

For love, happiness, security: Folks keep getting married

By Jonathan Taylor
Staff Reporter

The first Worldwide Marriage Day is Feb. 10, guys and gals, so get out there and find a spouse. "But why?" you ask, "Why should I subject myself to supposedly the most permanent thing there is outside of death?" Actually, the international Marriage Encounter

Group, which established the Marriage Day, only wants to make people aware of the good things associated with marriage — things like sharing and joy, said Dr. Penny Hamilton, mental health counselor at the Advance Research Institute of Lincoln.

Still, the question "Why do people get married?" is a valid one. Some say it's our culture, others believe we

inherently need a lifelong companion. It all depends on who you talk to.

Although people have a general tendency to need to be loved, people begin to seriously consider marriage when they find all their needs are met by that one person, said the Rev. Mark Randall.

Randall, the director of Wesley House on the UNL campus, said if people want to be secure and sustain the similarities and good feelings they have with their companion, marriage can be the practical choice. Marriage also serves as a public expression of a couple's love, Randall said.

Randall said marriage also can serve to complete a relationship. Many couples who lived together and later decided to get married, Randall said, tell him they felt they had not fulfilled their commitment to one another.

David Dixon, an educational psychology professor at UNL, said he thinks most people get married when they think they've found the best mate

available that will provide the most happiness and satisfaction.

"Ours is a marrying culture; we learn to get married," said David Brinkerhoff, sociology professor at UNL. Brinkerhoff said people are taught socially all

"Ours is a marrying culture; we learn to get married"

through their lives that marriage is a normal, expected fact of life. Historically, Brinkerhoff said, college serves as a marriage marketplace because students are in their primary years of courtship and have similar interests.

"We meet people here (at college), we date, and we are physically close to one another," Brinkerhoff said.

Although college might be where future newlyweds meet, Brinkerhoff said, the trend in the past decade has

been to get married later in life. People are postponing marriage, he said, to get their careers started or to get college out of the way.

In 1970, the average marrying age was 20 for women and 22 for men. In 1982, the average marrying age for women was 22 while men waited until they were 25.

Marrying later also seems to strengthen marriages, said Alan Booth, a UNL sociology professor, because people who marry too young have a higher probability of divorce.

Marriage gives couples security in their relationships, said the Rev. Don Hanway, vicar and chaplain of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1309 R St.

For many couples who want children, Hanway said, marriage is the first step toward starting a family. From a religious standpoint, marriage also can represent the joining of two people's lives in which "higher levels of sharing" can occur, Hanway said.

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Hotel, motel, honeymoon at home

By Lisa Nutting
Staff Reporter

After those church bells ring, newlyweds who plan to celebrate their honeymoon in Lincoln, not Niagara Falls, can find "package deals," "a bottle of wine" and a "real welcome" at local hotels.

The Harvester Motel, 1511 Center Park Rd., offers a package deal for

honeymooners — the Honeymoon Suite. The deal includes a king-size bed and private room refrigerator. The \$56 package includes a bottle of champagne and breakfast for two, said Julie Wassung, night manager.

Although Sharon Motel, 1717 Cornhusker Highway, does not have a honeymoon special, manager Kay Bailey said their prices are low enough they don't need a discount — a room for two is \$24 per night.

Villager Motor Inn, 5200 O St., offers two deals for honeymoon couples.

The Sofa King plan includes a bedroom and parlor suite for \$60. Each honeymoon couple is given a bottle of champagne upon arrival, said Sandy Lange, sales assistant. A breakfast for two is included in the plan and each couple has the choice of being served in their room, or in Spike & Oly's Lounge.

The second deal at the Villager is the Suite Plan. The Suite Plan is the same

as the Sofa King Plan, but includes a private whirlpool in the couple's room. This package sells for \$125.

A bottle of wine is put in every honeymooner's room, said Darlene Brahatcek, manager of Super 8 Motels, 2635 West O St. and 2545 Cornhusker Hwy. And depending upon the availability of rooms, a king suite will be given to the honeymooners for a regular room rate of \$26.75.

The Cornhusker, 333 S. 13th St., offers a bouquet of roses to their newlywed customers. They also offer two celebration packages for newlyweds. One package includes the roses, a bottle delivered champagne and a \$20 gift certificate, which can be used for room service, the Cornhusker Square Coffee Shop or Renaissance Room of the hotel. The price newlyweds pay for the suite is \$89.95. The other package includes the above, and also has a small sitting room and a wet bar. This rents for \$125. All prices do not include tax.



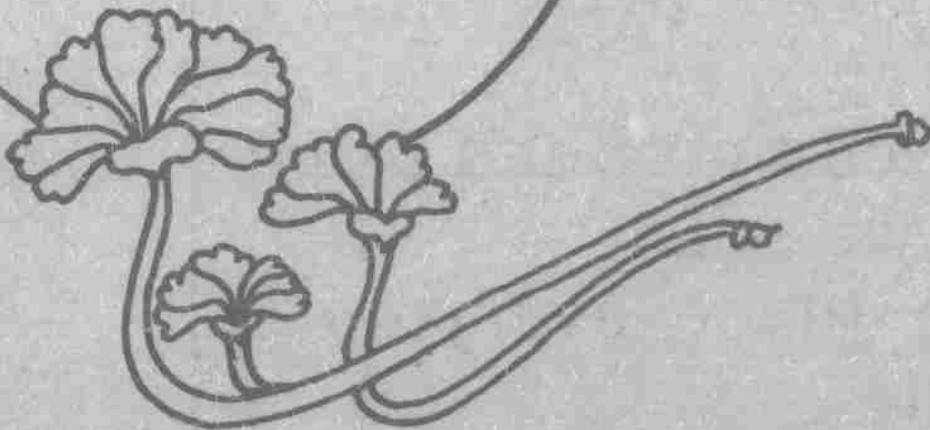
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