



Josh Wolfe/DN
ABOVE: Rebecca Overgaard, a junior, eyes a Bride magazine, something which she has done a lot of since she started planning her wedding.



NATE WAGNER/DN
ANDY KREJCI looks for a wedding tuxedo at Best Styles Formal Wear, 200 S. 19th St. Andy and his fiancée, Rebecca Overgaard, are planning to get married in June 2003, after they both graduate.

Wedding consultants may save time, money

By Jill Zeman
 Staff writer

Sometimes planning a wedding is a lot more work than couples realize.

When this happens, brides and grooms have the option of using the services of a wedding consultant.

A wedding consultant can offer head-to-toe service before and after the wedding service, said Sara Dreamer, owner of Dream Weddings by Sara Dreamer.

Dreamer helps couples coordinate wedding colors, choose a theme and pick out dresses and tuxedos. She also assists with cake and flower selection.

"We offer whatever services the couple needs help with," she said.

Ron Pushcar, owner of Elegant Weddings by Lincoln Station, said he coordinates about 200 weddings a year.

Couples utilize a wedding consultant because many of them don't have a lot of time to plan their weddings, Pushcar said.

Several weddings also involve couples who don't live in Lincoln, and they use Pushcar's services because they're not familiar with what Lincoln offers, he said.

"Every wedding is unique. Every couple has some sort of idea about how they want their wedding," he said.

Consultants also do research for the wedding, which often leads to finding bargains for the couple, Dreamer said.

The price of using a wedding consultant can vary.

Pushcar said there is no charge for his service if the couple uses one of his banquet halls. He has eight halls in Lincoln and four in Florida.

If the couple chooses not to use one of his halls, the price is 8 percent of the total cost of the wedding.

Dreamer said her price depends on what she does for the couple. On an average, it is \$20-\$25 an hour, but the price is negotiable, she said.

Couples should contact Dreamer as soon as the couple starts planning their wedding, and Pushcar said a year to 18 months in advance of the wedding is a good time to begin preparations.

Dreamer said the main benefit of using a wedding consultant is the time saved for the bride and her family.

"That way a mother can be a guest at her daughter's wedding," she said.

Jamie Ryan, an employee at Pearls and Lace Bridal & Floral Creations, said the company offers all services for a wedding except consultation.

"We provide anything you possibly need for a wedding," Ryan said.

Ryan said some services provided by wedding consultants can usually be done by the couple themselves.

Many couples don't need assistance in choosing a church because they often use their family church and minister, she said.

Ryan said though wedding consultation is a good service, many people prefer to plan their weddings themselves.

Grooms know more than church address

By Tiffany Chantee Alvoid
 Staff writer

In the past, people thought that the groom didn't have much to do before a wedding.

All he has to do is show up, right? Wrong. Contrary to past popular belief, the groom has many responsibilities, many of them monetary.

The groom traditionally pays for his tuxedo, the honeymoon and the bride's and the bride's mother's flower bouquets.

In addition to this, he may also pay for the musical entertainment and the liquor at the reception. The groom's family usually pays for the rehearsal or pre-nuptial dinner that follows the wedding rehearsal as well.

Teresa Furnas, owner of A Bridal Trousseau, has noticed that grooms have more input in the wedding plan-

ning than in the past.

For example, more men are helping their brides choose bridesmaids' dresses, she said, although the choosing of the bride's dress is still done without the groom.

Andy Krejci, a sophomore electrical engineering major, helped his bride pick out their wedding colors: teal and silver.

Krejci, who plans to marry in June 2003, has started to plan.

Krejci said he had already selected his best man and a few groomsmen. During the winter break he estimated the number of people from his family who plan to attend the wedding, and he plans to book a hall for the reception this summer, he said.

The day of the wedding carries work for the groom, as well. In the processional, the candlelighters come out first followed by the grandparents of both the bride and groom.

The parents of the groom walk down next, and then the groom escorts the bride's mother down the aisle, and she is the last one seated because she is the host.

The groom has some main duties:

- Make a budget for the wedding.
- Count the number of guests coming from his family and the bride's family.
- Book a hall for the reception following the wedding.
- Find musical entertainment for the reception. The groom may also supply the liquor for the reception.
- Purchase a wedding ring for the bride.
- Choose a best man and groomsmen. The number of groomsmen should match the number of bridesmaids.
- Rent a tuxedo.