

Body Piercing Parlor Is Not Your Traditional Franklin Street Shop

BY NANCY NELSON
STAFF WRITER

A neon sign hanging above Rock Art, 143 W. Franklin St., announces the arrival of a new business — body piercing — to Chapel Hill.

Buster Mixon and his nephew, Sean Cowan, from Augusta, Ga., opened Professional Body Piercing, also known as Body Jewels, Dec. 18 to satisfy Chapel Hill's growing demand for body piercing, Mixon said.

Mixon, owner of Ink Slingers Tattoo

Studios in Durham and Danville, Va., said he had been tattooing and body piercing for 10 years. He said his decision to open a store on Franklin Street had been based on the fact that most of his customers were from Chapel Hill.

"I thought we'd get a better response in Chapel Hill," Mixon said. "Also, we wanted a place separate from tattooing, since that can take 2-2 1/2 hours while body piercing is usually only 10-15 minutes per person."

Body piercing is gaining popularity mainly because it is temporary, Mixon

said. Many people afraid of the permanence and visibility of tattoos opt for body piercing, he said.

"A lot of people have to cover their (body rings) for work or other reasons," Mixon said. "We sell things like nose rings that fit on the inside of the nose so people can wear those to work during the week and put in their big (nose rings) on the weekend for fun."

Mixon said he was willing to pierce any body part that could be done safely. These parts include noses, septum (the center of the nose), ears — through cartilage, eye-

brows, tongues, genitalia and even elbows.

Piercing is simple, he said. First, he and Cowan talk to customers to calm them. Then they clean the area being pierced three times. Finally, a hollow, sterilized needle is used to make a hole fitted to the size of the ring.

It takes about three months for the hole to heal, Cowan said.

Sterilization is essential in body piercing, Mixon said. His needles are sterilized using a three-step process using two chemical solutions and an autoclave sterilizer, he said.

Mixon said knowledge of human anatomy was important in the piercing business. Both he and Cowan have completed courses in body piercing at Body Design, a piercing school in Long Island, N.Y. There, they learned how to locate and avoid capillaries, veins and arteries.

"Instead of just learning how to pierce, we learned the safe way to do it," Mixon said. "People who pierce themselves at home don't realize it can be dangerous."

Setting up the business was simple because no special permits are required for body piercing, he said.

The price of piercing ranges from \$40 to \$75 depending on the body part, Cowan said. The most expensive procedure, genital piercing, costs \$75 plus the price of the jewelry. However, jewelry is included in the price of most procedures, he said.

The new business, located in what was once Rock Art's storage loft, has helped bring more customers to Rock Art, said Raleigh LaRoche, a Rock Art employee.

"A lot of people see the sign and come in to check it out," LaRoche said. "Most people think of body piercing places as dirty, but it's a very good-looking place."

Campus Calendar

WEDNESDAY

3 p.m. Introduction to Internships Workshop discussing what an internship is and how it will help you with your career will be held in 307 Hanes Hall.

3:30 p.m. Job Hunt 101: A basic information session on how to use the University Career Services Office, for seniors and graduate students, will be held in 209 Hanes Hall.

3:45 p.m. Résumé Writing for Internships Workshop will be held in 307 Hanes Hall.

4:30 p.m. Job Hunt 102: Résumés, a workshop on the basics for a professional résumé, will be held in 209 Hanes Hall.

6 p.m. WESLEY - The Methodist Student Campus Ministry — invites all students to dinner for only \$2 and to a Yoga/Relaxation program at 214 Pittsboro St.

7 p.m. POWER, People Organized for Women's Empowerment and Rights, meeting will be held in the Union. Big plans are in the making, so start the year off right and join POWER!

7:30 p.m. Phi Sigma Pi business meeting will be held. The location should be posted in the Student Union.

Delta Star Search! Come and see UNC's finest perform in a talent show in 100 Hamilton Hall. Tickets are \$2 in advance, \$3 at the door. Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta.

THURSDAY

6 p.m. International Taste Test: Sample foods from Ghana, Nigeria, Korea, China and other countries. In Carmichael Ballroom. Sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority for Founders Week.

PPP

FROM PAGE 1

The University is investing a large amount of money in this study, which will save money in the long run, he said.

JJR has come upon several problems during the early stages of planning future land use.

"We have hit a few bumps," Rigerink said. "We have had problems with the topographic base of the properties. However, we now have the topographic base digitized on computer, having previously used a 1978 base."

"We also need to determine how detailed the University projections are and then go forward."

Rigerink believes now is the time to be doing the study of the sites. "This is the perfect time to do this," he said. "We don't have a project hanging over our shoulders saying 'quick do this.'"

Rigerink stressed that the consultants of JJR wanted to hear ideas and would consider them all.

David Whichard, chairman of the Board of Trustees, said he believed that participation was of utmost importance to the University. "The University recognizes the public's legitimate interests in these tracts," Whichard said. "I am confident the plans will be in the best interest of the University and the community."

Members of the community shared their opinions regarding the individual land tracts. Patrick Hobson of 2804 Winningham Road said he was concerned about the Mason Farm tract.

"I consider the Mason Farm tract a most important resource for the town and the University," Hobson said. He recommended making the tract a biological research area with access for the community.

Jim Gibson recommended utilizing the Horace Williams plot as a housing area for a retirement community and students. "The University would profit by the interage mixing," Gibson said.

Ken Touw, chairman of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education, asked that the school board be considered in the land-use process. Touw expressed concerns regarding the safety of students due to the impact of more traffic and the impact of housing on the already overcrowded schools.

Representatives will hold another forum from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday in Union 208 as part of the consultants' four-day visit. That forum is intended to answer questions from faculty, staff and students.

JJR's next meeting with the University and community is scheduled for early April.

GLOBETROTTERS

FROM PAGE 1

She said that the morning assembly had gone well and that Hildreth had been well-received by the students.

"The kids were very excited to see him," she said. "He talked about the history of the Harlem Globetrotters, his history in basketball and how you should never give up on your dreams."

Although Hildreth never graduated from high school in his hometown near Los Angeles, it didn't stop him from going to college. After attending a junior college, Hildreth graduated from Mississippi State University with a degree in marketing.

After he graduated from college, Hildreth was drafted by the L.A. Clippers and then traded to the Sacramento Kings. Instead of joining the Kings, Hildreth opted to play basketball in Italy. He joined the Harlem Globetrotters eight years ago.

The Greater Orange County United Way funds about 25 local health and human service agencies. Some of these organizations are the YMCA, Volunteers for Youth, the Inter-Faith Council for Social Services and the Orange County Literacy Council.

The Harlem Globetrotters team is scheduled to take on its archrivals, The Washington Generals, at the Smith Center at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Before leaving the YMCA, Hildreth handed out complimentary tickets to the children.

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