

# Organizers hope Greek Show lacks past flaws

Continued from Page 2

The show also was plagued with a combination of parking and sound system difficulties.

It may prove to be a better Olympiad this year because of improved organizational and management skills, he said.

"We envision that the majority of those problems will be resolved now that we have moved back to the original facilities that they were held in," Hernandez said.

Since Greek shows are usually held in gyms, the cushioned seats and improved sound quality of Rudder Auditorium will provide a nice surprise for some guests.

"We emphasized in our pamphlets the comfort and quality of the facility," Quarles said.

Currently, the organizers expect 10 to 15 groups to participate in the Greek show, with on-site

registration still available.

The entire weekend is devoted to Kappa parties Friday and Saturday nights in DeWare Field House. The party after the Greek show is free with a ticket stub.

"The Greek show is also a time to showcase the University and the type of people who attend it," Quarles said.

Hernandez said the event gives his organization the opportunity to deal with the community and University administration on a business level as opposed to a student-faculty level.

"It takes a lot of organizational skills to put on something of this magnitude," Hernandez said. "One of the main things we stressed this year is getting things done early and working ahead of schedule."

For the Greek show, the fraternity sketched, designed and did

the layout for everything — from pamphlets to t-shirts to posters.

"Everything was a collaborative effort," Bradley said. "Within our fraternity one thing we emphasize is that we let our work show the results. We get self-gratification by knowing that we did the work and that is gratification enough."

Planning for this event began last spring and continued through the fall semester. The search for corporate sponsorship began in September, Quarles said.

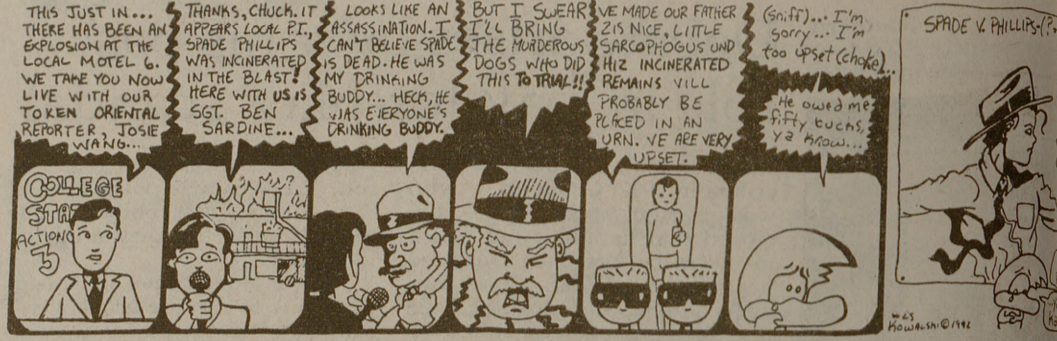
Hernandez said constant reinforcement takes a lot of publicity and public relations work because people expect a real "hyped" show.

"When it's over, we start again the very next day," he said.

The Olympiad takes place Saturday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium. Tickets are available in Rudder Ticket Office.

# Spade Phillips, P.I.

by Matt Kowalski



(the story so far...)



by thomas de...

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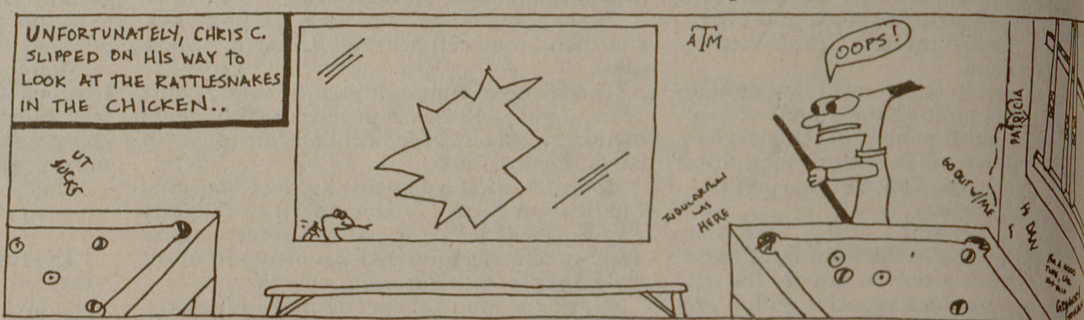
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# FISH OUT OF WATER

by GREGORY GOWA



# Experts debate open adoption value

Continued from Page 2

ents, Seader said. Those facts show that open adoptions are unnecessary.

"Contrary to public perception, studies show open adoption is not good," she said. "Most birth mothers would rather get on with their life, and only one to five percent of adoptees have any interest in future contact."

"Unfortunately media coverage of adoption has caused some adoptees to keep quiet for fear of being asked 'Have you met your real parents yet?'" Seader said. "Some even feel they should just do it and get it over with."

Arla Schmitt, coordinator of the child service program at Adoption Awareness in San Antonio, however, said many of the National Committee for Adoption's assertions are biased.

"In 1991 I talked with 92 adoptees, and all of them felt it was their birthright to find who their birth parents are," Schmitt said. "When National Committee for Adoption says most birth mothers don't want to be found, I say that's absolutely false."

Schmitt has been handling contacts between adoptees and birth parents since 1978. In that time, she encountered only two birth

mothers who didn't want contact. She said at least 90 to 95 percent of birth mothers desire contact.

Seader said because of continued contact between the birth mother and the adoptee in open adoptions, many birth mothers are unable to deal with the loss. That can cause long-term problems that may not show up for years.

"In open adoptions, the birth mother never lets go," she said. "Once they are feeling better and are getting on with their life, they receive a letter or picture in the mail, and break down again."

A study showed women who had miscarriages adjusted to the loss better than those who had open adoptions, Seader said.

"Closed adoptions allow for a natural healing, because the women know it is final," she said.

However, Katye Steinert-Threlkeld, director of public information at the Edna Gladney Center in Fort Worth, held a more positive view of continued contact. Letters and phone calls are a productive way to satisfy natural curiosity, she said.

"Disclosed adoptions, for the most part, are very healthy," Steinert-Threlkeld said. "The birth mother doesn't want the baby back, she just wants to know it is

okay."

Identity confusion for the adopted child was another major problem open adoption causes, Seader said. Such close contact with so many "parents" is distracting to an adoptee.

"Children don't understand what adoption is, and have problems adjusting in open adoptions," she said. "One five-year-old was so disturbed his parents had to take him to counseling."

"The open arrangement was damaging to the child, the psychiatrist treating him told the adoptive parents to break off all contact with the birth mother, otherwise he could no longer treat the boy," she said.

Such instances of a child being troubled, however, are extremely rare, said Joanna Slate of the Texas Cradle Society. Out of the hundreds of open or semi-open adoptions handled by her agency since 1985, none have degenerated into the scenario described by Seader.

"Open adoption is not cooperating, and if anything, it's more like a divorce," Slate said. "The mother doesn't worry her child will think his father's new wife is his mother just because he sees her every once in a while."

"A child knows where home is," she said.

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