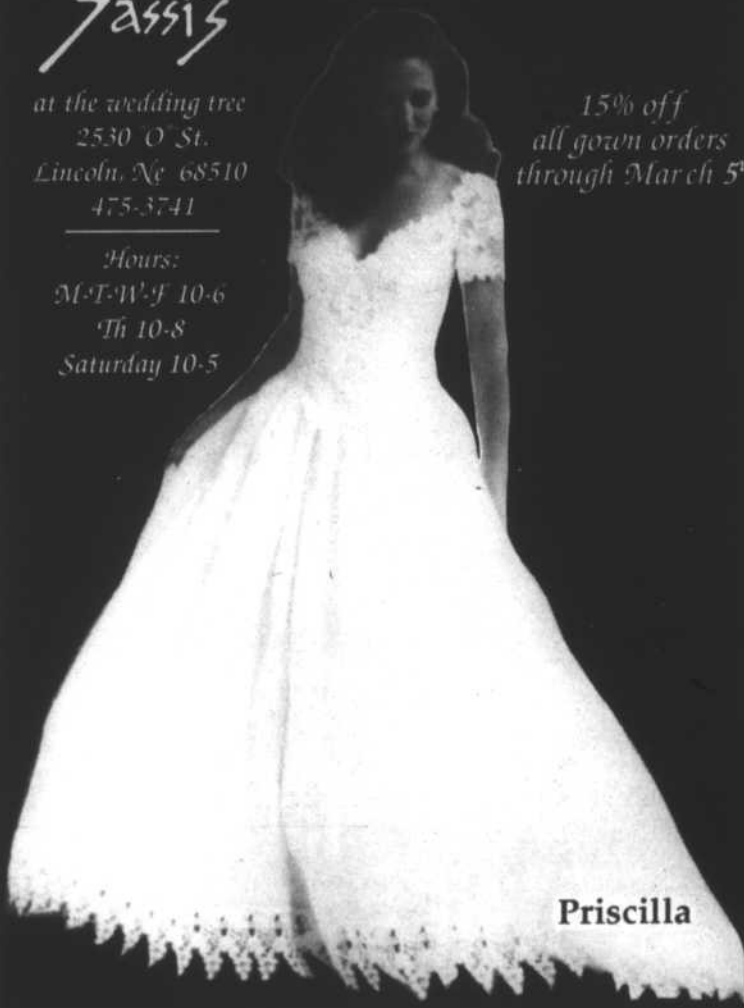


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Chris Arent and Lori Leber, UNL seniors, both take part in planning their May wedding.

Planning wedding takes two

By Kara G. Morrison
 Senior Reporter

Traditionally, brides-to-be have been charged with planning all pomp and circumstance.

Today, however, more men are showing an interest in organizing the ceremony and festivities.

Elizabeth Harris, a wedding consultant at Special Moments, said men had become increasingly involved in wedding planning.

"In our store, we see a lot of men coming in," Harris said.

Harris said she thought the extent of the fiance's involvement depended on the bride-to-be. Some women, she said, want to plan their own wedding.

But for the most part, planning has become more of a joint effort, Harris said.

Cindy Miesbach, a senior finance major, said her fiance, Kirk, played a large part in planning their wedding

day: from registering together to offering his suggestions on the bridesmaid's dresses.

"He even chose the color scheme for the entire wedding," she said.

Miesbach said she was pleasantly surprised at her fiance's interest and help with the plans.

Harris called the trend toward greater participation "healthy," and said she thought the wedding day was more special to both the bride and groom when both played a large part in the decision-making.

Miesbach agreed. "It's what being a couple is about: working as a team. Actively (planning a wedding) together is a great way to begin a life together."

Kari Mathiesen, a senior broadcasting major, said she and her fiance made most decisions as a couple.

"He is very involved and wants to know (about the plans), and I want him to know," Mathiesen said.

The most difficult part for

Mathiesen and her fiance, she said, is working out wedding details with other family members.

Sometimes, she said, parents offer suggestions that you feel obligated to take. But ultimately the couple needs to go with what they want.

Jill Johnson, a senior elementary education and early childhood development major, said she was in charge of making most of the arrangements for her June wedding. "He doesn't like to take the initiative to plan," Johnson said. "Deep down, he cares, but he would rather not worry about the details."

Johnson said her fiance's input came mostly in terms of what he knew he did not want. Otherwise, she said, decisions turned out to be a lesson in compromising.

Planning a wedding, Johnson said, can be a true test of love and patience. "If you can make it through planning a wedding, your marriage will survive."

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