

# What happens after the wedding?

By CINDY JACOBSON  
Special to The Battalion

FACT: 784 couples have been married in Brazos County this year.

REGULATION: One out of three could end in divorce.

Marriage license files in the county clerk's office show 784 couples were married from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30. Ideally, all of the marriages will be successful. But Dr. Joyce Brothers reported in the Houston Post (Sept. 24) that only one-third of the couples will stay married.

Why is divorce rate so high? Perhaps the disenchanted couples are unrealistic expectations of the married life, or possibly they never gave their marriage any consideration at all. Some couples may have had the adjustment period impossible to cope with.

These are three problem areas that marriage counselors, psychologists and ministers deal with daily.

There are 10 marriage and family counseling centers in Bryan-College Station.

Dr. Arthur Roach and Robert Kelley, professors of psychology at Texas A&M University, are certified marriage counselors with private practices. They offer counseling services in the evenings and the format varies, depending on the type of problems and who is involved.

"People still believe in the kind of love that lasts forever. They expect to be overwhelmed with passion and admiration every time they see their spouse," John Burkhalter, psychologist, said.

John Burkhalter, of the Bluebonnet Psychiatric Center in Bryan deals with marital concerns as well as marriage counseling.

There are many reasons for marriage counseling. Problems range from sex to religious affiliations, and couples depend on counselors to help them sort out their problems and find solutions for them.

On the average, a couple can attend 6-12 sessions and expect some results. The costs of private counseling services vary from \$15 to \$35. The Bluebonnet Center, a federally funded operation, charges according to the client's ability to pay, which means that a client may be able to receive free counseling services.

Regardless of the fee and session arrangements, these psychologists have a common goal — to guide concerned engaged couples and to

counsel unhappy husbands and wives.

After talking with several psychologists, ministers and married couples, it was apparent that the first abrasive effect on a marriage is unrealistic expectations. Brothers said, "Almost all marriages begin with high expectations. The problem often is that the expectations are unrealistic and become an impossible burden."

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What kind of expectations are unrealistic? Romantic love, for one. Burkhalter said, "People still believe in the kind of love that lasts forever. They expect to be overwhelmed with passion and admiration every time they see their spouse."

Another expectation many people have is that marriage will solve personal problems. Reilly said, "Someone may recognize a number of things that they are unhappy with — school, parents, jobs — and think that their problems will magically disappear after marriage."

And don't forget the cry, "I thought my husband would change, but he didn't," coming from the woman who expected marriage to be her potter's wheel. Burkhalter said, "You complicate marriage when you try to change the other person or try to accept something that's completely noxious to your way of life."

Then certainly there are unrealistic sexual expectations. Unlike the dating couple who always see each other at their best, married couples see each other at their worst, too, Burkhalter said. Ideas change when sex becomes a constant part of the relationship.

Coupled with the need to expose mythical marital expectations is the need to begin pre-marital planning.

Dr. Kenneth Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, said that a couple will devote a great amount of time and money to wedding arrangements, but never think beyond the wedding night.

Couples become so preoccupied with the wedding plans, that they give little consideration to the most important aspect — the marriage itself, he said.

The first consideration a couple may want to think about is the reason for marriage. Burkhalter said, "The first question I ask the

couple is, 'Why are you getting married?'"

Reasons vary from pregnancy to convenience. Common to this community are young couples facing graduation who decide marriage offers security for the new environment they are about to encounter. Roach said this last reason is common and risky. "Statistics show a high divorce rate among those couples who marry straight out of college," he said.

Burkhalter attributes this high rate of divorce to the tremendous stress an individual is under at that time in life.

"He is facing graduation, which means entering into the job market, adjusting to a new job and a new location. Adding marriage on top of everything else adds more stress," he said.

After searching the why's involved, a look at the who's is important.

Chafin has counseled more than 2,600 individuals who have marital problems and he found that the average couple hardly knows each other.

Often, a couple will realize they each have different ideas, goals and attitudes — but it is after they are married.

In pre-marital discussions, searching questions should be raised to clear such issues. Roach suggests asking:

—Which career will take precedence?

—Who does certain household chores?

—How will the money be budgeted?

—When should children be planned?

—What type of recreation can the couple do together?

Some couples may want to further and draw up a pre-marriage contract as attorney Paul Ashly suggests in TIME (Feb. 13, 1978).

"Statistics show a high divorce rate among those couples who marry straight out of college," Dr. Arthur Roach, psychologist, said.

"A pre-marriage contract might cover where the couple will live, who pays for what, or how many children they will have."

He suggests that a contract will strengthen a relationship by forcing the partners to think out problems in advance.

The preliminary considerations won't guarantee a perfect marriage — or even one that will last. But they will help out in the next phase: adjusting.

