FROM THE EDITORS
MARINA PECORINO
KENDRA JANE B
The Point Editors

• Marina Pecorino

Conference is coming!
It happened last year and it’ll happen next, but each year is a unique opportunity to meet new colleagues, share information, and purchase some of the best body jewelry available. Personally, this year, I’m most looking forward to the in-person support I get from my industry tribe and the volunteer family.

As we prepare for that life changing week, here are a few updates and things to you may want to consider:

• Register for your preferred schedule—Classes are already filling up and the wait list system has been activated. The sooner you register the better your chance of getting all the classes you want.

• Book your hotel room—We strongly encourage you to book in the APP Room Block. You’ll be closer to the excitement. Resort fees will be optional (covering in-room wifi and fitness center access), so you can choose to have more moola to spend on pretties in the Expo. And to top it off, you’ll be helping the APP maintain our privileges and position at Bally’s.

• Alternatives to the Bar (A.T.T.B) are new this year!—For many of us, the Splash Bar can become tiresome, but we still want the opportunity to network and hang out, sans cigarette smoke and drunk shenanigans, please. Now you have more options; games in the lounge, Statim discussions with Brian Skellie, an after-hours Talk APP session, and a Body Piercing Archives pajama movie night! Check the Conference mobile app for more information.
• Opening Pool Party Upgrade—This year, head over to the beautifully updated Go Pool at the Flamingo Hotel across the street. Also new for this year, there will be a strictly enforced wristband policy for the pool party. You’ll find your wristband in your registration packet, so please remember to grab it when you don that Speedo.

• Conference mobile app—This year, along with the handy maps, schedules, and speaker information in our Conference mobile app, you’ll also find a fun new game. Play “Click” to win prizes through a photo scavenger hunt designed to get you to network and socialize. This is an especially handy addition for new attendees and those of us who favor the shy side.

Still feeling unprepared or have questions? Our ever-evolving checklist of don’t forgets and survival tips has become a staple reference guide for Conference goers. If you’re ready for a reminder, check out this checklist/survival guide from Issue 71.

Shifting gears to non-Conference news, Kendra, Jim, and I are very happy to announce two new additions to The Point team. We would like to welcome Ryan Clark and Badur Ramji to The Point committee. Ryan’s experience with editing and InDesign are already proving useful in the final stages of our publication processes. We will be utilizing Badur’s expertise in social media and web management to further engage our readership and develop the publication’s online presence. If you have ideas for any of us or just want to welcome our new committee members, please send an email to editor@safepiercing.org.

All of that said, start drinking your water and taking your vitamins now; I can’t wait to see you all in Las Vegas in a few short weeks!

• Kendra Jane B

What can I say about the nineties? They shaped and influenced the rest of my life, more than any other decade I have experienced thus far. During those ten years, I graduated high school, had my first serious boyfriend, went to university, lost my virginity, found my feminist voice, became a registered voter, lived on my own for the first time, and got my first body piercings (other than my lobes as a baby).

My first piercing of choice came merely weeks after I turned 16 and could sign for myself. I had decided on something I thought I could easily hide from my parents, my tongue. Because although I was rebelling and going against the grain, I knew they would not understand or approve. I took the bus downtown to a local tattoo and piercing shop and signed myself up for a tongue piercing. A few hours later I had a very long externally threaded, acrylic beaded barbell in my mouth. That was my entry into the world of body modification, and although the bulk of my journey would not happen for two more decades, it all started in the nineties.

So flip the page and take a look back to where our Board of Directors may have been in the nineties. Read about celebrated photographer Charles Gatewood in a preview of this year’s Body Piercing Archive Exhibit. Matte Erickson’s teaser article on his jewelry exhibit will have us all yearning for the collector’s items of years gone by. So whether this is your first Conference or you have been to all twenty-one, get ready to strap on those Doc Martens and cut Footloose. This pre-Conference issue highlights the best of Conference and gives you a sweet taste of the nineties goodness that awaits us all June 11-16 in Las Vegas.
BIJOUX™ SIDE-SET
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vividly remember my first APP Conference experience. I had about $300 to my name, and I was waiting on a check to clear when I landed in Las Vegas. When I arrived I had no money at all to get to the Conference hotel; this was in the Riviera days. I actually looked through my junk mail, activated a credit card, and took a $20 cash advance to catch a cab to the hotel. When I arrived I was intimidated and excited, but before long I wasn’t amongst strangers, I was with friends.

I imagine that many attendees have similar experiences their first year. I know that many arrive at our Conference for the first time, low on money, but with an abundance of nerves. I think it’s safe to say we’ve all been there. Everyone has had a first Conference.

