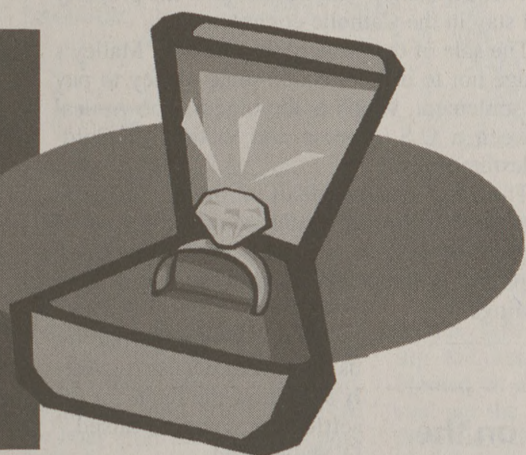


Always a Bridesmaid...

What to wear to a wedding confounds some students



White tie, black tie, black tie

optional, cocktail attire, festive dress, creative dress, casual attire: The options are endless for what kind of wedding attire the bride and groom envision for their special day. From honky-tonk themed to barefoot on the beach, no two weddings are exactly alike.

As serial wedding guests, our heads are left spinning by what to wear to all the up-and-coming summer weddings, each with a different attire suggestion. Although you may not think it matters that much, you want to avoid accidentally arriving late to the church only to find out you are the only one in a tuxedo or stilettos and pearls.

Weddings have evolved from the old days of only cocktail attire. It is not even a guarantee anymore that the bride will be wearing a long, lacy dress in white.

Kim Johnson Gross said in her book "What Should I Wear? Dressing for Occasions" that guests should always echo the bride and groom's look.

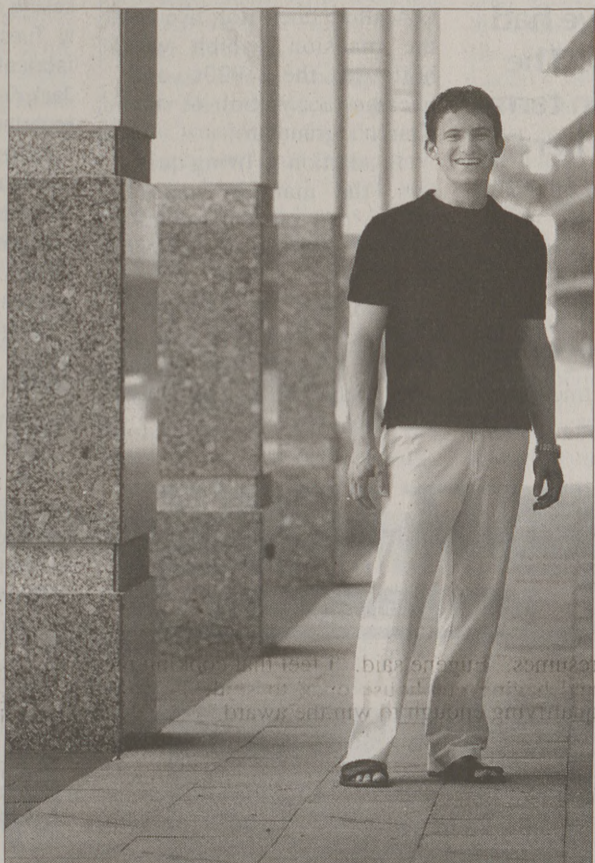
"The bride herself may be wearing a short dress or pant suit nowadays, so guests have more options," Johnson said.

Although there is no denying the importance of staying in the genre of the bride and groom's attire and times have changed, the age-old debate of whether or not it is passe to wear white still exists.

The WeddingChannel.com said on the What to Wear section of its Web site that if a female guest does make the bold move to wear a white dress, she must be cautious. "Be careful not to select anything that might cause anyone to mistake you for the bride," the WeddingChannel.com reported. "Since current bridal fashions are sleeker than ever, and many older and second-time brides dress in wedding suits, you might embarrass yourself in a white color."

Rebecca Grinnals, owner of Engaging Concepts, a wedding and honeymoon service in Orlando, Fla., as reported in the Orlando Sentinel, disagrees about white not being acceptable for a wedding guest to wear.

"Twenty years ago, wedding guests didn't wear black, which was considered too funeral. Ten years ago, they didn't wear white," Grinnals said. "Today, both colors are acceptable, although black is pre-



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ferred for evening weddings, and white outfits should never be more elaborate than the bride's ensemble."

