Body art increases health risks

"It seems mainly to

be associated with

- Myrna Armstrong

Body art expert

a growing need to

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unique."

and nipple rings becoming increasingly popular among young professionals, researchers say there is more at risk than odd stares at the company picnic.

Myrna Armstrong, an expert in the field of body art and a nurse at Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, says the boom could also mean a resurgence of diseases like Hepatitis B among middle class

young people. "As it becomes more and more accepted for people to get body piercing and body art, it is possible that diseases associated with those things will increase," Armstrong said. "Whenever you have bleeding at a place, and an infection on the part of the worker or the patient, you have the potential for transmission."

The number of people getting tat-toos nationwide has nearly quadrupled since 1980 and nearly two-thirds of the customers are in their mid-20s, according to a study by Armstrong in 1998.

The change in demographics has sparked renewed interest by health professionals - especially those who cater to the wealthy. This year, Armstrong has been asked to speak at seminars across the country by doctors seeking advice on the dangers of tattoos.

'When it was just the lower-economic class that was getting tattooed, many people in the medical com-

LUBBOCK (AP) — With tattoos, bellybutton rings munity didn't pay much attention," Armstrong said. "But now the picture is completely different. It's become more acceptable.

She says the explosion sprang from people's desire to look different. "It seems mainly to be associated with a growing

need to feel special or be unique ... to set yourself apart from the rest," Armstrong said.

But the change in attitude toward tattoos and body piercing is not just obvious in studies. Many tattoo parlor workers say young professionals walk into their shops in suits and dresses.

'Yep. Just the other day I gave a guy a tattoo over lunch," said Jacob Taylor, a 24-year-old artist at Taylor's Tattoo. "I can't say where he worked but he was in a suit and tie and owned a company. We get that all the time these days.

Taylor says the most popular request is the bellybutton ring, closely followed by the butterfly tattoo — both for women.

Armstrong said Taylor's anecdotes fit with her experiences.

'We're talking about confident, career-oriented women that are capable decision makers," Armstrong said. "We just need to increase education so that the good decision-making includes making sure to investigate the tattoo parlor before you lie down on the table.

JUSTICE

provement over what we have now," Phillips said. "Texas is moving in the right direction, though, and has implemented a cap on campaign contributions for judicial candidates.

Phillips said a poll taken in Texas showed 83 percent of voters believed judicial decisions were affected by campaign contributions. Additionally, the poll found that 79 percent of lawyers and 48 percent of judges in Texas believed judicial decisions were usually affected by campaign

in Brief

Program to look at smoothies' benefits

The Health Education Department of A.P. Beutel Health Center is presenting a free nutrition program, 'Smoothies and Supplements: The Real Scoop," at the Recreational Sports Center in Room 281 on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

The program will cover topics such as whether smoothies are meal replacements or snacks and what the effects of adding common supplements to smooth ies are.

Department officials said herbs and supplements are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, so those that are new to the market may have unknown adverse effects on a user's health.

The program will compare the claims advertisers make regarding the benefits of taking certain supplements, such as ginseng and lecithin, as opposed to the actual effects they actually have on the individual.

Participants may also learn recipes for making their own smoothies.

Free Zuka Juice smoothies will be given to the first 25 people to arrive, and other door prizes will be given away as well.

MSC to prese professor serifo

BY STUART HUTSON The Battalion

In Spring 2000 the MSC's Student Programs Office will unveil the Professor Series, a program designed to allow students the opportunity to converse with professors who are specialists in topics of current interest.

Nathan Cray, a senior mechanical engineering major and executive vice president for MSC programming, said although the program is still in its planning stage, it will likely involve three preliminary meetings between a professor and a few students who will serve on the Professor Series committee.

The committee will create a running dialogue of ideas and views with the professor, and the results of the dialogue will be presented in an open forum to the student body.

Cray said the program will most likely start with only one or two professors directing discussions over topics chosen by the Professor Series committee.

Cray said the program will afford students the opportunity to briefly step away from and discuss a subject that The S

them with a professor. 1 June, "One of the biggest hight-han that it will allow studene tean high-level thinking skills Form thing other than their ditcher

es," he said. Student Body Presidentract Hurd said the programisusch gins in last year's major mouis af ing of MSC programs the nade hi dertaken to help the II pick achieve its mission to impeague it quality of life and educate traft. T 43,000 students of Texas Auded

"The mission of the vill be s Series is the same as h good academic institution pose students to a great d thoughts, ideas, and expen he said.

Jim Reynolds, director MSC, said the program ceptualized with the back intellectual community

"Ideally, we will eventu hundreds of professors at members sitting down will seven students to discussi will challenge and intelle stimulate them," Reynold

BY R. DELU

ALCOHOL

Continued from Page 1

Kibler said the task force looked at all sides of these issues in order to produce recommendations that would be enforceable but not overly restrictive.

The task force considered lots of alternatives that ranged from just considering it a non-issue to the

ABSTINENCE

Continued from Page 1

"People think sex is a way of showing that you love each other, and it is," she said. "But people who are committed to abstinence and together agree to stay that way, and maintain that abstinence because they love each other and want to save that until after they get married, that's also

other end of the spectrum, which

might be to become very restrictive," he said. "[This would] allo-

cate very specific places on campus

and try to regulate them with per-

mits. We didn't choose to go to ei-

tions will be submitted to Texas

A&M President Dr. Ray Bowen for

approval, following approval from

The task force's recommenda-

ther of those extremes.

Southerland.

a sign of love. There are 12 million new cases of sexually transmitted diseases reported each year in the United States according to the Center for Disease Control and

Texas ranked fourth among states with the highest number of AIDS cases with a total of 48,350 as of Dec. 31, 1998.

Continued from Page 1

Phillips said there is no single answer to improving the selection

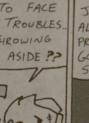
"Any change would be an im-

contributions.

"Generally, the public is satisfied," Phillips said. "But the system used now will be damaging in the long run to the democratic system.

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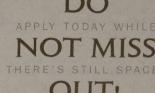
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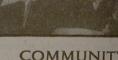
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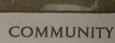
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