only is the footage a great up close look at all the different facets of the celebration, but the narration is quite thorough as well. The amount of footage included truly encourages you to feel as if you are walking right along side of the spiritual procession. It was obvious to me that the videographer and photographers truly had respect and a great deal of admiration for the

acts being filmed, and that they are lovers of the acts of ritual. It is refreshing to see a documentary done by members of our community, rather than the casual onlooker or tourist with less desire to understand these practices, and to seek the similarities between these and our own. Paul King captured the faces of this festival in such a way that it makes the viewer connect with the devotee in their moments of true faith. (While watching the large size perforations of the devotees it has to be noted that there is relatively minimum bleeding taking place.) For those of us who are practitioners of piercing, it is obvious that the spiritual aspects of this ritual truly control the outcome of the sacrifices made. This documentary is not only a valuable anthropological accomplishment but is an unparalleled contribution to the piercing community. If you have not yet seen it, it is essential for any person interested in anthropology, ritual, and/or body modification. There is a limited edition of this video available through the APP and proceeds go the Tsunami relief efforts.

The Association of Professional Piercers would like to thank Paul King, Grant Dempsey, Jane Dempsey, Elayne Angel and Mr. Big Daddy Entertainment for putting this together for all of us to enjoy.



ON MEMBERSHIP



Christina Shull
APP Secretary

As a new board member, many people often ask, "Why should I become an APP member?" and "What do I get out of being an APP Member?" These are very valid questions. Why spend time to compile your application materials and pay dues to an organization that appears to offer nothing more than a membership certificate and a website listing?

First, what exactly is membership in the APP? Applications for membership are approved based on a combination of the level of health and safety displayed by the applicant's studio and the knowl-

edge of the applying piercer. The studio walk-through video is required to determine the levels of awareness currently in place, including how the studio is set-up, equipment used and where it is located, and how sterile equipment is stored and handled. The applicant's questionnaire is also evaluated to assess the piercer's understanding of sterility, contamination, proper equipment use, and cross-contamination prevention. Membership is not about being part of a club or being elite, it is about uniting yourself with other piercers who have the same common goal – providing your clients with the best and safest piercing experience possible.

Membership in the APP shows your devotion to this goal,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

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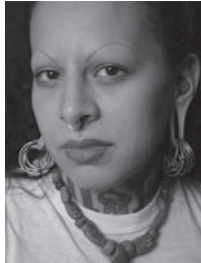
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COALITION OF BODY MODIFICATION ASSOCIATIONS



Alicia Cardenas
APP President

The National Interstate Council of State Boards of Cosmetology (or NIC- information at NICtesting.com) is comprised of members of licensing boards of cosmetology from each of the fifty states and the U.S. territories. This organization offers standardized testing and education for those in the cosmetology industry, including barber shops, esthetician, beauty salons, nail technicians and now (you guessed it!), tattooing and body piercing. Produced by the NIC, these tests would encourage individual states to commission cosmetology boards to oversee tattooing and piercing studios instead of where they belong, under the Boards of Health.

The APP has been asked by the Executive Director of The Society of Permanent Cosmetic Professionals (SPCP), Kate Champi, to come together with the Association of Professional Tattooists (APT) and create a unified voice to fight against the use of these tests. The Coalition of Body Modification Associations is a collaboration of these three organizations to preserve the ability for body modification professionals to work safely and competently without restrictive oversight by agencies other than state or regional departments of health. Although we all remain our own entities, this common goal will be better and more quickly reached if pursued as a unified front.

The coalition is designed to allow the professional body modification artists from these organizations to have an open dialogue about this subject. We are working together to help the NIC understand that they are welcome to oversee non-invasive procedures, but that because of the nature of our business and the risks involved that local health boards must be the entity overseeing public health standards.

The APP has appreciated the opportunity to work with these other associations in this matter, but has not yet agreed to participate in the coalition beyond this particular purpose. Since the inception of the coalition there have been several conference calls between these associations and developments such as the drafting and mailing of a letter to the NIC. For those who are interested in knowing more information, the meeting minutes and a copy of the letter are available to the membership. Please see the next issue of the point for the progress of this coalition. I can also be reached directly at president@safepiercing.org.

ITALIAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL TATTOOISTS AND PIERCERS

A.P.T.P.I. (Italian Association of Professional Tattooists and Piercers) was founded in 2003 and introduced to Italian operators and European associations at three important events: the 1st Meeting of European Associations (Amsterdam, November 2003); and the national meetings for tattooists and piercers (Arezzo, December 2003 and December 2004). These last two meetings, organised by A.P.T.P.I., were attended by over 20 professional speakers from the legal, financial, health and insurance sectors, and by over 400 body art operators. Since then, the A.P.T.P.I. has been involved in the promotion of cultural events, like exhibitions and shows, and in providing specialist advice to the media.

A.P.T.P.I. is a “new and different” association for a number of reasons:

- It is an association in which piercers and tattooists join forces.
- It is a non-profit association and has no political affiliations.
- It is an association born out of the need to defend ourselves from attacks against our profession, and from criticisms which we receive whenever there is a tragic and controversial incident that often we are wrongly blamed for.

At a time when piercing and tattooing are increasingly seen as normal practices by a growing number of people who are also better informed and more demanding, our goal is to keep up with these changes and safeguard our clients' health. We aim to do this by informing and educating the public and ourselves and by promoting these practices in an intelligent and clear way, as do advocates of other practices related to the care and decoration of the body.

Our aim is to work on a number of different levels and to increase our knowledge of the issues relating to health and safety, the law, business, communication and promotional work, as very often people try to teach themselves all of these. We want to standardize all working practices relating to the prevention of cross-contamination. We aim to produce a step-by-step guide to correct and safe sterilization. We also intend to promote ethical principles that will be followed by all operators, in order to ensure the transparency of these practices and that the best interest of both client and operator is respected.

We also want to set up monitoring systems within the organisation itself that will focus on hygiene and health & safety.



Presentation on the association's ethics and goals

Functioning as our very own quality control system, these will guarantee that our standardised procedures become established and are respected in the future. Once all operators follow these procedures, we will be able to guarantee to our clients a standard of safety much higher than what we are currently able to offer.

This will undoubtedly have a number of consequences, but above all we believe it will allow our work to grow in stability and professionalism as well as to win the recognition and respect of the wider public.

The association does not wish to concern itself with the artistic ability of operators. It is also not one of our priorities to draw up and campaign for new laws, but we are prepared to support the bills that have already been put forward and those that will be in the future if they are relevant to the needs of our profession. We have made this decision because we think it is necessary and more productive for us to put our efforts into areas that have not yet been targeted by other organisations already representing our profession.

This is not the time to isolate ourselves, safe in the belief of our own competence and professionalism. Now is the time to question ourselves and realise that there has probably never been a better historical moment to break down the barriers that, consciously or not, have kept our profession isolated. The time has come to turn our work into a respected profession, with all the rights, responsibilities and respect that apply to all other jobs.

A.P.T.P.I. Management Committee

Editor's Note: The APP welcomes the APTPI and wishes you success in your meeting your goals. We look forward to hearing more about your projects!

THE 2005 10TH ANNIVERSARY APP CONFERENCE



Bethra Szumski
Outgoing
APP President

April Johnson
Incoming
APP Vice-President

All images from Luis Garcia, Brian Gilliam, or Barry Blanchard.

This year's annual Las Vegas Conference was a hallmark event. The APP has now been providing health education for ten years! Over a thousand piercers, vendors, health inspectors and medical professionals turned out to make the anniversary conference one of the best ever held.

The week opened with a riveting performance by The Yard Dogs Road Show. Their diverse musical and artistic talents were the centerpiece of the most well attended Welcome Party to date – with good reason. If you missed it, or if you were there and want more; you can check out the Yard Dogs' site at www.eddyjoecotton.com

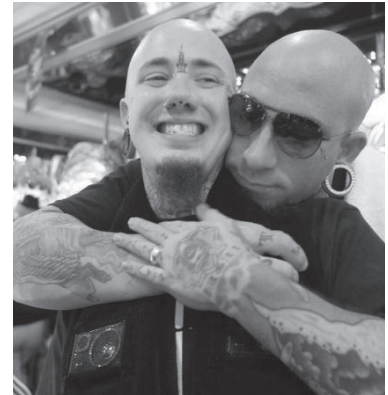
The educational portion of the event was kicked off by Derek Lowe and Sean Christian, once again leading our Orientation Meeting with their charming (bawdy) humor. While making new attendees feel most welcome, they introduced the various classes and explained who would benefit the most from them. They also provided practical tips to help

attendees have a productive, educational and fun week in Vegas: "Get plenty of rest, Don't smoke in the conference area, and Don't talk to the dart people."

