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Daily Nebraskan Marriage is more than love

By John Payne Staff Reporte

As America steps into the 1990s, the family will undergo a few changes, while continuing on cer-tain trends established in the late '70s and the '80s, according to Craig Smith, director of Marital and Family Therapy at the Department of Human Development.

Smith says that he expects somewhat of a return to "conventional relationships" in the decade to come

"I think that there may be a swinging of the pendulum as cul-tural norms and values change," he said.

said. Smith said he believes people have been returning to what he calls "stable" relationships, al-though not necessarily marriage. One of the more dominant trends to be expected in the '90s is family counseling. Smith said

to be expected in the '90s is family counseling, Smith said. "I think people today are a lot more educated about relation-ships, and they're learning how to acquire the skills they need to make them work," he said.

Divorce rates quite often can be misleading, according to Smith.

When people hear that half of all marriages end in divorce, they think they've got a 50-50 chance," he said. "But that's not true, because oftentimes someone will marry and divorce two or three times, while other people will get married and stay married, making the statistics somewhat misrepresentative."

Smith said it's encouraging to see people trying to make mar-riages work rather than ending them.

"People will step in a mud puddle, so to speak, and rather than get out and clean things up,

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getting married?' and they'll say 'love,' but that's the worst reason in the world," he said. "It's not enough, you need more." For example, Smith says that couples need to learn how to deal with financial problems that

with financial problems that can arise in relationships, and so financial planning often is part of marital counseling. Contrary to the popular belief that 90 percent of marital arguments are over money, Smith says that there is usually another problem beneath it, and the prob-lem simply manifests itself in this

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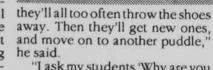
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"I ask my students 'Why are you

-- Smith



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