



Rachael Hicks relaxes herself as Shane marks the spot with a marker where the ring will be placed. Piercing is no longer reserved for punk rockers as it has become more acceptable in the mainstream.

Piercing: 'It can be spiritual'

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"Okay, you want to keep breathing, relax your jaw and your shoulders," Shane says to one of his many clients of the day. "Do you want any warning of when I'm going to do it?"

"No," Wedgle replies, her eyes shut tight.

Shane deftly works a hollow needle through Wedgle's skin. The needle is later removed and replaced with a surgical steel hoop, connected at the ends with a metal bead.

After a grimace of pain melts from her face, Wedgle looks in a hand mirror at her freshly pierced eyebrow.

"This is a new point in my life," Wedgle says. "It's a symbol of freedom, I'm making my own decisions about my body."

Shane and Odette, resident piercers of Antrican, began piercing each other eight years ago. They did each other's nipples first. For the last four years, they have been piercing Lane County. At any given time, Shane has at least 11 piercings and Odette has 16.

"We were both really involved in the punk rock scene lots of years ago," Odette said. "It wasn't just the way it looked, the high of it was amazing. Once you decide to do it, it feels like you can do anything — climb a mountain or something."

"It gives you a lot more power," Odette added. "It's like you're saying 'This is my body now — fuck you.'"

The couple was approached by the owner of Antrican five years ago to offer piercing in the basement of the store. Back then, Odette said, most of their clients were punk-rockers getting their nipples and navels done. In a business such as this, that once catered almost exclusively to sadomasochism enthusiasts and other alternative lifestyles, it appears that piercing has become almost mainstream culture.

"I don't mind everyone doing it," Shane said. "It's good in that it promotes acceptance and awareness."

So far, their most unusual client was a man with multiple



Hicks tries to keep her mind on anything but the hollow needle that was pierced through her navel.

personalities who wanted six genital piercings.

"This guy was schizophrenic so we didn't do it because he just didn't seem all there ... we didn't know if he could deal with the piercings afterward."

"Yeah, we do get some really unhealthy people," Odette added. "That makes the business feel dirty and seamy."

Three thousand miles away, Joe Jascewsky, a body piercer from the Boston area, agrees that for many people piercing is just another trend to follow, but for others it can be a very spiritual and healing event.

Jascewsky theorized that the trend may be due to the fact that more people are simply becoming aware of piercing being done.

"A lot of it is the trendiness," Jascewsky said. "But it's still deeper than just buying a trendy new pair of shoes."

Many people get piercings done for deeper reasons, according to Jascewsky, like a sort of

declaration of body ownership.

"Victims of abuse and people involved in the sex trade, who feel they don't have control of their body, often get piercings done," Jascewsky said. "It's self-abusive, but they are doing this voluntarily... they are in control of the pain."

Jascewsky has been piercing others for the last four years. He became interested in piercing after getting his navel done five years ago. Intrigued, he asked the woman who pierced him if he could "hang out and observe." The rest is history.

While there isn't anything Jascewsky won't do, he does advise against certain piercings. Wrists, napes, backs and arms Jascewsky advises against piercing, but will do it if the client really wants it.

"You can't stick rings just anywhere in the body," Jascewsky said. "As long as [the client] is aware that it is probably not going to heal, I'll do it."

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Geography Club will meet today at 1 p.m. in Room 105 Condon.

Red Fox will meet tonight at 5:30.

Student Senate will meet tonight at 7 in the EMU Board Room. For more information, call 346-3749.

ALD/PES Freshman Honor Society will meet tonight at 7 in EMU Cedar Room E. For more information, call 346-3105.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Career Center will sponsor Texas A&M International's information table today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the EMU.

Graduate School will host a workshop called "Introduction to the Graduate Funding Library" today from 11 a.m.

to 12 noon in Room 125 Chapman. For more information, call 346-2904.

Wesley Center will host Naomi Beymer reviewing her book today from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Wesley Center. For more information, call 346-4694 or 344-0483.

Educational Opportunities Program will sponsor a workshop titled "Academic Dollars and Career Sense" today from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Koinonia Center. For more information, call 346-3232.

RELIGIOUS

Newman Center will host a student mass and social tonight at 9 at the Newman Center, 1860 Emerald St. For more information, call 343-7021.

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