

# kids or not

married to forego children. They have been married 15 years.

Tuck, who is 38, said, "I never wanted a child as long as I can remember. People have individual reasons for having children, it has to be right for them.

Mrs. Tuck, who is 36, added, "Since we first met we knew our passion was travel. You can't go off for three weeks or months at a time if you want to be a good mother."

Tuck said, "You can travel with a child, I've met people in Europe doing it. But not the kind of traveling we do. You can't be sitting in a hotel room in Paris and decide you want to go out to eat."

*Maybe some people shouldn't have any so we can average out to zero population growth*

Mrs. Tuck added, "Or take off for Istanbul that night. George's lifestyle means we can't have a regular family life. This way I can be with him when he is taking pictures at a ballgame or other places."

Although Tuck said he was raised more as an only child because his brother is 17 years older, he has no trouble getting along with children, including his many nieces and nephews.

"Children gravitate to George," Mrs. Tuck said. "He sees them as people, he listens and talks to them. We also have an extreme sense of humor and imagination. They enjoy it."

Tuck is an associate professor at UNL's journalism school. He teaches and does free-lance photography. Mrs. Tuck is working on a Ph.D. in German linguistics and is a teaching assistant.



Photo by J. Natvig

# Marriage needs more than love

By Kim Wilt

It terrifies some, emboldens others, makes some settle down immediately, and causes others to believe they were never cut out for the institution in the first place.

Marriage is the word and the deed, and the causes for it are almost all the same, while the causes for its counterpart, divorce, vary widely.

Larry Doerr, United Ministries in Higher Education minister, summed up the reason for marriage by saying, "The fundamental reason is that people love each other, that they're in love with each other."

More specifically—since many people are in love and do not marry—he said that there is a point reached where the couple believes they must make a decision.

"Generally speaking, they feel they know each other and the relationship well enough, and want to firm up the relationship. When you're living together . . . it's like you still have got your bags packed, that's the understanding. When they're married they say, 'It's time to unpack our bags, we're willing to take the problems as well as the good things.'"

*The fundamental reason is that people love each other, that they're in love with each other*

This does not preclude doubts, and questions.

"People, generally speaking, except the very young, are not very clear in their minds about what they want. There is nobody without questions," Doerr said.

Steve Bryant, a counselor with Lutheran Family and Social Services agreed that the younger the couple, the less realistic their expectations are, but added that most people, when they come to the point of deciding to marry, have unrealistic expectations.

He said, however, that most couples he does premarital counseling with are marrying because the woman is pregnant.

"They don't have a realistic viewpoint of what's waiting for them—job opportunities, (for example)—what they can and can't do. Or, they think education is needed by others and not them. The woman expects to fulfill the traditional mother role."

Although he said he doesn't condone living together before marriage, he added that couples who have done so tend to have different, more realistic expectations about what marriage will bring.

However, "You can find out an awful lot about that person without going to that extent. Maybe you can see this person in a more realistic light, but that person can pack up and go, so it's not the same. You can't compare the two," Bryant said.

Doerr agreed with Bryant, saying that couples who live

together "have no more marital success than if they didn't."

The most important thing, he said, "is for people to have as few illusions about themselves and the other person as possible. Most good marriages should begin with disillusionment. By that I mean that they should know what daily life is like (with that person.) Love is more a matter of the will (than of emotions.)"

*Couples who have lived together tend to have different, more realistic expectations about what marriage will bring*

Diana Combs, a UNL junior majoring in Food and Nutrition, said she and her husband, Kelly, married because "we realized we needed to be together to be complete . . . Something that you feel makes you want to be together, like a man and wife."

She said her parents wanted them to finish school first, but they thought they could do both. Although she is not planning to work after college, she said she wanted a degree to "have something to fall back on, in case anything ever happened to Kelly."

Combs said she had some expectations before she married that are not being fulfilled.

"I had hoped to have all this time to stay home, and cook and cater to Kelly, but I just can't do that. I work 35 hours a week and I'm in school full-time . . . We have assumed more responsibility for each other."

She said she only minds having to work so much, "when I quit thinking about the two of us and start thinking about myself. I have it really good and I'm really blessed to be married to him."

Combs said she doesn't believe that love is enough for a good marriage. The couple must be willing to make sacrifices for each other, and put the other person first, she said.

*They should know what daily life is like with that person. Love is more a matter of the will than of emotions*

"Marriage is the biggest decision you will ever make in your life. This person, along with you, will effect any other decision you make."

The decision to make the relationship between them permanent came when they spent the summer apart, and were "just miserable," Combs said.

"There's a point you come to when you either live together, go your separate ways or get married. We didn't condone living together, we wanted to be together."

She said people considering marriage should evaluate whether they are ready to make a drastic change in lifestyle.

"It's when you're willing to give up your lifestyle for that individual—that's when you're probably ready for marriage."

For those not ready, or who didn't expect to change to be so drastic, divorce waits, with lawyers, lawyers' fees and courtrooms.

Lincoln attorney Bob Balls said divorcing couples who come to him differ widely in their reasons for wanting out.

"Some of them are incompatible. Others are too young, and didn't realize it until later. Others have an inability to communicate," he said.

Most people are not willing to talk about why they want a divorce, preferring to save that for a marriage counselor, he said. Lancaster County requires that the couple have attended marriage counseling—if they have not, a Reconciliation Court is available, with a counselor who will talk to them about what went wrong.

*Divorce: the only requirement is that there is an irretrievable breakdown in the marriage*

"The court doesn't require great detail," Balls said. The only requirement is that there is an irretrievable breakdown in the marriage, he said.

Doerr said most people who come to the point of wanting a divorce do so because the relationship is not what they had hoped it would or could be. Many couples simply grow apart, or have a breakdown in communication, he said.

"Also, there are cultural expectations—you're not supposed to be possessive, or jealous or limit the other person. These expectations are beyond the scope of human possibility."

He said the "traditional" causes for divorce such as money, sex or in-laws are not often mentioned by couples he sees.

"Sex is always affected, but I don't hear people talking about it as a cause. The same with money. And I hear less about problems with families than I did 10 years ago. Parents have learned about staying out of the way, and kids have learned not to let them get in the way."

Bryant said sexual, financial or parental problems were symptoms of a more basic problem. Divorcing couples believe their needs are not being met, he said. Or, they are changing and growing apart from each other.

"Also, there is a feeling of lack of understanding, of an inability to communicate."

*"It's such a fine thing, to make love and survive."*  
Willie Nile