

Cueing up



David Mandrell/The Gamecock

WUSC disc jockey Chuck Feather readies a record Tuesday afternoon for a show, which aired from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Couples advertise for babies in college newspapers

College Press Service

SAN MARCOS, Texas — Pat and Brian want your baby. If you're a white, pregnant, healthy student, Pat and Brian want to talk to you. Pat, a research scientist, and Brian, a weatherman, have been trying to have kids for at least 10 years. Because the couple want to speed the adoption process, they hired a lawyer who specializes in adoptions. They also ran an ad in the The Daily University Star classifieds, complete with a toll-free number, that promised a baby would get "a home full of love, room full of teddy bears and endless opportunities."

"When we first got married, we always thought someday we'd have kids," Pat said. "There are a lot of little ones in our family, and we're missing that."

Pat and Brian aren't unique. They are among many couples who turn to advertising in college newspapers and adoption attorneys to find a baby.

The East Coast couple, who would not reveal their last name or where they are from, have been married for 18 years and have tried unsuccessfully to get pregnant by in vitro fertilization. This type of fertilization is an expensive process.

"We thought about adoption and started the procedures in the end of August," Pat said.

The process for Pat and Brian meant a criminal background check, interviews through a state program and "a lot of paperwork," according to Pat. The couple are mainly relying on a lawyer, though, because adoption is a "tricky business," Pat said. "If things aren't done legally, you don't get a baby."

Their lawyer, Stanley Michelman of New York, is strictly an adoption lawyer.

"I make sure everything that is done is legal," Michelman said.

It's legal, Michelman said, for adopting couples to pay a mother's expenses incurred during the pregnancy, the birth and the recuperation. If the woman is unable to work during the pregnancy, the couple can also pay her living expenses.

But it's illegal, Michelman said, for the mother to be compensated for anything beyond medical or living expenses.

"There is a limit to our finances, but we're playing it by ear," Pat said. "We haven't set that limit yet." The medical and legal bills can cost up to \$20,000, and advertising can cost up to \$1,000. The 1-800 service Pat and Brian use costs \$5 per month and 25 cents a minute.

Besides financial support, Pat and Brian are willing to give the mother moral support or "whatever you need," Pat said. "We want to be accessible to the mother."

When someone calls, Pat exchanges information with the prospective mother.

"I'm anxious with every call," she said. "You never know if it'll be the baby or not."

No matter how badly Pat and Brian want a baby, they feel it's more important for the mother to be sure adoption is the right choice.

"It's not my role to persuade anyone to give up their baby," Pat said. "I encourage them to call again and get more information."

"A pregnant girl has to make a decision, and we give them something else to think about."

They have advertised in colleges and other newspapers across the country. Childless couples are "advertising because they really want to have children," Pat said.

On the other hand, some adoption authorities question the legitimacy of advertising to get children.

"It's too good to be true," said Peggy Stamy, a social worker at a licensed placement agency in San Marcos. "It makes me ask why aren't these people going through agencies? What's wrong with them?"

Young women who find themselves pregnant may be "filled with shame and fear," said Jane Heyer, a social worker at the university's counseling center. They may view an advertisement like Pat's as a "lot less hassle," Stamy said, than working through an adoption agency.

A woman who allows her baby to be adopted through an ad doesn't get the peace of mind that an adoption agency can provide, Stamy said.

"It's like buying a car without test driving it," Stamy said. "The lawyer may not provide adequate character references, criminal checks or home visit checks after the baby is placed."

Couples adopt through ads and through lawyers because they think it's quicker than going through an agency.

"There are a lot of women of child-bearing age in college," Pat reasoned on placing an ad in papers such as The Star.

Going through an adoption lawyer "can be a lot faster than being on a list at an agency," Michelman said.

Pat said working with a lawyer allows for "both parties to be in control."

Holy Toledo! UT officials want genderless, friendly mascot

College Press Service

TOLEDO, Ohio — For years, he's been the butt of numerous condom and sex toy jokes on campus.

He's been hazed by visiting fans. He's been beaten by other Mid-American Conference mascots.

Now, University of Toledo officials want him to change. In fact, they don't want him to be a "him" anymore.

The UT Athletic Logo Committee is in the process of redesigning UT's mascot, Rocky the Rocket, and it wants the help of the student body.

Rob Brandt, UT's sports information director and spokesman for the committee, said student-generated ideas are being solicited to help with Rocky's facelift.