Some core classes, such as Anatomy and Aftercare, have been part of Conference since the days when it all fit in one room. But over the past ten years the full curriculum offered has grown so much that several classes and discussions must now run simultaneously. This year's schedule included 23 classes and 8 round table discussions, in addition to the Orientation, Members and International Meetings. Since all Board positions are switching over this year, Conference meetings also gave attendees a chance to meet and get to know the incoming Board members and their prospective agendas. Core classes such as Aftercare, Anatomy, and Studio Set-up were on the schedule as usual, as were opportunities for First Aid, CPR and Blood borne Pathogens training and certification. Although these classes aren't everyone's favorites, they are required by many states and by the APP for membership. Taking them at Conference gives attendees a convenient chance to learn in an industry-specific format, but they can be taken in your own community as well.

In honor of the Anniversary event, this year's class offerings included a number of exciting new additions. Veteran traveler Paul King presented his documentary film of the Phuket Vegetarian Festival. (The film is still available on DVD directly from the APP). Classes were also offered on Fraud Prevention,

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Special thanks goes out to all those companies who donated to the raffle. The top ten raffle prizes were called and were:

Top individual prizes:

Body Circle Designs:

Body Jewelry worth \$1,000.00

Industrial Strength Body Jewelry:

Five Gift Certificates for \$1,000.00 each

Steel Skin Inc.: Dental Acrylic and Evolution Captives valued at \$1,000.00

Spiritstone Productions:

Gold Body Jewelry valued at \$1,500.00

Body Vision, Inc: Travel package for 2 to Reno valued at \$2,500.00

Custom Steel: 3 Pairs of Limited Edition Anniversary APP Plugs: One of a kind

Gauntlet Enterprises: 1 Set of 4 Personalized, Autographed Posters by Jim Ward: One of a kind

Morton Manley: 1 pair Gem Quality Fossil Walrus Ivory Plugs: One of a kind

Top donators:

Industrial Strength: \$30,000

Body Vision: \$3,000

Wildcat USA: \$2,695

Body Circle Designs: \$2,500



Conference



PHOTOS OF LAS VEGAS
COURTESY OF THE LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

Global Piercing Aesthetics, and Surface Piercing. Round table discussions were among the best ever held, and attendance highlighted interest in some previously unaddressed material. Topics ranged from Natural Healing, Ritual Practices, and Natural Jewelry Materials, to the much anticipated forum on Suspension moderated by Allen Falkner and Ron Garza. BME Founder and Internet don Shannon Larratt packed a room for his talk on more extreme modifications and culture.

Thursday night brought the awards dinner, "Prom Night." There were a number of campy awards, music and a very messy, red syrup "Carrie" ending. Pity the maid that had to clean up that mess! Besides the theme trappings a number of more serious awards were presented. Achievement awards went to all outgoing board members in appreciation of having served full terms. This was the first board to have all members serve out full terms! Having returned to conference after many years APP founder Michaela Grey was to receive a well-deserved Achievement Award. Equally deserving was this year's Presidential Award recipient Shannon Larratt. Afterwards, recipients gave brief well-received speeches.

Of course no banquet dinner would be complete without our annual stalker. We never know when he will strike or just how good the show will be, but we know it will be an amusing distraction none-the-less. Huge thanks to Tam Sherman for helping with the organization and inspiration of the evening.



As always, the vendor exposition was a large attraction. Tawapa won best multiple booth presentation and Industrial Strength LLC won for the best single booth. It is said that in every life a little rain must fall. Unfortunately, this year it came in the form of theft suffered by a couple of our vendors. Diablo Rojo, a long time Expo vendor had their entire inventory stolen from the casino parking lot. But, in a show of friendship and community spirit, other vendors and attendees rallied and raised money in support of the company.

In another profound act of giving, with help from an altruistic corporate member, Gauntlet Inc. has reverted to its founder Jim Ward. During conference a silent auction of a complete set of PFIQ magazines and a set of Bud Larsen's artwork was held.

The majority of the entertainment provided during conference is possible through the generous sponsorships of vendors. This year's sponsors were:

Level 1: Industrial Strength Body Jewelry, ASC Tattoo Directory, Wildcat USA and Steel Skin Inc

Level 2: Anatometal, Inc and Safe Products

Level 3: Industrial Strength, LLC and Body Vision, Inc

Level 4: Abaraka, Body Circle Designs, Body Jewelry Suppliers, Care-Tech Laboratories, Inc. and Dave's Body Jewelry

The funds raised during conference budget the APP's outreach efforts for the entire year. Without this type of support much of our work would not be possible!

Despite many setbacks, the new Procedure Manual was released, hot off the presses for conference. Many thanks go out to those who worked tirelessly on the project, especially Caitlin McDiarmid, Megg Mass and Chrissy Shull. Also up and ready for conference were some 10th

anniversary souvenirs, including a very clever shirt design (thanks Jason King) and a specially printed genuine casino chip (thanks to Gus Diamond).

For the past few years we have outsourced for registration with a company called Las Vegas Registration. A couple of years ago this division of the company actually closed. Stephanie has been gracious enough to continue working with us, compiling a staff annually specifically for our event. Sadly, 2005 was the last year she was able to wrangle it. Special thanks and a fond farewell to her and her staff!

Members of the press seem to have become more plentiful during conference over the past few years. Unlike reporters seeking to profit from the "special" nature of the event, this year's members of the press were definitely veterans in the industry. We were happy to welcome the founder of BME, Shannon Larratt along with his wife Rachel and reporter Jordan Ginsberg, to document the week's events. (See his article at www.BME-ZINE.com). In addition, Shannon was gracious enough to lead a compelling roundtable discussion on extreme body modification.

The Riviera Hotel and Casino is contracted again for next year, so mark your calendars for the first week in May in 2006! In order to go home with as much information and enthusiasm as possible, we always suggest that studios enroll two or more people from each shop to fully benefit from the entire conference. Think ahead for next year -- Everyone is eligible for the early registration discount and there are scholarships available. Special discounts are given to members with paid dues and a video on file.

To everyone from all over the world, piercers and their advocates alike, that attended this very special year, hats off to you! We as the APP hope you feel refreshed, fulfilled, informed and connected to our industry and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

In Memorium



A colleague of ours, **Keith Alexander**, passed on in July 11, 2005. He was killed in a bike accident in New York City. Although he was a successful businessman and an accomplished rock star, those of who knew him will remember him as the Gauntlet, New York Manager, then later as the owner of his own Modern American

Body Arts. Keith was an East Coast piercer and brander, and we had many mutual clients when I worked in New York. Keith was a notorious shit talker, and never sugar coated his feelings...that's what I remember about him and respected. I remember taking joy when Gauntlet closed in New York, where he worked, and later heckling him for the "original name" of his new studio-Modern American Body Arts (I worked at Venus Modern Body Arts). You could call it the classic "love/hate" relationship. What I remember as well were Keith's fantastic brands...huge and keloided. I saw much of his work in person, and now his body art still lives on. Keith and I talked a grip of shit about each other in the mid nineties in New York, and I am told that if he didn't talk shit about you, he didn't respect you...I guess it

was mutual. I was just watching a video recently from back in the day which featured Keith and myself (called Second Skin) and reflecting...Keith once said: "...and in a morbid way, a record of my predilections that will hopefully live on after I die, on some server, somewhere. Grandiose? Maybe. Maybe I just had the balls to admit it...maybe one day in the year 2201 a relative of mine will see the zeroes and ones and say: 'Damn, He had fun!' That is, if we don't annihilate one another." I knew Keith personally and can say with assurance that he will be missed by many. Keith Alexander: 11-23-63 to 7-11-05.



Blake Perlingieri,
Nomad Piercing Studio

More information on Keith can be found at:

<http://www.bmezine.com/news/presenttense/20050807.html>

http://www.boingboing.net/2005/07/12/in_memoriam_keith_al.html

<http://www.nootrope.net/>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Alicia Cardenas
APP President

First off, I would like to say thank you to all the members who voted and contributed to the building of the new Board of Directors. I am very excited to be heading up such a talented enthusiastic group of professionals.

