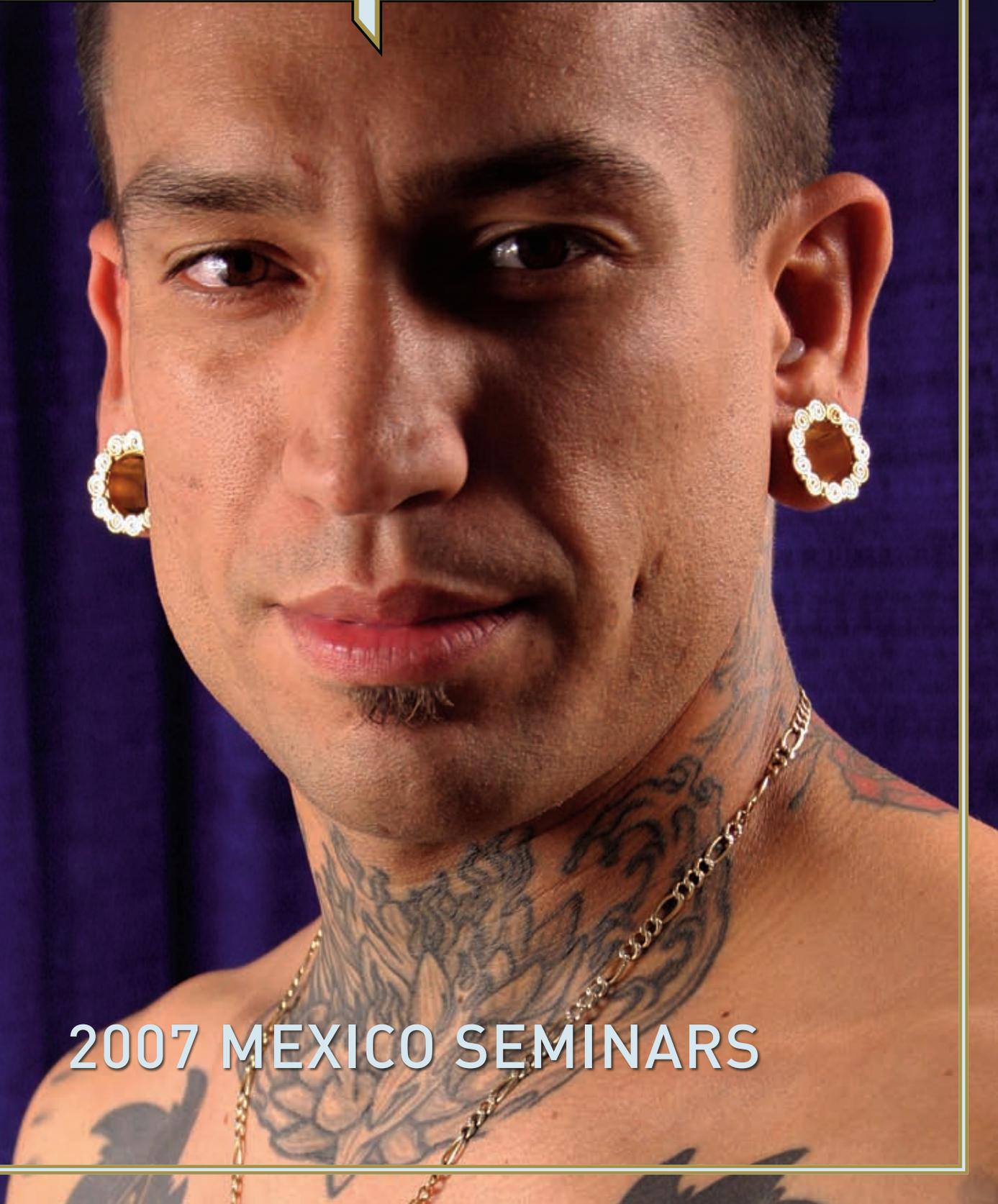


THE POINT

ISSUE 42
WINTER 08

The Quarterly Journal of the Association of Professional Piercers



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FROM THE EDITOR



James Weber
Medical Liaison
Infinite Body Piercing, Inc.
Philadelphia, PA

By the time you receive this issue of *The Point*, the results of the recent elections to fill the vacancies on the APP Board will have been certified. The Board members-elect—who will assume their positions at the close of the 2008 APP Conference—are:

Elayne Angel

Business Member-at large - Yucatan, Mexico

Didier Suarez

Enigma - San Diego, CA

Bethra Szumski

Virtue and Vice - Atlanta, GA

Ed Chavarria

Koi Piercing Studio - Salt Lake City, UT

In addition to these four, I have also had the honor of being elected to a second term. I look forward to being able to serve again on the Board and continue my involvement with APP publications—*The Point* in particular.

As regular readers know, I have a passion for this publication and its role as a forum for different and divergent information and opinions coming out of our industry. If *The Point* is to truly live up to this potential, it is important to include pieces criticizing articles or opinions presented in past issues—in fact, it is crucial to keep the journal vibrant—even if the criticism is leveled at the editorial content and/or me personally.

In *The Point* #41, I closed the issue with an impassioned plea for more writing from our industry, more representation from us in the mainstream media, and more representation in our own media. I stood on my soapbox and lamented the fact there was no good writing coming out of our industry while inviting the readership to help do something about it.

Shortly after this issue went to press I received a rather indignant response; it seems in my sermonizing I had overlooked a book that attempted to fill the very void I was criticizing the existence of. A book that sat on a shelf above my head as I worked on the last issue: *A Brief History of the Evolution of Body Adornment in Western Culture: Ancient Origins and Today* by Blake Perlingieri. Blake wrote to remind me about his book and the work that went into it, and ask that I include his response in this issue.

It seems while Blake has a similar desire to see our industry justly represented, he has done something about it. While, as he will admit, the circulation of his book was not what he hoped, his accomplishment should be commended. I hope to be able to include more of his writings in future issues.

It is with great enthusiasm that I humbly step off my soapbox and turn it over to Blake to close issue #42 of *The Point*: *The Journal of the Association of Professional Piercers*.

Enjoy. **P**

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from Belle Amoroso.*



IN THE OFFICE



Caitlin McDiarmid
APP Administrator

So begins the next transition of the APP Board of Directors. The current board has been through a lot. They lost three out of seven members over three year's time. They have dealt with drama, conflict, death, divorce, and significant illness. Overlooked in all of this have been their accomplishments. These are just some of them:

Upgraded the corporate image through the unification of publication design, an updated logo, new concepts in advertising, professionally printed letterhead, envelopes, etc.

Responded swiftly and eloquently to erroneously claims about piercing in the media, and had their responses published in a number of various publications.

Took *The Point: The Journal of the APP* to a new level of professionalism and beauty, inviting and using writings from many members and non-members.

Presented two VERY successful and loved Conferences—and will do it again in 2008. Expanded the number of classes, the variety of classes and expanded the hours to include evenings—running duplicate sessions of favored courses.

Improved the food at all events, added social events, and additional meetings for specialized groups at Conference.

Set up their own, in-house system for Conference registration.

Updated and beautified membership and seminar certificates.

Took the first steps to put the organization back on track with the by-laws that govern it.

Participated in more outreach in colleges and at health fairs, using members to do presentations in their communities and provide educational materials.

Established a more broad materials policy for outreach, providing free educational materials to hundreds of classes, fairs, presentations, health offices, etc.

Reached out successfully to the dental community through their presence at the annual ADHA (American Dental Health Association) conference, offering a forum in which dental professionals and the APP can have realistic dialogues about oral piercings.

Upheld the APP's annual presence at conferences for APHA (the American Public Health Association), ACHA (the American College Health Association), and will add NEHA (the National Environmental Health Association) to 2008's calendar. At NEHA we will not only have a booth with educational materials but APP members will participate in a panel presentation as a part of one of the education sessions.

Organized and held two APP Seminars in Mexico which reached hundreds of Mexican—and this year South American—piercers.

They did all of this while operating through the normal course of business, maintaining the financial health and well-being of the

organization through some tough times. They did it often with less than a full Board, often in the face of real criticism from inside and outside of the organization.

They will all tell you that I rarely praise—I blame my mother—but as many of this Board's members transition off the Board I have to say: Thank You. Thank you for serving, thank you for serving the APP and its membership well. When all is said and done your accomplishments speak loudly and successfully of a job well done.

I welcome, along with the Board of Directors and the APP membership, the new Board Members-Elect: Elayne Angel, James Weber, Bethra Szumski, Didier Suarez, and Eduardo Chavarria. They will all meet with the current Board of Directors in Lawrence, Kansas in February and take office at the end of Conference 2008. They will then be voting to decide who among them will take the officer positions of President, Treasurer, and Secretary and assign duties and titles to the other directors as indicated in the by-laws.

May god have mercy on their souls. **P**

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AN APPROACH TO GENITAL PIERCINGS



Elayne Angel
Yucatan, Mexico

This is the third in a series of articles written by Elayne Angel on the topic of genital piercings. This article—in addition to parts one and two in previous issues—is taken from her classes taught at the 2007 APP Conference in Las Vegas.

After working for Gauntlet throughout the eighties and early nineties, Elayne opened Rings of Desire in New Orleans in 1993, operating it for over a decade. She now resides in Yucatan, Mexico.

Elayne's innovations in the industry are numerous. She is credited with inventing the Fourchette and Princess Diana piercings, perfecting the Triangle (and performing one for its inventor), and also for coining the term "Lorum." She is also credited with popularizing the tongue piercing. She claims to have performed over 40,000 piercings over her career in the piercing industry.