"We're open to whatever creativity comes from the minds of those who are interested," Brandt said. "Our focus is on a new look for the athletics program. We want it to be more modern and more up-to-date."

The committee has said the new mascot must:

- Be gender free, with no distinguishable male or female features.

- Have a friendly or smiling appearance.
- Include a design that can be made into a costume that allows ease of mobility and is practical and comfortable.

- Represent all culture and ethnic groups equally.

Carlos Gary, a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences, has already submitted a design, but, according to the stipulations set forth by the committee, it wasn't acceptable.

Gary, who has marketed his design on T-shirts, said his drawings depict a Rocky that is "ferocious and aggressive."

"The reason the student body didn't take it seriously before was because of that, because it wasn't as ferocious or aggressive as it should be," Gary said. "With the criteria that have been set forth, (a new design) won't work. It's Division II thinking. What they have in mind won't generate any tradition or pageantry. Once again, we are taking a step back."

"Our mascot has been redesigned every five years or so," Brandt said. "There is always something that is tinkered with. So, this process was planned anyway. But Carlos has definitely energized the whole progress."

Brandt said the mascot will retain the name Rocky because "it has been determined that

Rocky is a gender-free mascot."

The committee will also accept designs for a new logo, though Rocky is more known to the students, Brandt said.

"We haven't really decided how to handle the logo," he added. "We're open to the suggestion of the students."

Political correctness may be the impetus behind Rocky's change, but it's happening nationwide.

The University of Alabama-Birmingham's mascot, Blaze, was deemed too violent, too male, too white and too threatening to little children.

And within the past five years, nearly every Mid-American Conference school has made a major change of its mascot and logo.

But at the University of Massachusetts, officials are going against the grain.

UM officials said the Minuteman logo will remain after previously hinting they might grant the wishes of some students and drop it.

About 30 campus protesters recently demanded a student referendum to discharge the Minuteman, which is criticized as sexist because he's male, racist because he's white and violent because he carries a musket.

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USC Fitness Programs
SPRING 1994 AEROBICS
 Session begin January 17
 All sessions are on a first come, first serve basis and are held in the Blatt P.E. Center.

High/Low Impact Aerobics	Tuesday, Friday	5:15 pm	Gym 307
	Sunday	2:00 pm	Gym 307
Step Aerobics*	Monday, Wednesday, & Friday	12:30 pm	Gym 307
	Tuesday, Thursday	4:00 pm	Gym 308
	Saturday	4:00 pm	Gym 307
	Sunday	5:00 pm	Gym 307
	Monday, Wednesday	5:15 pm	Gym 307
High Energy	Saturday	11:00 am	Gym 307
	Monday	4:00 pm	Gym 308
	Thursday	5:15 pm	Gym 307
Body Sculpting	Tuesday, Thursday	12:30 pm	Gym 307
	Monday, Wednesday	4:00 pm	Gym 308
High/Low H2O	Monday thru Thursday	5:30 pm	Pool

ADVANCED CLASSES:
 Cardio-Challenge Monday, Wednesday 6:30 pm Gym 307
 Cross-Trainer Tuesday 6:30 pm Gym 307
 Power Step* Thursday 6:30 pm Gym 307

Advanced Classes are one hour and thirty minutes long; all other classes are one hour in length.
 *BENCH RESERVATIONS: Participants who are interested in the step classes are asked to call the Office of Campus Recreation at 777-5261 to reserve a bench the day of the class. Weekend step classes require participants to call on Friday. Bench sizes are 5, 6, 7 & 8 inches. There are a limited number of benches, therefore, reservations are on a first come, first serve basis.
 Programs are ONLY offered to USC students, faculty, staff, and their spouses. There will be a \$10 fee per person, per semester to take aerobic classes. This fee will entitle you to take all of the aerobic classes that are offered. Please register and pay in the Office of Campus Recreation in the Blatt P.E. Center.
 Participation in Fitness Programs at USC is a purely voluntary activity and individuals participate at their own risk. Participants should be aware of the possibilities of bodily injury and should understand that they are responsible for any and all costs arising out of injury or property damage sustained through participation. Information regarding the student insurance program can be obtained from the Thomson Student Health Center. The schedule is tentative. Changes may be made due to budget, facility conflict, or level of interest. Contact the Office of Campus Recreation, Room 202, Blatt P.E. Center, 777-5261, for further information.
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