

Search for the ring brings fear to men

TINA MORGAN Viewpoints Editor

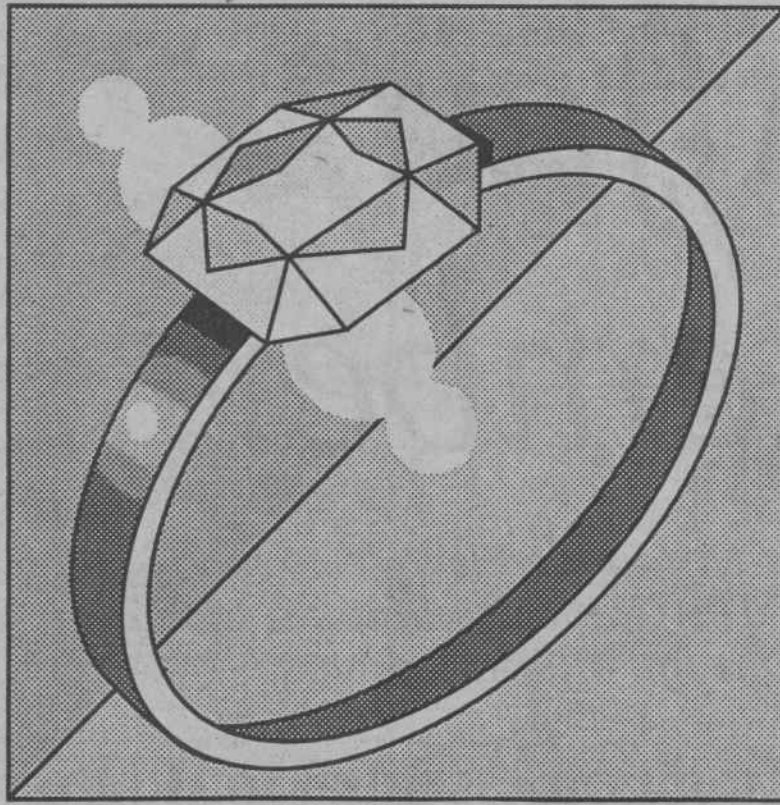
Nothing strikes the fear of God into a man like looking at engagement rings.

Without a doubt, no one stays in a relationship over a year without at least giving a listen to wedding bells. Many suffer from matrimonial madness just a few months into a relationship.

For me, the hard part wasn't talking about the possibilities of life after dating. My boyfriend, who for the sake of embarrassment shall be called Snookums, was all for marriage, or at least talking about it. We talked about what we would like in a house, how we would raise children if we were blessed with them and how to keep our respective families from throwing wedding cake at each other.

After several months of playing the magical "what if" game, the moment of truth stepped forward. Snookums and I were out at a mall picking up a birthday gift and passed a jewelry store. I don't remember who looked at who first but in less time than it takes to be scooped up by a salesperson we were heading for the store. My brave Snookums changed to a cowering skeleton of a man. Don't get me wrong, standing at the threshold of actually doing instead of just talking wasn't settling too well with me, either. However, we clasped hands and walked in.

A girl I knew in high school once said she wouldn't marry a man unless she placed a carat of diamond on her finger. I've never been a jewelry fanatic but after I walked in I began to understand why she was. Being in a jewelry store is like walking into a Land of Oz where over the rainbow you find sparkling mines of diamonds. The salespeople are like elves, reaching out to help you and in the blink of an eye appear as sharks. Snookums and I were just getting over the initial shock of blinding light when the platinum blond who was chomping her gum and wearing at least the



E. Myerson The Gamecock

equivalent of England's royal crown on her fingers approached. We were both nauseous.

Having said the proverbial, "No thanks, were just looking" we headed over to the engagement rings. Snookums had asked before what I thought I would like and when we say it sparkling from underneath the glass, it was apparent he thought he'd never find it. His cheeks went pale, his hands started to sweat while holding mine and I believe he stopped breathing, if only for a moment. Which was all fine with me because I didn't want him to see my open-mouth stare stare and blinking eyes. It was so expensive! And it was at this moment I realized how strong love can be because he actually said, "One day that will be

yours." Mind you he didn't say when, only that it would be "one day."

