



Navel piercings have become popular with a variety of people.

Body art 'pierces' through cultures, demographics

As body piercing has become more mainstream in the last few years its styles have become more varied

Jacquelyn Lewis and Ryan Borheimer
Pulse writers

It's not a question of whether body piercings have gone mainstream. Even 60-year-old Harrison Ford showed up on Entertainment Tonight sporting an earring, suggesting the stereotypes associated with piercings are on the decline. In recent years, this form of body art has evolved into a culture all its own, with intricacies warranting analysis.

Primal Body Piercing owner Justin Smith agreed.

"It's not a question of increased popularity. It's more about what types people are asking for more often," Smith said.

High Priestess Piercing head piercer Lisa Blue said the business, located at 675 Lincoln St., pierces between 20 and

30 customers per day, and the demographics vary widely.

"We pierce a lot of older people, too," said the seven-year piercing veteran. "It's spread pretty equally among all age groups. Everybody's getting pierced."

Ear, navel and tongue piercings have become commonplace. With this increased popularity comes the challenge posed to those seeking to emerge from the fray of piercing conformists. And when it comes to modern trends, all bets are off. Among the more obscure locations are the torso, hands and temples — sometimes all of the above.

Smith, who has been piercing since 1995, has owned Primal Body Piercing, located at 509 E. 13th Ave., for three years. He said nostril piercings are very popular right now. Labrets, a lower lip piercing, and inner ear work have also been on the rise. And most recently, Smith said he's noticed more and more

interest in general body surface piercings, such as the back of the neck.

Blue said High Priestess has seen an increase in demand for earlobe stretching procedures.

"Stretching ears has become a lot bigger now than it was five years ago," she said.

For the more adventurous spirit, there's "pocketing," a style of body art involving adornments resembling giant staples that are imbedded atop the surface of the skin — most commonly on the arm.

Although both Smith and Blue acknowledged that some people get these types of piercings for simple body adornment, they said other motivation extends far beyond simple physical decoration.

"I think, for many people, it's a sign of moving on — a way to take their mind off things," Smith said.

Blue pointed to healing as another explanation.

Turn to **Pierce**, page 7

Dreadlocks

continued from page 5

Van Pelt has had dreads for close to two-and-a-half years. She visited Ghana, a West African country, and said dreads are socially frowned upon in the country, associated with poverty and insanity.

Dreads can be manufactured in a myriad of ways. One method involves sectioning hair (after washing and drying it) into small amounts, using rubber bands to hold it back, then removing the rubber bands and "back-combing" the different sections. Finally, adding a small amount of wax to each section and rolling it should solidify each lock. There are other methods similar to this, using twist-

ing, or a combination of twisting and pinning, instead of back-combing. And of course, there's the aforementioned method of neglect, which simply involves waiting for dreadlocks to form.

Wax is one of the many available products that can naturally aid in the creation of dreads. Hair salons can also create dreadlocks professionally, but it's a costly endeavor and often involves using chemicals.

Whether or not the method of creating dreads connects to the method of choice for their creation is a question that each person must answer for himself or herself. Van Pelt said she cultivated her dreads through patience and a mixture of ingredients provided by her friends. It was only about a year ago that the dreads "started getting firm, or in their prime,"

she said. Van Pelt added that the formation of her locks brought on a loss of vanity and less emphasis on hair maintenance.

"That was a humbling experience — having really ugly hair. It was kind of like, I'm not going to care," she said.

Self-described "professional bum" photographer and Eugene resident Nelson Kittler had dreadlocks for six years. He said he started them by accident after spending time at a Florida beach.

Kittler said dreadlocks represented incredible amounts of energy "locked" into each strand of his hair. He finally got rid of them in 1998, among political controversy during a visit to Vail, Colo., when an Oct. 19 Earth Liberation Front arson attack on a ski resort prompted their removal.

"I was tired of being associated with people I wasn't associated with," he said. "It's advertising, and I think people should choose their battles wisely."

Kittler said that because of the numerous stereotypes and preconceptions associated with the hairstyle, the mere subject is a touchy issue.

Anyone looking to further their knowledge of dreadlock culture can pick up a copy of the book "Dreads" by Francesco Mastalia and Alfonse Pagano. Yahoo! also hosts an Internet group on dreadlocks. Manifold sources of information can be explored by directing a Web browser to a search engine.

Contact the Pulse reporter at aaronshakra@dailyemerald.com.

Paid Advertisement

TOTAL STUDENT DISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCES FILED WITH THE OFFICE OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

January 1- December 31, 2002

Formal	Results
3	Two claims of sexual harassment; one claim of disability discrimination. One claim of age discrimination. All claims resolved after investigation. *
Informal	Results
1	One claim of gender discrimination; one claim of sexual harassment. *

STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT GRIEVANCES FILED WITH THE OFFICE OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

January 1- December 31, 2002

Formal	Results
2	Two claims of hostile environment sexual harassment. Both claims resolved after investigation.
Informal	Results
1	One claim of sexual harassment. Resolved after conversation with respondent.

* Number of claims does not correspond to totals column because some cases contain multiple claims.