The more the individual knows

about himself and his partner, the easier it will be to adjust to this new way of life.

And when a couple faces the initial adjustments of married life, Roach suggests three basic considerations:

1) Respect. Accept the other person as he or she is. Don't try to

change them or place requirements on them.

2) Understanding. Try to look through their eyes and feel what the other person feels.

3) Genuine openness. Restrain honesty if the effect would be devastating. Be totally honest, but not brutally so.

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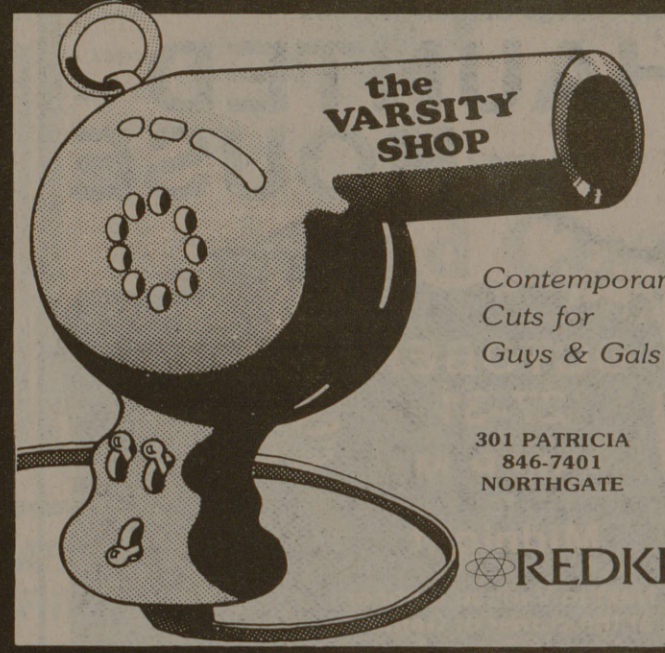


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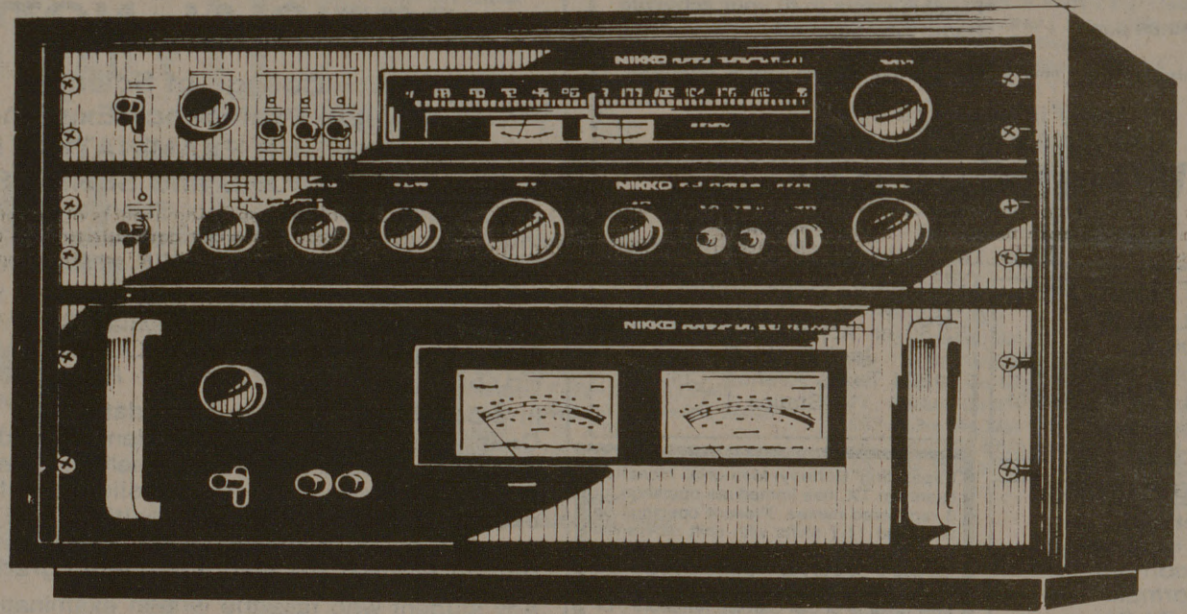


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### Alpha II Stereo Power Amplifier

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Two large, easy-to-read VU meters (Nikko-built), which provide visual monitoring of sound levels and the two speaker system operation (switchable), are features of the Alpha II. A 4-button dB range control (0, 6, 12 and 24dB) aids in setting meters to match speaker efficiency. Frequency response is 5Hz to 100kHz (+0dB, -1dB), with the signal-to-noise ratio measured at 115dB (IHF "A"). Dimensions: 5 1/4" H x 19" W x 12 7/8" D.

