

Jewelry-laden grillz add sparkle, style to smiles

Continued from page 1B

as a hygienist. Violators may face fines, jail time or both.

Campbell, whose organization is charged with enforcing that law, said the local vendors appear to be in violation. "It's an illegal practice of dentistry," Campbell said. "You can't take impressions of teeth or put anything over them."

The issue is consumer safety, she said. At best, grillz are breeding grounds for bacteria, which flourish on metals.

Other consequences include tooth damage, which could

require extraction or crowns; the spread of infectious diseases; alteration of the proper occlusion, or bite, which could cause headaches; and metal allergies, which could bring autoimmune disorders such as lupus.

"I'm worried about everybody," Campbell said. "I'm worried about the person who's administering the treatment. I'm worried about those who are having it done. I'm worried about everyone." Griffin isn't worried.

Even though he wears his grill much of the time, he said he has never had problems

with it.

"Every day, I take mine, and there are like gold jewelry wipes that get tarnish off the gold," Griffin said. "You can even brush them with toothpaste just like real teeth. I do that about once a week to give them an extra sparkle. My Moms, she don't like the gold teeth, because she said she spent too much on my real teeth."

That didn't stop him from picking up a new two-tooth grill at N.Y. Grillz on Friday.

Mathenia has worn one grill or another for about three years.

"It's almost like getting dressed in the morning," she said. "Now that this is my job, I wear my teeth all the time."

Still, most vendors emphasize grillz are for decorative use only.

"It's nothing that you want to wear all the time because it's not dental gold," Theus said. "That's why we stress all the time that its mouth jewelry. You wouldn't want to wear it in your mouth all day every day like it's a retainer or a piece of dental work that you could get from an actual dentist."

That distinction apparently is lost on some customers, especially those who do not have dental insurance and cannot afford expensive dental procedures.

"We cater to everyone from missing teeth, chipped teeth, decayed teeth," Mathenia said. "Its cosmetic. Purely cosmetic."

City Townsend, 27, a worker at N.Y. Grillz, remembered a middle-aged customer who was missing two of his natural teeth. The shop built him a grill with teeth to replace the missing ones, and "he's been

smiling ever since."

Teenagers attraction to mouth jewelry seems to be more about pop culture than dental embarrassments. In their hit hip-hop song "Grillz," Nelly and grill guru Paul Wall promised to "start an epidemic," and it appears that epidemic is growing.

"This is a new trend," Mathenia said, "and it's going to be here for a while. It's been in Texas, Louisiana, California, New York, New Jersey for years. And now its made its way to Oklahoma."

Bigger car seats, caskets, everything



FILE PHOTO

As Americans get bigger, so do the products that carry them in this life and the after life.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK--From the cradle to the grave and most points between, obesity has found its niche in American marketing. Make that a wide berth.

Baby seats, doorways and caskets are but a few examples from a long list of life's accoutrements that are getting much bigger to accommodate much bigger people. There are also vacation resorts for those embarrassed to be seen in a bathing suit.

At Freedom Paradise on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, the chairs are wider and without arms, to prevent getting stuck; the beds are king-sized and reinforced, to prevent collapsing; and the beach is private and secluded, to prevent gawking and staring.

"You should not be embarrassed by how big you are," said William Fabrey, whose online business "Amplestuff" offers larger versions of everyday things from umbrellas to footstools. "You can't just yell at someone and tell them to lose weight. You're already dealing with people who think they have no worth."

"They still have to sit down

on a chair that doesn't collapse," he said.

Like others in this small but growing group of businesses, Fabrey started his company after discussions with an overweight friend. "She was a big woman, and she said, 'There's got to be an easier way to get through the day.'"

To make living large a little easier, Fabrey sells lotion applicators and sponges attached to handles — enabling the user to reach all parts of the body, handbooks on hygiene with tips on dealing with odor problems, chafing and irritations caused by skin folds. His business also provides links to physicians and medical services.

"We don't take any position on whether someone should lose weight," Fabrey said. "That's up to the person."

Seemingly every day, another study appears that shows the United States is becoming a country of fat people. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 71 percent of men weigh too much, along with about 61 percent of women and 33 percent of children.

As Americans grow in

weight, their life expectancy becomes shorter—by as much as five years, according to the latest national statistics—more than the impacts of heart disease and cancer. Obesity is fast approaching tobacco as the No. 1 cause of preventable death.