Due to space constraints this is only a brief introduction to male genital piercings, and clearly does not include everything there is to know about these piercings. It should also be noted that this is one piercer's approach to these piercings, and does not necessarily reflect the views of all piercers.

Some basic information is included to support the education of piercers with a minimum of training or experience.

Male Genital Piercings

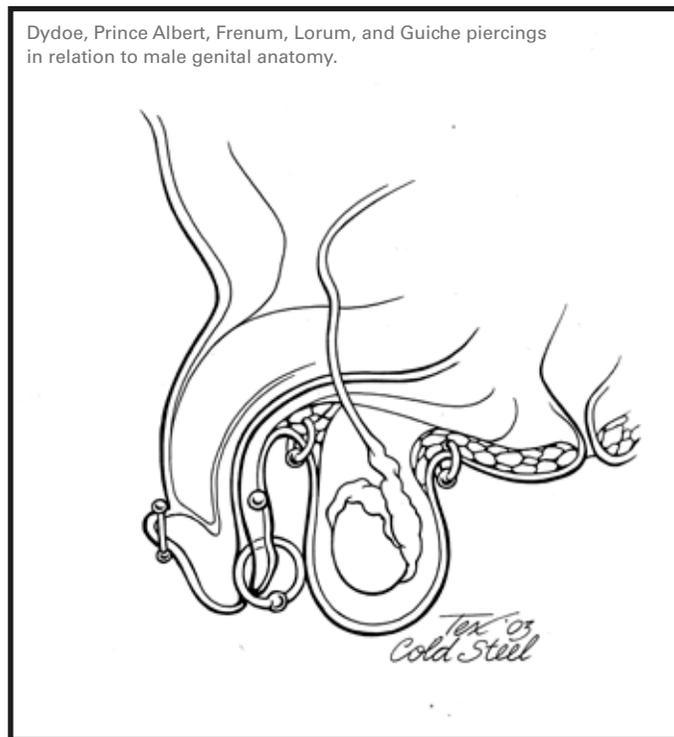
It is common for clients ask their piercer, "Which genital piercing is best for me? But the answer depends on "best" for *what*? Personal perspectives on sensation vary, so you cannot tell a client what *he* will enjoy most—nor can you tell his partner what he or she will prefer. But you can inquire about his ideas and desires, and educate him about the options to assist him in selecting a piercing that appeals to him and suits his predilections. Some examples:

- For the fastest healing: Prince Albert
- For jewelry a partner will feel most during penetration: ampallang or apadravya (though this is not good for couples with a "snugger than usual" fit)
- For a genital piercing that is not involved in penetration: pubic, lorum, scrotum, or guiche

- For clitoral stimulation: pubic piercing with ring. (A textured bead can help)
- For visibility: upper frenum or pubic, (if he is suited with pliable tissue), or scrotum (side or bottom placement)

Then there are individual preferences of partners too: for example, some women will enjoy upper frenum "speed bumps" but others will find them to be too intense; some partners will feel a PA and others won't even notice it.

For infibulation (chastity) some connect healed piercings: PA and guiche, or frenum and guiche, or double foreskin. But, anything that pulls much over time can migrate...



Dydoe, Prince Albert, Frenum, Lorum, and Guiche piercings in relation to male genital anatomy.

A Subject to Bring Up: Erections

"Intimate" piercing is a professional service transaction that necessitates the handling of the client's genitals. An erection during the course of cleaning, marking, and piercing the area is perfectly normal (for the *client*)—even if he is "straight" and you're a male piercer. Focus on the practical aspect of the situation: an erection can help you obtain an accurate measurement for optimal jewelry size for certain piercings. So grab the calipers and make the most of a "hard situation."

Remember, you're engaged in a professional relationship—not a personal one; if he gets an erection (or doesn't get one)—get over it! Whether my client comments that his penis usually looks larger *or* expresses embarrassment or pride over an erection, my standard reply is, "Oh, that's not important, since we're not on a date. I'm just going to pierce you today." This seems to help put things in perspective.

The only negative consequence (other than to those with delicate sensibilities) is that an erection can cause excess bleeding if it occurs during or after the procedure. If a client is still hard by the time I am ready to perform the piercing, I usually suggest a minute or two of concentrating on baseball or other uninspiring

It is common for clients to ask their piercer, “Which genital piercing is best for me?” But the answer depends on “best” for *what?*

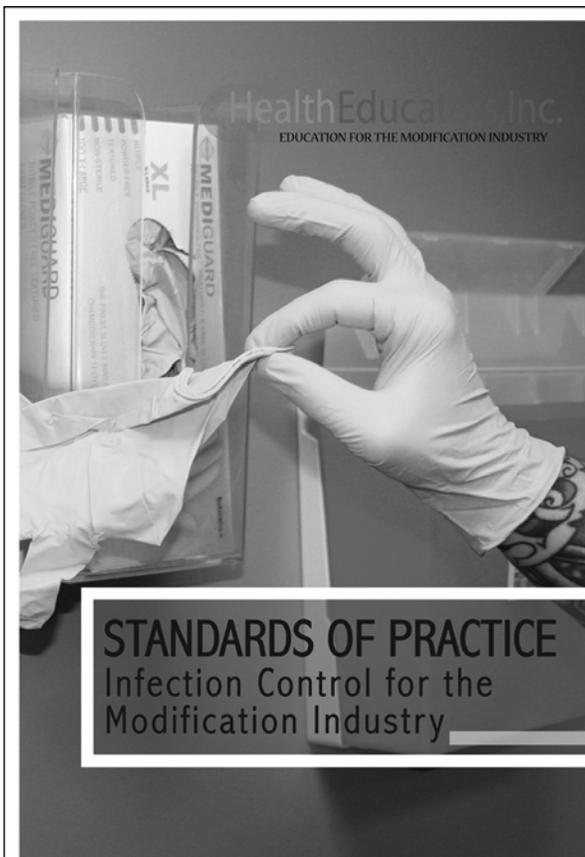
topics to see if that helps to diminish his rigidity.

Jewelry size for some male genital piercings (PA, frenum, scrotum) can be successfully estimated by pulling the tissue—and no erection is required—but an accurate measurement is important for other areas such as the ampallang, apadravya, and dydoe. Squeezing quite firmly behind the head will sometimes mechanically force enough blood into the glans to simulate the maximum dimension, but you should never “guess” as to a client’s erect penis size if you have only seen it flaccid, nor is it your job to help him get an erection. If it doesn’t happen during the cleaning and marking phases, and if you do not step out to have him try to get his own erect measurement, you will need to ask your client for input. Emphasize the need to estimate for accuracy, rather than to impress. Jewelry that is too large can be quite uncomfortable and also hinder healing.

During the initial healing period, erections can cause discomfort, especially if there is any blood or secretion on the jewelry. A glass of ice water by the bedside can help him to quickly douse any “fires.”

Bleeding

Genitals are vascular; they often swell, bruise, and/or bleed when pierced. Prepare your client by explaining what he can expect



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before you pierce him. Warn him that his PA, apadravya, or ampallang piercing may flow off and on for several days. Have supplies ready to handle the mess following the procedure, and apply pressure for several minutes using clean or sterile absorbent materials. I usually insist on wrapping genital piercings, even if there is no apparent bleeding at first. It will often start once the piercee stands or moves. To bolster clotting ability, a client can take Vitamin K supplements according to package instructions for two weeks prior to piercing. Refraining from taking aspirin and NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatories—like ibuprofen) can also help.

An easy bandage that all piercers have on hand is . . . a glove. It can be used to protect any piercing on the head or shaft area. I wrap sterile gauze around the piercing and sometimes add a tissue around that for extra absorbent padding. I double-glove one hand, and while holding the penis and the wrapping in place with it, ease off the outer glove. It turns itself inside out and stays on the penis. I secure it in place with a rubber band that is snug but not *too* tight. I also send heavy bleeders home with some extra gauze, gloves, and rubber bands with the instructions to change the bandage when it is full or they need to urinate. It is safest to keep wrapped as long as there are signs of bleeding, even if it is only intermittent. Before departing from the studio I have the good bleeders apply a cold pack on top of their bandage for ten minutes, and I provide another one “to go.”

To provide a clean surface that is padded and absorbent during healing, sanitary pads or liners can be worn in strategic locations inside briefs opposite piercings from pubic to guiche. (Most men don't have previous personal experience with them, so make sure they know the sticky side goes against their drawers.) Wearing clean underwear daily is hygienic and adds an extra layer of protection. Snug, supportive styles are generally most comfortable because they prevent excess movement of the jewelry (and they help to hold pads in place, too).

Bathroom Business

Remind your client to wash his hands *before* visiting the toilet when he has a new genital piercing. A healthy man's own urine will not harm his healing piercing; it is essentially a natural saline treatment. Drinking lots of water helps reduce the acidity and stinging sensations of urine on the fresh wound. Piercees can pour cool water over the area during urination, or submerge in a clean vessel and go under water to diminish discomfort.

