

# Couples Want Home, Family

By BONITA BALDWIN

Two engaged and two married couples talked separately about their dreams and development recently. The engaged couples, Junaita Welker and Robert Barone, now married, and Eileen Walthers and Steve D'Rarienzo, whose wedding date is May 24, share three goals: happiness, home, and family.

The D'Rarienzo couple, both Catholic and aged 21 and 24 respectively, have already purchased a small house in Irondequoit. They plan to live there until they start a family in four or five years. They explained that they want to delay a family so that Eileen can establish her nursing career. Eileen and Steve said that they would like to have two natural children and adopt as many as they can afford. Eileen plans to remain home while they are small and return to work later. She said that she chose nursing as a career partly because it is flexible while raising a family. They predicted a great deal of role-switching in their marriage when both are working.

The future D'Rarienzos claimed that the secret to their happiness is that they are best friends and can communicate openly. They met three years ago when Steve, a senior at St. John Fisher College, gave freshman

Eileen a ride home. They worked together tutoring handicapped adults for six months before they became serious.

Bob and Juanita Barone are an interfaith couple (Juanita is Protestant) and slightly older than the D'Rarienzos, at 27 and 24. They said that they see themselves as an average couple that likes to be together. They'll live the first year of their married life in Juanita's city apartment, but would like to buy a house in the suburbs or country the second year. Ideally they would like two boys. Although both said they object to the idea of woman's liberation, Juanita said that she will probably return to work when her children are old enough, simply because one income is not enough today.

The married couples, the Mellens married 2 1/2 years, and the Cehams, married almost 2 years, have homes and are turning their attention to children. Tom 23, and Sue, 21, were expecting their first baby in February. Jeannie and Don Ceham, 23 and 28 years old respectively, another interfaith couple where the wife is Protestant, said that they are considering a family soon. Both couples would like two or three children.

Unlike the engaged couples, neither Mrs. Mellen nor Mrs. Ceham plans to work outside the home after the children come, although Mrs. Ceham said she may take in secretarial work and give guitar lessons. Both couples said that they know each other better and communicate more openly and honestly after two years of marriage. Tom Mellen said that he had to learn to talk out his feelings during the first year. Don Ceham related that he was surprised to find just how agreeable marriage was.

The couples match current marriage trends cited by counselor Dr. Dennis Boike without particular pattern. According to Dr. Boike's statistics, couples are marrying later and having fewer children. Luxuries are considered necessities by young couples, and more women are working throughout marriage. One trend was reflected in the testimony of each of the couples, that being an increased expression of feeling by men.

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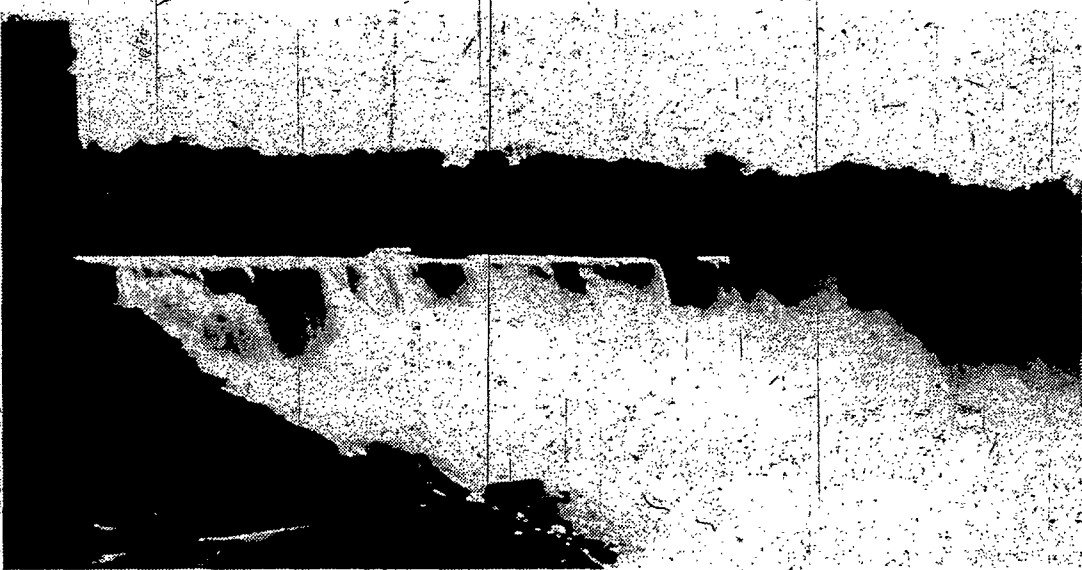
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