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Student life, wedding vows blend successfully—couples

By Alice Hrnicek

Married students do not suffer many more difficulties than single students, reported three married couples enrolled at UNL.

Although the situations for each of these couples are different, each found they had adjusted well to the unexpected consequences of being married and being students at the same time.

The three couples interviewed include Daryl and Denise Andersen, undergraduate agricultural education and journalism majors; Robert Losie and Marcia Stewart, his undergraduate majors in computer science, mathematics and economics and her completed major in elementary education; and Ed and Sue Bukacek, his graduate work in English and her doctorate work in educational psychology.

According to the Andersens, who have been married just three weeks, the biggest change was a relaxing of social pressures.

"We don't have to worry about going out," Denise said. "We can stay in longer which helps our studies."

Study atmosphere

The atmosphere for studying also is much better, Denise said.

"Our friends know we're in school and serious about it," Denise said. "We found that it was too expensive living apart. Now we have more time to ourselves and more privacy."

Daryl notes that although they are not overly conscious of their finances, "we watch how we spend our money. We don't blow \$30 in one night. My major has helped because I can work on our own cars and build almost anything. We save money by doing our own work."

The two said they are convinced that because they both were raised on farms with large families, they have been prepared better for coping with the realities of life.

"A lot of couples don't realize the responsibilities of what they're getting into. We were prepared and did it with a purpose," Denise said.

Juggling time

They both hold part time jobs in addition to holding full-time status at UNL.

"It's hard to juggle both, but we were used to it before we were married," Daryl said.

Daryl added that neither their goals nor the timing of their plans has changed as a result of marrying. This includes their plans for raising a family.

"We won't have any kids until we both are able to get jobs," Denise said. "And it won't be right after I'm out of school because I have a definite purpose in going to school."

Daryl added, "If we were both just high school graduates, we would probably have kids right away. At college, though, we have found out more about the real world and what our kids will face when they are growing up."

One of the problems they see arising is that Denise will graduate several months earlier than Daryl.

"It could be tricky finding a job so that we can stay together," she said.

"This could ruin a good chance of getting a job," Daryl stated. "One of us will probably have to take a lesser job for the

other. I will probably give in but it could work both ways."

Emotional stability

Since their wedding, both said they feel they are more stable emotionally.

"I've heard that people in school have a tough time. Now, for us, it's easier."

Bob Losie and Marcia Stewart said they have become aware of this stability in their year of marriage.

"We are more settled down," Bob said. "We're more career-oriented now. Our goals have changed from having fun to making money so we spend less time socializing."

A reason they married before he got his bachelor's degree, Bob said, is that they both held full time jobs and still do.

Because the two work at the Nebraska Hall Computer Center, the cost of classes is minimal.

"There is no financial problem with the University paying for a large part of the classes," Marcia said.

Marcia said she has become more directed.

"I've got paths to follow, partly because of his (Bob's) influence. My need for studying is less, but I find I'm more efficient now."

Delayed family

Although raising a family is not in their plans for another four or five years, Bob said the reason is not because of classes.

"The delay is the job," he said. "We are not earning enough money to have fun and raise kids."

Friends' views of them have not changed, they agreed.

"A lot of our friends are still single," Marcia pointed out. "We see less of them and some are amazed, but among close friends things are the same."

Ed and Sue Bukacek, married eight and a half years, agree that marriage doesn't significantly alter friends' views of them. What has affected their social life more than the wedding vows is raising children, Ed said.

"It changes a lot because you tend to build friendships with others who have children. You don't take a baby to someone's house unless they have a child themselves."

Three children

The Bukaceks are the parents of three children—ages five, two and one. All three are cared for at the University Child Care Project.

Sue does not feel the children are being neglected because "we are pleased with the care. The children get along real well."

However, Ed finds the major problem in child care is the cost. The couple is receiving welfare services for this purpose.

But he adds that apparent disadvantages aren't that important.

"We don't know what it's like to have three kids in a normal situation."

For the first time since their marriage, Ed is working as a full-time student. Sue, in addition to being a part-time student, works at the Counseling Center.

The couple is concerned with the same problem which may face the Andersens—that of finding jobs that are geographically close together.

That kind of arrangement problem comes up for a lot of couples," Ed noted. "One or the other may have to sacrifice."

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