Some brides this summer are even opting for black bridesmaid dresses, a new trend that has just become popular over the past few years. Danielle Gonzales of San Marcos, Texas, chose black for her bridesmaids to wear in her May 21 evening wedding. "I chose black because it is sure to flatter every one of my bridesmaids, and since my wedding is after 6 p.m., everyone will be more dressed up. I am using a lot of red roses too, so the black and red will be a good contrast to each other," Gonzales said. "My guests should be dressed up, and the bride should definitely be the only one in white that night."

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— Rebecca Grinnals
owner of Engaging Concepts,
a Florida-based wedding service

straightforward. Blissweddings.com's guide to male wedding guest fashion is broken down into different sections for whatever the invitation directs on attire.

For a very formal daytime wedding, a very dark, conservative three-piece suit is best, and a dark, three-piece suit is appropriate for both semi-formal daytime and informal daytime weddings, as reported on the Web site. For a very formal evening, men should wear black tuxedos, and for semi-formal and informal evening events a dark suit is also best.



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Despite what you may think, it is not acceptable to try and pull off the same outfit for every wedding you go to, no matter what the invitations says. Different occasions call for distinct wardrobe changes. Even if every other woman is wearing a large, obnoxious spring hat with a colored ribbon around it at an outdoor morning wedding, you cannot jump on the bandwagon with them. If you choose to do this when you are older than 63, then that is up to you. But, until then, steer clear of the oversized donuts on your head.

Some brides are incredibly serious about having the ultimate princess wedding, so they will not be satisfied until every man present has tails on his tuxedo. This over-the-top affair is called white-tie. If you are invited to one of these, men must not take this too literally and rent any sort of white tuxedo. In larger cities in particular, bohemian couples are decorating their wedding invitations with "creative dress please." What this means exactly, no one is quite sure. But, everyone there will probably be wearing something trendy, look-

ing overaccessorized but understated and talking about politics and the opening of an art exhibit. It might be best to read "The New Yorker" before you attend and throw on a scarf because those always make people look more sophisticated somehow.

At the last wedding I went to, there were several girls waltzing around the dance floor in white dresses. I could see contempt on the faces of every grandmother present. Plus, this wedding was before Easter, and grandma always said, "Never wear white before Easter." While there may never be a resolution to this debate, I think white is fine for summer weddings as long as you accessorize with other colors and keep the dress shorter in length.

But, because there are so many other colors to choose from, a wedding guest wearing white really isn't necessary. Sorry, wannabe brides, your day will come soon enough. The most important rule for female wedding guests is stay classy. Modesty should be your first priority as a wedding guest, even if the wedding reception may be at your friend's uncle's tropical-themed



Haley Gressett, a sophomore kinesiology major, is wearing the perfect ensemble for a semi-formal wedding in the early evening.

bar. To you single ladies who go on the prowl at weddings: Showing off too much skin will not get you any closer to making a trip down the aisle yourself and something could come out of place in your scandalous outfit when you are fighting for the bouquet.

Men do not always put much thought into what they wear, and this can be their biggest wedding guest fashion mistake. You will definitely feel out of place if you show

CAMPUS Couture

with Lauren Smith

If you are anything like me, you are sadly always the bridesmaid, never the bride. Rather than sulk in your eternal singleness and same frumpy black dress or your dad's old, off-black colored suit, it is officially time to revamp your wedding wardrobe while remembering several dos and don'ts for different occasions. Despite what you may think, it is not acceptable to try and pull off the same outfit for every wedding you go to, no matter what the invitations says. Different occasions call for distinct wardrobe changes. Even if every other woman is wearing a large, obnoxious spring hat with a colored ribbon around it at an outdoor morning wedding, you cannot jump on the bandwagon with them. If you choose to do this when you are older than 63, then that is up to you. But, until then, steer clear of the oversized donuts on your head. Some brides are incredibly serious about having the ultimate princess wedding, so they will not be satisfied until every man present has tails on his tuxedo. This over-the-top affair is called white-tie. If you are invited to one of these, men must not take this too literally and rent any sort of white tuxedo. In larger cities in particular, bohemian couples are decorating their wedding invitations with "creative dress please." What this means exactly, no one is quite sure. But, everyone there will probably be wearing something trendy, look-

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