

Modern options



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

Calling it off could be costly

Broken bells emotional for couples, nightmare for businesses

By London Bridge
Staff Reporter

Calling off the wedding can be an emotional experience for the would-be bride and groom, but it's also a financial "nightmare," according to owners of local businesses specializing in wedding productions.

Robert Jacobs, owner of J' Marie's Bridal Shoppe, 225 N. Cotner Blvd., said he hates canceled weddings because they can cost him money.

Wedding gowns are a special-order business, Jacobs said. He requires a 50 percent deposit on all dresses and a signature from the bride promising that if the wedding is canceled, she will continue payments and keep the dress or forfeit her deposit.

"Even if she has to forfeit the deposit, that 50 percent doesn't always cover our cost for the dress," he said. "Then we're stuck with it."

Jacobs said he has more than 250 unsellable dresses in his shop from canceled weddings.

"After eight months a dress style is

no longer current, and a dress that is two seasons old is almost impossible to sell," he said.

He said he has 30 to 40 canceled weddings each year, but only sells six or seven dresses from his back stock of canceled wedding garments.

The dresses usually aren't sold again, Jacobs said, "because most girls don't want to buy another girl's dress."

Sandy Rowson, owner and bridal consultant of Sassi's At The Wedding Tree, 2530 O St., said she had eight cancellations last year out of nearly 300 weddings.

Rowson's cancellation policy is like Jacobs': Payments must be continued or the deposit on the dress will be lost. She said she encourages the would-have-been bride to continue payments on the dress because "she is choosing the dress because she likes it and it flatters her."

"We are so distressed when a wedding is canceled because we have worked with the girl for a long time on such a personal basis," Rowson

said. "It's like losing a special friend."

When a wedding is canceled, Rowson said, the dress can be stored at the shop for a year. Then, if the woman wants it, she must take it home.

Of the 75 to 80 weddings photographed each year by Evans Studio, 1124 N. Cotner Blvd., owner Richard Evans said he has more date changes than cancellations. He said two weddings he was hired for were canceled last year.

He said he requires a \$150 deposit, and if the wedding is canceled, he credits the customer's account.

Jim Dingwell, owner of Dingwell Photography, 2536 O St., said he doesn't refund deposits because the purpose of a deposit is to reserve a date.

"We've probably had to turn that date down to other customers, and if it's canceled we're out financially," he said. "We should be working every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the spring and summer."

'I do' in any language has similar ring to it

By Lisa Donovan
Staff Reporter

Traditional wedding ceremonies around the world have become as Americanized as a McDonald's in downtown Tokyo. "The young people (of Japan) prefer the Westernized type of ceremonies to the traditional," said Atsuko Ohara of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Japanese Student Association.

Ohara, whose hometown is Tokyo, said Japanese ceremonies are similar to traditional Western church weddings, except the dress has changed. Japanese brides and grooms prefer the Western-style white dress and suit to the traditional kimono, she said.

"The atmosphere is much more relaxed at weddings today," Ohara said. "The couples can invite their friends, and they didn't used to be able to do that."

Although friends are allowed at the ceremony now, Japanese couples do not have bridesmaids and groomsmen.

Egyptian weddings hold the old traditions like the Japanese.

"It is usually very small and intimate," said Mostafa Khattab, president of the Egyptian Student Association at UNL.

The families of the bride and groom gather in the home of the bride or at the mosque, depending on the couple's religion, Khattab said.

"Then afterwards, friends and family gather together somewhere,

depending on the families' income, to celebrate," he said.

In Taiwan, couples usually get married in restaurants, said Tyan-Ming Chu, president of the Free China Association at UNL.

"The couple invites all of their friends and family," Chu said. Afterwards, a large dinner is served, along with the traditional clothes-changing ceremony, Chu said.

"The couple changes their clothes several times throughout the dinner," he said. "There really is no reason behind it; it is just our custom."

Although the wedding ceremonies are basically the same, customs and traditions make the rite culturally unique.

"Instead of walking down the aisle, the couple is usually placed in front of their guests," Chu said.

The couple usually does not talk during the ceremony; instead the master of the ceremony speaks on the celebration of marriage, he said. The master then asks the bride's father for permission and the ceremony concludes.

In Egypt and Japan, the couple plays an active role in the wedding ceremony.

In Egypt today, the engagement and wedding arrangements are left up to the couple entirely.

"It's the same here as in the U.S.," Khattab said.

Couples have a lot more independence in Taiwan today, Chu said.

"Thirty years ago, marriage was a matchmaking affair," he said. "Families would hire an agent to set it up."

People waiting longer to wed

By Pattie Greene
Staff Reporter

Here comes the bride — she's over 25.

Women are postponing marriage because they have more independence than 20 years ago, said one University of Nebraska-Lincoln sociology professor.

