

WEDDING BELLS - EVERYTHING FOR THE BRIDE AND GROOM!

Modern-day wedding trends

A big, traditional family wedding celebration with all the trimmings... Most engaged couples still long for this "fairy tale" setting, but in the cautious 1990s, they're planning with a close eye on the budget. Value for the dollar is of paramount importance for every purchase made or service hired, as more couples finance the majority of their weddings themselves.

Here's a look at some leading weddings and honeymoons trends:

- Couples cut the cake with a sterling silver knife engraved with both their parents' and their own initials. The knife becomes a family heirloom, to be passed down to the couple's child and his/her spouse.

- Couples fill the traditional

wedding-party roles with best friends, regardless of gender. A "man of honour" replaces a maid of honour; the best man may be a woman.

- Ethnic and cultural influences are incorporated into the celebration, from a joyful bagpipe serenade at an Irish reception to a "dollar-a-dance" with the bride at a Polish wedding.

- Themed and personalized weddings reflect the couple's personality, as do Renaissance-style celebrations, mountaintop nuptials, or even weddings "performed" on skis or skates to commemorate how the couple met.

- Food trends feature "dinner by the bite" - an assortment of passed hors d'oeuvres - and "graz-

ing stations" with seats near each buffet to allow guests to change places for each course and mingle with other guests. Fewer courses and lighter selections are budget and health conscious.

- Innovative entertainment is spotlighted at the reception in the form of a toastmaster, comedian, or magician to amuse and involve guests. As well, the spectacle of a laser or fireworks display heralds the new marriage.

- High-adventure trips highlight a honeymoon, from motorcycle tours of the Grand Canyon to white-water kayaking down a rushing river.

- Getaways to "eco-destinations" - places of lush natural beauty, such as Costa Rica.

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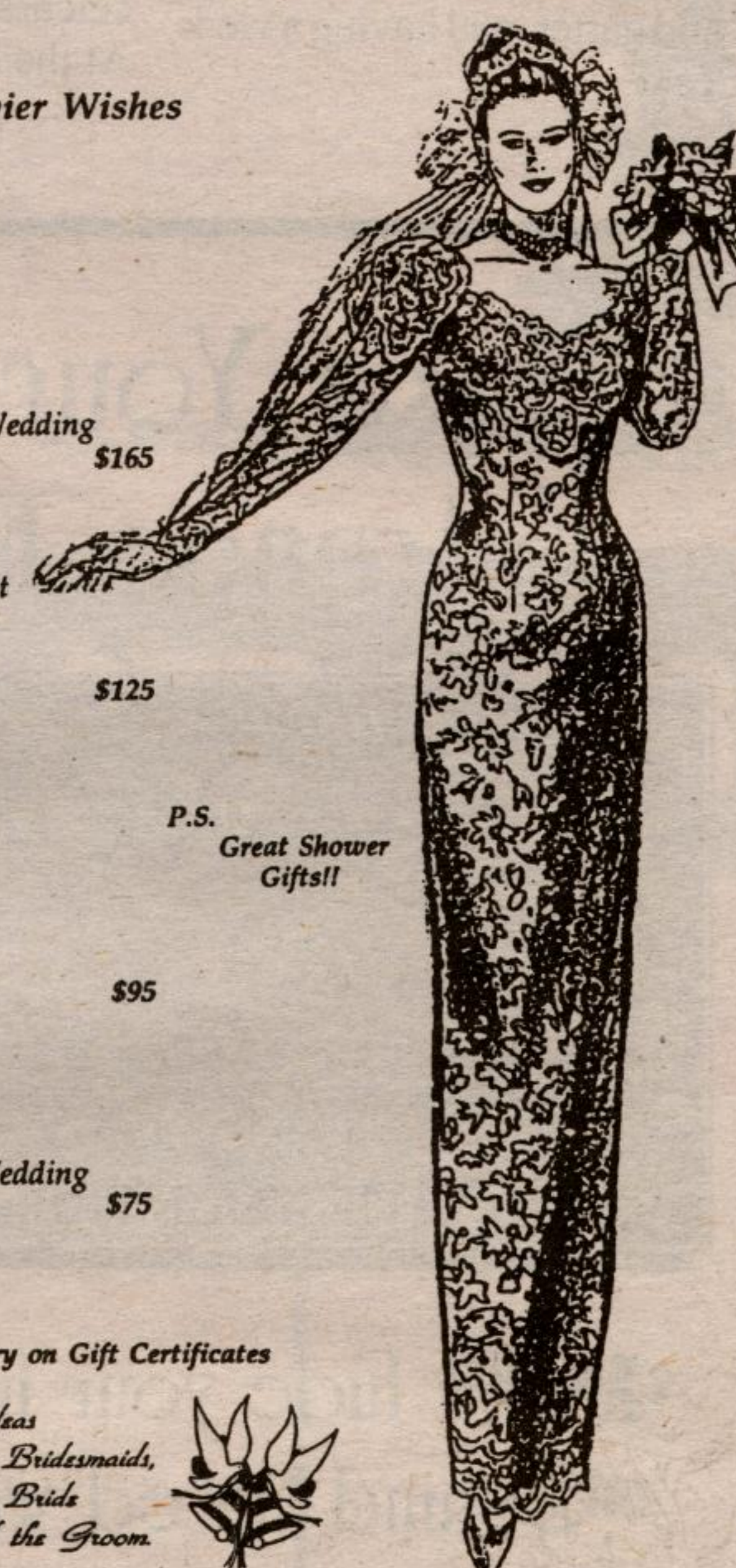