For those of you who missed this year's Conference, you truly missed out on the best one ever, with more highlights than I can even name. For all of you who don't know there are some key players in the success of the Conference that we have not yet gotten a chance to honor. First and foremost, the talents and skills of Caitlin McDiarmid deserve special mention. Caitlin kept us all organized and knowing exactly where we were supposed to be to serve you all the best. She led a small army of volunteers made up of Al D. Scholarship recipients and Board Members' employees. These are the diehard people behind the smooth running ship we call Conference. None of this is possible with out them and I want to acknowledge: Michael Hannan, Daniel Maldonado, Mitchell Adams, Shannon Ollis, Eric Houchin, Penelope Silverstein, Heather Donohue, Megan Sheldon, Cynthia Collins, Rosanne Jezerenac, Tiana McGuire, Josh Prentice, David Kelso and, Alejandra DeOlivera, Mike Green, Gus Diamond, Chris

Krahn and friend, That Guy that watched the Expo door a number of times (name unknown), Pat Pruitt for thinking on his feet, and Sean Christian for emotional support and sustenance. A special thanks to all of you. I would also like to acknowledge all of the past Board Members – the divine excellence of the Board I served with as International Coordinator for the last three years, and beyond them, all the Boards who have gotten us where we are today.

The next three years are sure to be productive and I am excited to watch what becomes of the organization. I would like to emphasize the importance of member participation in the organization. Each and every one of our members has a voice and we expect to hear it. That may mean representing the APP at a local health fair, writing an article for The Point, or just writing in a detailed comment card on ideas for the Board to help us improve what we do. Do whatever you can do to give back to a community and industry that has provided us with so many wonderful things.

We have created many strong alliances in the past few years and I know it will surely bring our community together. But there is plenty of work left to do and I am ready to do it -- with the help of the mega-brain Board I will be serving with. Again thank you to all who participate in the APP annual expo and conference. Keep on keeping on.

A TALE OF TWO CITIES (SEATTLE AND CHICAGO) CALL IT FATE, KARMA, OR DIVINE INTERVENTION...



Scott DeBoer RN, MSN
during an emergency
patient transport

For almost 20 years, I have been an ER and Flight/Medevac nurse. At parties, it is seemingly inevitable that people will ask me “what is the grossest thing you have ever seen?” and say to me “after almost 20 years, you must have seen everything.” In many ways, the answer to the second part of the question is true, however my eyes were opened as I began research into the world of body modification two years ago.

While working night shifts in the ER, I see both children and adults with various emergencies. In recent years, more and more of my patients have had some sort of body modification. On a slow night, the ER staff were talking about piercings. We came up with insightful questions such as “What happens if you defibrillate (use ‘paddles’ on) someone with nipple piercings?” and “Do tongues really swell up post-piercing to the point that you can’t intubate (insert a breathing tube)?” Remember the National Enquirer’s catch phrase? “Enquiring minds want to know!” As an inquiring mind, I wanted to know as well.

I personally have no piercings, tattoos, or other body modifications. However, as a professional registered nurse, I want my patients, regardless of race, creed, religion, or “number of piercings” to receive the best medical care possible, especially in emergency situations. With this, my medical inquiry into the “medical myths vs. realities” of body modification began. After reviewing several articles published in medical journals, it became apparent that there were many inconsistencies as to imagined vs. actual documented medical complications. Very few articles were written with any professional piercer input.

I was scheduled to teach a pediatric emergencies class near Seattle. Shortly before the trip, I picked up a copy of Tattoo Times magazine. To my surprise, Apocalypse Tattoo and Piercing of Seattle was featured as the “Shop of the Month”. I e-mailed the shop describing my research with the hope to sit with a professional piercer. This was Karma, fate, or divine intervention illustrated at its finest.

Troy Amundson e-mailed back informing me that not only is he a professional body piercer, but also an Emergency Medical Technician. From my perspective, this has been an unbelievable stroke of luck. He quickly suggested I get in touch with Elayne Angel as she was the Medical Liaison for the APP at the time. Between the two of them and countless phone calls/e-mails, my research is now finally getting closer to being done (the first phase at least).

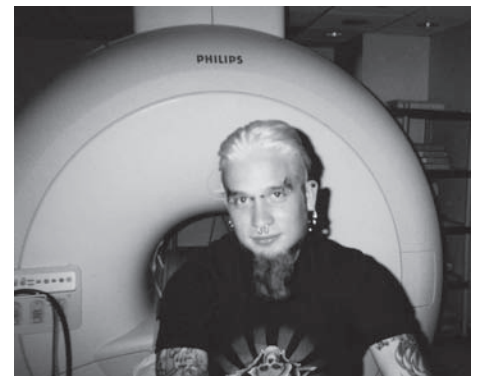
I will be giving presentations to emergency medical staff on the medical myths vs. realities of body modification in the US, New Zealand, and Australia in the upcoming months. My goal is simply to teach them the documented medical issues and provide them a “piercers perspective” regarding after-care, removal, jewelry selection, and the like. Again, with the invaluable help of Troy and Angel, this is quickly becoming one of my most requested presentations.

In addition, two other projects are coming to completion. As part of the medical research for the presentations, I have compiled what I believe to be the most comprehensive bibliography/reference list of all published medical articles involving body piercing, modification, and tattooing. The list includes articles published as far back as the mid-1800’s. Hopefully this will be of help to the APP. From a medical perspective, research is the key to changing attitudes and perceptions.

Lastly, during my initial late night ER conversation that sparked my interest in body modification, the question as to “What happens with MRI’s, X-rays, and piercings?” came up. Again, a review of the medical journals shows that there are very, very few articles published that address this issue. Interestingly, when asked, radiology staff were convinced they “knew what was going to happen,” but again, there is very little actual published medical research. With this in mind, again, fate, Karma, divine intervention was on my side.

I was introduced to Michael “Koz” Kozlowski, a body piercer from Desired Art in Whiting, Indiana near my hometown. He volunteered to be my “guinea pig” and undergo a MRI, CT scan, and X-rays to document what “really” happens. As he is heavily pierced, he underwent MRI’s of his head, neck, and abdomen, CT scans of his head, neck, chest, and abdomen, as well as X-rays of his neck, chest, and pelvis. These are the most common areas for which emergency diagnostic imaging is done and this was to illustrate “what really happens.” The technicians were amazed at the results. I will have more information on this soon as a radiologist has compiled his formal interpretation of the scans. We hope to have the results published in an Emergency Medicine journal soon.

Simply, everyone that I have interacted with in



Michael “Koz” Kozlowski pre-MRI scan

the piercing/body modification community has been nothing but wonderful and truly willing to help me in any way possible. My sincere thanks go out to Troy Amundson and JJ Moiso from Apocalypse Piercing in Seattle and Elayne Angel from Rings of Desire in New Orleans. As a "piercing friendly" ER nurse, I hope to be able to continue to assist the piercing community in any way needed.

Scott DeBoer RN,MSN

Flight Nurse: University of Chicago | Aeromedical Network

Founder: Peds-R-Us Medical Education

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5 - ON MEMBERSHIP

not only to other piercers, but to the general public as well. It demonstrates your willingness to meet standards that you have made a choice to follow, as opposed to standards that you are required to follow. In most cases, the membership requirements meet, if not exceed, standards set by local regulations and/or health departments. Membership is about self-regulation, standards set by piercers for piercers based on research, knowledge, and experience.

This self regulation plays a large part in legislation. Often, when new legislation is drafted or old legislation is revised, the APP is consulted for information and suggestions. This is when the membership numbers become extremely important – our strength is in those numbers. The number of members in our organization is viewed very seriously by legislators, health inspectors, and those in the medical industry. Our members are seen as representative of the body piercing industry. Being a member of the APP gives you the ability to weigh in on regulation decisions because your membership demonstrates your support for the current APP standards.

As was pointed out by many at conference this year, you do not have to support everything that the APP suggests, but the cause is worth supporting. No one likes the idea of working hard and investing money into running a clean, safe studio knowing that the studio across town cuts corners and places their clients in danger. Not only does the APP work with legislators, but we also focus on education for piercers and the general public. Among many important things, your membership dues support publications like *The Point* and the Procedure Manual directed towards the piercing industry, publications including *Picking Your Piercer* and *Aftercare* pamphlets, articles about safe piercing, and public service announcements directed towards the general public. And, of course, the annual APP Conference in Las Vegas, with classes for anyone with an interest in the piercing industry: from experienced piercers to apprentices, people who would like to become piercers, and even regional health inspectors.

Being a member does mean that you have to adhere to APP standards, but it does give you the ability to be involved with the direction that the APP is going. As a member, you will have the opportunity to vote on APP issues and have your opinion heard. Members who are interested can submit information for courses taught at conference and those who are brave can submit procedural videos to share in the Member Techniques classes. For those who would really like to become even more involved, membership can even lead to a board position that provides the ultimate ability to take part in the direction of the organization, and possibly the piercing industry as a whole.