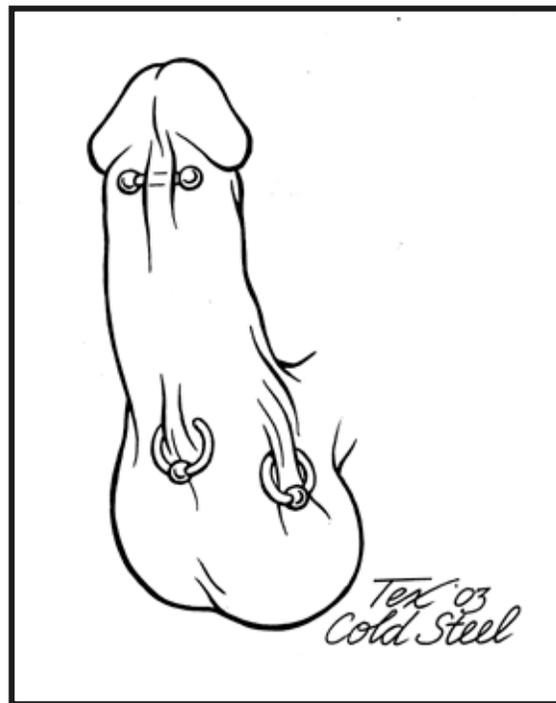
Safer Sex

Abstinence is not required but *safe, gentle* sex using barrier protection is mandatory during the *entire* initial healing period. To prevent sharing bodily fluids during sexual activities, waterproof bandages can cover genital piercings that don't fit within a condom, such as pubic, lorum, and scrotum placements.

Caution clients to be vigilant against “catching” accidents whenever you see they may be likely or possible—depending on each partner's piercing(s) and jewelry style(s).

Prince Albert (PA)

While the Prince Albert piercing is prominent in the history of modern body modification, Queen Victoria's consort (Prince Albert, himself) did *not* actually have one. Because the PA passes through urethra, which runs along the bottom of the penis, most PA's pierce through tissue so thin you can usually see through it. A small percentage of men have thicker tissue here, and their piercings often do take longer to heal than the brief four to six week average healing time.



PA PLACEMENT

If the midline is flat, you can mark there—when no blood vessels are visible on careful inspection. If the tissue is webbed, then usually you must pick a side. Check for vascularity of course, and alignment with the urethra to help you decide which side to pierce. On occasion, when the web is short enough, you may still be able to pierce on the midline, past the webbed area (further down the shaft). Watch the distance from edge of the urethra to maintain a reasonable jewelry diameter.

Some men have “high” urethras, and others “low.” For Prince Albert placement, this distance—from edge of the urethra to the piercing—is more relevant than overall penis size. Make sure there is a minimum of 1/2” of tissue between the lower edge of the urethra and the mark for the piercing when the penis is

flaccid. Ask if he has plans to stretch to very large sizes, and if so mark the placement a minimum of 5/8” from edge of urethra. If necessary, you can safely cheat the placement down the shaft a bit, especially if his urethra is “low.”

PA's can be performed on uncircumcised men if the tissue easily retracts fully enough to place the piercing properly, and isn't too tight to accommodate the jewelry comfortably when the foreskin is hanging down. A curved bar is usually better in this case, especially for those with a greater size differential when erect. Never insert jewelry in any piercing to prevent the

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foreskin from resting in its natural position; serious consequences can result. (Paraphimosis is the condition when the foreskin becomes trapped behind the glans. There is a painful fluid build up, and if left untreated infection can set in and tissue necrosis can occur.)

PA JEWELRY

A man can grow no larger than his skin will stretch, so by pulling the tissue taut—as it will be during erection—you can get a sound measurement for the required jewelry diameter. For initial jewelry, 10 gauge is most popular. (Many piercers start with thicker sizes, but I've found PA's are commonly so easy to stretch that this doesn't really seem necessary or desirable, due to excessive bleeding.) A 5/8" jewelry diameter usually fits the 1/2" flaccid tissue measurement. You don't need much extra clearance on PA jewelry because the pierced tissue takes up such a small amount of space. Curved bars are fine when the ball is big enough to avoid slipping into the urethra, which most men find uncomfortable. I often suggest circular barbells because they offer "customizability" of diameter, and you can spread them to a "C" or "U" shape for comfort. This style gives sufficient room without being overly large around. Depending on how wide you make the gap, you may be able to add a bead to the center to make a "captive circular barbell," which helps prevent catching accidents with a partner who wears rings in body piercings.

PA PROCEDURE

Select a tube that is as thin as possible for your client's comfort. Be sure the needle fits inside it, and be confident that you can pierce into it when it is inside a urethra. I often use tubes with the end angled at 45°, but it is important to insert them facing the right direction if they are to help rather than hinder.

Warm the tube by rolling it between your gloved hands, and then apply lots of lube to the business end of it. Be careful to keep the slippery stuff on the tip of the tube and the piercing needle ("PN"), and not on your fingers. Focus on keeping the tube in place for a minimum period of time, as this has a great affect your client's comfort. To make the process as fast as possible, I use what I call a "cigarette hold" to safely keep my PN in my piercing hand while I insert the receiving tube into the urethra, so I am ready to pierce as soon as the tube is in place.

Spread the urinary meatus (opening of the urethra) to ease insertion of the lubricated tube, and introduce it in one smooth motion. I slightly overshoot my mark and ease the tube back into the desired position under the dot to prevent any folds in the interior tissue. A three-finger grasp on the receiving tube is very secure and accurate: I hold the tube from the outside (through the tissue) with my index finger and thumb. The pinkie of my piercing hand makes the third support around the tube. (*see right*)

Using this firm hold, swiftly pierce through the mark and into the tube and then immediately remove the tube from the urethra. Don't let go of the piercing needle until the tube has been taken out to avoid accidentally pulling the needle through.

Hypospadias is a relatively common condition (approximately one in 200 male births) in which the urethra is not in its usual position. It can be anywhere along the underside of the penis, and in its mild form, the opening to the urethra is in the spot usually occupied by the PA piercing. If the condition is not severe, a PA may be possible by shifting placement further down shaft.

A *dolphin piercing* is a second PA further down the shaft, with jewelry that spans from one to the other, disappearing inside the urethra in between. It is much more comfortable and safer to start with flexible jewelry such as Tygon, and initially bring it out the tip of the urethra—as though it were simply a low Prince Albert. Thread jewelry through the two PA holes *after* healing. Some men never find metal jewelry comfortable due to their size difference between flaccid and erect states.

For shaft placement—whether due to Hypospadias or for a dolphin piercing—the tissue you pierce is no thicker than in the traditional placement; it is simply further from end of penis. Mark using the same distances: a *minimum* of 1/2" of tissue in the piercing when the penis is flaccid, and use a tube that is long enough to accommodate the distance down the shaft.



Pubic Piercing

This genital piercing is not on the penis and therefore it is not involved in penetration. A pubic piercing is mostly visual for the wearer—however, when a ring is worn, it can be quite functional for a female partner during missionary-position sex. The true pubic piercing is placed *within* the natural fold line at the juncture of the shaft and the body. When it is positioned any higher it becomes surface piercing that is significantly harder to heal; any lower, and it becomes a frenum piercing on the shaft.

The pubic piercing *must* encompass a sufficient width of tissue for success, and it does need to be wider than most other body piercings. It must also go in candidates with reasonably pliable tissue, or there is a strong tendency for rejection. When these principles are followed, pubic piercings have an excellent success rate.

PUBIC PIERCING JEWELRY

A 10 gauge minimum is suggested for this area. I use a 7/8” diameter ring or a 3/4” curved bar post, and encompass close to 3/4” width of tissue. The curved bar is apt to get less friction and stress, so it is generally more comfortable and safer for healing. It is also good for active piercees, but watch the ball size. If the balls are too small they can be come embedded, and if they are too large they can cause pressure against the tissue, leading

to migration. For stimulation of a partner’s clitoris, ring-style jewelry is clearly superior. The three balls on a captive circular barbell offer the most “opportunities” for pleasurable contact with a female partner during sexual activities.

[Editor’s Note: Many piercers use surface bars for pubic piercings as well but, as Elayne mentions, this is usually done when the placement is higher above the fold. This jewelry choice also tends to bring less stimulation to the partner (or partners).]

PUBIC PIERCING PLACEMENT

Make sure the tissue can be pinched up relatively easily, and simply raise the penis to locate the natural fold. It is helpful if the client has trimmed or shaved, but if he has not, you will need to depilate the area, at least with scissors. Marking a visual midline is helpful in this often-featureless area. Center the piercing within the anatomy. Check proposed marks with the client standing because they sometimes shift considerably between seated and standing positions.

Other piercings including ampallang, apadravya, reverse Prince Albert, foreskin, dydoe, frenum, lorum, and guiche will be discussed in upcoming articles. P



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APP IN MEXICO: AN EXPLOSION OF INFORMATION FOR THE PROFESSIONAL PIERCER



Danny Yerna
International Outreach Coordinator
Wakantanka, Mexico City

September 24th to 27th, and for the second year in a row, the APP held educational body piercing seminars in Mexico City. The success of the 2006 seminars was the starting point for the organization of this year's **"Seminarios Educativos: APP en Mexico."** The location was the same as last year—the Hotel Plaza Florencia. (The manager is great. We can say that the hotel is home now.) These seminars were completely focused on body piercings—four days of learning, sharing experiences and some parties.

This year we moved the dates from February to September as to not interfere with the organization of the main APP conference in Las Vegas. We plan to hold these seminars every September.

In this edition we had a few setbacks—some a little bigger than others. Although they were all resolved, the initial plans changed

...the interest is not only focused on piercers from big cities as Mexico City, Guadalajara or Monterrey, but in the whole country.

