Marriage: more than a touch of glass

Excitement builds in anticipation of your very special wedding day. Weeks filled with planning, deciding on ceremonial details and guest lists and picking out and fitting your bridal attire occupy your time before the majestic walk down the aisle.

Do these traditional wedding plans seem a little too old fashioned and out of place to-day? Au contraire! The marriage bond is stronger than ever in the '80s, though more and more couples are postponing marriage until they are older and have established careers, identities, interests and independence.

The vast majority of couples today are choosing formal and traditional affairs.

According to a recent Bride's magazine survey, 98 percent of the brides choose a white or ivory dress, 97 percent plan a religious ceremony and 69 percent invite 100 guests or more.

Wedding ceremonies today are full of options. Some clergy members are willing to perform interfaith ceremonies allowing the couple to choose a religious or civil cere-

Eliquette in relation to remarriages have been altered so that the couple may decide on what they feel is appropriate: Children may be part of the ceremony, engagement rings worn with pride, a romantic honeymoon planned.

The personal touch

Increasingly popular are classic weddings with a personal touch. Future brides and grooms write their individualized vows and select their favorite music.

Family members may serve untraditional roles in a traditional service: Dad and Mom could walk their daughter down the aisle and give her away together. Young girls may be ring bearers as well as flower girls. The groom's father could also be his best man.

An important ceremonial tip: Don't be tempted to surprise your mate at the alter with a change of hair color, a sudden dark tan or a substantial loss (or gain) of weight. "Just the way you are"

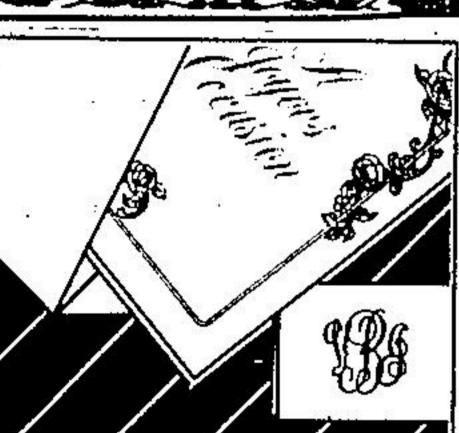
Engaged couples share the sentiment of Billy Joel's lyrics, "I love you just the way you are." That song implies mutual care and respect, important elements in a loving relationship, and de-emphasizes looks.

Of course, you want to look your best when you seal your bond. Enhance your appearance by beginning a physical fitness routine together before the wedding.

A sporting suggestion

Why not share a few games of tennis or go roller skating, dancing or horseback riding? These sports energize as well as tone your body, bringing out your natural beauty.





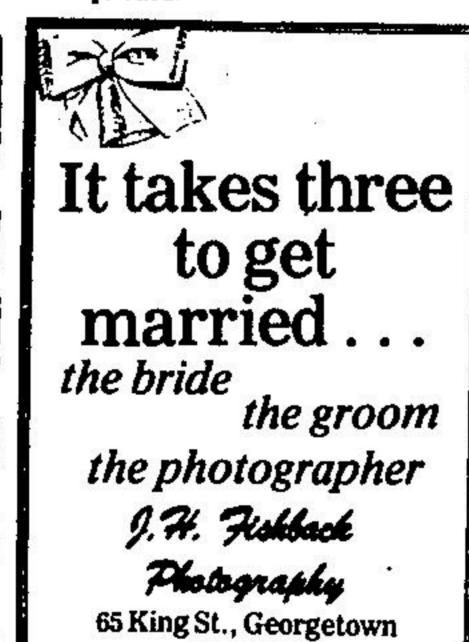
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