The Alpha II is designed to fit into a standard 19-inch rack.

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### Beta II Stereo Pre-Amplifier

Input equalizer and line amplifier circuitry are powered by independently regulated constant voltage supply, which helps to eliminate interference distortion. The EQ amplifier circuit is only -0.2dB down (RIAA) with only 0.01% distortion.

Input sensitivity is 2.5mV for phono with aux and tuner sensitivity at 150mV. Signal-to-noise for phono is -80dB with tuner and aux at -100dB. Impedance is switchable on phono (22,47 and 100K ohms) and set at 50K ohms for tuner and aux. Output is 1.0V (rated), 8.0V (max).

Controls include toggle type off/on switching, bass and treble controls, -20dB audio muting switching, -12dB/Oct. (at 15Hz) switchable subsonic filter, precision dual-attenuator type master volume control with dB calibration, balance control, 5-position tape function switching, and dual phono level controls.

Dimensions are 2 1/2" H x 19" W x 11 1/2" D. The Beta II features a brushed aluminum front panel and is designed to fit into a standard 19-inch equipment rack. Weight: 10 pounds. Operates on 120V/60Hz AC.

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### Gamma I Stereo FM Monitoring Tuner

The Gamma I Stereo FM Standard Broadcast Monitoring Tuner features a wide and narrow (switchable) IF stage for low distortion and high sensitivity. The unit also features a phase-lock-loop multiplexing circuit and adjustable output stage for low distortion and maximum separation. Dual gate MOS FET's are used in the front end section of the Gamma. They provide high performance characteristics including outstanding spurious signal rejection and image rejection.

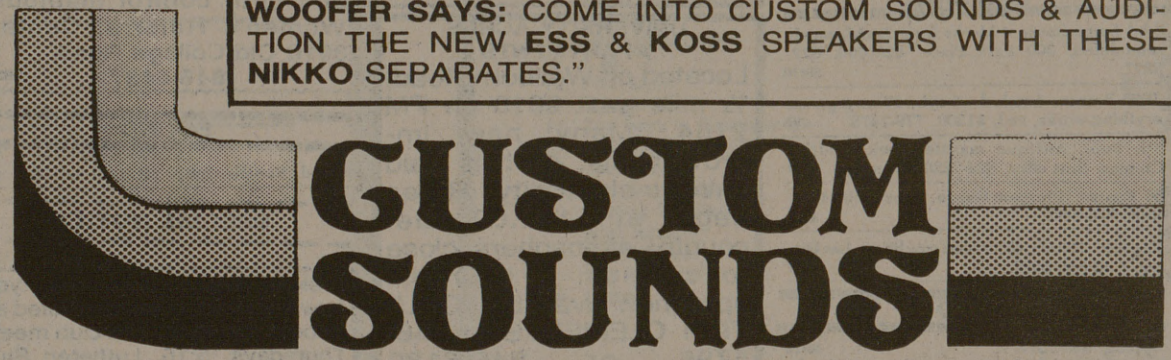
Performance specifications include a sensitivity of 1.8µV, and a selectivity of 35dB (wide) and 85dB (narrow). Signal-to-noise is 78dB/72dB (m/s) and stereo separation is 50dB/40dB (w/n). Total harmonic distortion is 0.05%/0.08% (w/n) in mono and 0.08%/0.2% (w/n) in stereo. Capture ratio is 1.0dB. Spurious rejection ratio is 110dB. In total, the Gamma I is an ultra-sensitive tuner, with extremely stable circuitry that provides low distortion, outstanding separation and reliable performance. It is ideally suited to the Alpha I/Beta I and Alpha II/Beta II.

Dimensions for the Gamma I are 2 1/2" H x 19" W x 9" D and, like all the Nikko Audio professional components, can be rack mounted in a standard 19-inch equipment rack.

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## Prisoner ducks bull, wins cash

United Press International  
HUNTSVILLE — Texas prison inmate Uvaldo Guzman outsmarted the organizers of a prison rodeo and a bull to win \$1,260 in an event that, at least used to be called the "hard money" contest.

A sack of money is put between the horns of a bull in the event and the bull is turned loose in the rodeo arena. All a convict has to do to collect the money is snatch it from between the horns of the raging animal.

While most convicts tried to get the money the hard way, by standing in front of the bull and hoping to snare its charge while grasping the money, Guzman went about it a lot less painfully.

Guzman realized that bulls have a side-vision, so instead of getting hurt in front of the animal where it could see him, he simply walked up to its side, grabbed the sack and moved away.

The first time Guzman tried it at the weekly October rodeos he walked away with \$400 in cash, the second week with \$460, and Sunday he picked up another \$400.

Guzman is serving a five year sentence, but prison policy at the rodeo is to not disclose what crime brought the criminal to Huntsville.

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