I say it like that, because very few attendees have just one Conference. There is a special kind of magic that surrounds the entire event. We all end up making relationships that last a lifetime. We are learning together. We are buying jewelry and supplies from our hardworking vendors. A lucky few of us will even win raffle prizes that will alter the course of our careers. It is hard to put into words how special our Conference really is.

Until my involvement with the Board, I didn’t have an understanding of all the work that goes into the magic that is our collective learning, sharing, and growing experience. Since Conference continues to grow, more and more thought is required in addition to a tremendous amount of work and cooperation. Our volunteers, instructors, vendors, sponsors, mentors, board, officers and employees put in so much all year for this one week. They have my thanks for all the good times I have had over the years.

I’d love to be able to point to one moment in particular that cemented my love of Conference, but how could I? I was there when Rob Hill proposed to Stephanie Hill during the banquet (I mean right there, sitting next to them!) I was in the 20 years of APP roundtable listening to my heros talk about the behind the scenes history of the APP. I got to teach a class about nostril piercing with Alicia Cardenas to a room about twice as full as I was counting on. I saw one of my closest friends, Cody Vaughn, win a huge raffle prize within months of opening his new shop. The list goes on and on.

If you’ve attended before, I’m sure you have your own moments like these. If this is your first Conference, I’m sure you’ll make your own memories that will stay with you a lifetime. If you ask me what my absolute favorite experience at Conference is, my answer is: the next one. The next time I get goosebumps. The next time I learn something that changes the way I pierce forever. The next time I cry because Caitlin is crying. That’s my favorite.
...forget the rest there's nothing else beyond the body...

Brian Skellie
"What can I say about the nineties? Those ten years shaped and influenced the rest of my life more than any other decade I have experienced. I graduated high school, had my first serious boyfriend, went to university, lost my virginity, found my feminist voice and became a registered voter, lived on my own for the first time, and got my first body piercings."

—Kendra Jane B.
The early 90s were the golden years of "celebrity piercer." Recognized piercers were treated like rock stars. These "good ol' days" weren't "better times," but they were certainly more wild.

—Paul King
"The 90s were my coming of age in several ways, both as a young man, and as a piercer."

—Luis Garcia
“The 90s was when I first discovered music, sex, and body piercing (in that order). I saw pierced nipples on MTV in 1995, and here I am now.”
—Cody Vaughn

“My formative years were in the 90s. In 7th grade I heard “Smells Like Teen Spirit,” and it’s impossible to explain how much influence that one song had on the rest of my life. By 1999 I had graduated high school and begun my career as a body piercer.”
—Jef Saunders
“It was anarchy really? No rules, just putting needles anywhere you could grab. It was equal parts awesome and ridiculous.”

-Ryan Ouellette
Whether showing off by the pool or volunteering for the APP, Brian Skellie’s passion for our industry hasn’t changed since the 90s.
Conference has come along way since the 90s but if you look hard enough you might see some familiar faces, ones that still make our Conference great, decades later.
How time flies, with this year’s APP Conference #app2017 fast approaching there’s no better time than the present to reflect on the past year.

Since attending as an AL D scholar last year, I feel like a new me in my piercing room. After coming home and having the confidence to try new techniques, explain things better to clients and suggesting changes to better the daily running of the studio I have found a new confidence that only could have happened because of Conference last year. Getting the opportunity to talk to fellow piercers and the vendors of companies whose jewellery I had admired for the longest time, building friendships, and the chance to network is a wonderful experience.

Since returning I have successfully became a member of the UKAPP. I’m also a part of the UKAPP online team, running the social media and promotion alongside Seb Wolfe, of which I am so proud of.

If I have any advice for this years scholarship winners, I’d say do not underestimate yourself. You can achieve anything you set your mind to. You already have, by applying and being successful in gaining a scholarship to conference.

It truly is life changing. I can’t wait to return and see you all in June.
Jane Absinth, 2016 Al D Scholar

Recalling my first Conference, I have this amazing warm feeling. As we were prepared for the event with the video-chats and info materials, I had the feeling it would be REALLY OVERWHELMING. But to my pleasant surprise everything went smoothly and was not so frightening at all! Now I have a very special extension of my piercing family. Everyone I met, from the every other part of the world was just as amazing and friendly as you could imagine.

I arrived a couple of days in advance to have enough time to fight the jetlag, but it did not work and I just fell so deep into sleep that did not even hear my roommates trying to get in to check on me, even when they called security. I can only imagine what they thought about me (first time in Vegas, etc...).