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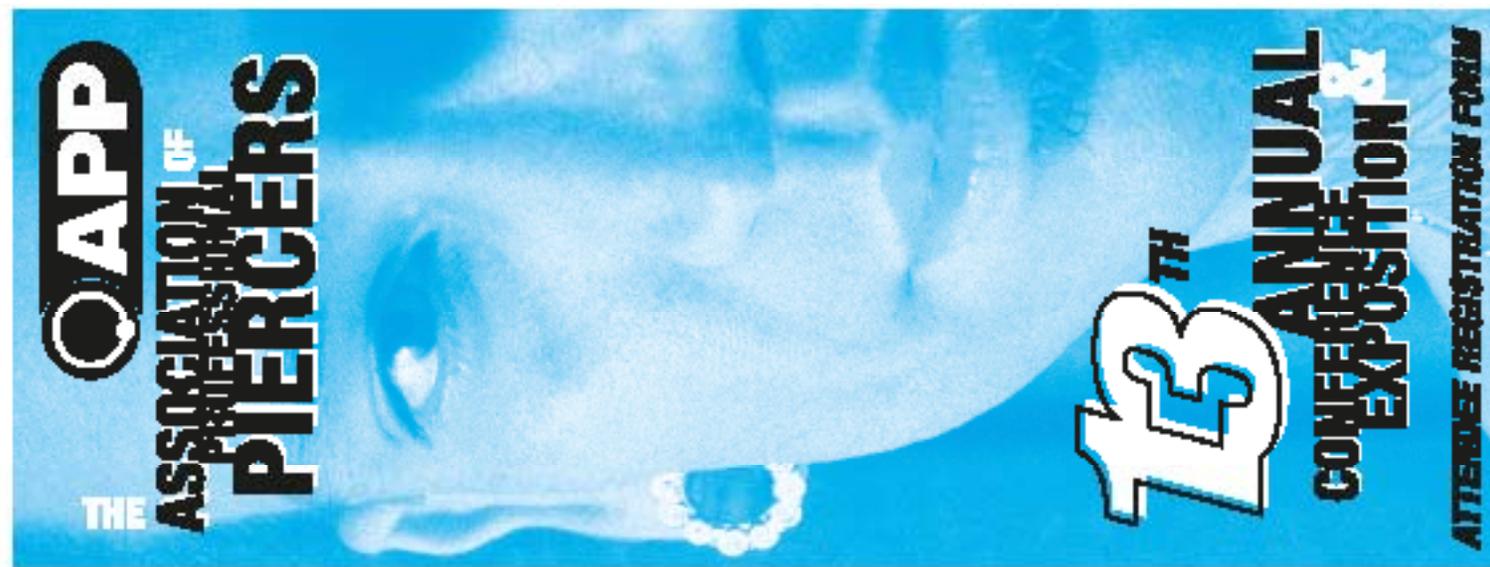
Signature for CC: _____

Address of Cardholder: _____

CHECKS: Make payable to APP

Do you need English-Spanish Translation? _____

I am a Health Inspector for: _____



APP
 THE ASSOCIATION OF
 PROFESSIONAL
 PIERCERS

13TH
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
&
EXPOSITION
ATTENDEE REGISTRATION FORM

CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

The Association of Professional Piercers would like to invite you to attend our 13th Annual Conference and Exposition in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Riviera welcomes us back for a 6th year. The Riviera Hotel is centrally located in the heart of the Strip, which allows all of the attendees a few minutes walk to all of Las Vegas's attractions. The Exposition is the only one of its kind in this country. There is nowhere else you will see so much great jewelry, products, and body piercing related services all in one spot. We expect our Vendors to donate generously to our Raffle – in past years, total value of prizes has exceeded \$60,000, with more than 200 individual prizes donated. Social events include an Opening Party, a Banquet Dinner, Yoga, and more...

Each year, the Board of Directors works hard to design the most current and updated class curriculum for both new attendees and long time attendees. 2008 is no different with new classes & roundtables, as well as refreshed core classes. We welcome returning and new instructors, including (but not limited to) Elayne Angel, Tom Brazda, Raelyn Gallina, David Vidra, Betsy Reynolds, and many more. Come join us and all the professional piercers at our 13th Annual Conference!

HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR!

- **2 Members Only classes**
- **Genital and Single Point piercing classes for non-members**
- **Glass, Wood, and Precious Metals classes**
- **Night class options**
- **Bigger discounts for members**
- **Exclusive early Expo access for members!**

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Everyone! New Piercers, Experienced Piercers, International Piercers, Apprentices, Counter People, Studio Owners, Health Inspectors, Legislators, Researchers, Retailers, Wholesalers, Manufacturers... (restrictions apply to the Exposition, see below)

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES!

If you are an APP member, you get even more this year at Conference. Two Members Only classes. \$100.00 off your full attendance fees. Early access to the Expo before non-member Attendees. If you are not yet a member, this is the time to join! Applications must be submitted and be complete by March 1st in order to guarantee processing by Conference.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

What kind of classes will Attendees find at the APP Conference this year?

We offer up a similar number of classes and roundtables in 2008 as we did in 2007; a thirty percent increase over 2006. The APP has attempted to provide ample course selections for both the new attendee and our returning piercers. All are welcome to attend any classes, with the exception of the designated Members Only courses. In addition to many new classes, this year we are pleased to offer non-members a Male Genital Piercing class taught by Elayne Angel, based on the well received 2007 Female Genital Piercing class. We also welcome Tom Brazda, and Raelyn Gallina who will be joining us in 2008. Additional classes will be offered again in the evening hours as this option was well received by attendees.

There are so many classes offered, how can I take them all?

You can't in a single year. The APP encourages studios to send multiple representatives to maximize the number of classes and amount of education a single studio can obtain. This year the APP will offer additional class offerings in the evenings, allowing everyone more opportunities to take their favorite classes. Remember, we have many piercers who attend this Conference every year and we try to offer enough variety for everyone to have a unique experience each time they attend Conference.

What are Roundtable Discussions?

The APP believes that much of the education at Conference takes place from peer to peer. In keeping with that belief we encourage you to find time to participate in these more casual, information sharing discussions, mediated by expert piercers and/or professionals. There is no charge to attend these discussions. An attendee/vendor badge, however, must be shown in order to attend.

Expected topics:

- Gender Issues in the Workplace
- Legislation for Piercers and Health Inspectors
- Being a Professional vs. Rockstar
- Being a Pierced Parent
- Apprenticeships
- Investigating New Techniques
- Life Outside of Piercing

EXPOSITION

What is the Exposition?

This is the largest gathering of piercing related vendors in the world. Manufacturers often utilize this event to present innovative and new products/services to the piercing community. This is the venue in which you as a piercer can meet your vendors and manufacturers face to face, and see their products up close before buying. A vendor's presence at the Expo does not constitute APP endorsement. The APP encourages all Attendees to shop responsibly.

What is the APP doing about vendors selling products/jewelry which don't meet APP guidelines/standards?

While the APP encourages vendors to attend who meet or exceed our suggested jewelry standards, the APP does not and cannot screen any or all of the vendor's entire product line. The APP has struggled with this issue for years. Overwhelmingly the majority of our attendees and vendors like the open floor policy of the Exposition. The APP requests all its attending vendors to select products or services that comply with the APP standards and mission for display and sale on the Expo floor. Please review all products thoughtfully and remember that, in many cases, the Conference and Expo are a learning experience for vendors as well.

How much does it cost to attend the Expo? Can anyone attend the Expo?

If an attendee pays for the full conference package price, admission to the Expo for all four days is included in their fees. Daily fees vary, please see the registration form for details. Admission to the Expo is restricted to those affiliated with the industry as it is considered to be a trade show floor. These restrictions protect our vendors, who are selling to retailers at wholesale prices. Attendees who purchase an Expo pass will be asked to show proof of industry affiliation (business license, business card with name, other documentation). The APP will refuse entry to this event without proof of industry affiliation.

CONEXPO & ANTICTION

PAYMENT

What does Full Conference or “the package” mean? What are the advantages of paying this way?

Full Conference or buying “the package” means that you receive an Attendee Badge which allows you into any of the classes (Members Only restrictions apply) and into the Expo Hall for all four days. For anyone attending the Conference for more than two days, or taking more than 7 classes it will probably cost less for you to pay for this option. In addition, the first 200 full Conference registrants will receive a special perk!

I can only attend the Conference for a limited amount of time, or I have limited funds...can I pay less?

Absolutely! The APP offers the option to pay on a per class basis. See the class listing for the individual class prices. Be careful when selecting classes this way so that you don't sign up for classes which are scheduled at the same time. The Class Schedule will be available at a later date.

I am a Health Inspector, can I attend the Conference? How much does it cost me?

Yes, and for the 4th year in a row the APP invites Health Inspectors to attend the Conference free of charge. In order to enhance your experience, we are offering a class on Studio Inspection and a roundtable on Legislation, designed to get piercers and Health Inspectors working together on this issue. The only requirement for this offer is that the person(s) attending reserves and stays in a room in the host hotel within the APP room block. Book early to get your room. If you need documentation confirming this offer, contact info@safepiercing.org or 888-888-1277.

How can I register? How can I pay?

Registration can be done on-line through a portal at www.safepiercing.org. Full Conference registration will open first. Once the schedule of classes is available in January/February we will begin to accept registrations for individual classes on-line and in the mail. Mail in or Fax (with a credit card) registration is possible using the enclosed form. Checks should be made payable to the Association of Professional Piercers or APP. We accept Mastercard and Visa only.

