

American 'lovestyle' changing

Vows to love, honor and cherish until divorce do they part

By Christine Anderson
Staff Reporter

Connie and Rick took their vows in 1972 to honor and to cherish until death do they part. Together they bought a home, raised a family and maintained a happy marriage for 10 years.

Then gradually, their happy marriage began to deteriorate. Connie said she became dissatisfied with her lifestyle, and began changing it. She started a new job, began university classes, bought a new wardrobe, and gave herself a new identity.

Rick quit his job as an autobody mechanic, and started selling real estate.

Connie and Rick soon found that they no longer had anything in common with one another. Both wanted more out of life, but not with each other.

Last fall they filed for a divorce.

This situation is not uncommon for couples who were married in the 1970s said David Johnson, a UNL sociology professor.

Nearly 50 percent of the people married during the 1970s are now divorced. And this divorce rate has remained steady throughout the 1980s.

Johnson said the high divorce rate of the last decade reflects a change in social trends. Unstable economic conditions have brought both husbands and wives into the work force, he said. Women have become less dependent on males for support and security than they were 20 to 30 years ago, he said.

Individuals today also have placed more emphasis on personal happiness and inner-fulfillment, Johnson said. Being unhappy in a relationship wasn't a basis for divorce years ago, as it is today, he said.

The divorce rate in the 1940s was half of what it is today. And the divorce rate for couples married in 1915 was only 16 percent.

Today, most divorcing couples are likely to have good educations, high family incomes and both spouses in full-time jobs, according to a survey by the Bureau of Sociological Research at UNL. Divorces are also more common for couples living in urban areas.

Although the divorce rate rose during the 1960s and 1970s, it has remained relatively steady over the last ten years.

Johnson said because of the nation's unstable economy, some couples hesitate to get divorced. Many stay together for financial reasons, he said, while others are just marrying at an older age.

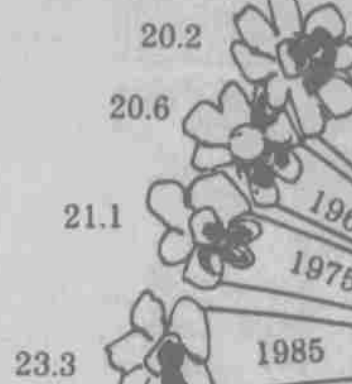
According to the most recent figures obtained from the Nebraska Department of Vital Statistics; in 1985, the national average marriage ages were 23 for women and 26 for men. In 1955, the average ages were 20 for women and 23 for men.

Johnson said many young couples are postponing marriage to seek career goals.

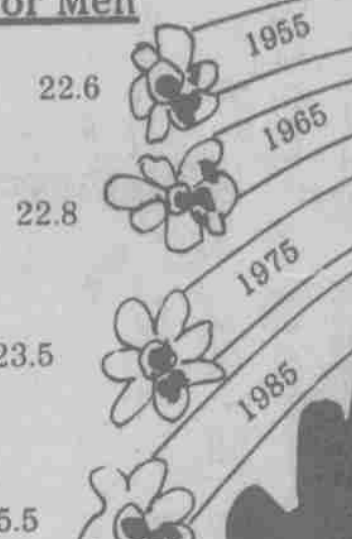
Kim Rogers, a freshman psychology major, said she would rather wait until

U.S. AVERAGE MARRIAGE AGE

For Women



For Men



after college before taking vows.

"I want to have my own job and be independent before I get married," she said.

Butch Ireland, a junior news-editorial major, said committing himself to marriage during college would limit his freedom to experience life.

Others feel that although marriage during college may be stressful at times, it's still worth it.

Arlene Miller, 19, a junior sociology major is married and attending classes. Miller said that marriage has helped her during college because she prefers studying at home to going out all of the time.

Yes, Miller said, it is financially difficult for both spouses to attend college at the same time.

Although divorce rates are high, many students said the statistics wouldn't scare them off.

Steve Urkoski, a sophomore accounting major, has been divorced.

"If I met somebody now that I would want to get involved with, I wouldn't be afraid to try it again," Urkoski said, "but it makes you a little gun shy."

Kirt Sol, an undeclared junior, said although he wouldn't attempt marriage during college, "you have to try it even if it may be a success or failure."

Make Your Nails Picture Perfect . . .



. . . with nail tips and extensions from the College of Hair Design. Prices from \$15 - \$20.

- We're located within walking distance of the University.
- Call for an appointment or just walk in.
- All work performed by students under the supervision of College of Hair Design Instructors.

College of Hair Design
11th & M Streets • 474-4244
Look for our coupons in Paper Money

Beautiful ideas for YOUR WEDDING DAY

Let us help you plan your most precious day



Merle Norman Beauty Advisors are trained to coordinate makeup and skin care for you and your wedding attendants.

Make an appointment now for your bridal party to come in for a presentation on individual makeup plans; for your wedding, for the wedding photographs . . . and for your going away.

MERLE NORMAN
The Place for the Custom Face®
Gateway & Atrium — 2nd Floor

Cuts 'n Things

1602 N. 56th St. 466-1603



Look your best on that special day.

The Personal Attendant Service. Hairstyle, makeup and manicure for the Bride, Mother of the Bride, Mother of the Groom and Four Attendants of the Bride.

Includes consultation prior to the wedding, and a stylist will remain on call for last-minute touch-ups.

WE USE AND RECOMMEND THE
PAUL MITCHELL SYSTEM
PROFESSIONAL SALON PRODUCTS

wedding tip #1:

avoid the hassles of returning unwanted gifts by registering your bridal gift preferences at habitat!

habitat

east park plaza—lincoln

westroads—omaha

Start
TANNING NOW
UNLIMITED VISITS
\$35

Also:
\$10 off Our Best Perm
\$5 off of Cut & Styles

THE Flair II HAIR DESIGN STUDIO

ON CAMPUS 17th & R

435-2565

SEBASTIAN
PAUL MITCHELL SYSTEMS