

# Birthday

## Baby lives up to name

By JOE MARTUCCI

Stuart and Janice Kirschenbaum of Franklin couldn't come up with a suitable name for the baby they were expecting. So, the baby sort of named himself. Mrs. Kirschenbaum and her husband, a podiatrist, had no trouble thinking of girls' names. They came up with Nicole and Sabrina—among others. But since they have a four-year-old girl at home, the Kirschenbaums figured they were due for a boy. They figured right. At 2:59 a.m. Saturday, in the middle of the worst blizzard of the century, Mrs. Kirschenbaum gave birth to a six-pound-14-ounce boy.

But the Franklin couple still hadn't come up with a boy's name they liked. The solution? They named the lad Storm Tyler Kirschenbaum.

"It was just sort of a spontaneous reaction," said Mrs. Kirschenbaum Tuesday from her bed at William Beaumont Hospital. "We think it's a one-of-a-kind name. I love it. He's a real stormy baby."

**THE WAY** Mrs. Kirschenbaum sees it, boys' names don't have any originality. There are lots of catchy names for girls, but boys' names are, well, kind of dull.

"People think they have to have a macho name for their sons. Well, Storm is pretty macho."

"I just don't like boys' names. We were sure it would be a boy and I had three books of baby's names and I still couldn't find one I liked. Nothing at all."

To hear Mrs. Kirschenbaum tell it, her son's birth was a rather stormy ordeal. She was a month overdue; her husband was a nervous wreck. And the roads between Franklin and Beaumont Hospital couldn't have been in worse condition.

**WHEN** THE blizzard started, Mrs. Kirschenbaum suspected her son wouldn't be far behind. Their first trip to the hospital was a false alarm. That was at 2 p.m. Friday and Mrs. Kirschenbaum, not yet in labor, was sent home by her doctor.

A few hours later, at 6 p.m., she thought it was time. Her husband was getting paranoid about being able to keep his Jaguar on the roads and out of the ditches. She called her doctor. He called the couple to go back to the hospital.

"By then the roads were just a sheet of ice and we couldn't see anything. He (her husband) was nervous as hell," she related.

Mrs. Kirschenbaum was having contractions, but the doctor said she was still hours away from giving birth.

"He said we couldn't stay unless I was really, truly in labor. They only have four labor rooms and they were all full."

They headed back to Franklin. The expectant father was "ready to die," said Mrs. Kirschenbaum.

The third—and first—trip was made at 1:30 a.m. This time, Mrs. Kirschenbaum really was in labor. Storm was born a little more than an hour later.

Mother and son were doing fine Tuesday as Mrs. Kirschenbaum was getting ready to bring Storm home.



## Meet Gigi

A gray whale named Gigi and Sea World employee Sue Bailey star in "The Great Whales," a National Geographic special set for 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, on Channel 56. Captured in 1971, Gigi spent a year at the marine park. She was then released with a tracking device attached to her back to monitor her migratory patterns.

## Extortionist hits county

# Caller's tactics baffle police

Police are baffled by an extortionist who has added a new twist to his tactics.

For more than a year, police say one man has been calling women in Oakland County saying he has kidnapped their husbands. Now, he is also threatening mothers with the abduction of their children.

He instructs the woman to deliver \$3,000 to a Southfield motel or hotel and tells her that he and several of his friends, all supposedly recently released from prison, will force various sexual acts upon her, police say.

To date, police said the man has not kidnapped anyone.

Troy Ptl. William Tullock, who has been assigned to investigate more than 80 such extortion calls to Troy housewives, said no women have been "duped" by the caller but many have

panicked, especially if their husbands or children were not at home.

"THE GUY has got a new angle—somehow he's coming up with the first names of kids," Tullock said. "We don't know how he's getting the first names. Before, it appeared the victims were being randomly selected from the north Woodward telephone directory. The caller would say 'Mrs. Smith we've kidnapped your husband,' using his first name as it is listed in the phone book."

Victims have described the caller as a white, middle-aged, educated male with a calm, unaccented voice, said Tullock. He added that on a few occasions, a female voice has come on the line identifying herself as an operator or police dispatcher.

"Many women get excited when the

extortionist calls and call their husbands work or the police right after they hang up," said Tullock. "But the telephone system has a time lag where if you hang up your phone and pick it up immediately, you're on the same line you were before."

"On the occasions when it has happened, a woman who is apparently working with the man comes on the line and impersonates an operator or police dispatcher."

In addition to Troy calls, Tullock said he has been investigating more than 300 reported Oakland County calls which police believe have been made by the same man. He said he is investigating similarities between victims and is trying to detect a pattern of selection from the north Woodward telephone directory.

"So far, I have no idea who the man is," he said.

**THE EXTORTIONIST** has called women in Troy, Birmingham, Bloomfield Twp., Southfield, Madison Heights and Oak Park, said Tullock.

In Troy, the first report of an extortionist using these tactics was made to police on April 22, 1976. Most of the calls have been made between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on normal working days.

"The guy tells the women to go the bank and get the money and even tells them if they have no transportation that he'll be by to pick them up in a green and white van," Tullock said.

If the extortionist calls, Tullock advises women not to panic, hang up the phone, wait several seconds and call police.

## Northwood lists area students

Northwood Institute in Midland has named three area students to the dean's list for the winter term. They are Michael F. McCamy and John A. Sarvacki, both of Lathrup Village, and Paul G. Churches, Southfield.

## Indians inhabited island

Beaver Island was formed when limestone outcroppings caught deposits being carried by the retreat of the last glacier.

Its first inhabitants were prehistoric Mound Builder Indians.

Bishop Frederic Baraga (the Snowshoe Priest) built the island's first church in 1832. In the 1850s, Beaver Island was a Mormon colony ruled by self-proclaimed King James Jesse Strang.

Today Beaver Island is a retreat to tranquility by summer and winter visitors to Michigan.

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