

## ETCETERA

## Body Language

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**D**ressing up for a night on the town doesn't always mean high heels, an evening gown and a shawl.

Not even a suit and tie fit the bill when the highlight of your outfit is in your mouth — or, heaven forbid, on your nipple.

Body-piercing and tattooing have wafted through various cultures for literally hundreds of years, and now the art of body decoration has taken root in Keswick, where Juniper Lindquist and partner Tsunami Goodall have launched Halo Body Art from Lindquist's state-of-the-art studio at 217 Elm Ave.

The perception that body art is associated with only seedy characters and bikers is definitely changing. Tattoos are rapidly gaining acceptance from those who live their life strictly on the up-and-up.

"Doctors, lawyers and all kinds of people in their 40s and 50s are making the decision to not hold back," says Lindquist, 23.

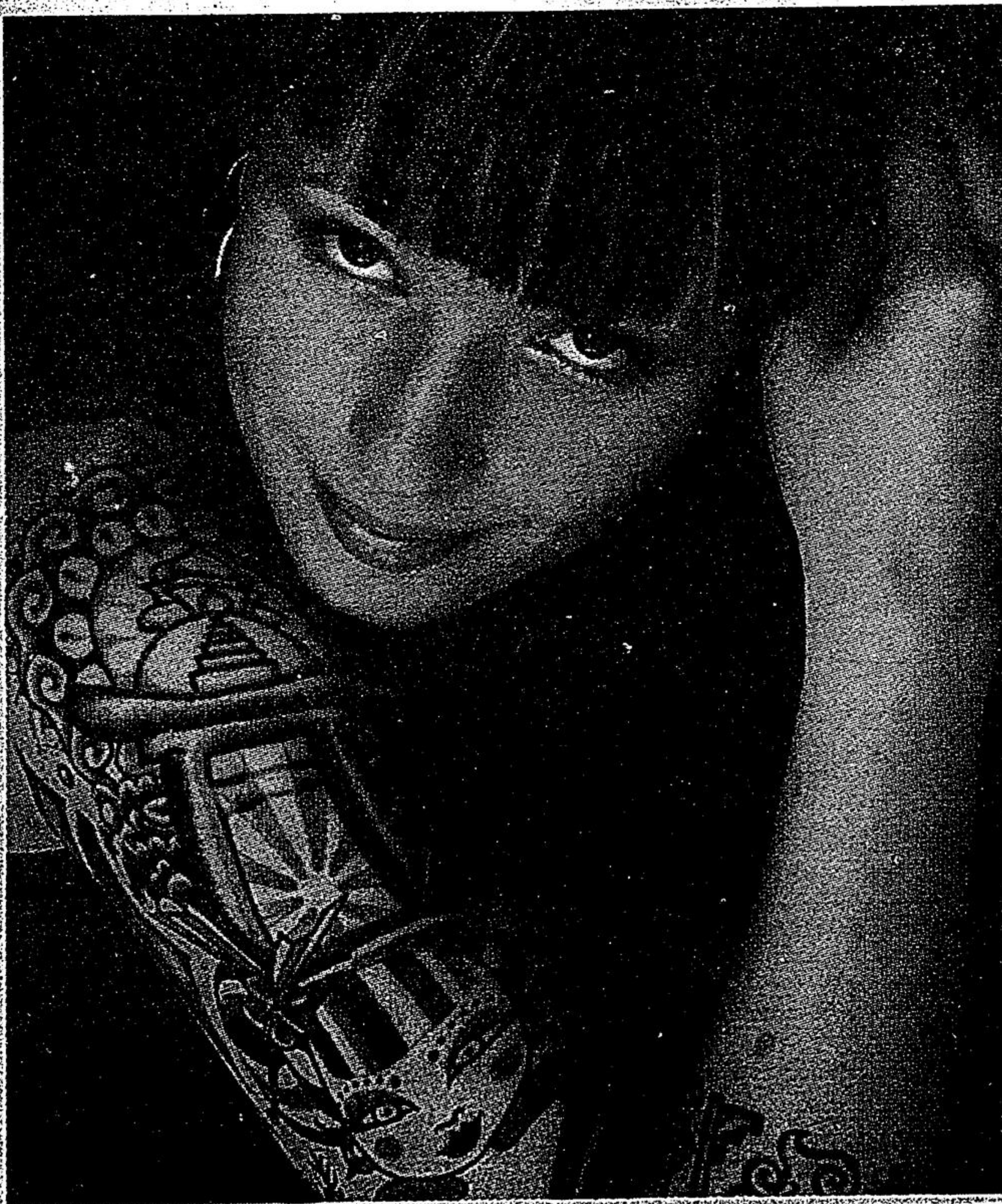
They may have secretly wanted a tattoo their whole lives and they've finally decided to do something about it.

Both white and blue-collar workers from all walks of life are turning to this form of self-expression as a way of asserting their adulthood and independence, cementing the fact that they are the ones in charge of their own lives, she says.

"I just completed a tattoo on a CTV interviewer.

Just where the art of tattoo originated is anyone's guess, but history shows that body modification rituals have been practised for centuries by various cultures around the world.

Sometimes, these rituals signify a passage



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Juniper Lindquist shows off her Asian-inspired tattoo.

in one's life (the transition from childhood to adulthood) while other times, they symbolize beauty and virility. A tattoo can represent a change in one's life, as was the case with a

professional transvestite wrestler who sought out the services of Juniper and Tsunami.

"This wrestler had stopped drinking and wanted something to signify that change,"

explains Juniper.

"He had us tattoo his bicep, a picture of a sailor's beer bottle displaying the skull and cross-bones."

Transvestite wrestlers aside, body piercing and tattooing are (fortunately, for some parents) not available to everyone. Law dictates that body piercing be restricted to those 16 years of age and older (18 if you're piercing nipples or genitals), while tattooing is restricted to those at least 18.

Juniper and 27-year-old Tsunami (meaning tidal wave in Japanese) bring much more to their newly established business than meets the eye.

Juniper, a successful acrylic painter, and Tsunami, also an artist, gained small business experience in British Columbia where body artwork is more prevalent than in Ontario. In B.C., the pair perfected the art of tattoo design, leaning heavily on both Japanese and native patterns.

Halo Body Art specializes in creating designs with tribal and Polynesian flavours, although the duo will create any design requested by their clients.

"We turn the ancient ritual of body modification into transformational modern art in a more intimate and relaxed studio environment," says Juniper.

"We work to accentuate the body, making sure the design fits well into the skin. We can give the tattoo a graceful look, winding down the arm, for instance."

Whoever walks through the door is offered a free consultation so the artists

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