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KNOW YOUR GLOVES

RON GARZA AND ANN FOWLER

In this age of disease and infection lurking around (and on) every corner (and telephone, doorknob, one hundred dollar bill), piercers need to not only use gloves in each procedure, but also to understand whether and how to don sterile gloves. This article is intended to explain variations in sterilization techniques, glove materials, and preparation methods.

You're as clean as your weakest link

I feel as if I've said that, or some synonymous cliché, a thousand times. Actually I've only mumbled in frustration, usually under my breath, and a gazillion times. Though clean gloves are an accepted industry practice, the idea of requiring sterile gloves has at times led to a rather heated debate. Most gloves offered by our medical supply distributors are being manufactured overseas in places like Malaysia and Thailand. Though such out-sourcing ultimately allows for \$74 cases of premium gloves, it also means that those reasonably-priced cases are first exposed to hygienically inferior workplace practices and reduced regulation in manufacture, storage and shipment. Yet they are widely approved by the medical and dental industry. As piercers, what is our best course of action? What is reasonable?

When deciding if you should wear clean gloves, sterilize your gloves, or purchase pre-sterilized gloves, there are a number of variables to consider. Sterilization methods, glove quality and material, and the breakdowns that occur due to heat, weather, storage and handling should be jointly evaluated as associated topics. When deciding which method of sterilization is best suited for your needs, first familiarize yourself with all of the equipment available for processing, and reprocessing, piercing implements.

Gloves

Not all gloves are created equal. No one (cognitively functioning) disputes the need for gloves in our industry, but the types and materials deemed most appropriate are often highly debated. Even piercers not practicing more advanced forms of modification still demand a glove with better protection, as well as accept the possibility that a sterilized glove gives a more clean procedure.

When selecting a glove, what should first come to mind is the need for barrier protection against any type of bodily fluid, potentially harmful pathogen and microorganism. There are a variety of gloves materials available, so you must consider not only what potentially contaminating and infectious variables are possible in an invasive procedure, but also the material's allergic sensitivity potential. You might find it beneficial to spend much time (more than the time required to read this skeleton article) researching, and a little more monetarily, on your Personal Protective Equipment. A good glove has the capacity to more than pay for itself, not only in labor saved, but in the peace of mind that comes from knowing you are properly using the best quality materials available. And as many folks will tell you, once you go biocompatible, you can't go back.

Latex

Natural rubber latex (NRL), a component of latex gloves (just to clarify), is harvested from an actual rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) that is 'tapped' for its thick, milky liquid (sap).

NRL contains variable amounts of proteins, which may be absorbed through the skin or inhaled to cause an allergic reaction in susceptible persons. NRL protein absorption has been reported to be amplified when sweat collects under latex clothing articles. (For the moment we'll stick to gloves, though "clothing articles" does sound exciting.)

In latex glove production, there are significant (sometimes incredible) differences between manufacturers and product lines not only in feel and fit, but also in the amount of free latex protein that can be liberated from the glove and in the number and types of chemicals used in its creation. Latex gloves are made by dipping a [hand] mold into a vat and then letting the accumulated liquid dry, forming what will be the inside of the glove (that touches you) on the outside of the mold. The vat typically consists of liquid latex, water, vulcanizing agents, accelerators, activators, blockers, retarders (chemical catalysts), anti-oxidants, preservatives, odorants, colorants, stabilizers, and processing aids. Though this does account for the strength, elasticity and dimensional stability characteristic of many rubber products, it amounts to a complicated chemical soup. Only some of these chemicals will be removed during washing procedures in later stages of glove production, and the effectiveness of washing will differ among manufacturers.

A "latex allergy" is a reaction to one or more of the 240 proteins found in NRL; at least 10 of which are known allergens. Reactions occur when an item containing latex or any of these other chemical agents comes into contact with any part of the body, directly or via aerosol. An allergic reaction can manifest itself in a lot of different ways, including rashes or hives, eye tearing and irritation, wheezing, itching and swelling. And that's just powder-free gloves.

Cornstarch powder has long been used to make donning latex gloves more convenient. Though ideal in concept as a lubricant, the cornstarch powder also binds the latex proteins in the gloves and allows the reactant to reach both the piercers' and clients' skin more easily. Sweat accumulated inside gloves then becomes a solvent for these proteins, allowing increased absorption through skin and sensitizing the wearer. Lastly, when donning and removing a powdered glove, cornstarch powder is released into the air, and becomes a source of aerosolized latex protein that can sensitize the repeated user and others in the vicinity through inhalation. Those already sensitive to latex proteins may be unable to even enter a shop using powdered latex gloves.

Nitrile

Nitrile powder-free gloves are the ideal solution for those who, like this article's architects, are at risk of becoming or have become sensitive to NRL. Because nitrile gloves are made from a synthetic polymer possessing rubber-like characteristics, they still retain a durable and sound fit, feel, malleability and tear resistance, without the protein allergens. Though lacking the protein allergens of latex, nitrile has still been known to yield a few instances of allergic reactions, thought to stem from the accelerators (for added strength and resilience) used during production. There is one manufacturer, N-Dex, that has patented a formula for nitrile that is accelerator-free.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

STERILIZATION METHODS

Ethylene Oxide

Ethylene Oxide (EtO) is an extremely potent gas that destroys pathogens and prevents organisms from reproducing. However, EtO sterilization requires a five-step process, beginning with a lengthy 2-3 hours at the low temp. of 120°F. Eventually products are transferred to an aeration cell where they remain until the gas disperses and the products are "safe" to handle. One major draw back (other than the fact that, here in California at least, EtO is considered a toxic air contaminant) is the possible coating of chemical residue remaining on needles, gloves, clamps, and sundry items, and consequent permeation and contamination of the epidermal tissue. On the up-side, you can have EtO sterilization machines custom made, ranging in size from desktop to walk-in, without or without hands-free loading.

Gamma Ray

Gamma ray sterilization, emitted from cobalt-60, is an extremely reliable, cost-competitive form of processing for single-use and/or high-density products. Gamma rays delivered during sterilization break chemical bonds and break down DNA molecules; hence no microorganisms survive, let alone retain the potential of reproduction. And as gamma rays are really effective in killing microorganisms, they also leave no residues nor have enough energy to maintain radioactivity. Since gamma processing occurs without heat, pressure or vacuums, you don't have to worry about damaging seals (in theory). Due to the cumbersome nature of gamma ray sterilization equipment, you probably wouldn't want to house one in studio. But if you plan to be ordering pre-sterilized gloves, you should definitely understand this form of processing.

E-beam

Electron-beam (e-beam) radiation is generally characterized by a low penetration of radiation at high dose rates. The beams produced for e-beam sterilization are concentrated, highly charged streams of electrons generated by the acceleration and transformation of electricity. E-beam irradiation

is similar to gamma processing in that it alters various chemical and molecular bonds on contact by fragmenting microorganisms, including reproductive cells.

E-beam irradiation is the method of choice for high volume, low value products like gloves, or reciprocally low volume, high value products such as cardiothoracic devices (in case you've had problems in the past sterilizing your artificial heart valves). But like gamma ray devices, e-beam sterilization usually takes place in an industrial setting and requires constant control of the beam's current, width, and a conveyor (that moves products through the beam). Again, these machines are ideal in concept (and for manufacturers processing your pre-cooked gloves), but not practical for the studio setting.

Steam

Steam sterilization is probably the best established, well understood and most effective technology currently used in our studios, and can accommodate a wide variety of instruments. However, heat and pressure from steam sterilization possess the potential to break down plastics and rubber substances (read: gloves!) that make up a large fraction of materials we use.

Steam sterilization machines can be broken into three common categories: pre-vacuum,

gravity-displacement and flash (pressure-pulse) autoclaves. Though all types of steam sterilization devices utilize steam, heat and pressure, they differ in reuse of water, air filtration and circulation within the chamber. Pressure pulse and most pre-vacuum machines continually purge the air to clean tools and do not reuse water. Lengthy steam sterilization cycles may cause unprotected instruments to corrode and cutting edges to dull (problematic for you advanced modifiers). Additionally, CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines call for weekly spore testing of such machines.

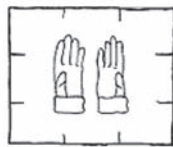
Autoclaves like the StatIM 900, 2000, or 5000 pressure-pulse machines work well as flash sterilization units for procedures like ours that use smaller instruments and demand a rapid turnaround time. These units are equipped with a cassette(s) placed within the main cartridge to minimize the chances of instrument contamination during transport, and can also sterilize unwrapped instruments. StatIM models are very appropriate for our use in that they require no special electrical connections or plumbing, use minimal utilities, and are very pocket-book (Luis wallet) friendly.