DEADLINES, DISCOUNTS & CANCELLATIONS

Online registration:

March 31st at Midnight
(Online registration will close at that time)

Mail-in registration:

Registrations must be received by April 11th

***Any Attendees not registered by the above dates, will need to register onsite at the Riviera.**

I am easily stressed. Can you help me?

The APP encourages all participants to take care of themselves during Conference. Due to long hours and the excitement of the event, many attendees find themselves overwhelmed. Daily morning Yoga classes are free to all attendees. The Friends of Bill W. have meetings during the week. The staff and volunteers at Conference are available should you need assistance in finding emotional support, medical care, or a quiet place to rest – please let us help.

HOUSING

Where can I stay? Do we get a reduced rate at the host hotel?

The Riviera is our host hotel, and the APP block of rooms for attendees of the Conference. When making your reservation, request rates for The Association of Professional Piercers. Our classroom spaces are provided based on room occupancy, this means that filling our room block allows the APP to keep prices low for Conference fees. Please support our Conference by staying at the Riv! If you plan to stay at the hotel the weekend before or after conference book as soon as possible, weekend rates are subject to availability.

Single or double per night rates: Coming Soon!

Standard Room	\$ 91.00
Petite Suite	\$ 175.00
One-Bedroom Deluxe Suite	\$ 300.00
Two-Bedroom Deluxe Suite	\$ 400.00
One-Bedroom Penthouse Suite	\$ 550.00
Two-Bedroom Penthouse Suite	\$ 700.00

Call 1-800-634-6753 to reach the Riviera or reach the online reservations at www.rivierahotel.com

CONFERENCE REGULATIONS & RESTRICTIONS

Can I get pierced at the Conference or do piercings in my hotel room?

Absolutely not! To maintain space in our host hotel and comply with insurance requirements, absolutely no piercing, scarification, branding or implants; or any other form of body modification from hotel rooms will be tolerated. Any APP members participating in these types of activities risk losing their membership. Any member or non-member risks expulsion from the hotel and/or Conference. This type of behavior contradicts everything the APP represents and promotes in its educational outreach and mission.

Smoking Policy: Important News!

The Riviera Hotel and Casino in accordance with the Clear Air Act now prohibits smoking in all public spaces except for the casino proper, bars in the casino area, and designated outdoor smoking areas by the pool. No smoking is allowed in any of the Convention areas, or any of the corridors, lobbies, restaurants, special meeting rooms in the Hotel. The APP supports this change and encourages all attendees to comply with the new regulations.

Prior to April 1, 2008, the Association will refund 50% of the registration price. After March 31, 2008, the attendee forfeits the entire amount paid.

APP members in good standing will receive \$100.00 off the full conference package price.

International attendees receive \$50.00 off the full conference package price.

Attendees of the 2008 Mexico Seminars receive \$50.00 off any registration fees.

Vendors receive one free class per company registration, but must register for this class.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Hablo español. ¿Me puede ayudar usted?

El APP anuncia felizmente que estará proporcionando a intérpretes españoles profesionales otra vez para el español que habla a asistentes. Por favor contacto international@safepiercing.org o intoutreach@safepiercing.org si usted necesitará los servicios que interpretan.

The APP happily announces that it will be providing professional Spanish interpreters again for the Spanish speaking attendees. Please contact international@safepiercing.org o intoutreach@safepiercing.org if you will need interpreting services.

I have a disability. Can you help me?

The APP wants Conference to be a great experience for all its Attendees. If you have a need for special services or concerns about access etc. please do not hesitate to contact us. 1-888-888-1277 or 785-841-6060 or info@safepiercing.org

I have no money. Can you help me?

The APP has a limited number of scholarships available. Before he passed away in February of 2001, Al D. Sowers devoted much of his piercing career to the education of piercers. It is only fitting that this scholarship be named for him. This is funding for four to six piercers in need of financial assistance to attend the APP conference. Accommodations and Conference registration are included in the Scholarship. Scholarship recipients are expected to share a room with other recipients and work more than 30 hours during the Conference. In addition, they must provide their own transportation to and from the conference. Applications can be obtained by calling or emailing info@safepiercing.org. Applications must be submitted January 1-January 31, 2008. Scholarship recipients will be notified no later than March 1st.

EVENTS

Sunday Night "Meet and Greet" for Staff (Open to Members, Vendors, & Volunteers)

A casual event for those working the Conference to get to know each other. Game Show competition, Food, and a Cash Bar provided.

Opening Party: Details Pending—

Please join us on Monday evening for the opening social event of the Conference. Food and a Cash Bar provided.

Banquet Dinner: Saddle up yer pony, and put on your pointy boots!

The banquet dinner and party in 2008 has a Country and Western Theme – dress accordingly! Dinner will be served buffet style (with vegan options). Be prepared to be entertained, dance, and mingle! The Conference's awards presentation, open meeting, and top prize raffle selection will be held after 10pm, and the hall will open to non-ticket holders at that time. During the meeting, members of the board who are departing will say their goodbyes, and incoming directors will introduce themselves.

Movie Night

More details to come...

Raffle

Want the chance to win thousands of dollars worth of goods and services? The APP raffle continues to be the best gamble in Vegas. The APP can never thank its Vendors enough for their continued generosity with raffle donations. This fundraiser for the APP continues to sustain the organization in a huge way. Tickets are \$2.00 a piece. Tickets are now available for purchase online at the time of your registration or can be purchased at the Registration Desk or APP Booth. Tickets purchased online will be picked up with your badge.

Yoga - Available daily to all attendees free of charge.

Members Annual Meeting

Open to APP Members only. Members who attend will receive a special gift!

International Attendees Meeting

Open to all international attendees and those interested in international issues.

Vendors Annual Meeting

Open to Vendors only. The APP requests that all Vendors attend this informative meeting and open discussion with representatives of the APP Board of Directors.

GENERAL SCHEDULE

A specific schedule of classes and events will be posted on the website(s) in January/February 2008. Evening classes will be offered in 2008.

Onsite registration/check in: Sunday April 20th 6pm-9pm

All attendees must check in before attending classes. Check in is also available every morning before classes begin.

Expo, Classes & Roundtables

- Monday April 21th : Classes/Roundtables - Expo not open yet
- Tuesday April 22nd 10-2pm Classes/Roundtables; 2-4pm Members Only/Expo Access; 2-4pm Non-member Classes; 4-8pm Expo open to all attendees/No classes held
- Wednesday April 23rd: Classes/Roundtables/Expo open
- Thursday April 24th: Classes/Roundtables/Expo open
- Friday April 25th: Classes/Expo open

Opening Party

Monday April 21st 8pm-midnight

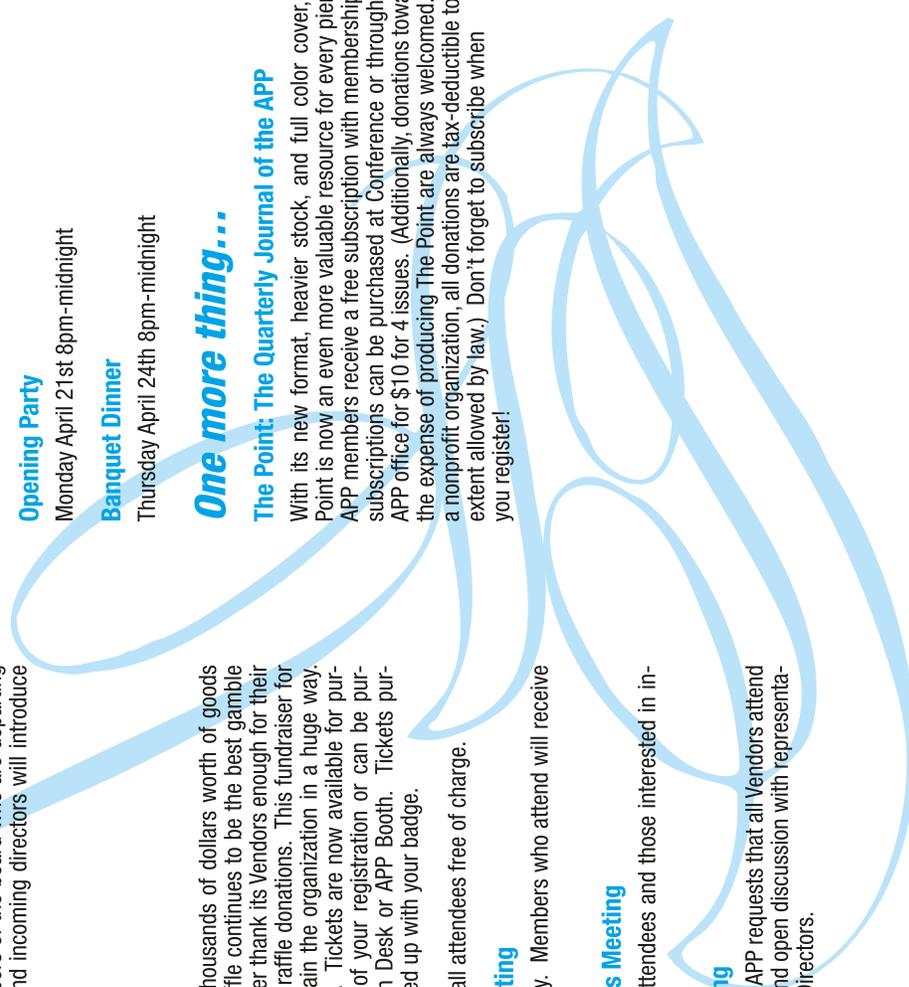
Banquet Dinner

Thursday April 24th 8pm-midnight

One more thing...