I could not have asked for a better roomie than Angie and some colleagues from Germany, who showed me everything. This is how it works: you share your experience to help the newcomers, to not be immediately overwhelmed and get lost in the casinos. I am not a party monster and am relatively calm so I found me and Angie were the perfect roommate match!

I had prepared myself for some really crazy hard things during my volunteer hours at the Conference, but I seemed to get along with it pretty good. Except one day I was working the doors with John Robberson, he saw my breakdown coming and he immediately jumped in, offered to take me to the office, where I burst into tears—haha, so well prepared! :) But we Russians are pretty tough, everything was fine, just my eyes were wet because of the air conditioning. I found this very situation a perfect example of our volunteer family and how it should work—ready to give all your support to the person near you.

So after all is said and done, the first and the most important piece of advice I can give. Don’t get stressed! In fact, everything is gonna be fine, you will have the most beautiful and caring people around you whenever you need anything. And moreover, it will be probably the most exciting week of your whole year: so many new things, knowledge, amazing chats with colleagues and even some relaxing at the pool. Oh and stay hydrated and don’t forget to eat! ;)

Angie Dogspot, 2016 Al D Scholar

It has been nine months since my visit to Las Vegas and the 2016 Association of Professional Piercers Conference, but it feels like yesterday. The nerves and the uncertainty I had, the experience of traveling so far alone, it was all worth it.

The welcome I got from Caitlin when I arrived late in the evening, showing me the room, while my roommate, Jane, was so asleep, we called security to make sure she was ok, oops that jet lag can be a real bummer.

It was comforting knowing she had been there a few days, and I was really happy that she already had a lay of the land. So she showed me around, letting me know where to find things, like Starbucks, very important! We got along perfectly, and she introduced me to so many new people.

The week flew by. I learned, met new people, laughed, enjoyed every minute. I hate to say I must miss all of it this year, but am more than looking forward to all the pictures and messages you guys will post. I will simply imagine I am there with you.

If I had to give our new scholars any advice it would be don’t be stressed, as long you listen and care for your body, it will be fine. Take it all in, enjoy your time with your new family, and say Hi from me.

Hope to see you all at #APP2018
If you have ever attended the annual APP Conference, then you know it can be an overwhelming experience; especially if it is only your first or second year attending. To make this transition into becoming a seasoned Conference goer simpler, there is the Mentor Program. So what exactly is the Mentor Program? It is an amazing outreach system created in 2009 by Ryan Ouellette. Essentially, the idea was to build small families that can work together as a group and lean on each other for support during the APP Conference. We have seen incredible progress and have had wonderful feedback when it comes to this program, and we look forward to continuing this process for years to come.

Our mentors are experienced Conference goers who want to ensure that our new attendees have an outstanding time. To pair mentors and mentees, we use a survey system conducted by the Mentor Team to create groups based on similar interests, areas of knowledge, and class schedule needs. These small groups—consisting of a mentor and three to four mentees—assist and encourage each other while providing a more welcoming environment to the Conference experience as a whole. Mentors are here to provide support if you become overwhelmed, require a little reassurance, or want assistance with your class schedule. They can even give you advice on where to find the tastiest tacos or a delicious vegan donut. It is essential to take full advantage of this opportunity! Many mentors and mentees develop connections with each other that can last for years!

If you plan on attending Conference for the first time and have questions that you would like answered, need help selecting your classes, or you would simply like to have a friend before arriving in Vegas, then the APP Mentor Program is here to help! If you are a first or second year attendee and would like assistance from a mentor chosen specifically for you, please email mentors@safepiercing.org with MENTEE in the subject line. Be sure to include your name, telephone number, and other contact information in the email. There is technically no deadline to sign up as a mentee, but the earlier you enroll the more you will get out of the program! We are thrilled that you have decided to come to Conference this year and we cannot wait to meet you.

We genuinely want each and every one of our new attendees to get the most out of their Conference experience and hope that what the Mentor Program offers makes this possible. If you have any questions about the Mentor Program, becoming a mentor, or being a mentee at Conference, please do not hesitate to contact Cale or anyone else on the Mentor Team.

The 2017 Mentor Team includes Cale Belford, Ryan Ouellette, Billy Wood Jr., and Will VonDoome.
The APP has a lot going on this summer, and we want you to join us! Read through for all the latest updates on Conference, Camp APP, important changes to our Membership Standards, and the Members’ Meeting Notice.

