

Room for the

Not all responsibility falls on brides



BY PAULA LAVIGNE
Editor

Pop the question.
Be at the church on time.
No high tops.

While grooms may never fret about the finer points of engraved invitations or gladiolas vs. gardenias, there is a role for them among the china, the finger sandwiches and the lace-lined aisles of "Dress World."

Traditionally, the majority of such wedding planning has been left to the bride-to-be with a few "sure hon, whatever you want" utterances from the groom.

But today, more grooms are offering their input, either on their own or with prompting from their future wife. This input results in more weddings reflecting both individuals' tastes.

The role for today's groom, said wedding consultant Teresa Furnas, still starts with buying the engagement ring and popping the big question.

The woman's "yes" is as much an agreement to wed as it is a pledge to spend months poring over bridal magazines.

"The guys don't see it as 'this neckline with this waist and this fabric,'" Furnas said. "It's either yes or no - 'You look really great or you look really great in the other one.'

"They never say anything negative."

Or they just try not to say anything at all.

"Stay out of the way" was Rod Chesnutt's overall theory. Chesnutt, director of the Cornhusker Marching Band, married Jennifer Wright on Saturday.

Chesnutt said he's heard concerns that the groom doesn't take wedding planning as seriously as the bride. He sees his role in planning as one of moral support.

While being a sounding board is important, the groom does have a more-defined role in attending to certain wedding details.

Grooms are traditionally in charge of:

- Purchasing their wedding attire and that of the best man, groomsmen and usher.
- Buying gifts for the best man, groomsmen and ushers.
- Offering input on the groom's cake.
- Picking out wedding rings and purchasing the bride's ring.
- Paying the officiant's fee, if necessary.
- Taking care of all honeymoon arrangements.

The groom's biggest task is choosing attire for the groom, best man and ushers. Of course, the bride still has input - and often the final say.

Jane Bedient, manager of Randall's tuxedo rental, said grooms pick out the style they like, and then the brides offer a stamp of approval "so the guy isn't walking down the aisle and she's like, 'On my word!'"

Plus, picking out a tuxedo can make the guy feel like he has a part in the excitement. Bedient said that Randall's, which is adjacent to a bridal shop, offers an oasis for the "misplaced men" who sneak in from next door.

SCOTT McCLURG/DN

NEWLY WEDDED Jennifer and Rod Chesnutt leave the aisle of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Lincoln Saturday for a reception immediately following the wedding.