

**Modern options**

**Singles in Lincoln bar explain why they are planning to say 'I don't'**

By Joeth Zucco  
Senior Editor

This is a true story. Only the last names have been omitted to protect the identities of the sources.

Marriage would appear to be one of the most sacred things in our society, but not everyone feels that way. Some see marriage as an infringement on their independence, while others see it as corruption. Some don't see it at all.

Lee Kimmins, assistant professor of human development and family at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said there are more opportunities outside marriage for women today than ever before.

He said that from 1982 to 1984 more than half of all college students were women.

"Women are less anxious to get married," Kimmins said.

From the man's point of view, economic factors play a part, and "it's harder for men to get established," he said.

Kimmins said monogamy is "in," especially with age.

"A monogamous relationship is the most desirable way to get emotional and psychological needs met," he said.

According to the 1986 Vital Statistics Report from the Nebraska Department of Health, the average age for women to marry is 22 and the average age for men is 23 — after an eight-year trend of 22.

After talking to Kimmins, I decided to do my own survey in a place where marriage may not be so revered, so sacred — a local bar. My main goal was to find people who didn't want to get married, and I was successful. During an evening in a local bar asking people why they didn't want to get married, I found some interesting reasons.

Why don't you want to get married?

Kathy, 21, University of Nebraska-Lincoln general studies major: "Maybe when I'm 40, 'cause there's too many things I want to do and 'cause I'm American. You can't get married till you're responsible, and I'm really irresponsible right now."

Randy, 26, UNL biology major: "Not till I'm 30 or 35, 'cause by then I'll probably have done everything I want. There's a few more things I want to do — personal goals. I want to get a little more of this wildness out of me. Maybe then I'll be a little more substantial, have a job, be able to take care of someone."

Sargon, 28, UNL employee: "I'm an alcoholic and I don't want to pass my traits onto someone else. Marriage is just, like, squaresville. The things I like to do can't be done in marriage, like drink all night and sleep all day. It's only for my great love of women that I avoid them."

Arthur, 36, computer analyst: "I don't think I can, because I'm a little selfish and I don't want to inflict that on someone else. It's reflective of our time and era."

Brent, 24, UNL general studies major: "I'm too independent right now. It's subject to change, though. I can't deal with all the freedom taken away and the jealousy. But I do believe in monogamy and like being faithful."

Beth, 22, UNL film and photography major: "I don't want to depend on someone else, and I don't want someone else to depend on me. That's what that piece of paper means — you depend on them."

Jim, 23, UNL international relations major: "When my father died, he said in his will that if I don't get married by the time I'm 40, I'll get more money."

Doug, 23, groundskeeper: "It's too stable. Stability causes corruption. I don't even want a girlfriend. I can't commit to anything."

Although all the people I spoke to

said they didn't want to get married now, some foresaw it in their futures.

Sara, 21, UNL English major: "I'll probably get married in my late 20s when I can't support myself and have a warm bed, and he has to be a good cook."

Brent: "Odds that I will, but I don't know what they are. I don't even know if I believe in marriage. I don't see why you even have to have it on paper."

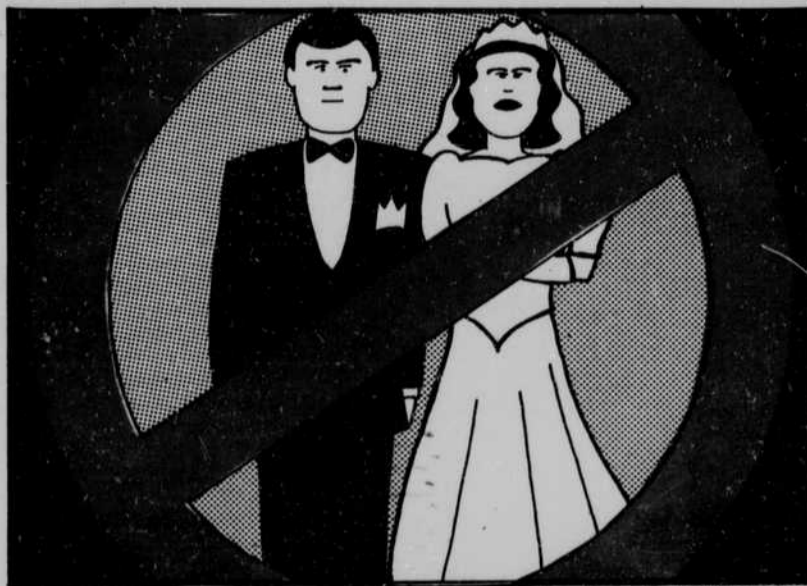
Beth: "Yes, I might. I want a house-husband."