**Members’ Meeting Notice**

The APP’s Members’ Meeting will be held Wednesday, June 14, 7-8pm at Bally’s Las Vegas. This meeting will cover all current APP business for the membership. Voting members will sign in to determine if the meeting has met the required quorum. Non-voting members are welcome to attend, as well as one representative from each APP Corporate Sponsor. If you wish to address the Board and membership, you may reserve a time slot by emailing secretary@safepiercing.org.

There will be a Members’ Mingle before the meeting from 6:30-7:00pm. Refreshments will be served.

This is shaping up to be the biggest APP Conference ever! You do not want to miss it!

**Conference Photography Update**

This year at Conference we will have a dedicated portrait photographer available on Wednesday and Thursday near the registration booth. Portrait time slots will now be available for purchase for $20.00. You can purchase your time slot at the merchandise booth and schedule your time with the portrait photographer at the portrait booth.

This time slot will allow for multiple shots, and you are free to bring a friend and do quick group shots. This fee will guarantee one or more professionally shot and edited photo(s) for private use.

For those of you who wish to use your photo for business purposes, you may purchase the rights to use your photo however you wish for an additional $30.00.

We are excited to offer attendees a smoother portrait experience and an inexpensive way to obtain a professional quality headshot for their business needs.

**New Environmental Criteria for Membership**

All piercers working at an APP Member studio, members or non-members, will only use appropriate jewelry for initial piercings as listed in the current APP minimum standard. Any use of non-compliant jewelry for initial piercing by any person, member or non-member, in the studio is considered a breach of environmental standards and can be grounds for losing membership.

All studios will have until Jan 1, 2018 to become compliant with this new environmental standard.

**Standards Update: Initial jewelry & Rose Gold**

This change was made after input from our membership, information provided by a workgroup at Camp APP, and consultation with major gold manufacturers. Please review the updated standard below:

Gold (yellow, white, or rose) is appropriate for initial piercings if it is solid 14k or 18k, alloyed for biocompatibility, and free from nickel or cadmium. Gold higher than 18k is too soft for body jewelry because it can easily be scratched or nicked. Gold lower than 14k, gold plated, gold-filled, or gold overlay/vermeil jewelry is not acceptable for fresh piercings.

**3rd Annual Camp APP Members Retreat**

Registration for Camp APP 2017 will be opening soon. Camp APP will be October 3-7, 2017 at Hard Labor Creek State Park in Rutledge, GA.

Camp APP is a great alternative for people who can’t attend Conference or for anyone who wants to add to their educational experience. It is a week filled with great food, new friends, hands-on educational opportunities and summer camp style fun. To find out about registration first join the Facebook event page.
The Piercing Bible
The definitive guide to safe body piercing by Elayne Angel

This one-of-a-kind comprehensive resource covers everything piercers and piercees need to know about the subject. Piercing pioneer and authority Elayne Angel shares her exhaustive knowledge about piercing techniques, jewelry, placements, aftercare, troubleshooting, and more.

About the Author – Elayne Angel has been a professional piercer for more than 20 years and has performed over 40,000 piercings. She was awarded the President's Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Professional Piercers in 2006 and is a contributing writer for PAIN Magazine. She lives in Mérida, Mexico. Visit www.piercingbible.com for more information.

Available for wholesale or retail purchase through the APP office: 1 (888) 888-1APP or APP website: www.safepiercing.org

A portion of the proceeds from each sale goes to the APP.

To sell The Piercing Bible in your studio, place a “retailer order” with the publisher: email newAccount@randomhouse.com or call 800.733.3000, ext. 86384

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In this revealing autobiography, Jim Ward, considered by many to be the father of the modern piercing industry, tells the engaging and candid story of discovering his own fascination with body piercing, his founding of Gauntlet, the world’s first body piercing studio, and how he transformed a personal fetish and backroom, amateur pursuit into a respected profession and spearheaded a world-wide social phenomenon.

Essential reading for everyone with an interest in body piercing; you, your shop staff, and your customers will treasure this book.

For more information and to order a copy of Running the Gauntlet signed especially for you by the author, visit runningthegauntlet-book.com. Also available wholesale and retail at safepiercing.org/publications/running-the-gauntlet.

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“Essential reading for anyone who wants to understand how modern body piercing arrived at the place it currently occupies.”

James Weber, Former President
Association of Professional Piercers
# The Most Beautifully Created Opals

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## Colors Available

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- #4 Yellow
- #5 Blue
- #6 Lt. Blue
- #7 Orange
- #8 Pink
- #9 Purple
- #10 Lt. Purple
- #11 Lime
- #13 Blue Green
- #15 Red
- #17 White

## Email

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Web: www.hklap.com

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The 2017 Body Piercing Archive exhibit at the Association of Professional Piercers annual Conference & Exposition in Las Vegas will feature the life’s work of the photographer and videographer Charles Gatewood. With over 250,000 images spanning more than 50 years, almost all of you are aware of his prolific work, whether you realize it or not.