The price tag to taxpayers,

Please see BIGGER/4B

The Charlotte Post

Can be delivered to your house
Call 704 376 0496 today

Week of 04/19/06 thru 04/25/06

FOOD LION
MVP
Value Pack
Boneless Top Sirloin Steak
\$3.99
lb.
Without MVP Card \$6.79

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE
2.5 Lbs. Boneless, Skinless Breast Fillets Individually Quick Frozen
Food Lion Chicken
Limit 2 Free
Without MVP Card \$8.49 Each

Pork Spareribs
\$1.99
lb.
Without MVP Card \$2.99

Chilean Seedless Red Grapes
99¢
lb.
Without MVP Card \$2.99

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE
Large, Ripe Cantaloupes
Without MVP Card \$2.99 Each

BUY ONE LB., GET ONE LB. FREE
Canadian Maple Ham
Without MVP Card \$5.99 Lb.

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE
12 Inch Regular, Thin or Brick Oven
Freschetta Pizza
\$3.99
Without MVP Card \$5.79

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE
48-56 Ounce (Excludes Carb Smart)
Breyers Ice Cream
Limit 2 Free
Without MVP Card \$4.99 Each

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE
Limit 2 Free
6.3-10 Ounce Select Varieties
Quaker Chewy Granola Bars or Dips
Without MVP Card \$2.59 Each

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE
6 Rolls Select Varieties
Quilted Northern Bathroom Tissue
Without MVP Card \$4.79 Each

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE
20 Ounce
Kellogg's Frosted Flakes
Limit 2 Free
Without MVP Card \$3.15 Each

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE
Limit 2 Free
13-16 Ounce Select Varieties
Nabisco Chips Ahoy!
Without MVP Card \$3.19 Each

Business Ownership? The Most Important Career Choice You Can Make

Presenting **2006 URBAN BUSINESS EXPO SERIES**

Seminars designed to help you make a qualified decision about current or future considerations or plans for owning your own business!!

There has never been a more exciting time to start your own business... New businesses are springing up every day all across the country! What has led to this entrepreneurial boom?

First, there has been a steep increase in downsizing at large corporations, companies and the public sector. Thousands are recognizing that their earning potential is much higher "on their own". Annual U.S. Self-Employment figures rose from 7.7 million in 1979 to 12.2 million by 2003. These changes and others have created an atmosphere of opportunity in the entrepreneurial environment.

It's now up to you... your future awaits!!!

Urban Business Expo Series

Sessions designed to help you carefully review and assess your business ownership options.

You will receive expert advice, information and assistance on:

- Best Business Industry to Choose
- Assessing your Business Idea
- Business Plan that Can Be Started for Less - \$20,000
- Legal, Licensing and other Regulatory Issues
- Planning your Business
- Funding/Financing your Business Idea
- Business Management & Operations
- Technology & E-Business Tactics
- Resources to Help Build Your Business
- Available Ongoing Training, TA & Consulting.

And:

- Your own 70+ page Business Planning Workbook with Materials, Key Business Information & Contacts, Worksheets, Forms and other helpful planning documents
- Information and schedules on other upcoming business training sessions and business financing workshops.

Urban Business Expo Series Schedule - Four (4) Single Session Seminars

Saturdays: April 29, 2006 - May 13 and 27, 2006 - June 17, 2006
Time: 8:30am - 12 Noon
Registration: \$50.00
Place: Urban League Central Carolinas, Inc. - 740 W. 9th Street Charlotte NC
Reservations: 704.398.1781 - mchassaco@bellouth.net

Register Today - Seating is limited!



Sponsored By **McHenry Associates**

Business Management-Marketing Consultants
P.O. Box 68/097
Charlotte, NC 28216
704.599.1771

Bill McCullough, President/Co-Owner, McHenry Associates is a 1988 Mr. McCullough is former commercial banker, college-level business instructor, public speaker and an private sector trainer and local business consultant. In 1997, he was chosen as U.S. SBA Local, State and National Small Business

Food Lion Proudly Supports Children's Miracle Network

We reserve the right to limit quantities and correct typographical and photographic errors. Rewards unavailable on alcohol and tobacco products.

All Stores Accept

