Fall Bridal

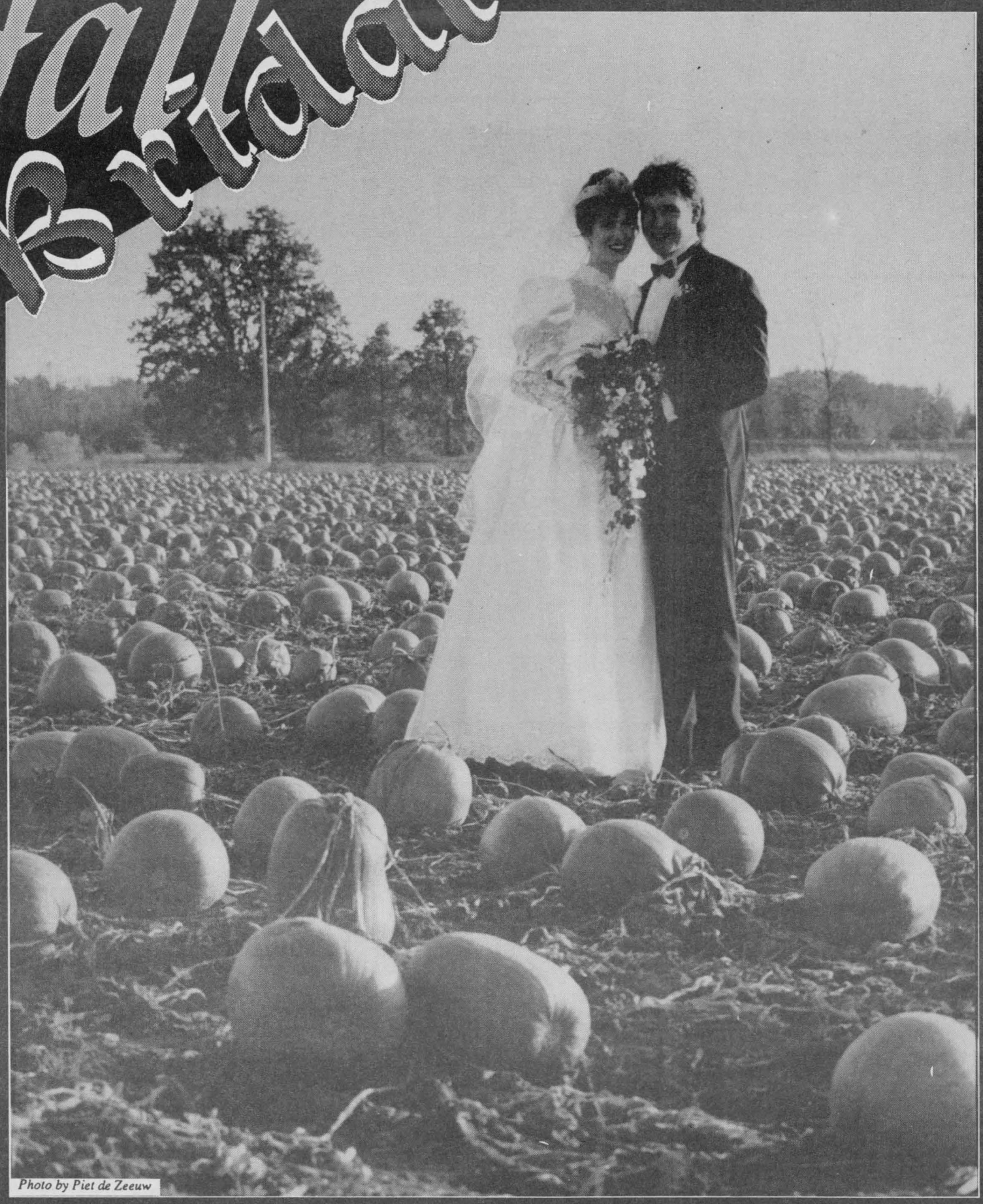

Photo by Piet de Zeeuw

Published by
THE CHIEFTAIN PUBLISHING CO.
August 27th, 1997



With this ring...the unbroken circle of love.

Video tape your wedding this year

The proliferation of video technology has made handy cams and other motion picture cameras at weddings as common place as the 35 mm camera.

But with the added dimension of motion and "real time" taking a video is a little more complicated. Here are some tips to videographing your special day.