Like most people, I was aware of his work long before I met him. It was in a bookstore in Long Beach, California in 1989, I first saw his photographs of Fakir Musafar’s O-kee-pa suspension and Jim Ward’s Sundance pull in Modern Primitives. Most are unaware that the book’s direction was largely influenced by Charles Gatewood’s contacts provided to V. Vale and Andrea Juno of ReSearch. Although I never personally identified as a “modern primitive,” the book formalized my desire for complete tattoo body coverage with coherent and graphic themes. This book’s influence cannot be overstated; it took fringe individuals and small communities and cohered them into a global movement with a far-reaching cultural impact.

Despite the inseparable association with Modern Primitives, these powerful ritual images of Fakir and Jim Ward were not created for the book. These were documentation from an earlier important film collaboration. The film Dances Sacred and Profane (a.k.a. Bizarre
Right: Erl circa early 1990s (original name of bridge piercing was Erl). Below: Tattoo Mike of NYC, 1994. Photos from the Paul King private collection.
Rituals) was released in 1985. Originally, the documentary was to be focused on Charles Gatewood. However, in the process of making Dances Sacred and Profane, the film became much more a documentation of and promotion for Fakir Musafar. The 2003 film Forbidden Photographs is much more representative of Gatewood’s work and story. Arguably, the photograph Charles took of Bob Dylan on tour in Sweden in 1966 was his most important. This photo showed Charles he could make money off of his photography. In fact, he continued to make many thousands of dollars in licensing from that single Dylan image over the next fifty years! The photo also opened doors. From this single image, Charles eventually became a staff photographer for Rolling Stone Magazine and made many contributions from 1972 through 1975. He photographed numerous celebrities including: Bob Dylan, David Bowie, Sly and the Family Stone, Carlos Santana, Alice Cooper, Liza Minnelli, Slade, Joan Baez, Stiv Bators and the Dead Boys, Al Green, Ella Fitzgerald, The Hermits, Helen Wheels, Quentin Crisp, Abbie Hoffman, Allen Ginsberg, William Burroughs, Jimmy Page, Robert Palmer, Brian Gysin, Nelson Rockefeller, etc. and he even landed a cover with Rod Stewart. Many of his photos reached iconic status, however, they usually did so without his name being associated with the image.

In the late 1970s, Gatewood’s friendships with the tattooist Spider Webb and porn star Annie Sprinkle propelled him into the world of fetish and body art. Both of these wild personalities opened Gatewood’s eyes, further fueling his passion for sexual kink, that at that place and time very much included tattooing and body piercing. Spider and Charles had several tattoo book collaborations and even created a book proposal in the 1980s for the next big trend - “body piercing” - that was rejected by all the publishing houses as ridiculous. Of course, they were ahead of the times. It was through Annie Sprinkle that Charles met Fakir Musafar and Jim Ward.

In 1984, Charles Gatewood published Wall Street, a book very uncharacteristic of his salacious and shocking subjects. This political photographic essay juxtaposes architecture against humans circulating the economic heart center of capitalism located in lower Manhattan. For Charles, the decade spent wandering the streets in the daytime capturing images of pedestrians and concrete angles was meditative, even therapeutic. These lone journeys offered some balance to the characters and experiences found in seedy bars, dark dungeons, and shooting galleries of the night. The wild success of the book gained Gatewood greater critical acclaim and prestigious awards as well as future book deals, exhibitions, and lecture opportunities.

In 1990, I was hanging out with Gauntlet piercers Dan Kopka and Elayne Angel at their condo in West Hollywood. One of them popped in an underground video. I still remember the grainy interview of a punk guy with a lip ring. At that time, such images were extremely rare and exciting stuff! Charles Gatewood’s videos will never be remembered for their crude production value, but rather for the rarity of the footage. Charles’ first piercing video, in 1986, Erotic Tattooing and
Body Piercing, included a Jim Ward lecture in NYC. Upon release, Charles found there was a lucrative home video market.

Full disclosure, although I had met Charles several times in the 1990s, I was not friendly towards him. At best I was indifferent, but often I was dismissive. In my twenties, I had a very low opinion of fetish photographers. I would see my friends poorly compensated for their modeling and then their images would unknowingly get turned into greeting cards or plastered on buses as advertisement for STD treatment! I viewed fetish and body art photographers as sexual predators and economic exploiters of my community and friends.

