

# Marriage is more than love

By John Payne  
Staff Reporter

As America steps into the 1990s, the family will undergo a few changes, while continuing on certain 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 cultural norms and values change," he said.

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

"I think people today are a lot more educated about relationships, 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."

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Smith said it's encouraging to see people trying to make marriages 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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they'll all too often throw the shoes away. Then they'll get new ones, and move on to another puddle," he said.

"I ask my students 'Why are you

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 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 problem simply manifests itself in this

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