Chemical solution/ Cold sterilization

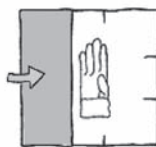
Cold sterilization solutions are highly corrosive and toxic. Since they come in liquid form, they cannot be used with barrier packaging, and cannot be stored or monitored biologically. If you turn around a bottle of cold sterilization solution and give a gander to the warnings and instructions for use (which, in order to be effective must be followed exactly), most labels indicate that they are not intended for internal use or application in a puncture wound. The moment an instrument is removed from the liquid, its sterility is compromised. Instruments disinfected by liquids must be handled aseptically, rinsed in sterile water, and dried with a sterile towel, adding a more-than-reasonable amount of time and processing to your piercing procedure. Since monitoring the liquid sterilization process is virtually impossible, these products should be regarded as high-level disinfectants instead of sterilants.

Steps of Wrapping Gloves for Steam Sterilization

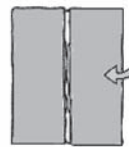
Wrapping gloves before steam sterilization helps decrease the likelihood that they will become contaminated before use. To wrap gloves for steam sterilization, use paper, newsprint, or muslin or cotton fabric. Do **not** use canvas. Wrap gloves with a cuff so that they can be easily put on without contaminating them. Do **not** roll gloves into balls before sterilization (this makes it difficult for steam to reach all surfaces of the gloves, making sterilization ineffective).



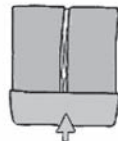
Step 1
Place one pair of gloves in the center of the wrapper. The wrapper should be positioned so that the flat edges—not the points—are at the top, bottom, and sides.



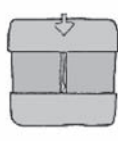
Step 2
Fold the left section to the center.



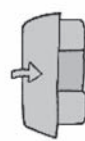
Step 3
Fold the right section to the center.



Step 4
Fold the bottom section halfway to the center (one-quarter of the way up).



Step 5
Fold the top section halfway to the center (one-quarter of the way up).



Step 6
Fold the packet in half vertically, either from left to right or from right to left.



Step 7
Mark on the outside of the wrapper the end at which the gloves' cuffs are positioned. (This will help ensure that the gloves will be in the correct position when the provider opens the pack to put them on.)

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In protecting the wearer from bloodborne invaders, nitrile has been claimed to be three times more puncture resistance than latex, though no disposable glove is 100% resistant. Nitrile is an excellent substitute because it has the advantage of "blowing up" if punctured. For those unfamiliar with nitrile, when punctured it's almost as if these gloves contract, making the hole highly visible, whereas you may not realize it when a latex rubber glove is punctured. The shelf life of nitrile exceeds that of latex, because latex more readily succumbs to deterioration from the elements and ozone. For a minor price difference, nitrile may give you the assurance of safety and reliability we hope to represent in our profession.

Listen up, lunchbox.

In conclusion, steam sterilizing can compromise the integrity of the latex, as can so many other variables. This is where processing becomes really important. Certain autoclaves do have rubber and plastic cycles, but run at lower temps with longer times. Conversely, in a StatIM, most implements are sterilized and ready for immediate use, with the exception of latex and neoprene, we are now told. (We did it for years, and then liability for 'intended uses' became an issue, and they changed the spiel on us. Read and follow your manufacturer's recommendations.) You will also notice most shops that use StatIMs also use nitrile almost exclusively, because you can toss a pair of gloves in with your needles/tools. Do remember that when you sterilize gloves in-house, they are not "as sterile" as is mechanically possible thru gamma ray sterilization (i.e. there is technically a larger potential for failure to achieve full sterilization). In the end, using a sterile, synthetic glove for all my procedures makes me feel better knowing I'm using tools of the highest quality for the well being of my client (and of course, myself) and enables me to sleep very well at night.

If you have to make-do, certain gravity-displacement autoclaves have a rubber and plastic cycle, and for those that don't, it is possible to run a properly loaded cycle of in-studio packaged gloves (see below for proper packaging techniques). Through experimentation, I've found that when processed at 250F for 15 minutes, and if vented and allowed to dry for 24 hours, G/D 'claves can effectively 'cook' a pair of latex gloves. But when employing this method, it is absolutely imperative that you not over-cook, as latex is plastic and, aside from compromising the integrity of the glove and discoloring it, the potential for structural failure is increased by its microporosity.

In short, to ensure your safety in using sterilized latex gloves, consider double gloving (an accepted medical practice). For convenience's sake, some shops purchase pre-sterilized gloves. When bought in bulk, they can be as inexpensive as \$.32 a pair. Having a dry, pre-sterilized glove at your disposal, on the fly, is definitely advantageous for high volume shops.

Most importantly, if nothing else has been accomplished with this jibba jabba, let us emphasize that sharing information with like-minded colleagues is almost always the best way to find the most appropriate S.O.P for your shop. Because it's really difficult to locate industry-appropriate info on sterilizing gloves, in up-coming issues of The Point we'll finish what we've started and breech the surface of many of these issues. 'Cause we roll like that.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

IN THE OFFICE OF THE APP



Caitlin McDiarmid
APP Administrator

As some of you are aware, very soon after Conference the office was closed down for an extended period. This was due to a family emergency and due to the fact that the office was being relocated. Please accept my personal apologies for this closure and thanks for your patience as I get things back "on-line" at the office. Please also accept my thanks for all of you who supported me and my family during this time.

In the middle of the closure, I did attend the ACHA Conference (see review this issue) with Elayne Angel and did my best to reply to incoming emails. Christina Shull did her part to field phone calls and messages, along with Jim Weber assisting for problem piercings. Chrissy also took on the task of doing the attendee certificates from Conference. Thanks to them for their assistance.

After a long summer of catch up – it appears as if things are back online fully. The office is set up at the new location; all orders which came in the last 3 months are finally current; I have met with Paul King and Schane Gross to transfer the financial responsibilities; and am finalizing the post conference reporting just in time for the next Board Meeting in September.

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NEW REGULATIONS MAY AFFECT PIERCING WEBSITES



Elayne Angel
Outgoing APP
Medical Coordinator
Rings of Desire,
New Orleans

In Issue 30 of *The Point* I addressed the possibility that posting genital piercing photos or videos on your website could come under the purview of the new 2257 record keeping laws that are causing an uproar in the online adult entertainment industry.

There have been some developments since that time. To recap: Federal record-keeping and labeling regulations, 18 U.S.C. §2257, are in place ostensibly to protect against child pornography by requiring webmasters to keep specific records including photo identification of all models. The law, with dramatically expanded reach, went into effect June 23, 2005.

All that sounds perfectly reasonable. What is unreasonable is that to be in full compliance, every single photo on every single web page must be cross-referenced with the model's records (birth date, address, copy of valid photo ID) and the records must also contain the date of production, title of the production, all of the model's aliases and a "copy of the depiction," (a screen shot of the web page in question). For large websites with many models, or for sites where people send in content (such as BME) this will be impossible. Websites must also post a "custodian of records" statement regarding who is responsible for the records and where they can be inspected. Software is now on the market to assist webmasters with compliance to the statutes.

The law gives the Department of Justice the right to inspect your records without a warrant. A first offense can bring up to a five-year prison sentence. This applies even if you are in 99% compliance, but ONE record lacks the title of production, for example. A second offense (which they can come back the next day to seek) carries up to 10 years! This is SERIOUS, folks.

How the law is supposed to help prevent child porn is not clear. Pedophiles apparently don't keep any records at all and operate completely underground. So the stated purpose of the regulations is clearly at odds with the reality of the situation.

So what does all this have to do with piercing? Well, if you have a website that contains photos or videos of genital piercings, there is the possibility the content falls under this statute. My attorney has advised me that photos of genital piercings could be included within the "lascivious display of genitals" clause; piercing procedurals could be considered to fall within the "somasochistic activity" clause.

Further, if someone gives or sells the content they produce to be used on another website, they must also pro-

vide the model releases with all the ID information. This means that if you submit a photo of a genital piercing you've performed to be posted on another website, you must also provide the model's ID and release form (model release, not piercing release). So an anonymous genital piercing model must then have his or her true identity passed along and made available for inspection. Obviously the law heavily invades the privacy of these models.