However, during one of my countless used bookstore searches for piercing history in the early 2000s, I stumbled upon Charles Gatewood's fine art photography book Sidetripping from 1975. My mind was blown! All my preconceptions of who Charles Gatewood was as a person and an artist were challenged. This astonishing work rivaled that of my favorite photographer Diane Arbus, except Gatewood's book was also in collaboration with William Burroughs, a tremendous writer that greatly influenced me in my younger life! A life lesson learned, I reached out to Charles.

He invited me into his home. We had a casual friendship, I would see him maybe four to six times a year and always one on one. He'd make us tea, show me his latest art projects, we'd catch up on news. I'd dig for history lessons and he'd usually sell me something, or at least try to!

We shared the experience of having degrees in anthropology. Something that became apparent to me was at a public level his degree in anthropology was often tot-
groups with his fantastic life stories and whispered back door offers of his photographic works at “below gallery prices.” He was a self-made and self-employed artist for 50 years! He prided himself on getting by without ever having to have a real job.

Charles hoarded and thank God for that. His inability to let things go meant he had crates of magazine and newspaper clippings with jokes, photos, pop culture reviews, etc. referencing body piercing and tattooing. Although far from properly preserved, still, he had them while most of us were throwing these ephemera away. Much of the later dated material, he simply donated to the APP/BPA.

Charles grew more familiar with my work and involvement with the APP. We agreed it would be amazing if we could put something together for the 20th anniversary of Modern Primitives. In 2009, Charles and V. Vale of Re-Search gave a well-received presentation at the APP Conference in Las Vegas.

The breadth and quantity of his late 1980s and early 1990s video work is staggering and unique to the body piercing community. He has hundreds of hours of footage that includes Sailor Sid, Jack Yount, Ron Athey, Elayne Angel, Hanky Panky, Allen Falkner, Erl, Annie Sprinkle, Mr. Sebastian, the founders of Body Manipulations, Al D. (yes, the same guy as the APP Scholarship), Raelyn Gallina, and many early Gauntlet piercers, some even before they were piercers. While Charles managed to sell his entire photography archive, including personal journals, to the U.C. Berkeley Bancroft Library, their archivists turned down his video catalog. They could not mentally offset the poor production value and the cost of digitization against the historical importance of these recorded histories. Had the APP Board of Directors not stepped in, much of our shared history would have been lost to the dump!
On December 8, 2015, Charles Gatewood donated the Flash Video collection to the APP and Body Piercing Archive (BPA). After he passed away, his estate turned over the remaining personal video archive, including interviews, recorded lectures, b-roll, unedited footage, etc. to the APP and BPA. To date, the APP and BPA have digitized nearly 250 consumer and professional grade tapes!

Charles and I discovered early on that we both had a history with alcohol and had sworn off the bottle decades before. However, Charles suffered from chronic back pain. He turned to prescription opioids and cannabinoids for relief. He started cancelling our rendezvous. Eventually, the opioids took over contributing to a growing depression and organic dementia. I expressed my concerns to him, perhaps too little and too late.

On April 8, 2016, he attempted to take his own life by jumping off his third story apartment balcony. The result was catastrophic injuries putting him in a coma and leading to his death on April 28. He did finally pass in peace, surrounded by folks that loved him. If the details of his death may seem too gruesome, please remember, this is a man that spent his entire career embracing the brutality of life. He would expect no less.

For further exploration of Charles’ career check out these retrospectives:
https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/05/arts/charles-gatewood-photographer-of-extremes-dies-at-73.html?_r=0
Informative article, despite the author’s naiveté of body modification practices and communities: https://alumni.berkeley.edu/california-magazine/spring-2017-virtue-and-vice/finding-his-tribe-charles-gatewood-bancroft
THE BODY PIERCING ARCHIVE

MATTE ERICKSON
The Body Piercing Archive

The Body Piercing Archive will celebrate another first at this year’s conference; we are so excited to have an exhibit booth on the Expo floor. Yes, we will have jewelry—LOTS of it! However, none of it is for sale. The exhibit will consist of steel and titanium jewelry, merchandise, and advertising from past and present manufacturers. Everything we have was released prior to 2007. This provides ten years of history to allow for a distinct perspective of the past.

This exhibit has been a labor of love over this last year. Many emails, Facebook messages, and phone calls have been exchanged. There was even an awesome day trip to LA to visit a jewelry legend! The outpouring of love for this project has been overwhelming with so many companies sending items. Many private collectors have also stepped forward, offering to bring items to Vegas or ship them to me, so I can include them in the exhibit. All of this, for the love of the jewelry and education. For us, the importance of body jewelry styles and innovations cannot be overstated. The jewelry defines much of how we view ourselves as piercers and how the world perceives body piercing.

