

Today's honeymooners more consumer-oriented

United Press International

NEW YORK — Honeymooners of the 1980s are much more consumer-oriented than in the past, says the travel editor of a national magazine. They try to match their interests and expectations to the honeymoon destinations, says Mary Wagner, of Modern Bride, in an interview.

Ten years or more ago, newlyweds might honeymoon where their parents had.

"They were just looking to be together," she said. Today, she said, "Some have been living together (before marriage). They're a little older, they've traveled more" and they are more selective, looking for activities to enjoy together.

Three new travel surveys just released by Modern Bride show newlyweds' No. 1 source of information in planning their wedding trip is friends or relatives.

More than 10,000 readers were interviewed by Globe Research Corp. in three separate 12-month surveys for analyses of annual and seasonal patterns in honeymoon travel.

More than 71 percent of those questioned about honeymoon plans for 1982-83 said they asked friends and relatives for information, compared with 69.6 percent who used bridal magazines. Brochures requested through bridal magazines ran a close third, with 57.9 percent.

Magazine articles about honeymoons used to talk about the

beauty of the destinations, Wagner said.

Now they give travel tips, including listing the most romantic restaurants and facilities such as golf or tennis.

Honeymooners have become travel consumers, and, Wagner said, they are traveling farther. More are going by plane than in the past.

They also plan further ahead. "We recommend starting to plan your honeymoon when you buy your dress," she said, "and make the booking at least four months in advance."

Honeymoon travel is a \$1.9 billion market, the magazine

survey shows. In addition to air fares and other travel expenses, there's luggage — a bride acquires an average of three pieces of luggage with an average total expenditure of more than \$200. Her fiancé's luggage expenditure adds another \$200 or more.

The average wedding trip costs \$1,596, although couples who honeymooned in the spring of 1983 spent \$1,663, one study showed. These figures represent travel within the continental United States.

Honeymooners whose destinations were the Caribbean, Mexico, Europe and other foreign places spent still more:

\$2,421, on average, \$2,480 in spring 1983.

Some couples don't take honeymoons. Only 97 percent of Modern Bride readers questioned in the surveys said they planned to take a honeymoon.

Other findings:
• Florida is the No. 1 destination in the continental U.S., chosen by 42.7 percent in 1982-83. Outside the U.S., Hawaii led, with 9.2 percent. Three-tenths of one percent even chose Alaska.

• Other favorite continental U.S. destinations were California and Pennsylvania, in second and third place.

Wedding music goes 'baroque'

United Press International

NEW YORK — This year's brides will be marching to a different beat — probably Baroque.

Gone are the wedding days when traditional music like Richard Wagner's bridal chorus from "Lohengrin" began the ceremony and Felix Mendelssohn's wedding march from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" ended it.

The vast majority of brides and grooms are saying that they don't want and will not have the same music played at their weddings, says Jere Farrah, a veteran wedding organizer for weddings and a member of New York's Guild of Organists and Musicians.

They want stately, dignified music, such as Baroque and Classical music of the 17th century by Bach, French and German composers, she says.

The American Guild of Organists notes both the Wagner and Mendelssohn pieces are still heard in 19th century theater works and cannot be considered sacred of the music.

The Guild's list of appropriate music of religious inspiration, quite a bit of it from the Baroque period, includes the following processions:

"Trumpet Voluntary" by Jeremiah Clarke, "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" by J. S. Bach, "Marche Romaine" by Gounod, "March No. 1" including Beethoven's "Hymn to Joy" by Johannes Brahms, "Coronation March" by William Walton, and "Rondeau" by Jean Mouret.

The list of recessionals includes Clarke's "Trumpet Tune," "Rigaudon" by Andre Franck, "Sortie in F Major" by Franck, "Psalm XIX" by Benedetto Marcello, "Fanfare" by Don McAffee, and "Toccata and Fugue" by Gordon Young. Recommended vocal solos include David Young's setting of the Lord's Prayer, "God of Love" by Milton Dietrich, "O Perfect Love" by Phil White, and "The Gift of Love," an American folk tune arranged by Hal

Davidson. Still a favorite for Catholic weddings is "Ave Maria" and, for Protestant weddings, "Oh, Promise Me."

Most of this music is available on records or tapes for the wedding ceremony held in the home or garden. Record stores and tapes of wedding music are available for the entire ceremony. You can even borrow them from the libraries.

At the other end of the spectrum is the ceremony with a brass and real trumpets for the occasion. Keep in mind that friends might consider this ostentatious and best left to the professionals.

Get an early start on planning wedding music. Bride's magazine recommends consulting your church organist or synagogue cantor as soon as you have a date. If you are marrying at a hotel or in a banquet room, consult the manager about arrangements.

If you want a vocalist, violinist, accordionist or string quartet, your organist or the banquet manager will suggest reliable musicians or you may have invited friends or relatives who provide music. A local high school or music college can recommend student musicians. Remember, weddings are not part of an organist's regular work and he expects to be paid at \$25 or \$50. If he is a well-known musician who plays in a city church, he must be considerably more.

Vocalists and instrumentalists will quote a fee for the occasion, usually \$50 and up.