One day he announced he had seen all he need to see and said I should just wait to be surprised. Snookums was feeling the pressure.

Since that day I have made it a point to shout "jewelry store" every time we pass one - just so I can see the brief expression of matrimonial madness resurface on his face. Although some women truly long to be hitched, I've always had a "wait and see" attitude. That comes from loving him instead of wanting the jewelry. Have we pulled off the big "E" yet? No. I'm still waiting to be surprised. But that doesn't mean I won't take advantage of all of those jewelry store ads around Valentine's.

JEWISH continued from page 9

This was a great step forward taken in protecting the wife from spousal abuse and neglect. In modern times we apply it to both spouses.

Then we, begin the procession to the chuppah. Envision a big sheet held up by four poles and you are picturing a chuppah. It will be decorated and will often have meaningful verses embroidered on it. It symbolizes the future home that the bride and groom will build as a couple.

This is when the marriage ceremony, called kiddushin, and the nuptials,

called nissuin, take place. There is a ring ceremony first where a ring will be placed on each others index fingers and the vow is said "By this ring you are consecrated to me in accordance with the traditions of Moses and Israel."

The nuptials are made up of seven marriage blessings, called sheva brachot. These blessings describe the first marriage, that of Adam and Eve, and the holiness of marriage.

Next, the final act of the wedding is yichud, togetherness. The bride and groom will retire to a private room and have a moment alone. This is traditionally when they would consummate the wedding, but now this

is reserved for that night.

Receptions are called a seudah mitzvah, the celebration of a happy event. Here we rejoice, sing, dance, and say kiddush, the blessing over wine, and birkat hamazon, the blessings after a meal. Drinking is a big part of a Jewish celebration because we believe all God gave is holy and should be enjoyed in moderation.

I have incorporated as many of these rituals as I can because I feel that if I want to have a strong traditionally Jewish family life I should start at the beginning. And why won't I hear the wedding march? I will be having traditional Hebrew songs instead.

Plan your own unique wedding

HEATHER JENKINS Staff Writer

Every year, millions of couples in the United States decide to make the ultimate commitment to one another and enter the unknown territory of marriage.

Similar to snowflakes, no two weddings are alike. Weddings vary based on religion, economic and cultural differences.

The planning and acting out of the is auspicious ceremony can sometimes take more than its fair share of blood, sweat and tears from couples. But as in the centuries before, people look past the difficulties and focus on the hopes and dream associated with weddings and marriage.

Michele Catoe, a senior B.A. is preparing for her own wedding.

"This is the wedding I have always wanted," she said.

Michele is trying to plan a wedding, maintain a relationship with her fiancé, Bill Allen and finish school, all within

"It's your wedding. You're hopefully going to get married only once. Do it the way you want, backyard, traditional or in a courthouse. Don't let anyone tell you what to do concerning it."

Michele Catoe, student

the next seven months.

Michele and Bill were engaged this past New Year's Eve.

"After watching the ball drop in times square, Bill got down on one knee and proposed," Michele said.

Now that the initial excitement is wearing off, Michele is facing the anxiety and tension of putting the wedding of her dreams together.

The cost of the wedding is going to range anywhere from \$4,000 to \$10,000. The wedding dress alone costing \$250-\$500.

Michele's parents are paying for the actual wedding whereas Bill's

family will pay for the reversal dinner and the honeymoon.

Getting married is the easy part. In the time left Michele and Bill will have to pick out wedding bands, attend showers/parties, and figure out a guest list.

Michele's responsibilities go beyond these things. Although she consults with Bill on all decisions pertaining to the wedding, she is doing most of the other thing herself.

She must reserve the church, pick a caterer, photographer and decide on a singer or a DJ.