The scope of 2257 appears to include every blogger, online journalist, and website owner who displays any image falling under the law's broad, vague definition of "sexually explicit" materials. It's easy to see how this requirement could stop plenty of legitimate speech and freedom of expression by covering material that is outside the definition of commercial porn.

Many webmasters who do not have the necessary documentation have taken their sites offline, and a number have opted to move their servers out of the country as a result of these unreasonable and invasive laws.

On my piercing website I post free videos of me performing piercings including nipple and genital piercings. I used to require people who wished to view them to email me a statement that they are 18 years of age or older, and include their name, address and phone number. My attorney advised me that this was not stringent enough, and that I must require them to fax or email a copy of their valid photo ID proving they are 18 years of age or older.

If you post photos or videos of genital piercings on your website, you should consider getting in compliance, or pulling the materials from your site.

The Free Speech Coalition (FSC) www.freespeechcoalition.com filed a lawsuit against the Department of Justice for a temporary restraining order (TRO) against these regulations. Members of that organization have until September 7 to get their records in order. The US District Court in Denver will hold a preliminary injunction hearing on August 8, 2005 to determine the outcome of the suit. Those who are not members of the FSC are currently fair game for the DOJ and their witch hunt.

Read the law at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-10107.htm>

Also check: www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode18/usc_sec_18_00002257----000-.html

For a comparison of the original and the current regs: <http://my.execpc.com/~xxxlaw/2257Tables5.24.05.htm>

For more discussion about why this law isn't just a porn industry issue: www.eff.org/deeplinks/archives/003741.php
For further information try a Google search for "2257 adult."

Do get informed. It's up to us to protect our freedoms and ourselves.

A STATISTICAL LOOK AT SURFACE BARS



Luis Garcia
APP International
Liaison

Surface piercings have been a hot topic for the past several years in our industry, with the fold being divided between Tygon® and surface bars. Noah Babcock (from Evolution in Albuquerque, NM) wrote an article for The Point (issue # 22, Sept 2002) and submitted statistics he collected on Tygon® and his success rates using it in surface piercings. This got me thinking about starting a long term look at my preferred method for surface piercings, the surface bar method.

For the sake of not repeating previously issued information (Phish Goldblatt wrote an excellent and very detailed article on surface bars in issue # 25 of The Point), I'm not going to go into extreme detail on the theory behind surface bars. The basic principle is that the staple shape of the jewelry will limit the amount of upward pressure the jewelry will put on the

tissue above the piercing channel, allowing a decent amount of blood flow to keep the tissue healthy.

I took a large range of my surface piercing clients and kept track of them over a period varying from 1-2 1/2 years. I had them come in once a month for the first year, once every 4 months beyond the first year. All the piercings were done using freehand technique, with a saline/salt soak only after-care regimen (two cold saline cleanings and one warm sea salt soak a day). They were done with internally threaded surface bars with lifts no longer than 1/8." You will see the healed numbers sometimes drop in the second and third year. This is due to accidents, or choices the client made that might not have had anything to do with the piercing's health (i.e. "I got tired of it."). I accounted for this percentage in the last section of each stat group. The one group I chose not to account for in the general percentages were people that never came back, or stopped coming back, ergo I have no idea of their piercing healed.*

Now, onto the nitty gritty: the stats.

Nape: Total Clients – 233

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year (in progress)
Healed (no jewelry change)	219 (93.9%)	220 (94.4%)	217 (93.1%)
Healed (lift length downsized)	9 (3.9%)	11 (4.7%)	11 (4.7%)
Not fully healed	3 (1.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Removed due to migration	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Removed due to tearing	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	2 (0.9%)
Removed for reason not pertaining to health of piercing	1 (0.4%)	1 (0.4%)	3 (1.3%)

Vertical Sternum/Center Chest: Total Clients - 89

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year (in progress)
Healed (no jewelry change)	71 (79.8%)	73 (82.0%)	73 (82%)
Healed (lift length downsized)	2 (2.2%)	2 (2.2%)	2 (2.2%)
Not fully healed	8 (9.0%)	1 (1.1%)	0 (0%)
Removed due to migration	5 (5.6%)	7 (7.9%)	7 (7.9%)
Removed due to tearing	2 (2.2%)	3 (3.4%)	4 (4.5%)
Removed for reason not pertaining to health of piercing	1 (1.1%)	3 (3.4%)	3 (3.4%)

Horizontal Sternum/Center Chest: Total Clients - 22

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year (in progress)
Healed (no jewelry change)	15 (68.2%)	13 (59.1%)	13 (59.1%)
Healed (lift length downsized)	1 (4.5%)	1 (4.5%)	1 (4.5%)
Not fully healed	1 (4.5%)	0 (0%)	0%
Removed due to migration	3 (13.6%)	4 (18.2%)	4 (18.2%)
Removed due to tearing	2 (9.1%)	3 (13.6%)	3 (13.6%)
Removed for reason not pertaining to health of piercing	0 (0%)	1 (4.5%)	1 (4.5%)

Vertical Bridge: Total Clients - 16

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year (in progress)
Healed (no jewelry change)	11 (68.7%)	11 (68.7%)	10 (62.5%)
Healed (lift length downsized)	2 (12.5%)	1 (6.3%)	1 (6.3%)
Not fully healed	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Removed due to migration	1 (6.3%)	1 (6.3%)	1 (6.3%)
Removed due to tearing	1 (6.3%)	1 (6.3%)	1 (6.3%)
Removed for reason not pertaining to health of piercing	0 (0%)	1 (4.5%)	1 (4.5%)

Forehead (paired sides): Total Clients – 11

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year (in progress)
Healed (no jewelry change)	7 (63.6%)	9 (81.8%)	7 (63.6%)
Healed (lift length downsized)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Not fully healed	3 (27.3%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Removed due to migration	1 (9.1%)	1 (9.1%)	1 (9.1%)
Removed due to tearing	0 (0%)	1 (9.1%)	1 (9.1%)
Removed for reason not pertaining to health of piercing	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (18.2%)

Anti-Eyebrow: Total Clients – 41

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year (in progress)
Healed (no jewelry change)	32 (78.0%)	32 (78.0%)	31 (75.6%)
Healed (lift length downsized)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Not fully healed	2 (4.8%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Removed due to migration	2 (4.8%)	3 (7.3%)	3 (7.3%)
Removed due to tearing	3 (7.3%)	3 (7.3%)	4 (9.8%)
Removed for reason not pertaining to health of piercing	2 (4.8%)	3 (7.3%)	3 (7.3%)

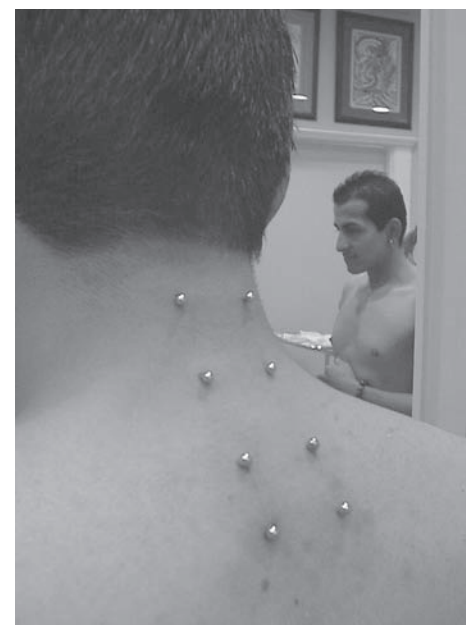
“Sideburn” in front of tragus: Total Clients – 87

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year (in progress)
Healed (no jewelry change)	76 (87.4%)	81 (93.1%)	81 (93.1%)
Healed (lift length downsized)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Not fully healed	6 (6.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Removed due to migration	0 (0%)	1 (1.1%)	1 (1.1%)
Removed due to tearing	2 (2.3%)	2 (2.3%)	2 (2.3%)
Removed for reason not pertaining to health of piercing	3 (3.4%)	3 (3.4%)	3 (3.4%)

Clavicle (paired): Total Clients – 34

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year (in progress)
Healed (no jewelry change)	28 (82.4%)	28 (82.4%)	28 (82.4%)
Healed (lift length downsized)	2 (5.9%)	3 (8.8%)	1 (2.9%)
Not fully healed	2 (5.9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Removed due to migration	2 (5.9%)	2 (5.9%)	2 (5.9%)
Removed due to tearing	0 (0%)	1 (2.9%)	1 (2.9%)
Removed for reason not pertaining to health of piercing	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (5.9%)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



