

The Dallas Post Fall Bridal Showcase

Troubleshooting

(continued from page 7)

program that tracks invitations and RSVPs. It keeps a running total of expenditures and a built-in calendar reminds you of important checklist dates.

WEDDING PRACTICALITIES

Planning a wedding is almost like mobilizing an army. There are so many little items to think about. But on your wedding day, certain tasks should be completed ahead of time so you can relax.

Confirm all plans with vendors. Contact the florist, caterer, photographer and musicians. Double-check times and locations. Pack your honeymoon wardrobe several days before the wedding. Get together personal essentials such as passports and medicines when your feeling rested, not fatigued.

On your wedding day, appoint a person to screen your phone calls. Place your marriage license, rings, shoes, attendants' gifts or any other wedding accessories in a box or two. Then they will all be taken to the ceremony site.

Give a schedule of your day's events to an organized member of your bridal party (such as a maid of honor or best man). Also pack an emergency bag with lipstick, brushes or combs, needle and thread, mints, tissues, spot remover, etc.

INTERCULTURAL LOVE

Intercultural family experts say couples entering an interracial marriage should be very secure in their relationship. They must be prepared for unexpected reactions, even from friends and family members who are basically supportive. They can't be overly sensitive to the reaction of strangers.

When planning your wedding — dealing with caterers, pastors, ceremony and reception sites, honeymoon travel, etc. — be very square about the fact that yours is an interracial marriage.

If you know that a serious prejudice problem exists among family or friends, don't take a chance on an ugly scene at your wedding; just don't invite them.

For an interfaith union, plan a wedding, if you wish, that brings together the best of both religions. Write your own ceremony. Incorporate wedding rituals from each of your backgrounds. An ecumenical ceremony can be loving and fun.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS

From family rifts to obnoxious drunks, every wedding has its element of the predictable — rela-

tives not speaking to each other for years — to the unexpected — your fiance's father is rude and violent when he drinks.

Not only are these the times that try your soul, but they require from you a mature diplomacy and gentle revolve.

Pulling together two warring factions of a family can be a simple as asking them to forgive each other.

You may say, "I know what you can give me for a wedding present: come to my wedding and bury the hatchet. Be nice to other family members for just one day."

If a relative is a heavy drinker, perhaps you could assign someone to watch him. An alternative is not to serve alcohol at all. You can always host a second party after the reception, with an open bar.

How about invitation decisions? What to do about kids? Singles? Married friends who have separated? Long-distance friends or relatives?

Kids can be a welcome addition or a thorn in your side. To avoid offending the parents that you invite, set an age limit for children and stick to it.

Don't feel obligated to invite single friends with dates. Instead plan out a well-thought-out seating arrangement. Send wedding announcements rather than invitations to long-distance friends or relatives.

Sage Advice

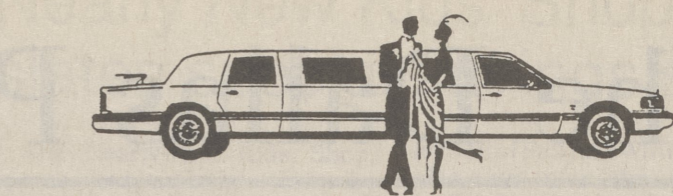
"Keep thy eyes wide open before marriage and half-shut afterwards." — Benjamin Franklin. (CNS)

She Wore White

We have Queen Victoria to thank for the traditional white wedding dress. She wore white for her wedding in 1840 and started a trend that continues to this day. Other trends include the body-conscious satin gowns of the '30s and tailored dresses of the '40s. (CNS)



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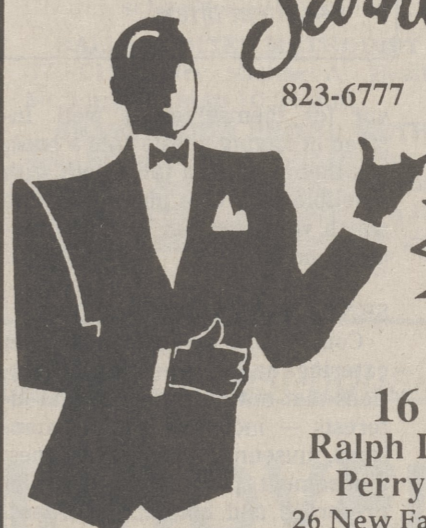
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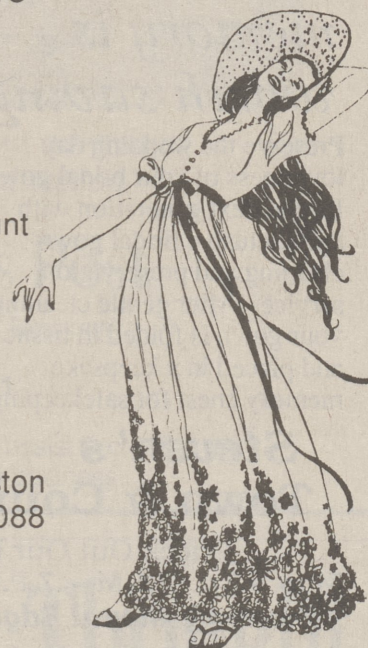
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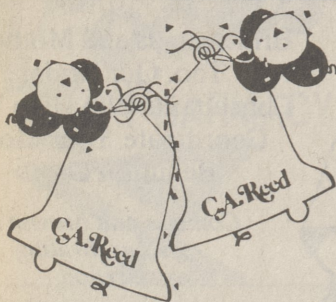
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