This jewelry exhibit is just the start. Over time, we expect to grow, develop, and expand this concept into other materials with harder to find items and obscure companies. That being said, we can’t do it without your help. Maybe you have a box from the shop that you haven’t looked in for years? Perhaps you know a shop owner that is also a hoarder? This is where we find historic gold (literally and figuratively). So, please visit the Expo floor booth, ask us questions, give us feedback. This is your history! This is your exhibit.
Calling All Manufacturers, Collectors And Enthusiasts

The Body Piercing Archive, in conjunction with the Association of Professional Piercers, will be hosting a historical body jewelry exhibit on the Expo floor in 2017.

We are looking for jewelry, catalogs, jewelry packaging cards, business cards and any other stand out items from 2007 and earlier. We would like to focus on defunct companies however, all steel, titanium, niobium, glass, and gold companies are encouraged to participate (alternative materials will, hopefully, be another exhibit in the future).

Please note, we do not want your items. We just want to share and display them for our community. All items will have clear attributions and descriptions from the information you will have provided. This exhibition will also appear in the Point Magazine. For more detailed information, please contact Matte Erickson at archive@safepiercing.org

Thank you,
The Body Piercing Archive
archive@safepiercing.org
The UKAPP hasn’t been quiet over winter; even if you haven’t heard much from us, we have been busy. Growing in number from six to 14 full members since September, we now have a members locator on our site and traffic is growing steadily.

There have been two social functions - one in Liverpool and another in Bristol - and lots of online activity. All this activity has allowed us to talk and hash out ideas with people interested in the industry, membership, or involvement at many other levels.

Our now annual Conference is heading into its third year and has proven to be such a huge success that this year we are including a lot more to see and do. Vendors, lessons, our rooms, and discussion groups are all being expanded. We have even added a raffle and photo competition. So, definitely more excitement as we do all our planning and our Conference gets closer!

This year the conference will be spread over three days, 9/17 through 9/19 at the Raddison in Birmingham. We hope to see you there.
ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL PIERCERS
OPENING POOL PARTY
AT
Flamingo
LAS VEGAS
Monday, June 12, 2017
8 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Keeping in line with continually enhancing the conference experience, this year’s opening party has received an amazing upgrade and will be held at the Flamingo Go Pool! Located right across from Bally’s, this pool was built with parties like ours in mind!

This is shaping up to be the biggest APP conference ever!
You do not want to miss it!!
English Version

The twelfth edition of the SusCon took place this year September from the 18 to the 20 in Tirrenia, Pisa, a convenient location we have used for a long time. The Conference was good, with 45 suspensions facilitated as well as pulling between six people. On a highly positive note, 30% of our suspendees were newbies, a sign that the cultural practice of corporal suspension is expanding.

Besides Italians, we had participants from Germany, Spain, Norway and New Zealand. The suspension groups that made the whole event possible were APTPI-ST and Wings of Desire (from Norway), whose leader Havve Fjell will officially be presenting the 3rd Symposium on corporal suspension, which will be held in Berlin this May.

As usual, during the three days of the Conference, theoretical lessons were offered. This year we had the honor to host Paul King; professional body piercer since 1991 and one of the few to hold the title of Master Piercer, given by Jim Ward in 1996. He is an active member of the APP and an avid student of ethno-anthropology, as well as the anthropology of the body modification community, having lectured on these topics at various universities.

Paul presented the “Traditions of Hook Swinging in South Asia,” “Suspension of Belief and Piercing Rituals of Plains,” and “Sundance.” The subjects were very interesting and much appreciated. They highlighted other points of view on the practice of suspension, especially with regard to the ritual purpose.

Another novelty for this year saw some of the attendees participate in a social and anthropological study, led by the anthropologist Federica Manfredi. She is researching the reasons and feelings involved for those who suspend. From this research they will produce 12 individual projects, all different and all unique and personal.

A special “thank you” to all of the participants in our SusCon, speakers, sponsors, and especially all the volunteers that make this a reality each year. At every event, we see a lot of passion and dedication, rewarding us all with an emotionally engaging gathering.

We can’t wait for next year, with even more surprises planned!
Italian Version

La dodicesima edizione dell’Italian SusCon si è svolta quest’anno dal 18 al 20 settembre a Tirrenia, Pisa, comoda location ormai da molto tempo.