The Point: The Quarterly Journal of the APP

With its new format, heavier stock, and full color cover, the Point is now an even more valuable resource for every piercer. APP members receive a free subscription with membership, or subscriptions can be purchased at Conference or through the APP office for \$10 for 4 issues. (Additionally, donations towards the expense of producing The Point are always welcomed. As a nonprofit organization, all donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.) Don't forget to subscribe when you register!



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Part of the classroom; the attendees showed a lot of interest in the classes.

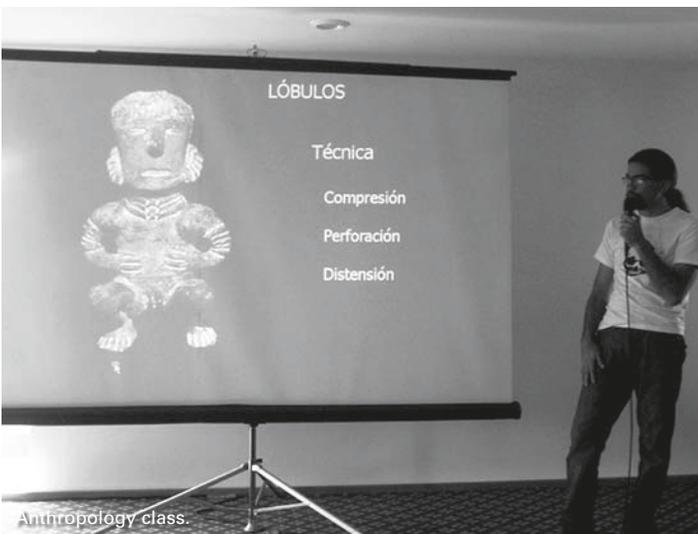


Dante, talking about discrimination against members of our industry.



James Maldonado
Twisted Sol
Denver, Colorado

This was my second time teaching for the APP in Mexico City, and just like last time it was amazing. I taught Aseptic Technique, Studio Set-Up, and mediated a roundtable discussion on aftercare. I especially enjoyed the round table discussion—I was excited to learn about what was being used and why, and learn what is being suggested for aftercare was not so very different from what we suggest here in the states. I am always excited to come to Mexico City to share information with other piercers. This is important for the growth for our industry and our community. Thanks to all the people who attended and made APP Mexico possible.



Anthropology class.



Cranial deformation in ancient Mexico.

on several occasions: Paul Espinoza and Luis Garcia, both APP members and fluent Spanish speaking teachers were scheduled to teach some classes but had to cancel, so we had to reorganize these classes; Leticia Mejia from Toluca, who now is a member of the Association (Congratulations!) had some family problems and had to cancel here participation in the roundtable that she was going to run; and Professor Josefina Baustista, curator of the Anthropology Museum of Mexico City, had an emergency and had two of here assistants join us to teach the Anthropology class— it turned out well, although the presence of Josefina is hard to surpass. All this chaos, the cancellations, and the late arrival of the handouts meant

This year half of the attendees came back for the second year, while the other half were newcomers.

that on several occasions I was close to canceling the whole event. But when we started and all felt the vibes from some of the piercers, we decided to give a little extra punch and moved on. The result was four days with an explosion of information for piercers from around the country—and even some that crossed the border. Yes, this year we had a piercer from Spain and two from Costa Rica, as well as the growing group from Mexico. We had piercers from 25 different states attending, which speaks well of the seminars and shows that the interest is not only focused on piercers from big cities as Mexico City, Guadalajara or Monterrey, but in the whole country. There are piercers all through South America trying to keep themselves informed and up-to-date so they can do a better job on their clients. This year half of the attendees came back for the second year, while the other half were newcomers.

The first day—with registration—was craziness. To try to be more organized, we told people to be there at 8 am to start the show at 10 am as planned. The surprise was that most were there at 8 am, despite the traffic and the early schedule.

On Monday we started the event with **Orientation** about the APP, some rules about the hotel and presented to the attendees the goals that we hope to achieve as an association. After this, the first class was **Legislation**, about the setbacks in Mexico [See The Point #41 – ed.], then Luis Garcia was scheduled to teach **Surface Piercing**, but because his cancellation APP President Alicia Cardenas took over that class with the great help of Ana Paula

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM INSURANCE BROKERAGE

COVERAGES

- Body Piercing
- Minor Piercing
- Tattoo Shops
- Guest Artists/Piercers
- Permanent Cosmetics
- Laser Tattoo Removal
- Pigment Lightening
- Pigment Removal
- Apprenticeship
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- Medi-Spa

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Charly and Flor also helped to make the seminars a success.



Hands-on teaching in the First Aid class.



Escalante. Many of the attendees from last year's seminar wanted to hear Alicia, so this class had a great attendance, as well as the **Ear Projects** class that Alicia gave later that day. The same day Ed Chavarria gave his first class in Spanish—**Initial Piercing Jewelry**. That night we had a reunion en **Bar iU**, to relax and keep on talking about what we like most: Body Piercing.

Tuesday we started with **Female Genital Piercings** and **Medical Risk**. In the afternoon, Dr. Julio Enriquez arrived for his **Anatomy** class that was followed by James Maldonado's **Studio Set-Up**. The participation of the attendees was amazing. To finish the day we all went to **Café Bizarro**.

Ana Paula started out Wednesday with **Customer Service**, James took over afterwards with **Aseptic Techniques**, and we again invited Dr. Ibarra to teach **Facial Anatomy**, finishing with the Anthropology class in the afternoon. With this class, the APP program was complete, but for those that wanted to stay an extra day we prepared **First Aids** and **CPR** classes. Medical instructors from the educational group **Capacitacion Hospitalaria** taught these.

This year we had four days of teaching, 12 classes, an extra day with First Aid and CPR, and six round tables with a lot of

...everything went smoothly, most comments were positive—and it will all be better next year.

participation on a variety of topics such as **Basic Aftercare**, **Piercing Minors**, **Clamps vs. Freehand**, **Stretching**, **Scars** and **Discrimination** in our Industry. (This last class was prepared by Dante Salome, who had some amazing support and gifts from the commission of Human Rights.)

During the seminars we also had gifts for the attendees: the APP Manual; the Pucket Festival DVD's; pens; brochures and other items. Two different APP Spanish Aftercare brochures were also available for those who were interested.

Despite all the unpredictable setbacks before the seminars, we believe that everything went smoothly, most comments were positive—and it will all be better next year. So put a mark on the calendar for next years event—from September 17th through 20th—for the 2008 Mexico Seminars. We are already preparing for that one with new ideas, more classes, and a different dynamic to be always on the forefront of education.

I would like to say a big "Thank You" to all the people involved in making this happen—the attendees, the speakers, the volunteers, the hotel staff, and of course the APP.

¡Nos vemos el proximo año! P



In Mexico, the increase in the number of women in the piercing industry is noticeable.



Ana Paula Escalante
 Tonatiuh Cuerpo Adornado
 & Quetzalli Jewelry
 Mexico City

We come from a land where stretched ears went far... Where jewelry was filled with beauty and meaning, plugs so thin and delicate that you could see through the stone, to inlaid and impressive... Labrets so fine and perfect in shape, made with quartz, obsidian and some even with gold eagles that would guide words to a higher flight. Septums to open up our paths between the physical and the spiritual...

Though not only that...bloodletting as a way to show what we have inside. Through love and respect we opened up...to be able to find who we truly are. Sacrifices done with passion and the belief that cleansing and shedding will guide us to better understanding of ourselves and with the world around us.

Teeth modification, deep symbolism with such striking beauty... With gold teeth and delicately crafted windows in shapes that show a little of the inner self with just a smile...

So much that can be said about tradition and beauty holding each other as a pillar of communication and ways of living...

As we walk around through Mexico we can see and touch this, just by being here...it speaks through people around us, still with their gold teeth, stretched ears popping up as wonderful stars shining...we go downtown and we have pyramids and amazing pieces of our history...and on the street we see faces that take us back to where the oral tradition of our people still lives... Walking through markets there is no denying the mark of ancient ways of living...we can taste it in the food and we can hold it as we touch and play with our hairless dogs...

Here, tradition and culture are part of our everyday life. Even being in this massive city, in the regular coming and

going we get to see the signs of what was, fighting with strong roots through concrete roads, and new buildings there is no denying what lays underneath and more so deep inside our hearts...

This is what comes to my mind as I sit here and reflect on how...thanks to the work of some and the desire and passion of so many more...we had for the second year an APP conference in Mexico, how exiting this was. To see again so much enthusiasm, people coming from far and all of us with expectation and the wish to share and learn.

How beautiful to see young faces, the making of new friends and reuniting with old ones too.

Knowing, that we are here doing what we feel inside, letting our work speak the words of ancient wisdoms. Searching for ways to be professional we say...to me...it speaks of respect to us, to the people that we touch and to the tradition that we come to be a part of just by being there. Loving what we can express and create with our bodies and being there to help others become what they have envisioned. We are tradition and culture when we pierce and get pierced I believe. Part of a tradition we are, that had no gloves and no autoclaves...that now gathers and respects not only what was, but brings in concepts like cross contamination, and all those little details that make the difference...where science, anatomy, gauges, lengths, flares, bedside manners, techniques and so much more mark the difference. And where we can, with conscious minds and hearts, bring to this present day, beautifully healed and well placed piercings of new and old history that speak not only of who we once were...but of what we have grown to be...



