

Groom wears tuxedo to complement bride

By KAREN CALDWELL
Copley News Service

When walking down the aisle, a bridal couple want to walk in style - and a lot of the style projected is determined by the clothes they wear.

Much attention is paid to the bride's dress, which seems only fair. She takes great pains in selecting just the right gown - possible even having her gown exclusively designed and sewn - and the groom's attire usually is a rental tuxedo whose primary purpose is to complement the bride's gown.

According to the American Formal-wear Association, the bride's choice of town determines the formality of the wedding, and the formality of the wedding determines what type of tuxedo is appropriate.

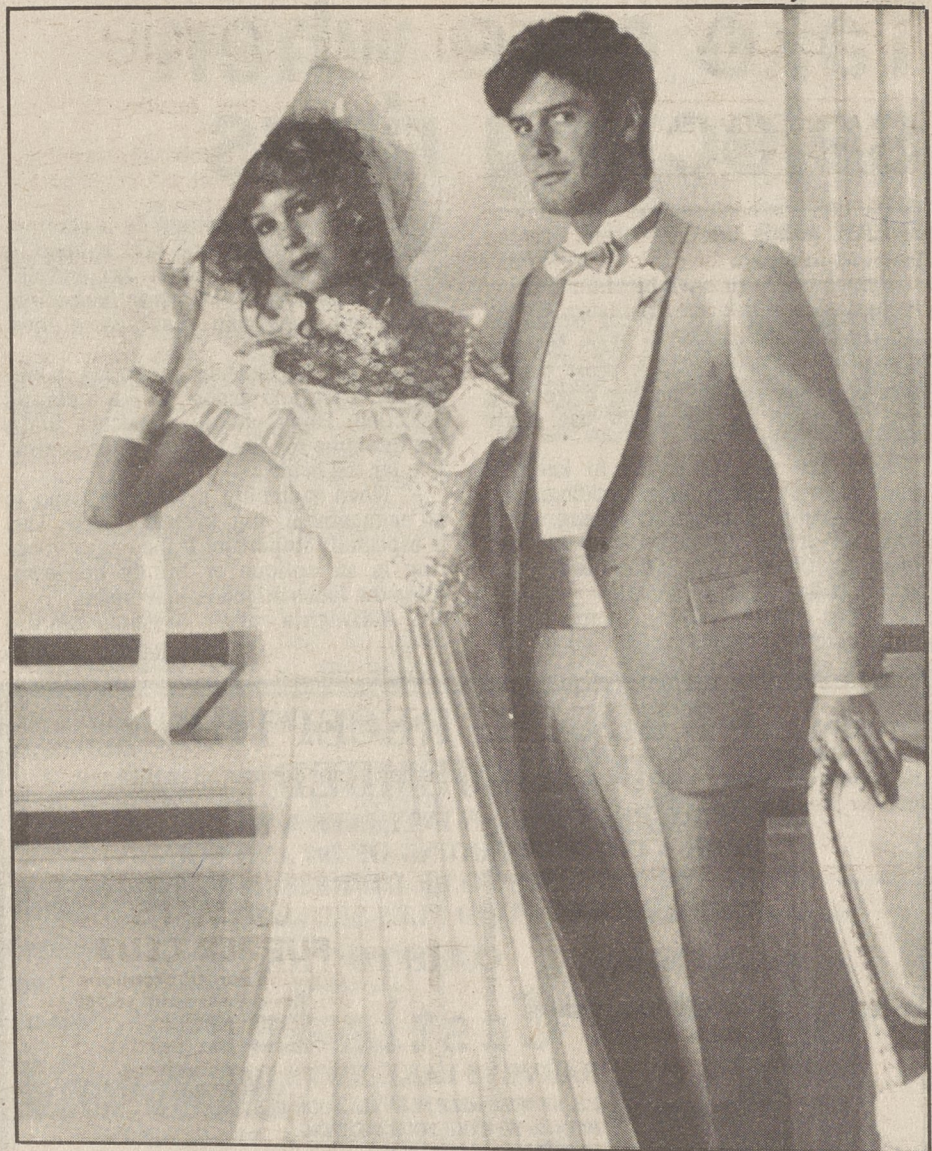
A long gown with a train denotes a formal affair, which traditionally requires a cutaway coat and striped trousers for daytime weddings. Formal

evening affairs are characterized by black or white tailcoats, with white being the more traditional.

For a semiformal wedding, in which the bride wears a gown and veil, the groom traditionally would wear a gray stroller and striped trousers in the daytime. For evening semiformal affairs, a black tuxedo or a white dinner jacket is the traditional mode of dress.

A more contemporary wedding, in which the bride wears a tea-length dress or casual gown, the groom could wear a tuxedo, an updated stroller or simply a dress suit or dinner jacket with complementary trousers, shirt and tie. Vests and cummerbunds are optional. In the contemporary evening wedding, any tuxedo will do. Traditional choices for winter weddings are tuxedos in gray, navy or black. For summer, gentlemen most often select white, silver or pastel colors.

Fathers of the bride and groom dress in the same fashion as the ushers and groomsmen.



This groom complements his bride's Bridal-lure gown with a pearl gray shawl collar tuxedo by Bill Blass for After Six Formals. Fashioned of 55 percent polyester and 45 percent wool, the tuxedo is worn with pearl gray accessories and a wing collar shirt.

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