



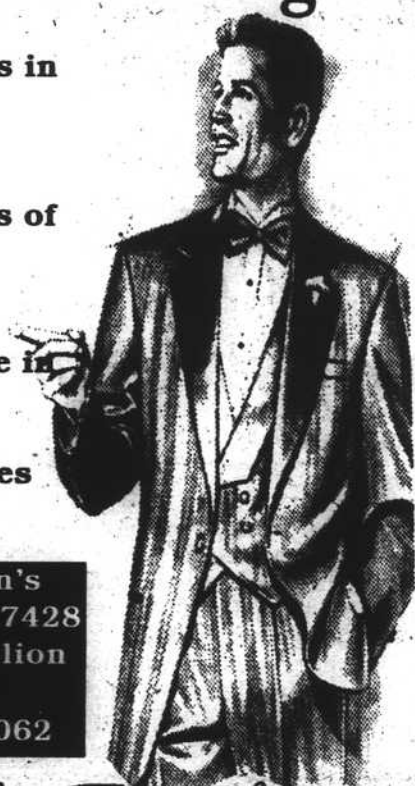
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WITH AN inventory of more than 1,300 dresses, Jennifer Schutz, owner of the Bridal Gown Outlet, 3920 N. 27th St., has her eye on all of the latest wedding fashions. Schutz says sequins, tiaras and long cathedral veils are some of the more popular selections this year. While last season's trend was simple elegance, Schutz said this year glamour and sparkle are making a comeback.

## Gown choice comes from heart

It was bad enough about two years ago when my sister announced her engagement to the man who is now her husband. But this summer, two of my best friends, who have been dating since we went to high school together, told me they were getting married. I'm really starting to feel old - or at least grown-up, whatever that means. I am going to be a bridesmaid in Scott and Maria's wedding, which has been set for July 14. I hadn't done much to help Scott and Maria with their wedding preparations until Maria called me from Omaha one night last semester, asking me to help her navigate Lincoln in search of the perfect wedding gown. I was thoroughly excited but slightly worried. I knew I could give her the support she needed when she tried on the dresses. I simply had to judge by her facial expressions and react appropriately: "Wow, that's beautiful. I love the flowers on the train, and the fabric is perfect." Or, "Yeah, that doesn't really work. The top is all weird, and the train is

kinda crooked." That was my role that Saturday afternoon. I told the truth, but I was mostly there to support her. In truth, it was the first time I had ever gone shopping for a wedding dress. While shopping with Maria, I realized how long it actually takes to pick out THE dress for THE day. It seemed as if Maria had about 400 favorites that day. The dresses were all beautiful, and I told her about a thousand times that day that I didn't envy her having to choose just one. More than once she joked she would buy two dresses - one for the ceremony and one for the reception. The ladies helping us at each store let Maria try on whichever dress she wanted to. Then, when Maria found one she really liked, the stores' workers would grab cards, write the crucial information, such as groom's name, date of wedding, where the wedding would be and one of the many dresses Maria (and I) fell for. The stores would keep the cards on

file so Maria didn't have to search for the dresses the next time she's shopping. To help in choosing, only take one person with you to shop for your wedding dress, said Jennifer Schutz, owner of Bridal Gown Outlet. If you take five, there's always one person who will disagree. Schutz said she always tells the bride-to-be to get opinions, but in the end, to follow her heart: "How do you feel inside about this dress?" A bride-to-be will often buy a dress if she finds it in her size - even if it's not "the one" for her - because she has a hard time envisioning herself in a smaller or larger dress, she said. Schutz said this worry should be the furthest from future brides' minds. Her store has changed size 6s to size 14s and 22s to 6s. Schutz said brides-to-be should have an open mind, ask for help when looking for dresses and have an idea of what they are looking for. Dresses can be found at nearly any price, starting below \$300. Schutz said: "When they love those dresses, that's what matters."

Lindsay Young is a senior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan managing editor.

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