

Experienced bridesmaid gives wedding advice

By Anne Steyer
Staff Reporter

You're familiar with the saying: "Always a bridesmaid, never a bride"? That saying sums up my life.

Not that I'm complaining. I have the traditionally male, terminal fear of commitment. I'm in no rush for gardenias and organza or gold bands and bath towels.

But I digress.

The point is, I have been involved in more weddings in my 25 years than I can count on my hands and feet. My closet is filled with dresses I will never, ever wear again — some because they are too small, others because they're too big (yea, right!) and the rest because they're too god-awful ugly.

Kathy, one of my best friends, and I decided our satin-filled closets have made us wedding experts. We also decided that we should transform this knowledge into a tangible cash flow.

So we planned to form our own business: wedding consulting.

Who better than us: the women who have lived through cascades of hot pink taffeta, scratches from seam-

stress pins gone awry and mountains of cream cheese wedding mints?

And what better name to operate under than "Always a Bridesmaid"?

It fits. People remember it. And it reeks of expertise, which we have — along with a healthy dose of common sense and the ability to effectively balance a budget. (Especially if it's not our own.)

Brides-to-be often get out of control planning what they think is the perfect wedding. Oftentimes, however, that wedding isn't a reflection of the couple; it is a reflection of tradition.

Couples need to be encouraged to do their own thing. After all, it's their day. And they don't have to be paying for it forever, either.

There are so many little "outs" in planning a wedding. Take wedding invitations for example: Independent

printers are usually cheaper than specialty stores. They can do a quality job and they allow a lot more flexibility in design.

This takes me back to the individuality issue. Recently, friends of mine planned their wedding around a Winnie-the-Pooh theme. An independent printer custom-made invitations for them. They were terrific.

I can't take credit for that particular piece of advice, but I contributed others.

Photographers, invitations, bridal registries, caterers, banquet halls, musicians, DJs, dresses, seamstresses, cakes, colors, flowers, tuxes, announcements, arrangements, ceremonies, vows, processions, receptions, honeymoons, headpieces, hotels, bouquets, themes, showers — you name it, we have advice on it.

Most of the weddings Kathy and I

have been in have been fairly organized, but in the process, the bride is reduced to a nervous wreck. She commences to verbally abusing her groom for not helping enough and fights with both her mother and mother-in-law-to-be over small details like table decorations.

Wedding coordinators could alleviate a lot of this by flexing some muscle with stubborn caterers and bullying the seamstress into getting the dresses done before the day of the wedding.

And the bride and groom could enjoy getting married.

Unfortunately, Kathy and I haven't really organized ourselves yet.

But we both work about 50 hours a week. That doesn't leave much time for putting our heads together to list prices, preferred salons, caterers, halls, seamstresses and such things.

It leaves about enough time to get a beer and congratulate each other on how lucky we are not to be planning our own weddings.

And, of course, we're both anticipating being in weddings this summer.

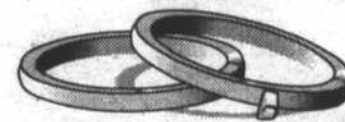
Bridesmaids. Again.

Percent of UNL students who are married

Fall 90-91	13.55 %
Fall 91-92	13.49 %
Fall 92-93	13.31 %

Average age of married UNL students

Fall 90-91	33.16
Fall 91-92	33.30
Fall 92-93	33.35



Source: Institutional Research and Planning Office
Brian Shellito/DN

FOR WHOM THE BELLS TOLL

If wedding bells are beckoning, make your entrance into marriage in bold style — make it in a Holway tuxedo.

Christian Dior

Pierre Cardin

PERRY ELLIS

LORD WEST
CROWN COLLECTION

HENRY GRETHEL
FOR AFTER SIX®

CHAPS
RALPH LAUREN

After Six
FORMALS

HOLWAY
FORMALWEAR

NEBRASKA'S LARGEST
FORMALWEAR SPECIALIST

1228 P STREET • LINCOLN, NE 68508 • (402) 476-2262
GATEWAY SHOPPING CENTER • LINCOLN, NE 68505 • (402) 464-6661



◀ CHAPS BY RALPH LAUREN

This high-fashion, contemporary tuxedo features a double-breasted jacket with a shawl lapel. The high breast and European shoulders create a longer, sleek looking torso.



PERRY ELLIS ▶

Classic style with a notched lapel. It's available with a full-dress tail coat or dinner jacket. Tails on the full-dress coat are 1 1/2" longer than other coat tails.