A STATISTICAL LOOK AT SURFACE BARS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE - LUIS GARCIA

Navel (horizontally below): Total Clients – 107

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year (in progress)
Healed (no jewelry change)	93 (86.9%)	94 (87.9%)	94 (87.9%)
Healed (lift length downsized)	5 (4.7%)	7 (6.5%)	6 (5.4%)
Not fully healed	6 (5.6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Removed due to migration	2 (1.9%)	3 (2.8%)	3 (2.8%)
Removed due to tearing	0 (0%)	2 (1.9%)	2 (1.9%)
Removed for reason not pertaining to health of piercing	1 (0.9%)	1 (0.9%)	2 (1.9%)

Horizontal Wrist: Total Clients – 27

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year (in progress)
Healed (no jewelry change)	16 (59.3%)	15 (55.6%)	15 (55.6%)
Healed (lift length downsized)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Not fully healed	3 (11.1%)	1 (3.7%)	0 (0%)
Removed due to migration	4 (14.8%)	5 (18.5%)	5 (18.5%)
Removed due to tearing	3 (11.1%)	4 (14.8%)	5 (18.5%)
Removed for reason not pertaining to health of piercing	1 (3.7%)	2 (7.4%)	2 (7.4%)

As you can see from these numbers, surface bars are not the answer to all your surface piercing needs. Some piercings (napes and navel surfaces) do better than others (madisons and horizontal wrists). From the results I've seen, this can be mostly chalked up to the amount of movement in the area, whether or not that movement causes pressure on the entrance and exit of the piercing, and whether that movement will change the depth that the surface bar can take up. Traditional madison placement isn't ideal for surface bars because, in most cases, when someone turns from side to side, the entrance or exit of the piercing will move right over the ends of the collarbones, making the surface bar jut out of the piercing.

As always there are also some outside sources that can also be blamed for problems healing. Wrists tend to get a lot more jostling, with long sleeves and people putting their hands in their pockets. Sternum piercings on women can have problems healing when they are placed too low in the cleavage (women with larger breasts tend to have more problems with this place-

Vertical Wrist: Total Clients – 32

	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year (in progress)
Healed (no jewelry change)	22 (68.8%)	24 (75.0%)	20 (62.5%)
Healed (lift length downsized)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Not fully healed	6 (18.7%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Removed due to migration	1 (3.1%)	2 (6.3%)	2 (6.3%)
Removed due to tearing	3 (9.4%)	5 (15.6%)	6 (18.7%)
Removed for reason not pertaining to health of piercing	0 (0%)	1 (3.1%)	4 (12.5%)

Madison: Total Clients – 12 *traditional placement in divot of throat*

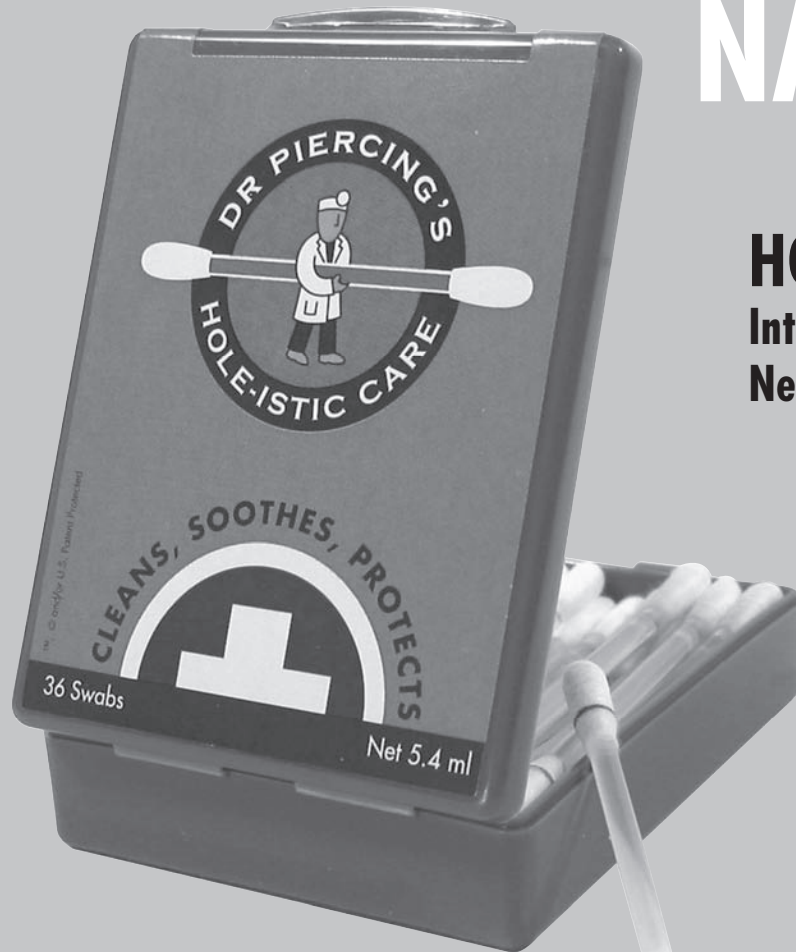
	1 st year	2 nd year	3 rd year (in progress)
Healed (no jewelry change)	0 (0%)	1 (8.3%)	1 (8.3%)
Healed (lift length downsized)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Not fully healed	3 (25.0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Removed due to migration	9 (75.0%)	10 (83.4%)	10 (83.4%)
Removed due to tearing	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Removed for reason not pertaining to health of piercing	0 (0%)	1 (8.3%)	1 (8.3%)

ment, so I'd generally recommend to go above the breast and cleavage area for maximum results).

In conclusion, surface bars work great in most cases, as long as a piercer uses his/her common sense and takes all applicable factors into consideration (which one should be doing for EVERY piercing, not just hard to heal piercings), and has a decent aftercare regimen. (I know since I moved away from soap based aftercare and jewelry rotation, I see less problems with most piercings.)

*On a side note, some of you might be wondering how I got this many people to come back for check ups. In truth, it wasn't very difficult. The first thing I did was to be somewhat selective in choosing which clients to include. Most people I approached were clients I had already worked on and were in my shop regularly for either a piercing or a tattoo. The second thing I did was to give them some incentive (free piercings, discounts on jewelry, etc), which they would only receive upon the completion of the study. The third thing I did was to contact the client routinely to remind them to stop by, offering extra incentives for those that were being harder to bring back. One thing that did help me out was the fact that my shop isn't particularly a high volume one. This enables me to take a little more time with most of my clients and cater a little more to their questions and needs, which I believe has proven to bring them back to me much more often than would have happened at a more high volume shop. All in all, just shy of 92% of the initial number came back and continue to come back for their check ups.

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UNWANTED HELP



Jim Weber
APP Medical Liaison

I recently received an email that included a picture pulled from our own website, showing a woman's torso and nipple piercings. The more I thought about the accompanying message, the more upset I was by it. The text read:

Didn't have anything to do at the moment so I touched up one of your photos. It was just so crude. It looks better now. Great Site at infinitebody.com!

Regards,

One of the reasons I am so passionate about body piercing and the piercing industry is that it confronts a lot of the more traditional definitions of beauty in our culture. Piercing seeks to force people to re-evaluate beauty standards that are often outdated, unrealistic, and prejudicial.

We both work on sites that help to shape the public's perception of piercing and the aesthetic that goes along with it. It would be a shame to waste that opportunity by reinforcing unfortunate stereotypes. The piercing industry, and our viewers, deserve better than that.

Jim Weber

Infinite Body Piercing, Inc.

The sender signed his name and listed the site he worked on. I went to his site and found it was essentially a body modification blog site. Okay, so he's in the industry, I thought.

I looked at the image again. It was definitely from our site, and still had our logo branded in the corner. I went back to the message. The word "crude" jumped out at me. We have an excellent graphic designer working for us, fine-tuning everything from our aftercare sheets to t-shirts and our expansive web site. A lot of preparation goes into the images before they are posted. Was he suggesting that a poor job was done with this image?

I went to our site and found the original. I opened it in a new window and put it side-by-side with the e-mailed one. I looked carefully over the two images. As far as I could tell the only thing done to the "improved" e-mailed image was that he had photoshopped out all the moles, visible veins and skin blemishes on the model.

I was dumbfounded. I quickly emailed our graphics guy and he wrote back, essentially asking, "Is this guy for real?" I had no alternative but to write this guy and tell him how I felt. This is what I wrote:

Dear _____,

While I thank you for your interest in our site and our gallery, I don't think you really understand our motivation.

