

The Wedding Pages



Love in any Language:

From arranged marriages to timeless superstitions; approaches to weddings vary globally and locally.
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I Do's & Don'ts

Make that special day even more memorable with personal touches.
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Stay, little valentine, stay

By Serena Markstrom
Oregon Daily Emerald

When they first met, they had to pay a toll to see each other.

Dr. Edwin Coleman, University professor emeritus and wife-to-be Charmaine Thompson started dating after a wedding in the late 1950s, when she lived in Berkeley, Calif., and he lived in San Francisco. "What

was the interesting thing about her was that she had the greatest smile," Dr. Coleman said of Mrs. Coleman, as she broke into what must have been the billionth smile for him.

Between the San Francisco Bay Bridge and the telephone line, they engaged in a year-and-a-half long courtship. When he asked, she said yes; they got married in a traditional

Catholic ceremony, had two children and built a life together.

That's the story. It's pretty simple. Yet this is a story that is eluding the biographies of most Americans today. What makes the marriages that do last?

For Dr. and Mrs. Coleman, it was the simple and proven ingredients: love, trust and commitment.

"Too many women, I think, don't have a deep commitment to being what God put us on Earth to do," Mrs. Coleman said. "I still basically believe that women are the nurturers."

Mrs. Coleman managed to nurture her two sons, Callan, 32, and Edwin III, 37, and have a 20-year career as a teacher.

Before she got her career started, she supported Dr. Coleman as he built a foundation for his. They moved from California to Eugene in the late 1960s so he could pursue a doctorate in theater at the University.

They lived in student housing, an environment that both Colemans Turn to Coleman, page 4B