No organist worth his salt will want to play sentimental, operetta-type love songs of the Jeanette MacDonald-Nelson Eddy ilk, but you may be able to reach a compromise on such tasteful family favorites as "Make of Our Hands One Hand" or "Sunrise, Sunset."

It is more usual now than in the past for wedding guests to sing hymns during the ceremony, before the vows and after the blessing. Attractive wedding programs containing the lyrics can be printed and placed in the pews as souvenirs.

Keep such old favorites as "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" and "Love Divine, All Love Ex-

celling" in mind. "Morning Has Broken," a Cat Stevens hymn song, is a new contender for popularity, according to Farrah.

For the reception, be sure to check on the number of musicians who must be used in a particular ballroom or reception room to meet Musicians Union requirements.

When hiring a band, get a cost estimate and find out if the musicians take breaks. It's cheaper if they do.

You'll be paying a union minimum of more than \$100 an hour per musician (and sometimes a lot more for scale-plus musicians) in any American city, especially on Saturday. The bandleader gets 25 percent to 100 percent more than his players.

Once you've picked your band or small ensemble (four to eight pieces are suitable for all but huge receptions), huddle with the leader on what kind of music you want — old standards, pop, rock, country, something for all ages.

Spell out the music for the bride and bridegroom's first dance, request numbers, any ethnic music or dances, and sentimental favorites that will stir the memories of the bride couple's parents and grandparents.

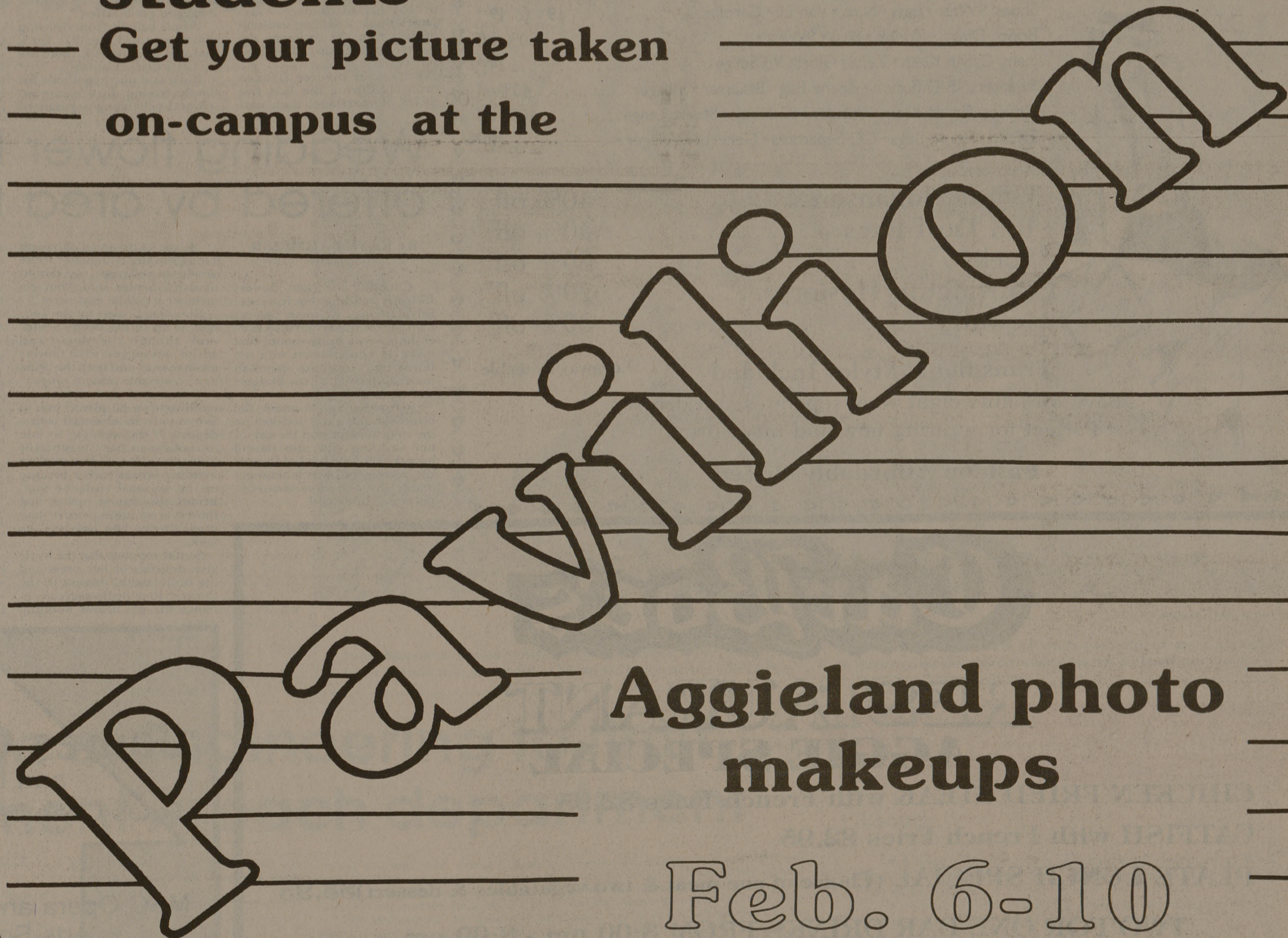
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