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Beauty Consultant
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Champagne Dreams - Cavier Wishes

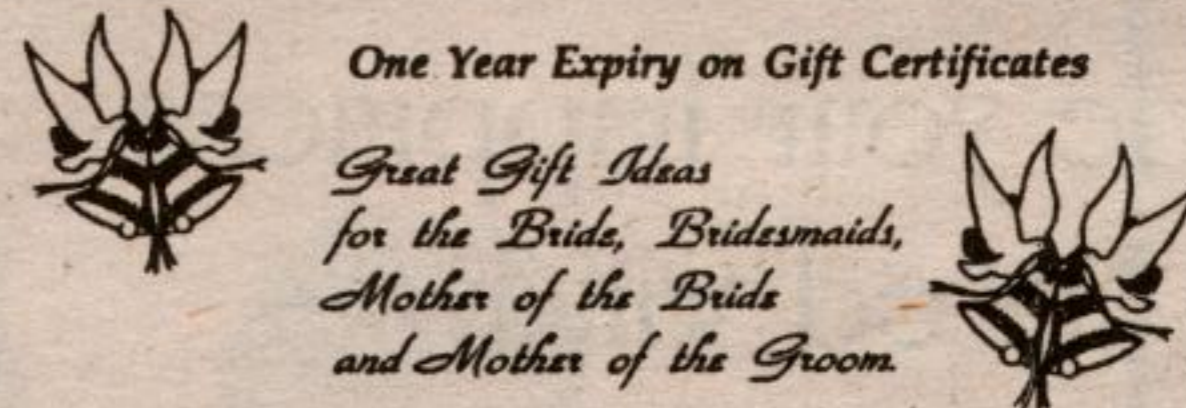
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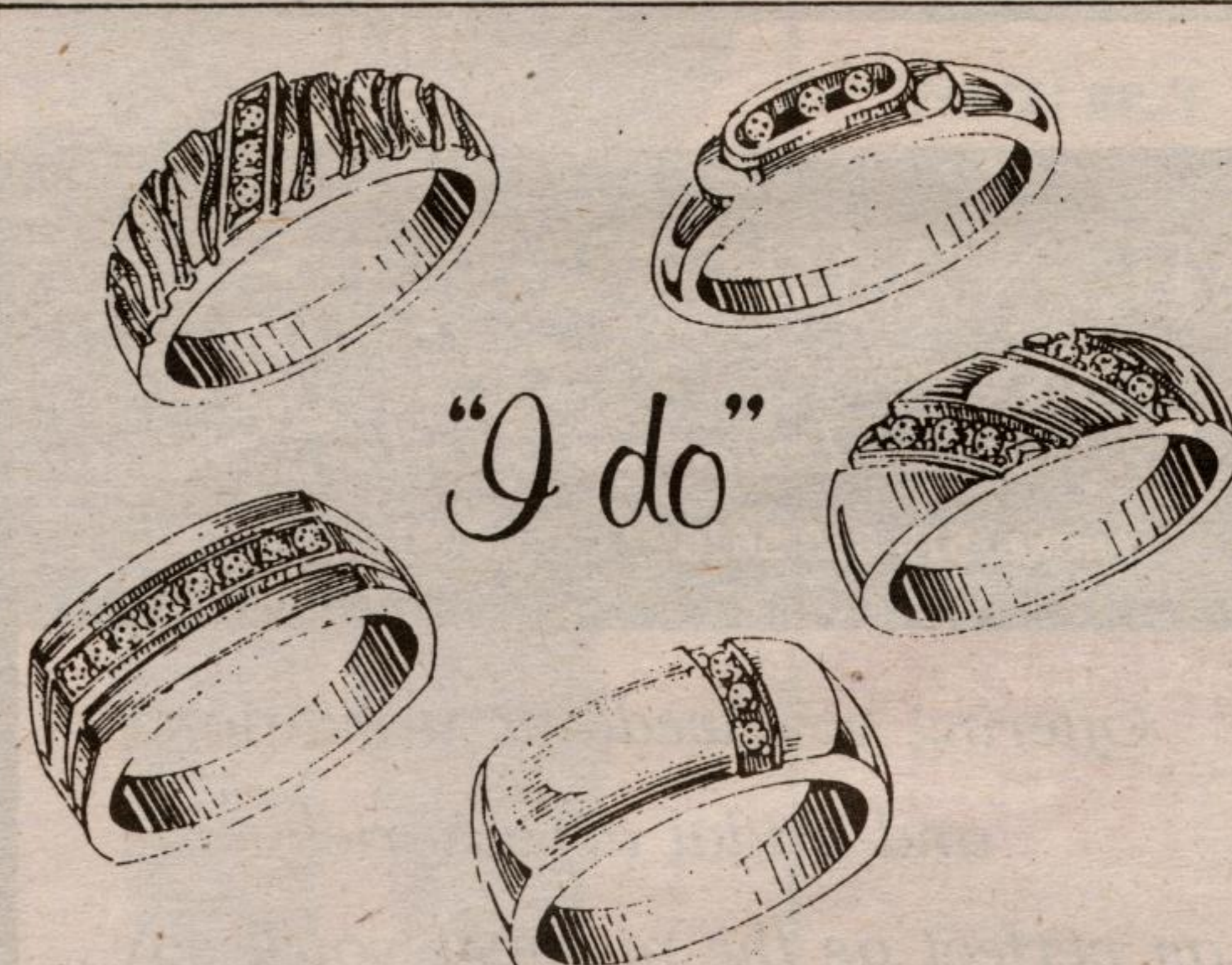
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