Information, good vibes and friendship were shared during the four days of the seminars.



Ed Chavarria
Koi Piercing Studio
Salt Lake City, Utah

When most of us think of our annual conference, there are many thoughts that run through our minds—What classes should I take? Who am I going to see? Will I make it out of the hotel at all? Will I be able to wake up in time for classes? Etc... After Mexico, I realized we are very fortunate and even a little spoiled with all the options we have presented to us during our favorite week of the year.

I had the privilege of being invited to teach classes at this year's Mexico City APP seminars. Teaching with me were Alicia Cardenas and James Maldonado of Twisted Sol in Denver, and Danny Yerna and Ana-Paula Escalante from the Mexico side. It was an honor to work with such great people, and it was amazing to be able to be apart of something so big and yet so intimate. It was gratifying to see and feel the thirst for knowledge and the want for improvement. This especially in a country with no current legislation on piercing, and a country where piercings can sometimes be

seen performed at the local outdoor market. My deepest respect and admiration goes out to all the attendees that are trying to make a change and a difference. I hope that this event will continue on and also continue to grow in number of attendees. Like in the US, there is strength in numbers, and the more Mexican piercers unite the easier it will be to further educate each other and make the proper changes to introduce legislation and regulations.

The APP has planted a seed in Mexico, and I look forward to watching this seed grow into a massive tree over the next several years. I hope that it continues to grow, and one day is as big and successful as APP is in the US. I wish the best of luck to all the attendees.

I would like to thank Danny Yerna for organizing this event and inviting me to teach. I hope this event continues and becomes something that is looked forward to yearly by the Mexican (and South American) piercing community.

NEW JEWELRY LAW IN CALIFORNIA, PART 2



Eric "Sque3z" Anderson
APP Outreach Coordinator
Anomaly Studios
Pasadena and Los Angeles, CA

In the last issue of *The Point*, I reported on a new jewelry law passed by California state legislators making it illegal to manufacture, ship, sell, or offer for sale jewelry that contains high traces of—or is “contaminated” by—lead for retail sale in California. Effective March 1, 2008, the law prohibits people from manufacturing, shipping, selling, or offering for sale jewelry, including body piercing jewelry, for retail sale in California unless the jewelry is made from specific materials that limit the lead content in the jewelry. Restrictions on children’s jewelry (made for, marketed for use by, or marketed to children ages 6 and younger) became effective on September 1, 2007.

Jewelry is defined in the law to mean any of the following ornaments worn by a person: anklets; arm cuffs; bracelets; brooches; chains; crowns; cuff links; decorated hair accessories; earrings; necklaces; pins; rings; and—most important to our industry—body piercing jewelry. The definition of jewelry also includes any bead, chain, link, pendant, or other component of these ornaments.

This legislation defines body piercing jewelry as “Any part of jewelry that is manufactured or sold for placement in a new piercing or a mucous membrane, but does not include any part of that jewelry not placed within a new piercing or a mucous membrane.” Furthermore, acceptable jewelry for initial piercings and jewelry within mucous membranes is defined as

“surgical implant stainless steel, surgical implant grade of titanium, niobium (Nb,) solid 14 karat or higher white or yellow nickel-free gold, solid platinum, dense low-porosity plastic, including, but not limited to, tygon or polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE,) if the plastic contains no intentionally added lead.” This wording is troublesome, for not only does it omit ASTM specifications for steel and titanium, but it also provides for civil penalties for the use of any other materials for initial piercings and piercings in mucous membranes in California, some of which are routinely being used by reputable piercers—such as glass.

The December 13th edition of the LA Times ran an article about the enforcement of the children’s jewelry portion of this legislation. As reported, stores recently visited by state investigators were Macy’s, Gap Kids, Universal Studio Store at Universal Studios, Jeffrey’s Toys in San Francisco, Dollar Tree and Party City. The children’s jewelry in question was mostly necklaces, rings, Hello Kitty paraphernalia, and jewelry that are being sold in and out of accessories stores and vending (gumball) machines. The article states most of this jewelry comes from “China, India, Southeast Asian countries, Mexico,

and the Caribbean nations.” Any jewelry with an unacceptable lead content was to be pulled from the shelves. (The law does not require that the items be pulled, but the stores were cooperative and agreed to pull the items after meeting with DTSC enforcement.) Since the parts of this law that address body jewelry do not go into effect until March of 2008, our industry has some time—but not much.

The DTSC will be “looking next at the distributors and manufacturers” of the children’s jewelry in question. If discovered selling any children’s jewelry containing unacceptable levels of lead, they can be fined \$2,500 for each offence. Charles Margulis, a spokesman for the Center for Environmental Health, is quoted as saying, “Retailers have had plenty

of time to stop selling lead-tainted children’s jewelry.” The Center for Environmental Health is an advocacy group that filed the lawsuit under California’s Proposition 65 that set the legal precedent statewide regarding the toxic levels of lead in jewelry. Ultimately, the DTSC worked with eleven retail outlets to discontinue sales and remove from their shelves more than a dozen different types of children’s jewelry.

The items for sale being scrutinized are not ours—yet. (The children’s jewelry in question is mostly rings, necklaces, and bracelets sold at a Claire’s Boutique or in a gumball machines.)

Though this includes
body jewelry, the
law for body jewelry
does not go into
effect until March
of 2008. Our industry
has some time—
but not much.

The StatIM is the fastest from start to **sterilize**



Fast, compact and reliable
Effective every time
Gentle on instruments
Easy to use and maintain

It's about time!

Fast

6 or 9 minute sterilization cycle + fast dry without exposure to external air.

Safe

The patented air removal system ensures effective sterilization with no oxidation to your instruments and removes the air even in hollow instruments. No harmful chemicals that may possibly risk staff and client to exposure.

Aseptic Transfer

Instruments can be safely transported from room to room within cassette without exposure to external air.

Save \$

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But the important thing to note is this law has just recently been passed and is already being actively enforced. Investigations are going on in major outlet stores, and jewelry is being tested in labs in Sacramento from places like GapKids and Party City. When the next part of the law goes into effect on March 1, 2008, we may quickly see DTSC representatives in our places of business in California.

After the article I wrote for the last issue of *The Point*, Ann Hanger again contacted me. There was evidently a misunderstanding on my part regarding the agency that created this law and the agency that is implementing the law, and she sought to correct the error. Ms. Hanger wrote, "The lead-containing jewelry law was created by the State Legislature, not the DTSC. The DTSC is in charge of implementing and enforcing the law." (The previous article stated that the DTSC had created this law and was passed by the State Law-makers.) "The definition of 'body piercing jewelry' in the law only includes the part of the jewelry that is within the new piercing or mucous membrane—the other components of the piercing jewelry not actually within the new piercing or mucous membrane must meet the standards for 'jewelry.'" She goes on to write, "Therefore, components of the adult piercing jewelry beyond the material that goes within the new piercing or mucous membrane must be made entirely from class 1, 2, and/or class 3 materials." [Editor's Note: For an explanation of class 1, 2, and 3 materials, please see the next article.]

The history of this legislation: In 2004, Center for Environmental Health and the Attorney General's Office sued several major jewelry retailers and businesses for violating California's Proposition 65 because they were selling jewelry that contained lead without providing a clear and reasonable warning that the use of the jewelry would result in exposure to lead. The parties involved settled the lawsuit and the terms of this settlement are contained in what is referred to as the "Prop 65 consent judgment." In the Prop 65 consent judgment, the parties agreed to comply with certain restrictions on the use of lead in jewelry. The provisions in the Prop 65 consent judgment were negotiated between the Attorney General's Office, the environmental groups, and the defendants in the Prop 65 lawsuit. The legislature wanted the same lead restrictions to apply to businesses not part of the Prop 65 lawsuit, so they essentially used the language in the Prop 65 consent judgment when writing the law so that the same provisions would apply to everyone in the jewelry industry. Those that signed the consent judgment are subject to the provisions in it and are enforced by the Attorney General's Office. Everyone else is captured by the Lead-Containing Jewelry Law and is subject to enforcement by DTSC.

In June of 2006, the Fashion Jewelry Trade Association (FJTA), requested the State of California add a section regarding hazardous materials in jewelry. Talks then began between the Attorney General's office and the companies that produced and

sold this jewelry. Soon, settlements were made between the State of California and these companies, and this law was enacted in June of 2006. (To view a list of companies that have been named, you can look on the Center of Environmental Health's website: <http://www.cehca.org/lead-in-jewelry/>.)

As for the wording of the new legislation: I was told to speak to a representative at the California Attorney General's Office, as they worked with the defendants to develop the jewelry provisions that are now contained in the Lead-Containing Jewelry Law. The Attorney General's Office should have information on who was consulted in writing the body piercing provisions—unfortunately the DTSC does not have this information and there is no legislative history available to obtain this information since the provisions in the law were taken from the Prop 65 consent judgment and the negotiations of this lawsuit are confidential—even DTSC is not privy to details regarding this settlement. I hope to get information on who (if anyone) represented the body piercing industry—and where the wording of this legislation originated— by contacting the writers of the consent judgment.

I will include another update in the next issue of *The Point*.

