

# Nose piercing becoming popular in local community

## Ethnicity and individuality attract wearers

By Emily Reed  
Emerald Contributor

Stacy Bierma pierces an average of one nose a day. As the owner of Harlequin Beads and Jewelry, 1091 Olive Street, she watches the popularity of noserings grow in Eugene.

But nose piercing is not new. Dr. Bhavani Manheim, a visiting anthropology professor and a native of south India, said the nosering is common in her country.

In India a married woman is considered beautiful, and the nosering is a symbol of this idea. It is not religious but is a very strong tradition in the southern part of the country, Manheim said.

Elsewhere in India, it is simply a style, although the modern women in the bigger cities resist the style, calling it old-fashioned, she said.

University sophomore Erin Dooling and a friend went to Harlequin to pierce their noses. "It was spur of the moment and it just seemed crazy and fun," she said.

Dooling insists that a pierced nose is out of character for her, as she dresses very conservatively. But she said she likes it because it's something different and it can be removed.

Anastaisa Goodstein pierced her nose "to mark a personal transformation" that seemed to fit with her move to the University and her new independence as a freshman. She thinks that the popu-

larity comes from our "borrowing from other cultures."

Bierma agreed. She finds that popularity is related to the new age movement and the urge to "cross boundaries and discover old tribal roots." She also recognizes it as "one step further in the quest for something new."

"I probably didn't have it done while I was in Portland because nobody had it done up there," said freshman Alison Eby, "but down here I was subjected to it, so I was more used to it."

Eby had her nose pierced because she thought it was pretty. Her parents disagreed.

"They were really upset," Eby said. Their initial reaction was to threaten to remove their financial support. But she said they got over the shock eventually.

Dooling also faced parental disapproval. "Dad didn't want me to double-pierce my ears," she said. "I can't quote what he said when I pierced my nose."

Her mother was also upset but realized that it was "one of those college things."

When Dooling visits her hometown of Hillsboro, she receives "tons of crazy looks," as well as whispers behind her back.

Bierma also remembered that "when you first get it done, you feel like everyone's staring at you."

But Eby feels that people in Eugene don't treat her differently.



Photo by Sean Poston

Debra Curtis, a Eugene resident said she had her nose pierced three years ago because she thinks it's individual, fits her ethnic background and looks good.

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## Library finance discussed

By Pat Malach  
Emerald Reporter

The Eugene City Council is considering renovating the former Sears and Roebuck building downtown as the least expensive of three options to expand the city's library facilities.

The council hopes to have a proposal on the November ballot that would ask voters to approve the Council's selection for a new library site.

Expansion of the current library at 13th Avenue and Olive Street, renovation of the Sears building at 10th Avenue and Charnelton Street or constructing a new building are the options that the council is considering.

"We will recommend in our judgment which would be the best site and we will put that on the ballot for a straight up and down vote," said councilor Freeman Holmer.

Last March Eugene voters turned down a proposal to construct a new library in the Pankow Development Co. office tower at Eighth Avenue and Willamette Street.

Councilor Debra Ehrman said she is intrigued by the Sears building idea because it would be the least expensive.

"It allows us to cut the cost dramatically because we can eliminate the need to build any parking structures," she said.

Both building a new structure and expanding the existing one would require construction of parking structures.

"(The Sears building) is in the parking exempt zone and there are four surface lots within walking distance," Ehrman said.

The council is waiting for an engineering report on the cost of reinforcing the structure of

the Sears building so that it could support the weight of bookshelves.

If the building requires little structural support, the project would cost in the range of \$10.7 million and could be as low as \$8.3 million. Estimates for a new building are \$19.2 million. Renovation of the current library would cost \$13.5 million.

Holmer does not agree that parking for the Sears option would not need to be considered. He also said other economic considerations involved with the Sears building need to be looked at, including the long term cost of operating a three-story building.

Councilor Shawn Boles said he would favor the Sears building option providing the structural renovation estimates are favorable and the space can be designed to favor a library setting.

He said he liked the idea because it put to use property that was not currently in use and it was in a downtown public area. It is also two-thirds to one-half as expensive as the other options, Boles said.

The library expansion project has been on the council's agenda for five years. The expansion was part of former mayor Brian Obie's Eugene Agenda.

A study commissioned two years ago recommended that the library needed to be expanded from its current size of 38,000 square feet to a minimum of 75,000 square feet.

Patronage figures for the city library are the highest per capita in the nation, Boles said.

Ehrman said the council hoped to have a decision on which option they favor by the end of the summer.

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