

groom

"They're wandering with this glazed look on their eyes, saying, 'Oh, guy stuff. Cool.'"

While fitting men for their tuxedos, Bedient said, she is noticing more men discussing traditionally bride-only issues.

"I've heard a lot of times, '... We've got flowers at 1 and cake at 3,'" she said.

That kind of concern can take the pressure off an over-stressed bride, she said. Yet it's still the girl's day, she said, and the bride bears the bulk of the burden.

"The traditional roles are hard to get away from," she said.

Brides are more detail-oriented, Furnas said. Many brides, including Chesnutt's new bride Jennifer, said they knew what type of a wedding they wanted years before they meet their groom.

The foundation for open communication in marriage can begin during wedding planning, Furnas said.

"It's the biggest first project they have together, and they want to agree and want everyone to be happy," she said. "She's going to ask him what he thinks."

"What she does with that information is up to her, but she's going to make the token gesture, 'What do you think, honey?'"

Furnas said grooms' input should be used as often as possible, because their friends and family also attend the wedding. Also, both the bride and the groom should enjoy the celebration.

One groom's input into a reception involved the entire wedding party boarding the Big Red Bus and taking a trip to a local bar for a drink before the reception.

Grooms also may have an interest or talent suited to a particular part of the wedding. For example, Chesnutt's musical background allowed him

to orchestrate the ceremony's music. It was performed by a brass choir that included current and past members of the Cornhusker Marching Band.

Chesnutt said he also helped choose the flowers, reception hall and gift registration list.

His input on the wedding announcements didn't go so well, though.

"She asked me what I liked and then said, 'That's not good, because it looks like something you'd pick out,'" he said. "I think she's just being nice so I feel involved."

After working with many couples, Furnas said, grooms often say, "At the end of the day, we're going to be mar-

ried forever" and spend little time on planning the actual day.

For grooms who want to know more about their role on the big day, help is out there.

"The Groom's Survival Manual" by Michael R. Perry provides some down-to-earth advice in "guyspeak" that could put some grooms at ease.

The survival manual breaks down the game plan for "Team Groom" into guest lists, family diplomacy, gift lists, ceremonies, legal matters and Team Groom's tuxedoed uniforms.

There's also some guy-only chapters on the bachelor party, cold feet, honeymoon planning and "Making the



BRIDE-TO-BE Jennifer Wright is helped by her mother, Mary Wright, in making last-minute preparations for her walk down the aisle. Wright married UNL band director Red Chesnutt Saturday.

SCOTT McCLURG/DN

Transition from Groom to Husband.

Many wedding planners geared toward the bride (read: flowers and lace on the cover) also have checklists for the groom, including "The Complete Idiot's Guide to The Perfect Wedding."

Another reference found on the World Wide Web is a wedding site

"(The wedding is) the biggest first project they have together, and they want to agree. ..."

TERESA FURNAS
wedding consultant

called "The Knot." Find a special groom update at www.theknot.com.

While these references can give a groom some guidance, there may be no better resource than his bride-to-be.

Whatever role the groom plays, Furnas has some practical advice gathered from the couples she has helped marry.

"I see the guys as framing out the big picture; they put the frame on the house ... and the girls decorate the inside," she said.

"That's what marriage is all about. People do what they're talented in. Everybody does their part, and the whole job gets done."

The Groom's Checklist



12 Months Before:

- Purchase the bride's engagement ring.
- If you'll share the wedding expenses, discuss the details with your fiancée and all parents.
- Decide how many ushers you'll need (one per 50 guests); select them.

9 Months Before:

- Arrange a visit with your clergy member or officiant to discuss the ceremony.
- Visit the bridal registry with your fiancée. Start drawing up your guest list.
- Discuss honeymoon plans with your fiancée; consult a travel agent for ideas.

6 Months Before:

- Arrange to pay for the bride's bouquet; order boutonnieres and corsages.
- Complete your honeymoon plans; make hotel and airline reservations.
- If traveling abroad, update your passport.
- Arrange transportation to the ceremony and reception for the wedding party.
- Plan the rehearsal dinner with your parents.

3 Months Before:

- Give your completed guest list to your fiancée.
- With your fiancée, order wedding attire for yourself and groomsmen.
- Order wedding rings.
- See your doctor for a checkup and blood test.
- Arrange lodging for out-of-town attendants.

6 Weeks Before:

- Select gifts for the bride, best man and officiant.
- Get the necessary legal and religious documents in order.
- Pick up the wedding rings and make sure they fit.
- Making moving arrangements, if necessary.

2 Weeks Before:

- Schedule a time with your fiancée to get the marriage license.
- Arrange with the best man for transportation from the reception to the airport or wedding-night hotel.
- Confirm all honeymoon reservations.
- Have your hair cut.

1 Week Before:

- Attend the bachelor party.
- Pick up and try on wedding attire.
- Explain seating arrangement for family members to the head usher.
- Put the officiant's fee in a sealed envelope and give it to the best man, who will deliver it after the ceremony.
- Purchase traveler's checks and pack for your honeymoon.
- Remind groomsmen of the rehearsal-dinner details.

The Wedding Day:

- Eat breakfast.
- Allow one hour or more to get dressed.
- Give the best man the bride's wedding ring.
- Have the best man and maid of honor sign the wedding certificate as witnesses.

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