Ancora una volta la partecipazione è stata buona, con 45 sospensioni effettuate durante il convegno ed un pulling tra 6 persone. Nota altamente positiva, il 30% dei suspendees erano neofiti, segno che la cultura della pratica della sospensione corporale si sta espandendo, anche e soprattutto tra i più giovani.

Oltre agli italiani, si segnalano partecipanti provenienti da Germania, Spagna, Norvegia e Nuova Zelanda; i gruppi di sospensione che hanno reso possibile tutto l’evento sono APTPI-ST e Wings of Desire (Norvegia), il cui leader, Havve Fjell, ha presentato ufficialmente il 3° Simposio sulle sospensioni corporali che sarà tenuto a Berlino nel maggio 2017.


Da noi ha proposto: ”Traditions of Hook Swinging in South Asia,” Suspension of Believe and Piercing Rituals of Plains,” and ”Sundance;” gli argomenti sono stati molto interessanti ed apprezzati, ed hanno messo in luce altri punti di vista sulla pratica della sospensione, soprattutto per quanto riguarda la finalità, non ludica ma rituale.

Altra novità, alcuni partecipanti hanno realizzato un progetto a sfondo sociale ed antropologico, condotto dall’antropologa Federica Manfredi, che ricerca i motivi, ma anche le sensazioni, che intervengono in chi si sospende. Dopo aver contattato alcune persone, ha stabilito una consegna: cercare, attraverso un’opera artistica, di rappresentare cosa, o come, la coscienza elabori l’atto di sospendersi. Sono stati così prodotti 12 progetti, tutti diversi e tutti unici e personali nel taglio e nella realizzazione, che ha coinvolto molto intensamente isoggetti.

Doveroso ringraziare tutti i partecipanti al SusCon, i relatori e gli sponsors, ma soprattutto tutti i volontari che rendono ogni anno tutto questo una realtà.

Vedere e sentire tanta passione e dedizione per una pratica apparentemente poco usuale e male accettata dalla comunità, ricompensa da ogni fatica e contribuisce a rendere questo evento così emotivamente coinvolgente dal punto di vista umano e culturale.

Vi aspettiamo alla prossima edizione, con altre sorprese!
Sean Dowdell: Why did you want to learn to do body piercing?
Miro Hernandez: I was always intrigued by the cultural aspects of it and the history. Loved learning the ritual aspects as well.

Sean Dowdell: When did you start body piercing, who taught you, and where?
Miro Hernandez: 2002, mostly self-taught. Got some help from Margaret at MINX, James Green, Bear, and Scott Barrs. They were all very helpful to me in the beginning.

Sean Dowdell: What piercers do you look up to and why?
Miro Hernandez: Luis Garcia because of how technique driven he is, Noah Babcock for pushing boundaries, Jim Ward and Fakir for historical sense, and David Vidra.

Sean Dowdell: Have you ever apprenticed anyone?
Miro Hernandez: Yes, but it never worked out. I couldn’t seem to find anyone who shared my passion for what I do.

Sean Dowdell: What would you say that you are most known for within the industry?
Miro Hernandez: I think I am known for the love of gold, and for the amount of detail I place into the things that I do.

Sean Dowdell: What do you think are (if any) problems within the piercing industry?
Miro Hernandez: It’s growing too fast and production can’t meet up with demand at the moment. Also, there aren’t enough “qualified” piercers in our industry.

Sean Dowdell: Where would you like to be in 5 years (pertaining to life and business)?
Miro Hernandez: Continue on the path that I am on and to keep growing. Always making sure that there is continual progress.

Sean Dowdell: What is your favorite piercing to perform and why?
Miro Hernandez: Without any hesitation, Daith, there is something about the technical application to the piercer performing it and the simplicity of the wearer that I love.
InkSpIredMagazIne.coM

Studio Name: Dandyland
City/State: San Antonio, TX
Number of Years Piercing: 20

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“NEVER BE AFRAID TO ADMIT YOU’RE WRONG AND LEARN FROM IT!”
Sean Dowdell: Do any piercings still make you nervous?
Miro Hernandez: Septums—unforeseen deviation that is out of my control makes me nervous.

Sean Dowdell: Being a veteran piercer, what advice do you think other novice piercers should hear?
Miro Hernandez: Never be afraid to admit you’re wrong and learn from it!

Sean Dowdell: What would you like to learn or do better?
Miro Hernandez: I would love to get better at running my studio more efficiently!

Sean Dowdell: What is your favorite thing about your career?
Miro Hernandez: Working with people that are in a very raw moment and finding themselves through a moment. That moment when they are being honest with themselves is a moment I love to be a part of.
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