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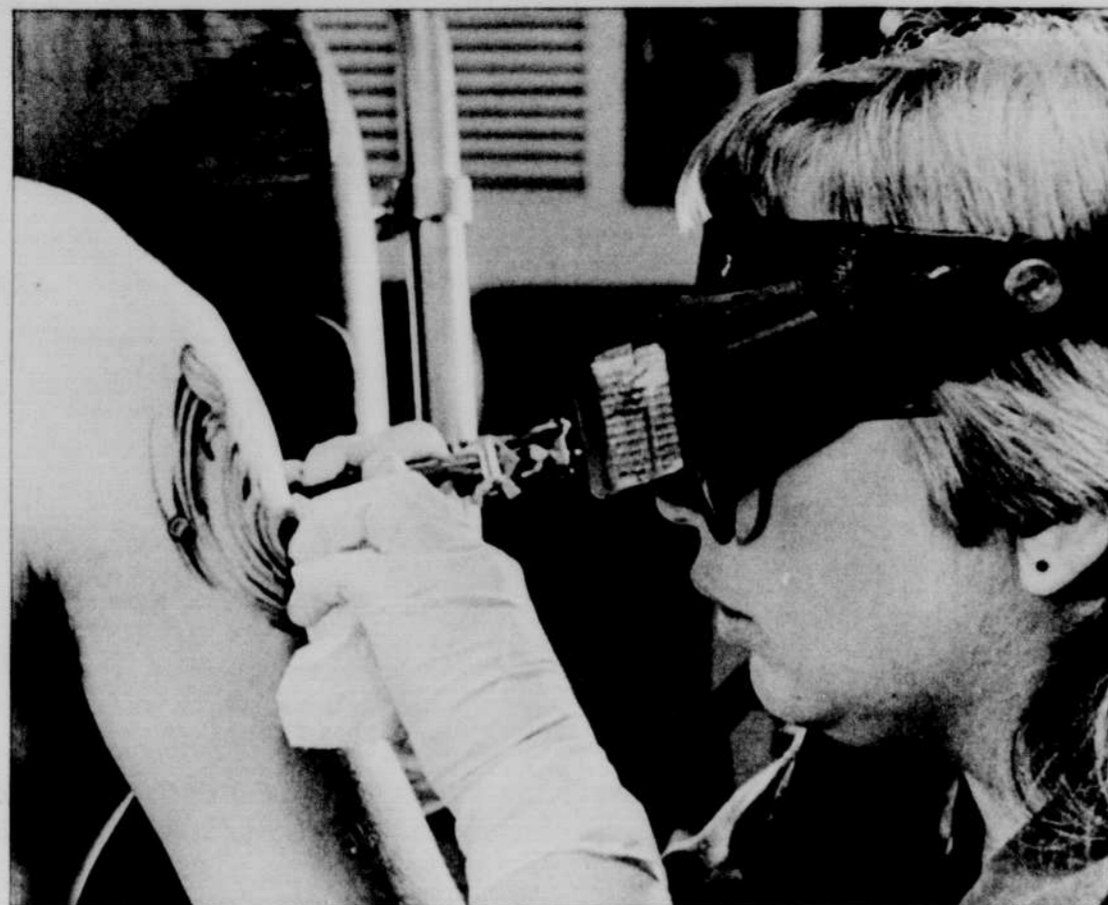
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Liz Claiborne



Bonnie Jean (top), owner of Tattoo by Design in Eugene, touches up color on the tattoo of her apprentice, Jo E (above). Photo by Sean Poston

Looking Good '91

ORNATE ORNAMENTATION

From nose rings to nipple rings to tattoos, body adornments express inner creativity

Noticed a few more nose rings around these days? Heard from a friend, or about the friend of a friend, who got a tattoo? Notice that "body ornaments," in general, are more than just a pair of clip-on earrings on a woman's ears?

"My mom said that in her time, people pricked their fingers and rubbed the blood together and now it's tattoos," said Madelyn Driscoll, University student, about her mother's reaction to the quarter-sized sun tattooed above the inside of her daughter's ankle. "My dad chooses to ignore it."

"We'll keep them forever...they're part memories," she said. "We" includes her friend who shares the same \$20 yellow, orange and red design drawn for them in San Diego, Diego.

"A tattoo is an extension, a confirmation of your identity," said ASUD president Jennifer Bills.

"I always wanted a tattoo, but it had to be pretty and it had to have meaning," she said, referring to her ankle tattoo of a purple triangle with a labrys in the middle. "The labrys is a symbol of womanhood," she said.

Nose rings also become endearing. "Now I feel like it's part of me," said Lane Community College student Jenny Moye, referring to the \$65 diamond shining on the right side of her nose. "I'd probably miss it," she said about the idea of taking it out permanently.

It was three years ago that she and two friends had their noses pierced. She did it, "just to be a little different," she said. "Also my mom didn't want me to have it so, of course, I had to have it."

"Now she doesn't really notice it unless I'm job hunting," she said

about her mom, who reminds her to take it out for interviews.

And what's it like to be on the other side of the ornamentation issue? For those who sell the accessories, the issue is a bit more technical. "Some use them for nose rings, but I have no idea how many," said Robin Mix, referring to the single earring posts she creates and sells at the Fifth Street Market.

Mix has bent about 10 posts, including Moye's, into the L-shaped design used by many Nepali women. "The large majority of women I saw had nose rings," she said, referring to her 1986 Nepali vacation experience. Mix speculated that

tattoos 2 1/2 months ago after planning the occasion last spring.

"It hurt really badly," Woodman said. "If you think it's going to really hurt it will, and if you don't think it'll hurt, it won't," she said, remembering what her friend was told by a local tattooist.

"My (greek) house means a lot to me. That's partially why I got it," she said, referring to her tattoo of greek letters inscribed in a kite, the symbol of her sorority. "With this, I can stand out when I want to stand out."

"It's a fairly personal thing," said sophomore Joel Smith of his silver hoop ring — the one that can be found on his nipple. "I contemplated it for a long time. Having it on your chest means that it's not something you do to show people."

"They're fine with it," said Smith of his parents, whom he described as fairly liberal. "They were a bit curious but don't have any problems."

When talking about tattoos, however, one must never forget the permanence of the choice. Generally speaking, a tattoo is forever — unless you have a fair amount of money to spend.

While you can't cover a tattoo with a skin colored pigment, "You can put another picture on top in such a way that you can't see the original," said tattooist Doug Peltzer of Artistic Tattooing Co.

You can also have the entire tattoo removed with surgery. Costs range from \$300 to \$1000, and finding reconstructive surgeons to do the job may be difficult, but not impossible. Laser surgery may be a viable option in the future but currently it's extremely expensive.

—Jacqueline Woge



Nose rings and other forms of body ornamentation are enjoying increased popularity.

nose rings worn by Nepali women are part of the country's Hindu tradition.

"I'd always admired it," said Kelly Woodman, a University student who boasts a small, black tattoo. Woodman and two friends got their

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