

Wieland's
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Is 'until death do

"Death do us part."

Obsolete? Impractical? Perhaps, but this year more than 2 million couples will say those or similar words after a walk down the wedding aisle.

Of that 2 million how many will buck soaring divorce rates and spend a lifetime of wedded bliss?

According to Bob Trenz, a psychologist with the Michigan Department of Mental Health and teacher of marriage seminars at Oakland University's Continuum Center, the structure of the relationship may determine survival.

RELATIONSHIPS, Trenz said, must have a "basic underlying fabric," a fabric determined by attitudes toward each other, communication skills and faith in marriage as an institution.

Unfortunately, "no one ever teaches about the basics of a relationship," Trenz said. "I don't think many couples really have that underlying fabric in their relationship."

That fabric is partly woven with an understanding of the concepts of coupling and, of course, love.

ERIC FROMM, author of "The Art of Loving," describes love as a



reduction of the separateness individuals experience. Individuals choose pairing as a way of leading a more fulfilled life.

"When two people have committed themselves to this mutual endeavor they are saying, 'I have decided that I can have a happier, more rewarding life by being coupled than as an individual,'" Trenz explained.

The decision to couple and with whom to couple should be based on good feelings.

"IT SHOULD involve making life easier, taking away some of the loneliness through sharing, making each other feel better about themselves and respecting and feeling good about each other," Trenz said.



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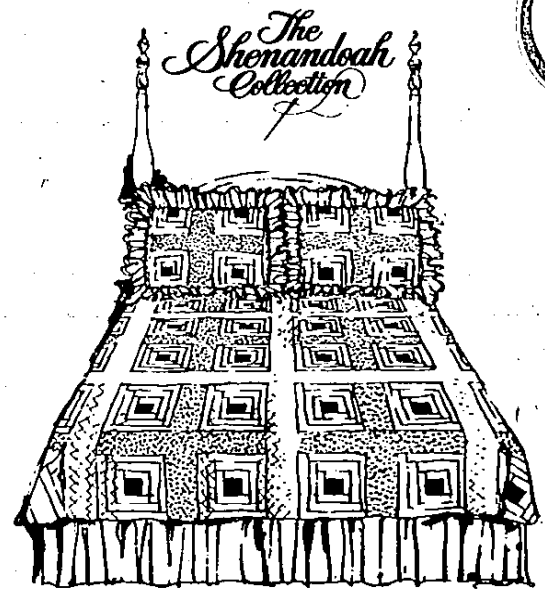
Lzan Butler, of Leo Knight Photography, helps Vicki and John to plan their wedding photography as carefully as they have all the other details to make their day a perfect one.

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