"The causes for marriage operate less strongly today," said Lynn White, chairman of the UNL sociology department. "Women are no longer required to get married if they get pregnant."

White said that a high divorce rate of 50 percent means more women are putting their energy into education and their careers in order to be able to support themselves.

Couples who live together gain the comforts of marriage such as cost-sharing and intimacy without the strain of a permanent relationship, White said.

While most people expect to eventually marry, White said, it's estimated that in western and northern Europe 60 percent of young people never will.

"A larger proportion of people are reaching age 30 who have never married," White said. "The odds are that they never will."

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the average age for brides is 22.5 and the grooms is 24.5 years.

"Marriage and children go hand-in-hand," White said, but more people are waiting to have children. About estimated that one-fourth of the women born after 1955 will remain childless, she said.

"This is a major change from 20 years ago," White said. "Of course, with a divorce rate of 50 percent and most people waiting to have children, any individual would ask: Why get married?"

Harpies and doves inspire misogynist's Top 6

When the harpies came and stole his furniture, he began to make tapes. He left his room when they were gone and stood on the faded piece of carpet where the couch used to be. He walked over to the faded piece of carpet where the overstuffed beige chair used to be. He sat down there.

faded piece of carpet in which he now sat, in another house, around the block, down the street.

He never wanted a significant other again. Not ever. He turned on a radio station that played music that had been popular when he was in high school. This made him remember a story.

This couple had purchased a hundred doves for their wedding. They trapped the doves in the rafters of the cathedral with velvet drapes and attached a cord so that the drapes could be pulled out of the way, unleashing the doves, when the minister pronounced the couple man and wife. The picture in the couple's mind was of a cascading blur of white, soft flight at the moment the wedding was consummated.

The couple's wedding day was, unfortunately, a warm one, and the doves suffocated somewhere around the time the priest was asking if the bride wanted to "love, honor and cherish" until the end of her days. When the usher pulled the cord and the curtain pulled away with a flour-

ish, a hundred dead doves rained down on the wedding party.

You may kiss the bride.

So, with the harpies gone, he made the list of optional love songs, love songs to prevent these horrible mistakes from happening again. Anti-love songs. A misogynist's Top Six.

1. "We Fall"/"She's Mine" — Psychedelic Furs

To the Psych Furs, the love ritual is completely mechanistic, and these two songs — "We Fall" especially — turn love's basic litanies into nightmarish threats. Promises to marry, settle down and be with one another forever in some domestic other-reality turn into zomboid recitations that begin to throb in the head like a thousand printing presses stamping "doomed" on a cast-iron door.

2. "Happy Loving Couples"/"Different for Girls" — Joe Jackson

Two approaches to the coupling of bipeds. The first is a caustic barrage directed at hugging, nuzzling lumps of smiling flesh who sit on the edges of fountains and lakes wondering how long it will take for the other party to realize that all those hours

you spent staring into their eyes were merely because you couldn't think of anything to say.

The second song is just oppressively sad. The line, "What the hell is wrong with you tonight?" that begins this song sums up a thousand things wrong with ever telling anyone anything about yourself, no less letting them grab hold of your coronary arteries and send your essential bodily fluids squirting out your belly button.

3. "Frank's Wild Years" — Tom Waits

But you got married in a storm of dead doves despite it all and did the suburbs thing. You got a job because you thought it might be cute to be pewter miniatures of your cute parents, and eventually you came home and discovered your wife or husband was subject to constant, whining, Darwin-induced petit mal seizures.

Like Frank, you burn down the house, go tooling onto the freeway, settle back with some Sinatra on the local Easy Listening AM and a six-pack of Mickey's Big Mouths and chuckle every mile or so about that stupid dove thing. . . .

4. "Love Will Tear Us Apart" — Joy Division

Joy Division's Ian Curtis was delivered unto this world in order to show us that there is not a single human endeavor that doesn't in some way remind you you're going to die. According to Curtis, most of them make you wish you were dead. Others kill you. Those that just hurt remind you of death because death hurts. Those that seem to be making you happy are lies that, once they are exposed as such, will make you want to die even more than you did before. It's just a guess, but I don't think Ian Curtis ever listened to Mac Davis' "Stop and Smell the Roses."

5. "Havin' My Baby" — Paul Anka

This has scared many an intelligent young heterosexual out of the back seats of cars and into the priesthood or convent.

6. "Unsatisfied" — Replacements

Perfectly self-explanatory. Nothing works, so why fix it. Lieurance is a senior English major and a Daily Nebraskan arts and entertainment editor.

Charles
Lieurance



After about three days he got up again. It was dark, so he tried to turn on a lamp that was no longer there. It didn't switch on.

In another house, around the block, down the street and in Kenya, the lamp went on perfectly for her. A soft, peaked moon, it made a near-perfect circle on a phone-book page where she found the number of some guy she hadn't spoken to since the day the couch was dropped onto that