Our gallery is for people to be able to see images of bodies with piercings, very often with piercings that they themselves are interested in getting. It is important that those looking at our site are able to identify with the people (and bodies) that we post there. We obviously spend a good deal of time cleaning up images before posting them on our site, but we do not strive to "airbrush" the bodies in a rather short-sighted attempt to turn them into the type of mannequins that are commonly found in Playboy, Cosmopolitan, and most mainstream fashion magazines. That is not our goal.

We feel that it's important that people are able to see REAL bodies in our gallery. We show all body types, from those with full pubic hair in our genital piercing section, to the inclusion of razor bumps, stubble, and in the case of the picture in question, all moles and veins. While, in your e-mail, you referred to the photo as "crude," I couldn't really see what you changed from the original except the removal of skin blemishes on the model. Unfortunately, I don't agree with your opinion that the unblemished body looks better. I prefer something a little closer to real, and that's what we show on our site.

I think that people in the body piercing industry, especially those in the position of defining its aesthetic, have a significant responsibility as to how we portray images of our clients and ourselves. This understanding grew out of how I got involved in piercing, and is essential to why I continue in this industry.

I became involved in piercing in the late 80's, after the book *Modern Primitives* was published. In hindsight, that puts me in what can probably be called piercing's "Second Wave." In many parts of the East Coast there really wasn't much of a "we" in that wave. It was many different people working independently of each other and often coming up with the same conclusions. As individuals, though, we as a group became the liaison between the fringe culture that was piercing before us and the mainstream that embraced piercing late on our watch.

For many of us piercing was dangerous and very exciting. It was a renegade form of adornment. To me it was attractive because it was a threat to traditional/mainstream ideas of beauty at the time, with undercurrents of body politics, homosexual culture, S&M, and pro-sex feminism. I was part of a much larger movement that took issue with the mainstream portrayal of beauty. I was part of a large group of people that looked at images in the media and said, "I don't see myself." Each in our own ways, we worked to change that.

At that time, people like Annie Sprinkle were saying that many women did porn freely, politically and without coercion, and liked it. Artists like Robert Mapplethorpe were showing the mainstream that there was a beauty in S&M. Activists like Joani Blank and Carol Queen encouraged women to embrace their sexual selves, no matter what they looked like on the outside. Madonna was...well, being Madonna.

Piercers (and to a smaller extent tattoo artists) were starting to organize and define our collective aesthetic as well. Like the other groups, we felt that mainstream depictions of the body were, at the very least, shortsighted, and in many ways downright prejudicial. We assumed – and rightly so --that we were doing our part to change all that.

Knowing where I'm coming from, it's no surprise that I would be annoyed to receive an e-mail like the one above. We (and again, that's a loose "we") tried to make sure the media portrayed people of all types. We believed people had a right to be shown for what they really were. People that were fat and proud, or hairy in places that it wasn't polite to be hairy. People who believed in their right to be gay and open about it. People who engaged in alternative sexual practices who felt

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3 - GOODBYES

Thank you for all you have done.

Although there was plenty of International work to be done, I have spent the last three years apprenticing under the best piercers in the industry. The previous board has not just paved the path for success in this industry, but for me in my personal life as well.

To the Outgoing Board: Working with you, has been the pinnacle of my career. I will never forget the greatness I felt in your presence. There is not another group that I have seen get so much done and love one another at the same time. Your love and respect has helped me in so many ways

To the New Board: I carry each and every one of the experiences I have encountered and offer them to you, so you can take this Association ever further. I could list off the reasons why I believe I am qualified for this job but credentials aren't what make a good president. One of my strengths as a leader is that I am not afraid to evolve and learn from those around me, yet hold strong in my beliefs of standards. I love this community there is nothing like it on the planet. I take this position and the Association very seriously.

With the new Board I hope to take the Association to the next level, catering not only to the newcomers but exercising the parents in the industry. I feel it is time for those in the industry who have been doing this for ten years plus to step up to the plate and teach what they know, not only to clients, but also to their fellow piercers.

I look forward to the years to come, and give great thanks to all BOARD MEMBERS who have ever served. Your work will get carried on in a positive forward momentum.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4 - APP ATTENDS AMERICAN COLLEGE HEALTH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

the plate and assisted. We did some good, if impromptu, teamwork, and my input seemed well appreciated. After the conference I was contacted by the presenters' instructor and asked to critique the program and assist with accuracy. I was gratified to see that they care about getting all of the information correct!

All in all, it was a very successful expo and the APP shared a great deal of information to many interested parties.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16 - KNOW YOUR GLOVES

For more information, see: www.orcbs.msu.edu/biological/programs_guidelines/autoclave/a_01toc.htm - Info Safely using autoclave, Selecting the right glove/latex allergies www.immune.com/rubber/nr3.html - Hand hygiene protocol www.brown.edu/Administration/EHS/gloves/def.html - Brown University's site; on biological safety - proper loading, unloading, use of autoclaves. www.ehs.berkeley.edu/pubs/factsheets/33autocl.html - Info on degradation- resistance for gloves how it affects the hospital www.adenna.com/rc_FAQs.htm - Latex gloves FAQ's www.ciap.health.nsw.gov.au/hospolic/stvincents/stvin99/Andrea

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22 - UNWANTED HELP

they shouldn't have to lie about it. People over 30 — Hell, people over 60! People who were pierced and tattooed and were tired of being labeled as mentally unbalanced self-mutilators.

As an industry, we can't know (or get) where we're headed without remembering where we came from. Every time we put a picture in our portfolio for others to look at, every time we print pictures on aftercare sheets, in advertising, on promotional materials, every time we post a picture on the Internet — we have a responsibility to the industry to show people of all body types, politics, and sexual persuasions. We've come too far to fall into exclusionary stereotypes because of ignorance or laziness. Those before us worked too hard to make sure that didn't happen. Now it's our turn to keep watch.

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ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PIERCERS
UPDATED AFTERCARE BROCHURES

Newly reformatted with additions reflecting new trends and frequently asked questions from Piercers and Piercees alike.

NEW AFTERCARE:

- Clear concise instructions on cleaning
 - "Less is more" message
 - More information on jewelry issues
- Facial piercings now covered in Oral Aftercare instructions

NEW FORMAT/DESIGNS:

- Cohesive appearance of all APP brochures
- Eye-catching and aesthetically pleasing
- Professional image to support APP standards

The new brochures are available for sale on the APP web site (www.safepiercing.org) for \$20 per 100, postage paid.

Subjects include:

- Aftercare Guidelines for Facial and Body Piercing*
 - Aftercare Guidelines for Oral Piercing*
 - Picking Your Piercer*
- Troubleshooting for You and Your Healthcare Professional (with jewelry removal tips and hints)
- Oral Piercing Risks and Safety Measures

**Available in Spanish*



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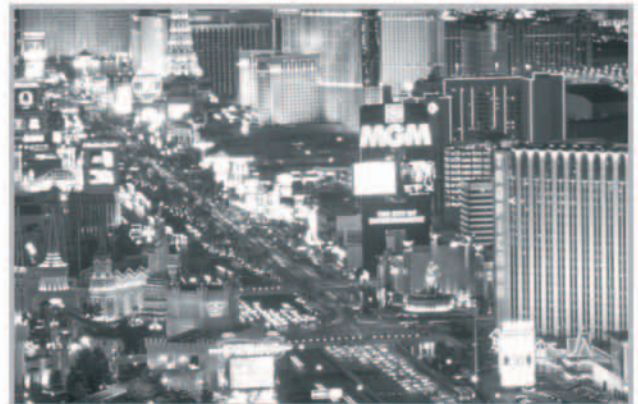


MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The annual APP Conference and Exposition takes place every year in beautiful Las Vegas, Nevada.

There are classes offered in everything from piercing technique to marketing, current industry legislation to accounting, studio set-up to aftercare. There is something for everyone, from the first time attendee to the long term shop owner, with classes geared specifically for health care professionals.

The exposition includes vendors from all segments of the body piercing industry from the United States and abroad. Thousands of items are available at the year's largest gathering of manufacturers and distributors directly targeting the body piercing market.



ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PIERCERS

For updates about the conference please visit:
www.safepiercing.org
or call (505) 242-2144 or (888) 888-1APP

Cover images of the Phuket Vegetarian Festival, courtesy of Paul King,
taken from the **Rituals Of Life DVD** (see page 5 inside).
This DVD is available from the APP for \$20 (plus \$3 for domestic shipping).



Send check or money orders to:
APP Phuket DVD
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Or call 1-888-888-1277 (or 785-841-6060) for credit card orders.

50% of proceeds goes to the Tsunami Relief Fund.

THE POINT



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