

Couples more involved in picking out the ring

■ Jewelers are noticing that the bride is having more say in how she wants her ring to look.

BY LAUREN ADAMS

The touching picture of a guy down on one knee while the girl's eyes fill with tears of happiness wouldn't be the same without the little black box that has the ring.

Everyone wants their ring to dazzle. College couples often hunt in local jewelry stores to find that perfect gem.

"College students are a main part of our business," said Bob Fixtor, general manager of Sartor Hamann Jewelers.

Cheryl Kozisek of Nebraska Diamond agreed.

"There is a mix of ages, but there is a significant amount of college students," Kozisek said.

The ring is one of, if not the most important, elements in wedding plans, Fixtor said.

"He wanted to make sure I liked it, since it's going to mine for the rest of my life."

Michelle Tetherow recently engaged

The most popular style of ring, according to Kozisek, is the solitaire.

"The solitaire is a popular style because the man doesn't have to stress out about all the styles," Kozisek said.

Fixtor said there's several options for ring-shoppers.

While there may be millions of combinations depending on clari-

ty, cut, color and karat weight, there does seem to be a trend among the most popular styles.

"Simple and straight styles are really popular right now," Kozisek said.

Kozisek and Fixtor agreed that the role of the man and woman in picking out the ring has changed.

"Couples are coming in more than in the past," Fixtor said. "It used to just be the guy picking out a ring to surprise his girlfriend."

"I think guys are intimidated by all the choices that are out there now," Kozisek said.

Jewelers see many combinations of shoppers; sometimes just the man, the man and his friend, the man with one of his girlfriend's friends or the couple.

"My favorite is the guy with his mom or the girlfriend's mom," said Kozisek. "That's really sweet."

Freshman secondary education major Michelle Tetherow was engaged over Thanksgiving break. She and her boyfriend went ring shopping together, said Tetherow.

"He wanted to make sure I liked it," explained Tetherow, "since it's going to mine for the rest of my life."

Tetherow said shopping together made the ring all the more special. She also said the ring was unique and special to them because they were actually able to design it themselves.

"I especially like the heart-shaped diamond and the fact that we picked it out together," said Tetherow.

Tetherow acknowledged the cliché that a diamond is forever.

"The ring symbolizes all the love in our relationship," said Tetherow. "The diamond is forever, just like our relationship is forever."

Senior wildlife major Katie Jolly said she told her boyfriend some basic guidelines about what kind of ring she would want so he could pick it out himself.

Jolly said because she will be working as a zoo keeper, she want-

ed a ring that she could wear all the time, even at work.

"I know so many people that have to take their wedding rings off everyday," said Jolly. "I want to wear mine all the time."

Jolly said her ring was platinum so it would last and had inset diamonds that won't catch on things. Jolly said the style of the ring wasn't the only thing that made it special.

"The ring makes it official,"

said Jolly, "It shows others that what we have is real."

With so many choices and so much importance riding on the ring, guys are encouraged to take their time seeking out the perfect ring, said Fixtor.

"I'd advise guys to spend time looking at all the different diamonds," Fixtor said.

"Just come in with an open mind and have fun shopping."

Kozisek said it's important that

men realize they didn't need to spend thousands of dollars on the ring.

"The ring isn't the thing that will make or break the relationship," she said.

Kozisek added that college students should especially be careful about spending their money.

"The ring is supposed to bring happiness and love," said Kozisek, "not financial chaos."

*The woman
you've found is
perfect.*



*Should the diamond
be anything less?*

Your fiance is one in a million. So are our diamonds. In fact, fewer than one in a million is cut to the extraordinary level of perfection you'll see in every Hearts On Fire diamond. Which is why they burn with a fire and brilliance you won't find in any other diamond.



HEARTS ON FIRE

THE WORLD'S MOST PERFECTLY CUT DIAMOND

© 1999 Hearts On Fire

Sartor Hamann
JEWELERS

12th & O

www.sartorhamann.com

Gateway Mall

Couples travel to tropical locations for honeymoons

HONEYMOON from page 2

Swindell agreed.

"Definitely cruises - those are always favorites for honeymoons," he said.

Holmes also put cruises near the top of the list of happening vacations, specifically those in the Caribbean Islands.

Once the variety of paradise is decided, the question becomes how long to stay.

Holmes said her agency offers plans for five-day, seven-day or 10-day trips.

Swindell recommended honeymoons lasting up to two weeks.

"I've noticed a trend of couples asking for two-day, three-night packages," he said.

Swindell said he didn't agree with this, not because he, as a travel agent, wanted to sell the bigger package, but because the honeymoon should be special.