

Tradition still dictates that bride's family pays

By TASHA E. KELTER
Staff Reporter

No matter how traditional marriage roles have changed, for many one wedding tradition seems to be holding its place: The bride's family pays for the wedding.

About half the weddings in the late 1990s are paid for by the bride's parents, including the upcoming wedding of Demarius George.

George, who lives in Coralville, Iowa, said she is planning a small wedding for spring 1999. Because of its size, the wedding's cost is low.

But she wondered whether her parents should pay for every wedding ceremony expense.

"Everything I've been reading says it can go any way," she said, but her parents likely will pay for the wedding.

"My parents will probably try to pick up the tab, since they'll feel obligated as the bride's parents," she said. "I think it's an antiquated and silly tradition — unfair, too."

Many people marry at older ages than two decades ago, she said. They're often financially stable and can afford to pay for their wedding.

"It's just ridiculous that, if the parents do pay, that all the financial burden falls on the bride's parents," George said.

Minna Kim, of Glenview, Ill., said her parents are paying for her upcoming wedding, which she expects to cost about \$25,000.

"I think my parents expected to pay for mine because of tradition," Kim said.

Her fiancé's parents are also holding to tradition and paying for the rehearsal dinner. A rehearsal dinner usually costs around \$15 a head.

"It can be pricey," George said. "The wedding is an insane cost if you do the whole chapel-dress-tux-reception thing."

Ann-Elizabeth Kouba, of St. Joseph, Mo., married in June after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln the previous December.

She and her husband paid for the

“I think my parents expected to pay for mine because of tradition.”

MINNA KIM
bride-to-be

majority of the wedding, she said, including the flowers, cake, pictures and wedding dress. Her parents paid for the reception as a wedding gift. She and her husband chose this arrangement.

"It was easier, in a way, to pay for it myself," Kouba said. "That way, we could have it whatever (weird) way we wished without pressure from the people holding the purse strings."

But Kouba's wedding wasn't outlandish or extravagant, she said.

Laura Evans of Omaha married in April and also chose a small wedding. The ceremony was performed by a justice of the peace and was held in Evans' parents' home. Her parents paid the minimal costs.

When Alicia Weiland of Waterloo married Jan. 3, she invited 25 guests and two attendants. Her parents paid for the minister fee, cake, decorations and flowers. Weiland paid about \$250 for her dress and accessories, plus the invitations and the marriage license.

"My parents wouldn't have been able to afford the whole thing ... so we offered to help with some of the costs," she said.

Money is often the greatest factor in wedding planning and deciding who pays for what.

But financial planning didn't overshadow the joy of Kouba's wedding, she said.

"It was almost entirely perfect," she said. "What wasn't perfect couldn't have been changed or fixed no matter how much money we spent."



BRIDE AND GROOM Jennifer Wright and Rod Chesnutt pose for their wedding photographs shortly before their wedding ceremony. Wedding coordinators say couples should sign written contracts with their photographer and other wedding service providers.

SCOTT McCLURG/DN



Stay Safe
this Winter.



Drive Carefully.

Cherished
Moments



Treasured
Memories

You are cordially invited to experience
Cherished Moments . . . Treasured
Memories

as
The Lincoln University Club
presents

The Second Annual Wedding Showcase
Sunday February 1, 1998, 1-5 PM
Lincoln University Club
University Towers • 128 North 13th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska
435-2902

Everyone is welcome

Displays by over twenty of Lincoln's Wedding
Specialist
Private "Wedding Fashions" Showing
Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres and Gifts
**THREE-NIGHT BAHAMAS
CRUISE GIVEAWAY**

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY CLUB

Private Party Facilities
For Your

Wedding Receptions
Rehearsal Dinners
Bridal Showers & Luncheons
Wedding Ceremonies
Anniversaries

Hors d'oeuvres to Full Formal Dinners

11th Floor University Towers, 128 North 13th Street
For professional wedding consultation,
contact Jaime Johnson at the
Lincoln University Club



The Key to Your Perfect Wedding

Snowplows need extra
room. Stay 100 feet
behind and pass only
with extreme caution.



For all your
balloon and
bouquet needs, call

Occasions
Delivered

464-7327

Free delivery always available!

AMERICAN CREW

Quality Grooming
Products for Men



474-4244

College of Hair Design

Tues & Thurs 9am - 7pm Wed & Fri 9am - 5pm
Sat 8am - 3pm Mon: Retail/Refill

We Use and Recommend the Best in Men's Haircare