

## 'That perfect picture' takes long planning

By SARA THOMASSEN

A couple has so many things to keep track of when planning a wedding, that the photographer is sometimes forgotten until the last minute, and by then most of the money has been spent.

According to John Butler, owner of Butler Photography, 4410 Randolph St., this is a grave mistake.

"A person does not have to worry about being rich to hire a photographer," Butler said. "We have wedding plans starting from \$150."

Butler Photography is one of the few studios in town that doesn't concentrate on wedding packages, believing that packages restrict people.

However, Anderson's Studios, 2951 N. 70th St., does deal in packages.

"We talked about changing from packages, but we found that most people like them; they know what they are paying for," said Pat Rice, receptionist for Anderson's Studios.

Anderson's has package deals ranging from \$135 to \$805. These prices include predetermined numbers and sizes of pictures, but the studio is more than willing to work with the couple, trading one 8-by-10 for two 4-by-5's.

Hamilton's Studio, 3530 J St., offers one basic wedding plan. For a minimum of \$250, a couple gets engagement and bridal pictures, glossies for the newspaper, and 20 8-by-10's of the wedding.

According to Butler, Rice and Sharron Hamilton, the most popular months for weddings are April through September, with May, June and July being the busiest. Every studio stressed the importance of reserving a photographer six months to a year in advance.

Cost is usually the basis for hiring a certain wedding photographer over another one, but Butler and Rice had some other tips:

When looking for a photographer for your wedding, always go to two or three studios, even if the first seems satisfactory; do not hire over the phone; always look at the work of the photographer being hired; and make sure that the prices are written in the signed contract so the studio can't raise prices before the wedding.

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