

Carrboro Vendor Offers Piercings, Tattoos

By GARY BARRIER
Staff Writer

The day after Glenn Wilson graduated from high school, he used his newfound freedom to get his first tattoo.

The experience, Wilson claimed, changed his life and he dreamed of opening his own business.

After working more than eight years in other tattoo parlors, Wilson's dream became a reality on March 26 with the opening of Glenn's Tattoo Service Inc. at 110 W. Main St. in Carrboro.

The shop offers tattooing and jewelry in addition to piercing performed by Robert Bland.

Glenn's is the first such business to open in the area since Choice Peach Tattooing in Carrboro was forced to close earlier this year because of building renovations, said Carrboro Planner and Zoning Development Specialist Marty Roupe.

With the lack of tattoo businesses in the region, Wilson said he thinks he has a responsibility to those wanting a tattoo. "I take pride in doing quality tattooing," Wilson said. "I basically offer a really good tattoo for a really good price."

But Wilson is not the only one excited about the opening of Glenn's. Sophomore Wendy Love, an art history major from Morganton, said she thinks the opening of any new art-oriented establishment is beneficial.

"I think it's a good idea because any kind of business in the area is good, especially when it pertains to art," Love said. "I think it's great to have more venues for body art around."

Michael Vollmer, a sophomore political science and economics major from Tryon, said although he is "not a big tattoo kind of guy," he is glad Glenn's opened because it fills the gap for such a market in the University community.

"Everyone I know that has gotten a tattoo has had to drive to Raleigh or Durham to get one," Vollmer said.

But not everyone is as enthusiastic about the opening of Glenn's. Kathym Moore, who runs Dogstar Tattoo Co. in Durham, expressed fears that she would lose business from University students.

But artist Lee Swain of Tattoo Asylum, also in Durham, said he is not worried about losing customers to Glenn's because of the outstanding work he believes Tattoo Asylum offers its customers. "I think business depends on the quality of work of the tattoo and the professionalism of the staff," Swain said.

Wilson also said the quality of work is vital to a tattoo parlor's success and he believes his passion for the business will allow Glenn's to stand out.

"Too many people are in it for the money," he said. "I want to offer quality work and to be able to educate customers

"Too many people are in it for the money. I want to offer quality work and ... educate customers about tattooing."

GLENN WILSON
Owner of Glenn's Tattoo Service Inc.



Employee Rob Bland pierces Lindsay Gibson's navel at Glenn's Tattoo Service Inc. Gibson was visiting her younger sister from East Carolina University for the weekend and got talked into the piercing.

DTH/CHRISTINE NGUYEN

about tattooing when they come in."

Wilson said the success of his business will depend on student interest and the continuation of tattoo popularity.

"Tattooing's been around since

mankind's been around, and will continue to do so," he said. "With the way students come and go, it could be very successful. With a good name and a good reputation, people will come back.

A tattoo can be a really positive experience on someone's life."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Campus Calendar

Today

11 a.m. - The Student Environmental Action Coalition, CESA and UNC Sustainability Coalition will host an **Earth Day Celebration** in Polk Place from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Come out for games, prizes, live music and presentations by campus and community groups.

5:30 p.m. - The **Distinguished Scholars Seminar** will feature Juliette Bell, professor of chemistry and director of the Biomedical Research Program at Fayetteville State University.

Bell will speak on **"Variety IS the Spice of Life: The Value of Diversity in Learning, Teaching and Research,"** at the Carolina Club in Alumni Hall. All are welcome.

Wednesday

noon - The Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center will sponsor **Around the Circle: "The Sonja Hanes Stone Segregationist Center."**

This week's **Around the Circle** will focus on the **myths of the BCC being separatist and not named as a multicultural center.** Will the freestanding center encourage segregation? What does it mean to students today?

Thursday

10 a.m. - **Help victims of domestic violence** by donating your **out-of-service cell phone.**

Bring it to the Pit between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Phones must include chargers and be less than 5 years old).

