

The perfect cake adds right touch

For an extra special wedding, every detail counts. Everything from your dress right down to the cake should be expressly for you.

So, make each decision a thoughtful decision. Find the right person or bakery to make your cake by comparing samples of their work and by tasting, too. Ask questions. Can a strawberry filling be added? Will a whipped cream frosting hold up? And, how will the finished cake be delivered?

Once you select a baker/decorator, don't settle for a carbon copy of a cake made for a previous wedding. Instead, provide ideas so that your cake is designed especially for you and your groom. Start with an ornament you love and pair it with fresh flowers keyed to your color scheme. Or, personalize your cake with a special frosting flavor.

Another beautiful way to individualize a cake is by coordinating your own

cake ornaments and accessories. Giftware designer Ellen Williams combines expert detailing with fine porcelain, laces and trims in an exquisite selection of wedding cake ornaments. Each ornament can be mixed and matched with fresh flowers, greenery or any other accessories in her designer series.

Wedding cake ornaments are available to fit any style. Choose from graceful swans floating on lace, gentle doves amidst tulle and soft roses, wedding bands with shimmering pearls, and many more. For the classic cake topper, the wedding couple, you might select a flowery base, a pearl-trimmed arch or a lattice gazebo.

In addition to the cake itself, give some extra attention to the cake service. The tablecloth should enhance the beauty of the cake, not detract. An attractive arrangement of plates, napkins and forks also will help make your cake the focal point. And, a small

spray of flowers, ribbon or lace tied to a carefully-chosen cake knife and server is an elegant touch.

Differing views

Younger and older brides have dramatically different views when it comes to marriage, a reader survey in *Bride's* magazine revealed.

The nationwide study showed that brides under 25 years old are surprisingly conservative and traditional in their attitudes toward sex and marriage. Feelings are what matter most to these romantic young women; they're less interested in establishing their own independence than they are in sharing everything with the man they love. For many, marriage (whether the wedding day is a month away or a year down the road) is foremost on their minds. Some eye-opening findings:

- Only six percent plan to keep their own last names after marriage; just 33 percent intend to open their own checking and charge accounts.

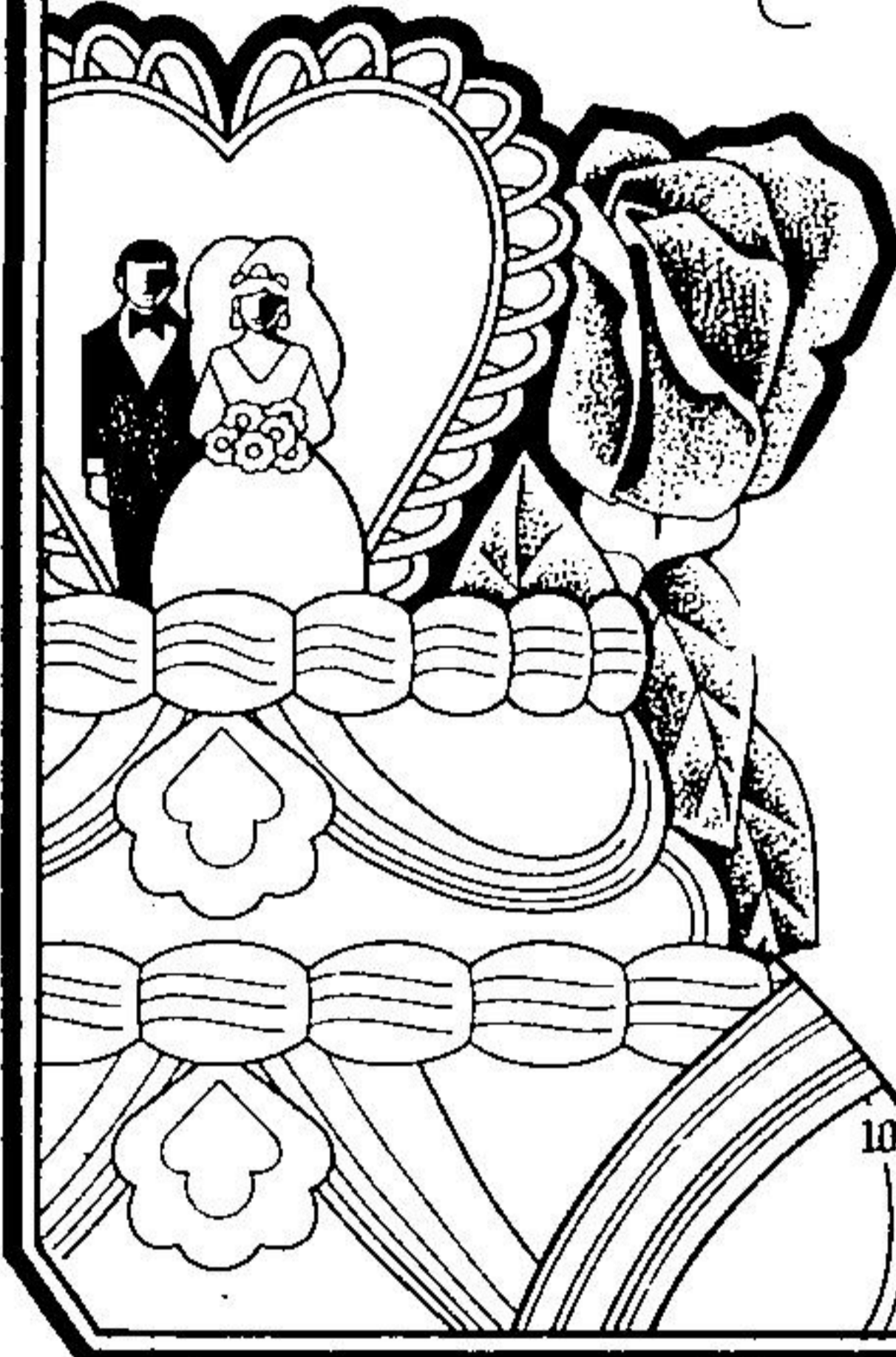
- Ninety percent want an equal say in major financial purchases, but only 60 percent will insist on splitting bill-paying and investment decisions.

- Forty percent find the word "obey" in the wedding ceremony to be demeaning; 80 percent believe it's a wife's duty to be faithful to her husband.

- Younger brides are less likely than older ones to discuss AIDS — and sex in general — with their husbands-to-be.

Say: "I saw it in *The Herald!*"

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