

Popping question proves elating but nerve-wracking

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her. "I said, 'Probably a ring,'" Lienemann said.

Harris got up and went to the refrigerator and returned with a can of Mountain Dew.

"He said, 'Will you marry me if I give you this pop?'" Lienemann said. "I said, 'Yes, I'll marry you, but you can keep the pop.'"

Harris asked Lienemann if she was sure, and then he tilted the can so she could see the ring on it.

Lienemann and Harris got engaged at 9 p.m. that Saturday, but Lienemann had to go to work at 10 p.m. She decided not to call in sick.

"I got to work, and I was beaming," Lienemann said. "The whole night I just sat and looked at (the ring)."

"I still have the unopened Mountain Dew can."

Harris said he hadn't considered others' engagement stories before he asked Lienemann to be his wife.

"Do it your own way because then it's more special," he said.

Tom Williams also decided to ask his girlfriend, Christina Blackmer, in his own way.

Williams and Blackmer met while eating with other athletes during his senior year and her freshman year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Williams was on NU's track team before he graduated in 1993, and Blackmer ran track and cross-country before she graduated in 1998. They got engaged in February 1999.

Blackmer had flown to Lincoln in February from graduate school in

California to attend the Husker invitational track meet.

She handed out the awards because she had won the 500-meter indoor track meet the year before. The announcer turned her and asked for the audience's attention.

"He turned me around facing the scoreboard. I looked up, and it said, 'Christina, will you marry me?'"

Williams gave her a dozen roses and got down on his knees.

"I was so nervous. I was like 'Augggh!'" Blackmer said. "He said, 'Is that yes?' I said, 'Yes, yes, of course,' and he put the ring on."

Williams said he wanted to ask Blackmer at a track meet because they met through the track team. His friends suggested showing her the proposal on the scoreboard.

"The tougher thing was how I was gonna get her out there to see it," Williams said. "I didn't want her to get suspicious, so I had a coach go over and say, '(Will) you present the awards since you're a past winner?'"

Cory Wehrbein, a senior horticulture major, and Teri Crosbie, a senior secondary education major, said a private engagement was best for them.

Wehrbein took Crosbie to Mahoney State Park on Oct. 30 and asked her to look for a picnic spot.

His friends had already put 100 roses in a bucket in the middle of a blanket at Mahoney.

When Crosbie saw the roses, Wehrbein asked her to smell them. She saw the ring box in the middle of the roses.

"She turned around and looked at me, and I held up the ring," Wehrbein said.

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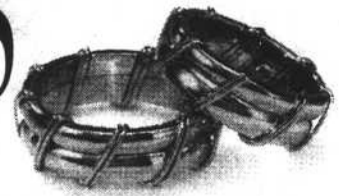
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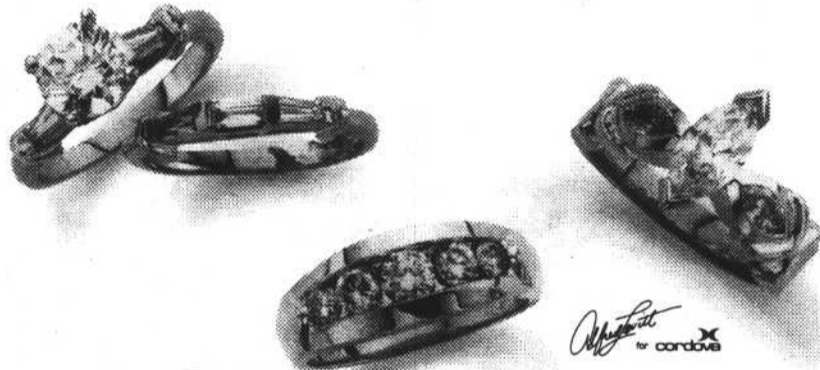
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