Is marriage as an institution in our society getting better or worse?

Sara: "It's changing; it's being taken serious."

Randy: "I think it's coming back to more of an institution because of the different diseases coming around like AIDS. People are waiting to make more of a meaningful relationship. They aren't jumping from bed to bed like in the '70s."

Clay, 29, UNL photography ma-



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

still getting married. They're taking it seriously."

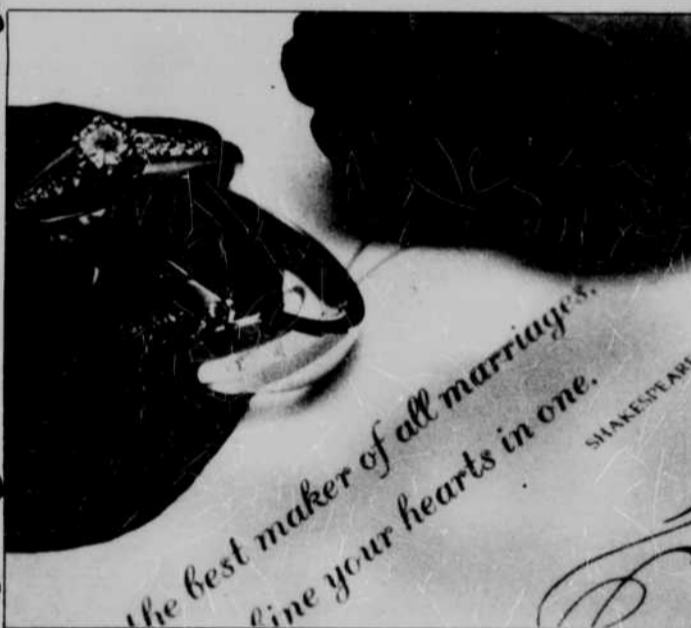
Doug: "It's gotten better in the last two years, and we're going through the second baby boom."

Sargon: "I think it should be abolished. It shouldn't be a legal institution, it should be a personal commitment. I'm not rich enough to get married because I'm not rich enough to be divorced."

From the people I talked to, it seems that people want to live for themselves before living for someone else. Although marriage is sacred in a religious sense and a societal sense, it has to be for the right people at the right time.

Arthur: "It has to be sacred."  
Beth: "As an institution, society is built around it. A lot of people are

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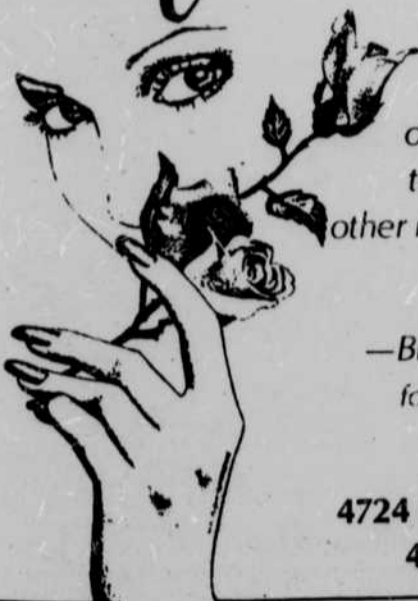
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