

## Recommendation from U-Mass School of Nursing

*By Janell Ostiguy*

June 14, 2000

Mrs. Rose Andlauer  
86 Union Square  
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter on behalf of myself and the members of the University of Massachusetts, School of Nursing class of 1998. We are a sub-group of 20 Registered Nurses who returned to U-MASS to obtain a Baccalaureate degree in nursing. As part of this program, we were required to provide a community in Western Massachusetts with our expertise and skills from a health care perspective. Our group chose to do a health fair at a local high school in the area. In an effort to educate the students in a most effective way we took a poll of the population and tailored our education based on these results. Much to our surprise the #1 topic that the students wanted to learn more about was body piercing and tattooing. Because this is a controversial area with many health concerns, we obtained special permission from the principal and the school nurse to provide education on these topics.

When I learned that this would be my topic to coordinate, I could think of no other person than Rose Andlauer to help with the education. Mrs. Andlauer, being the only A.P.P. approved piercer in Massachusetts and most of the surrounding states for that matter was the obvious choice to provide the education that these students so desperately sought. The more times I met with Rose the more we talked, the more I was assured that I had made the right decision to ask for her involvement.

Rose is a friendly, easily approachable and caring person. The students loved her, we were the busiest booth at the health fair and the reason for this is due to Rose. The students were grouped around her, 10-20 at a time to listen to her talk about the dangers and ramifications of self piercing, things to look for in a safe piercing salon along with infection control issues. She stressed that piercing and tattoos are big decisions and the importance of communicating with their parents for minors and the permanence of tattoos. The look on the faces of the students was priceless, almost a look of relief to get the information they needed from a person who obviously supports the idea of body arts and effectively educates and promotes safe practice.

The health concerns addressed by Rose and myself would not have been effective or the success it was if it had not been for Rose. She was and continues to be an asset to the area of body arts. The times she spend with each and every person she comes in contact with, whether they are a customer or just a person who stops by her shop out of curiosity, clearly exhibits the level of professionalism she holds. She is a true educator and leader. I can't think of a better person than Rose Andlauer to be a forerunner in the battle of the promotion and education of safe practice in body arts.

Sincerely,

Janell Ostiguy, RN, BS  
UMASS School of Nursing  
Class of 1998