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Z2 SECTION P

TALK SHOW FOR 'BRATS'



Peoria resident Dennis Campbell recently launched an Internet radio show aimed at the children of service members, commonly known as "brats." The weekly, hourlong talk show, which launched on Veterans Day on the VoiceAmerica Talk Radio Network's Variety Channel, airs live at 5 p.m. Thursdays.

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CHARLIE LEIGHT/THE REPUBLIC

Dennis Campbell of Peoria talks to listeners on his weekly Internet radio show called "Bratcon" that's aimed at children of the military. Being a brat himself, Campbell knows about the lifestyle.

Internet radio show aimed at military 'brats'

By Alexander Foote

THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

Being in the military is a huge commitment for soldiers and their families. The sacrifices soldiers make can overshadow those of their children, who often must follow their parents overseas.

Peoria resident Dennis Campbell, 53, wants to give military children the recognition they deserve with a recently launched Internet radio show called "Bratcon."

The weekly, hourlong talk show, which launched on Veterans Day on the VoiceAmerica Talk Radio Network's Variety Channel, airs live at 5 p.m. Thursdays.

Listeners can hear it at bratcon.com or access archived shows.

The show is aimed at the children of service members, commonly known as "brats."

The origin for the term brat is unclear, although one theory is it's an acronym for British Regimental Attached Travelers, a title for family members in the British

military.

Being a brat himself, Campbell knows about the lifestyle.

He moved to Germany as a high school sophomore when his father, a computer systems analyst for the U.S. Army, was transferred overseas.

"At first I was crying like a baby," Campbell said.

He had been hoping for a lacrosse scholarship, but his new school, Heidelberg American High School, did not have a team.

Campbell went on to join the Army and was a military policeman in Germany, Campbell said.

The idea for "Bratcon" came to Campbell when one of his high school friends, a fellow brat, was dying of brain cancer.

A Facebook page was created to get the word out and other former classmates started to take notice.

When his friend died, all of the pallbearers were Heidelberg American High



CHARLIE LEIGHT/THE REPUBLIC

Peoria resident and self-described military "brat" Dennis Campbell hosts an Internet radio show, "Bratcon," working out of a studio in Tempe.

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'BRATCON'

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School alumni.

Brats share a special bond.

Campbell said the brat lifestyle instills certain qualities in people, including wanderlust.

"Former brats feel this urge to move to a different city or state. At the least, they move the furniture around the house because they had to move so much when they were younger," he said.

Campbell feels this urge as well. He has traveled and lived throughout the world including two years in the Caribbean. He moved to Peoria five years ago.

His experiences helped Campbell realize the importance of having a way to connect brats around the world.

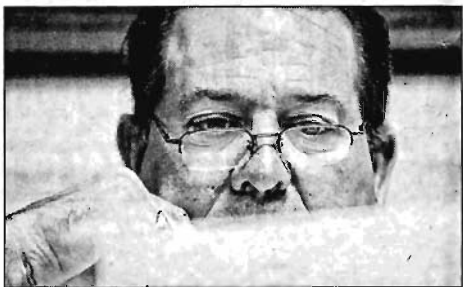
Internet message boards for brats already existed, but didn't interest Campbell.

He wanted something that the brat community would notice.

TV was too expensive, so Campbell decided to produce a radio show instead.

After weighing his options, Campbell went with an Internet radio show over a traditional one because he wanted a worldwide audience so brats in foreign countries could enjoy it.

His show invites past and present brats



CHARLIE LEIGHT/THE REPUBLIC

Dennis Campbell prepares for his Internet radio show, which invites past and present brats to speak about their lives.

to speak about their lives. That includes people like Art Swanson, a guest on "Bratcon's" Dec. 9 show, who was in Germany when the Berlin Wall came down.

In its first month, "Bratcon" attracted 1,028 listeners..

He is looking into syndication for "Bratcon," but he needs more shows.

Typically, a radio show needs 12 episodes before syndication becomes an option, Campbell said.

"Bratcon" will hit the road soon for a special show broadcast from Fort Campbell, Ky., where listeners will witness some brats welcoming their parents home from deployment.

The show should air in late January or early February.