

By Dionne Searcey and Adeana Leftin

Marriage may be a sacred institution, but planning a wedding can be a devilish chore that requires a miracle to perfect. Here are some tips to help turn water into wine:

BRIDE



- Pay off wedding dress;
- Order invitations;
- Check legal requirements;
- Check out jewelry sales;
- Plan the big night;
- Decide on final menu for reception;

Three to six months before the ceremony

- Book band for reception dance;
- Address invitations to wealthiest relatives, lose others;
- Order cake;
- Register with bridal registry at Lincoln's finest shops;
- Check the latest trends in birth control;



Nine to 12 months before the ceremony

- Answer affirmatively;
- Break the news;
- Select a wedding date and time;
- Check bank account;
- Reserve ceremony and reception location;
- Decide who to invite, and whose invitation will get lost in the mail;
- Select attendants;
- Pick food-baker, picture-taker and flower-maker;
- Decide whether your dress really should be white;
- Decide on minister, judge, rabbi or priest;

Four to six months before the ceremony

- Schedule pre-marital counseling, if necessary;



What to do-and not to do-before the Big Day

GETTING MARRIED



David Badders/Daily Nebraskan

One month before ceremony

- Start working out at Campus Recreation to lose the extra inches gained since last dress fitting;
- Buy marriage license;
- Buy an extra pair of hose, can of hair spray and bottle of Listermint;

One week before ceremony

- Give food-baker, picture-taker and flower-maker additional instructions;
- Plaster newspapers with pictures of the happy couple;
- Stuff honeymoon suitcase with the latest from Victoria's Secret;
- Show up for rehearsal;

The Big Day

- Brush teeth;
- Feel guilty again for wearing white dress;
- Scream at friends and family for ruining the most important day of a lifetime;
- Calm down;
- Question marriage;
- Walk down the aisle;
- Tie the knot;

GROOM

Six months to one year before ceremony

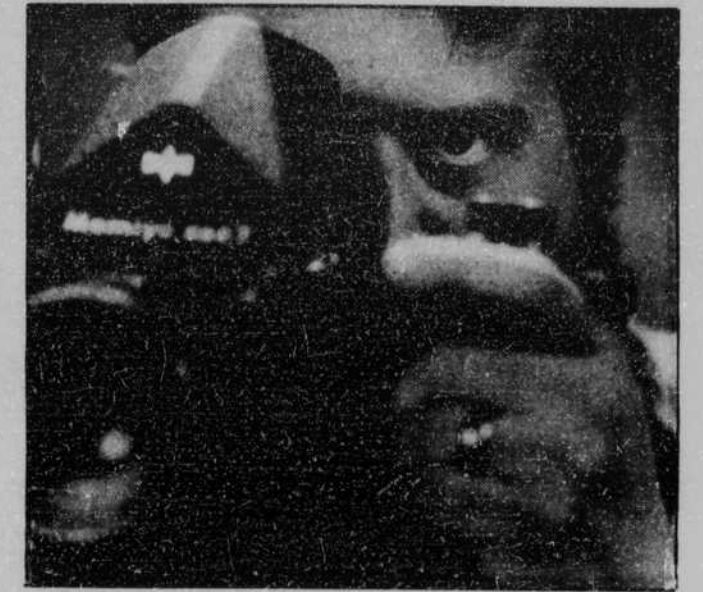
- Doubt marriage;
- Mortgage house, buy the rock;
- Pop the question;
- Stay out of fiancée's hair for next six to 12 months;
- Choose best man and ushers;

Four months before ceremony

- Doubt marriage;
- Check out jewelry sales;
- Make certain old girlfriends are left off the guest list;
- Order tuxedos;
- Buy Dr. Ruth's latest bestseller;

One month before ceremony

- Doubt marriage;



- Make parents foot bill for rehearsal dinner and flowers;
- Work out with fiancée at Campus Recreation;
- Try on wedding ring;
- Take care of legal aspects;

Two weeks before ceremony

- Doubt marriage;
- Ask parents for keys to Cadillac;
- Clean out closets, make way for the new wife;

One week before

- Doubt marriage;
- Fight about wedding plans;
- Attend bachelor party;
- Apologize to fiancée;
- Go to rehearsal;
- Wonder if spouse-to-be will wear white;

The Big Day

- Doubt marriage;
- Forget to set alarm;
- Doubt marriage;
- Brush teeth;
- Doubt marriage;
- Forget ring;
- Doubt marriage;
- Tie the knot;
- Doubt marriage;