[Editor's Note: Special thanks are due to Ann Hanger and Karl Palmer, both from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. Their suggestions, revisions, and clarifications on this article were extensive, and their dedication to educating our industry on this issue is commendable.] P

CALIFORNIA'S LEAD-CONTAINING JEWELRY LAW AND HOW IT IMPACTS THE BODY PIERCING INDUSTRY

Some jewelry can contain dangerously high levels of lead. Lead is a toxic metal that can cause serious health effects ranging from behavioral problems and learning disabilities to organ failure, and even death. In order to address the public health concerns about jewelry containing lead, California State Assemblywoman Fran Pavley introduced Assembly Bill 1681 "Lead-Containing Jewelry" into the California State Legislature in 2005. The bill was passed by the State Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger as the "Lead-Containing Jewelry Law" on September 22, 2006. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the governmental agency responsible for implementing and enforcing this law.

In order to protect people from unnecessary exposures to lead, the law restricts the lead content in jewelry, including children's jewelry and body piercing jewelry. Restrictions on body piercing jewelry are included because of the concern that lead can be transferred directly into the bloodstream if unhealed piercings and piercings in mucous membranes are in contact with materials containing lead. Therefore, the law defines body piercing jewelry as, "Any part of jewelry that is manufactured or sold for placement in a new piercing or a mucous membrane, but does not include any part of that jewelry that is not placed within a *new piercing* or a *mucous membrane*."

Effective March 1, 2008, a person shall not manufacture, ship, sell, or offer for sale body piercing jewelry for retail sale in California unless the body piercing jewelry—the part within the new piercing or mucous membrane—is made of one or more of the following materials:

- Surgical implant stainless steel
- Surgical implant grade of titanium
- Niobium (Nb)
- Solid 14 karat or higher white or yellow nickel-free gold
- Solid platinum
- A dense low-porosity plastic, including, but not limited to, Tygon or Polytetrafluorethylene (PTFE), if the plastic contains no intentionally added lead.

Any component of body piercing jewelry not placed directly within a new piercing or a mucous membrane must meet the requirements for "jewelry" as stated in the law. Beginning March 1, 2008, a person shall not manufacture, ship, sell, or offer for sale jewelry for retail sale in California unless the jewelry is made entirely from a class 1, class 2, and/or class 3 material.

The three classes of materials allowed in jewelry are as follows:

Class 1:

Stainless or surgical steel; karat gold; sterling silver; platinum, palladium, iridium, ruthenium, rhodium, or osmium; natural or cultured pearls; glass, ceramic,

or crystal decorative components, including cat's eye, cubic zirconia, cubic zirconium (CZ), rhinestones, and cloisonné; gemstones cut and polished for ornamental purposes (excluding aragonite, bayldonite, boleite, cerussite, crocoite, ekanite, linarite, mimetite, phosgenite, samarskite, vanadinite, and wulfenite); elastic, fabric, ribbon, rope, or string (unless it contains intentionally added lead and is listed as a class 2 material); all natural decorative material, including amber, bone, coral, feathers, fur, horn, leather, shell, wood, that is in its natural state and is not treated in a way that adds lead; and adhesive.

*Hematite, if cut and polished for ornamental purposes, would fall under Class 1.

Class 2:

- Electroplated metal:
 - On and before August 30, 2009, a metal alloy <10% lead by weight electroplated with suitable under and finish coats.
 - After August 30, 2009, a metal alloy <6% lead by weight electroplated with suitable under and finish coats;
- Unplated metal <1.5% lead not otherwise listed as a class 1 material;
- Plastic or rubber, including acrylic, polystyrene, plastic beads and stones, and polyvinyl chloride (PVC):
 - On and before August 30, 2009, < 0.06% (600 ppm) lead by weight.
 - After August 30, 2009, <0.02% (200 ppm) lead by weight; and
- A dye or surface coating containing <0.06% (600 ppm) lead by weight.

Class 3:

Any portion of jewelry that meets both of the following criteria:

- Not a class 1 or class 2 material
- Contains <0.06% (600 ppm) lead by weight

The testing methods for determining compliance with the law are EPA Methods 3050B and 3051. Analysis is performed by an environmental laboratory. Testing is performed on a component basis—meaning each type of jewelry material must be analyzed separately since different lead limits apply to different materials. Failure to comply with the law may result in penalties up to \$2,500 per day per violation. Various considerations are taken into account when determining penalties including whether good faith measures were taken to comply with the law and the nature and extent of the violation.

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Please note that the Lead-Containing Jewelry Law also contains additional requirements for “children’s jewelry”. Children’s jewelry is defined by the law as jewelry intended for children ages 6 and younger. Requirements for children’s jewelry went into effect on September 1, 2007.

DTSC would like to collaborate with the Association of Professional Piercers and its members to ensure the body piercing industry is properly informed about the requirements of the law. Please note the law can only be changed through the legislative process. If you have concerns about the law, you may voice your concerns by contacting your elected legislator at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>.

For more information about the Lead-Containing Jewelry Law, please visit <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LeadInJewelry.cfm>. Questions regarding the law can be emailed to leadinjewelry@dtsc.ca.gov.

—*Karl Palmer, Chief Regulatory and Programs Development Branch, Department of Toxic Substances Control, California.*

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IN RESPONSE TO: “ON WRITING”



Blake Perlingieri
Nomad Piercing Studio

It was with mixed emotions that I read James Weber’s article, “On Writing.” [The Point, issue #41] Though some of it rang true, there were aspects of it with which I had issue. I too was inspired by the 1989 book *Modern Primitives*, the subcultural kicker that profiled many of our industry’s early pioneers. 15 years ago, I sought to ascribe a cultural definition to an industry already defined by the gay/SM and punk-rock sects (to whom we are all in debt). Part of the generation who would follow Fakir and Jim Ward (one that includes Paul King, Elayne Angel and Kristian White), we Gen-Xers would own the second and third generations piercing studios after the Gauntlet. We would define to and for the media what piercing was about for us, respectively. I have too-often seen words twisted to feed the early 90’s media piercing frenzy. In 1992, I personally 86’d Jerry Springer from *Body Manipulations*; this was not how I wanted the media to portray piercing. (They wanted the freak with the huge lobes on their show.) In 1991, in *Body Play* magazine, Fakir quoted me as saying: “To me, body adornment is a personal experience and manifestation of internal aesthetic expression as well as a mode of spiritual discipline that escapes absolute definition”—an attempt on my part to ascribe meaning to the intangible. Though mere words fall short of true intent and accurate description, the desire to chronicle sometimes ephemeral concepts or events are what make us human.

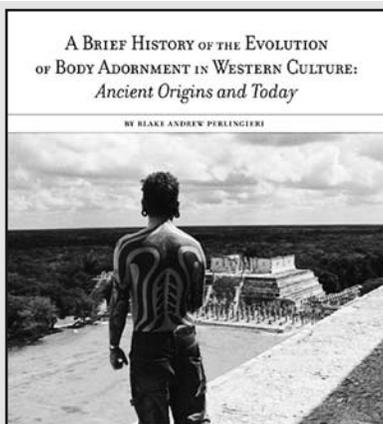
After dozens of features and interviews, and years later, it became clear

to me (one’s own perception is really the only reference point one has) what our industry needed: A book by and for (and specifically marketed to) piercers, condensed in a readable format, a little autobiography, a little history, a little anthropology, and a little imparting of indigenous consciousness to an industry that was somewhat disassociated from the roots of what we do. Directly or indirectly; and too-often, the words of the media reflected the less-than-spiritual side of things. I felt paying homage to the cultures and pioneers who inspired us all would help establish a continuity, a contemporary piercing mythology for an industry barely three decades old. All of us know we would not be here without the pioneering work of Fakir, Jim and Doug. My objective in filtering through a mountain of BS for the benefit of my piers would be an essential (even cultural) contribution to an art form I love, and an industry in which I am a part.

Only 2,000 copies of *A Brief History of the Evolution of Body Adornment* made it into our industry, but I still think piercers can be the seeds of change and consciousness—something Fakir stressed when introducing the “tribal gospel” to the piercing scene. “They’ll get it in time,” he told me. Though there are other industry-originated written works, (Fakirs and Shannon’s, to name a few) mine (now out of print) was the only “by a piercer, for piercers” book. A “must-read” according to Fakir, and read by 2,000 of you, I am baffled as to how it fell between the cracks in an article urging piercers to speak up and be their own spokespersons on behalf of our industry.

It’s clear to me now that a limited edition was insufficient to make an impact among (all of) the powers that be. As an APP co-founder, and two-time presenter of the Anthropology lecture in Vegas in 2004 and Mexico City in 2006, as well as author of the neglected book in question, I think readers of *The Point* are due an apology for a serious oversight on James’ part for neglecting mention of a relevant bit of media related to our industry. James used the words, “participate in the writing of our history,” something I believe I (and notable others from our industry) have done. Dissemination of information was an original APP objective any board member knows. “Writing and dancing” are rendered superfluous if one is dancing AROUND the events of history. **P**

Though mere words fall short of true intent and accurate description, the desire to chronicle sometimes ephemeral concepts or events are what make us human.



While out of print through most sources, some copies of Blake’s book are still available by contacting **Nomad Piercing Studio** at 4827 SE Division, Portland, Oregon 97206, or through www.nomadmuseum.com

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5 Alberto (Toji Shop), Edgar with friend (Zinova), Danny (Wakantanka/APP International Outreach) 6 Karem (Evolution) Danny 7 Matt (Enigma in San Diego), Ana Paula 8 Alicia, Karlin (Nomadas)

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