Michelle will also have to decide on the colors for the wedding, flowers and bridesmaids dresses. She is not bothered by having to make all these decisions though.

"It's your wedding. You're hopefully going to get married only once," she said. "Do it the way you want, backyard, traditional or in a courthouse. Don't let anyone tell you what to do concerning it."

Columbia businesses offer variety of choices to couples

Couples looking for a bargain need to look no further than Columbia

ADAM SNYDER Staff Writer

The Columbia area offers a variety of stores, boutiques and salons to cater to a couples every whim when they are planning their wedding.

Some businesses offer the happy couple the full service routine.

"We offer all bridal services, including bride gowns, brides maid's dresses, dresses for the mother of the bride, tuxedos and all other bridal accessories," said Shannon Morgan, Manager of Discount Bridal and Formal Warehouse at 5515 Shakespeare Road.

"We have men's formal wear, rental and

sales," said Jennifer James, director of marketing and public relations for Sharpe's Formal Wear at 701 Harden St. in Five Points. "We also have an invitation department here for wedding invitations, announcements and other printed products and a wedding hot-line for free wedding advice at 252-5535."

"I offer all the items they may need such as tuxedo rentals, bridal and brides maid dresses, flower girl's dress, invitations and dyeable shoes," said Lola Rabon, owner of Glass Carriage Bridal Boutique at 10509 Two Notch Road. "I also offer Bridal consulting to help them plan the wedding."

Other stores may specialize more on different facets of the wedding ceremony such as objects used in the ceremony or hair and make-up.

"I offer incense, prayer books, crosses, beeswax candles, prayer ropes, icons and ancient Byzantine chants on tape," said John Hart, owner of Unexpected Joy Orthodox Book Shop at 942 1/2 Harden St..

"A French twist or an up do are probably the most popular hairstyles for brides," said Jodie McCord, hair stylist and make-up artist at Adrian's Hair Alternative at 1224 Pendleton St.. "A lot of brides like to get their make up done on the

same day of the wedding. We're pretty much full service. We offer everything from foil highlights to cosmetics and skin care."

The one factor many couples don't want to face is what the wedding is going to cost, but many stores offer ways to cut prices and keep the wedding budget under control.

"We offer the bride the alternative of renting or purchasing her bridal attire," said Cathy Chiles, owner of Buttons and Bows at 3315 Broad River Road. "We have bridal attire that can be rented for the entire wedding party. Our dresses go up to size 30."

"If you see a gown in another store, and the

price is lower than ours, we will beat their price," Morgan said.

Although the bride is the focus of the wedding, the groom also needs to be taken care of. McCord said she offers haircuts and styling for the groom, which besides a tuxedo and a set of steel nerves, is about all he needs.

But in spite of all the planning it is important to remember what the whole to-do is about said Hart.

"Marriage is a sacrament. In a marriage, there are three involved and God is the first part. It is a holy venture where they go together in faith and love."

DISCOUNT BRIDAL WAREHOUSE

786-7785

Guaranteed Lowest Prices

Wedding Gowns Bridesmaids & Mothers' Dresses

Charleston • Columbia • Greenville • Charlotte



Book 4 Bridesmaids and Bride receives Free Hairstyle and Makeover

Jodie M^C Cord
803 • 799-3643

ADRIAN'S
Hair Alternative
1224 PENDLETON ST.
COLUMBIA, SC
799-3643

Bridal and Formal Special Hairstyle & Makeover

\$25.00

the Glass Carriage Bridal Boutique



Bridal Bridesmaid Cocktail - Formal Prom - Pageant Tuxedo Rental

10509-2 Two Notch Road
(8 miles North of Columbia Mall)

699-2311



LOOK Fit FASHION

SHARPE'S FORMAL WEAR



701 HARDEN ST.
(803) 799-6254

7363 Two Notch Rd.
(803) 788-9230

Dutch Square Mall
(803) 772-7790

Don't Forget To

VOTE

Student Government

Elections