

# Dress stress

## Plan to shop around before committing to gown

By Julie Sobczyk  
Senior Reporter

For April Shaw, buying her wedding gown proved to be an almost hassle-free experience.

Shaw, a UNL senior biology major, said she found her dream dress just by doing some careful planning and shopping.

She found the perfect gown in Lincoln, she said, but it was a little more than her \$500 budget.

So, she made a trip to Madonna's Belle in Norfolk and found the same dress at a lower price.

When picking out the perfect dress,

brides-to-be should keep in mind what styles look good on them, said Teresa Furnas, owner of Trousseau Bridal and Formal, 3200 O St.

"Brides choose gowns probably for how nice it makes them look," Furnas said. "Some people want something that will flatter their figure. Others want the gown they've always dreamed of, whether it's lacy, beaded or the whole works."

Some brides choose more traditional dresses with long trains and lots of lace and beadwork, she said. Others pick styles based on the season during which they will be married.

"For the first wedding, traditional

*"Brides choose gowns probably for how nice it makes them look."*

**TERESA FURNAS**

owner of Trousseau Bridal and Formal

is the most popular," Furnas said. "Gowns with a lot of lace are popular. Short- or long-sleeved gowns depends on the season."

The traditional length and style of

dress was exactly what Shaw wanted.

"It has a sweetheart neckline, and it goes down in the back," Shaw said. "I wanted long sleeves and a long train."

But finding the right style isn't the only concern for a new bride. Prices can cause problems for brides-to-be on a tight budget.

Sandy Rowson, owner of Sassi's, 2530 O St., said dress prices at her store ranged from \$400 to \$4,000.

"Prices for a brand-new gown with a train will cost more," Rowson said. "If you're going more informal, they will cost less."

And the price of the dress often determines whether the bride will buy

it, she said.

"They buy for the price range," Rowson said. "They don't want to fall in love with something they can't afford."

Furnas' store accepts all major credit cards as payment, and layaway is available.

"We're not fussy about how much they put down," she said. "The main thing is that they get the gown and not worry about it."

Both Furnas and Rowson recommended bringing a friend, sister, or

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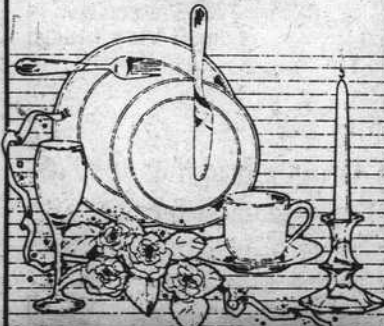
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