3:30 p.m. - A roundtable discussion examining the **knowledge-based economy in Europe and America** will take place in 39 Graham Memorial Hall.

The discussion, "Property, Security, Openness and Access: Europe's Challenges in a Knowledge-based Economy," will be followed by an informal reception at 223 East Franklin St.

6 p.m. - The students of the **UNC Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures** present their annual **SPEKTAKL variety show** in Toy Lounge of Dey Hall.

Students perform songs, poems and skits that use the languages they have learned and subjects they have studied during the year. The show is free and open to the public.

6:30 p.m. - A **Master Plan forum** will be held in 206 Dey Hall as part of Earth Week.

The **panel and discussion** will include representatives from surrounding neighborhoods, the University, other local government officials, residents and various people from the campus community.

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DOE Seeks to Clarify Drug Conviction Question

The U.S. Department of Education has reworded a question on the federal financial aid application.

By RACHEL COTTONE
Staff Writer

An ambiguous question on the federal financial aid form requiring students to disclose prior drug convictions was reworded on March 26 - and must now be answered by all college applicants.

Many applicants have left the question blank, leading education officials to suspect the question is often misunderstood.

The revised wording explicitly states

that students are required to answer the question. The new question asks if the student has "ever been convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs."

Roger Murphey, spokesman for the U.S. Department of Education, said revision of the question has not negatively affected a large number of students.

Out of 3,944,000 applications processed since March 26, he said only 27,000 have answered "yes" to the question. Of those 27,000, more than 12,000 have been deemed eligible to receive financial aid by filling out an additional form about their drug conviction.

Murphey added that that only 0.5 percent of applicants have been barred from receiving federal financial aid because of their response to the question. He said these students were denied aid because

they did not answer the question or have not yet filled out the additional form.

Julie Mallette, N.C. State University's financial aid director, said she has not seen an increase or decrease in the number of applicants who were rejected for either leaving the question blank or not answering it at all.

"I've not really seen a difference this year compared to last year," she said. Mallette added that only a handful of students both last year and this year were affected. "It's not a significant problem for us," she said.

But Allen St. Pierre, executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said he strongly opposes the question. "It's often said, and it's true, that laws are the institutionalization of the morals of society,

and if that's true then the passing of this law is truly bizarre," he said.

St. Pierre also said he thinks the question is unfair because drug use is specifically singled out as the only illegal activity standing in the way of receiving federal financial aid. "It is socially accepted that rape is worse than smoking a single marijuana cigarette."

St. Pierre said he has frequented UNC-Chapel Hill's campus giving lectures for NORML and does not think the underage drinking he has observed as being less dangerous than smoking marijuana.

"There are 10,000 inebriated college students not of legal drinking age every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night," he said. "It is more acceptable on college campuses for a student to drink than to smoke marijuana."

St. Pierre said having any sort of question asking about prior drug convictions creates an uneven playing field for prospective students. "Someone can spend \$3,000 to \$5,000 and get (his record) expunged," he said.

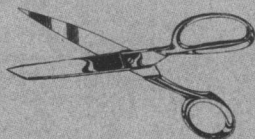
And he added that the question is somewhat racist because minorities are convicted more often than whites. "These (minorities) are the people who need the money the most," he said.

St. Pierre said one change he would like to see was a change in the wording of the question from illegal drug use to a felony conviction.

"They should just change that one bloody word."

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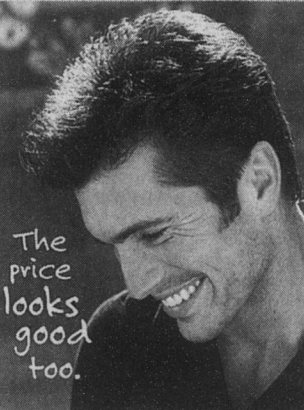
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