

# Avoiding common wedding woes

By Sharon Williams  
Copley News Service

Falling in love was so easy. Saying "I do" can be another story.

It's not the nuptials themselves that have many prospective brides and grooms contemplating elopement, but an unending chain of bills, an ever-changing guest list and a host of other minor hassles ranging from etiquette to emotion that nobody ever mentioned before the engagement was official.

It is possible, however, to get married without taking out a major loan, alienating the in-laws or offending every acquaintance

who can't be invited to the wedding. Here is a rundown of common wedding dilemmas and some tips for conquering them before they hamper prenuptial bliss:

### THE WEDDING DAY TAB

You're giving your hand in marriage but are a bit uncertain about who will foot the bill. Once upon a time, the bride's family paid for just about everything, but changing attitudes toward the nature of marriage have blurred the lines that dictate who pays for what.

For the first time, there's a definite trend toward sharing the wed-

ding expenses, according to the editors of *Bride's* magazine. The groom's family, and even the bride and groom themselves, are taking on the lion's share, or at least a chunk, of the financial responsibility.

When you consider the average cost of a wedding is at least \$2,000, it's easy to understand why the bride's parents can't always be left standing with the bill. And, since today's brides and grooms are older and established in their careers before they are married, they are more likely to plan the wedding of their dreams and then



offer the financial support needed to pull it off.

Typical wedding expenses can be broken down into percentages: 30 percent for the reception cost; 30 percent for clothes and gifts; 12

*Continued on Page 5A*

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