

# Today's weddings merge traditions, innovation

By Alison Ashton  
Copley News Service

"Today's weddings do seek out the best and most beautiful traditions of the past — in contrast to a few years ago when anything old was automatically suspect," says Barbara Tober, editor-in-chief of *Bride's* magazine. "But, at the same time, they're very, very modern in that they express new ideals."

And so today's thoroughly modern couples do everything they can to make their wedding celebrations memorable and personal.

Although rules of etiquette no longer straightjacket couples into prescribed ceremonies and receptions, says Tober, couples now choose to modify and borrow traditions to suit their particular taste.

"But today's individuality is very different from the 'do your own thing' brand of the last decade," Tober explains.

Couples now leave their personal stamp on the celebration in the type of music they have or a special setting or unique vows written by the bride and groom.

Today's bride also is older — a *Bride's* magazine survey shows that her average age is 23 (in the late '50s, she was 18). The vast majority (87 percent) work, half hold professional or managerial posi-



tions and almost half have lived alone at some point in their lives.

And today's couples are affluent — they have a combined income of \$43,300.

While wedding celebrations are more traditional, couples approach them more equitably.

The mother of the bride also gives her daughter away, and, increasingly, both sets of parents want to "bless" the marriage during the ceremony.

Economics and a more equitable attitude have also made sharing expenses more common.

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Pictured above Paula & John Vullo

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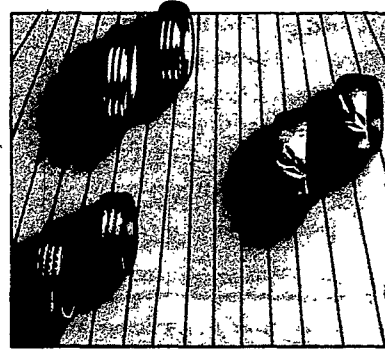
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