The 180 degree rule: this is one of the hardest concepts to visualize in print, but if you can grasp the idea, it will make your videos a lot more professional looking and help them flow. Imagine, if you will, hockey night in Canada. Pretend the Habs are on the left and the Leafs are on the right. Throughout the hockey game the camera angles all come from one side of the arena. If the camera angle was to suddenly switch to the other side of the arena it would suddenly look like Habs and Leafs had switched ends without the period changing. You will notice the same sort of thing in car chases in movies. If a car zooms from the left side of your television to the right side of your television, the next shot of the car will maintain that left to right motion.

So how does this apply to weddings?

Let's say you are in a church filming the bride walking down the aisle. If you take a shot from the left side of the church and then cross over and take a shot from the right side it will look (when you watch it later on television like the bride is walking into the church and then walking out.

Use a tripod: Steady cams are a blessing, but some are better than others and nothing beats the smooth pans and tilts you can achieve with a tripod. If you use more than one camera you can have one on a tripod and another for more "informal" steady cam shots"

It is also important to remember that camera movements can look quite violent if done to quickly. Pan, zoom tilt and walk with the camera slowly. If you have access to a wheel chair this can help you get smooth moving shots. Try to make all of your shots last at least three seconds unless you are doing a rapid fire montage.

Above all have fun and remember that the day is about two people building a life together, not winning an oscar.

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Piet de Zeeuw, M. Photog.

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PIET

JUST WANTED TO PASS ON ANOTHER THANK YOU. THE PICTURES ARE WONDERFUL. BUT MOST OF ALL PIET, I WAS SO IMPRESSED HOW YOU HANDLED THE SMALL CHILDREN. I MUST SAY, YOU REALLY GET RIGHT INTO YOUR WORK. AND THAT IS SO NICE TO SEE THESE DAYS.

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Dear Piet:
We wanted to thank you for all your hard work and all the time you've spent with us. It meant a lot to know that we could depend on you to be professional and to go that extra mile for us.
A big thank you to your wife also! We know we made her job a lot more difficult.
We're thrilled with all your work so far and know that everyone will cherish their photos because of the quality and clarity.
Thank you again for everything. We really appreciate it.

Warm Regards
Sue & Daryl

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At home wedding receptions are becoming very popular

At-home receptions are becoming ever more popular, and why not? Your home is the perfect location to express your style, your feelings and feel completely relaxed among familiar surroundings...and it is your special day!

Surrounding yourself with family heirlooms, favourites items (dishes, serving pieces, crystal, silver) and just having that secure feeling can add to the joy.

Even if you decide to have a caterer take care of the details your special items can be included in the arrangements.

Perhaps the greatest responsibility of an at-home reception is to plan carefully. Think size for starters, how many guests can be comfortably accommodated? How much help will be necessary to pull things together in a efficient and effective manner? Will friends and family help with the preparations? Are they wiling to serve and clean up or do you need to hire additional help? Is a caterer necessary?

Consider the decor. Will you use the grounds or the actual structure a the location for the actual meal? It does not have to be elaborate, but must include something in every room if using the house. A sprig of flowers with a colourful ribbon can transform a room into part of the festivities. Adorn the punch ladle and the champagne glass stems with ribbon streamers. Garnish punch cups with a perfect strawberry or cherry.

What time is appropriate? How hungry will the guests be? Are light hors d'oeuvres enough or is a more substantial meal needed?

The main consideration has to be the menu. It is important that it be easy to eat as well as to serve. Whether it is done buffet style or served will be determined by the number attending and the numbers available to assist you. Items like veggies and dip, fruit and cheese, crackers and pates or sliced breads, individual fruit tarts and chocolate truffles are easy to serve and well accepted by most. No utensils are needed for these foods.

The star of this part of the wedding day has to be the wedding cake. Make it one to remember, create one that speaks about you and truly personalize your cake.

Remember not to break the bank - stay within budget

Some couples believe wedding budgets are meant to be broken. They hesitate to look at cost cutting measures when planning their special day. they find it easy to run over budget, afterall it is only once.

However, you can make your wedding day one for everyone to remember without breaking the bank. It is important to remember as well that your wedding day is indeed the first day of the rest of your life.

It is possible to save money and not sacrifice any special details of your day.

Be sure that you understand what people tell you about their services and know up front of any "hidden" costs involved in their services. When you compare costs for the same service, be certain they are the same. If you find it difficult to communicate with a vendor or you feel pressured into spending more than you want or feel you should...remember, you do not have to. You do not need to feel disappointed after all is said and done.

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That touch of class

Children add that special something to a wedding. Their innocence and those smiles, who could resist them? They always try so hard to please the bride on her day. *Johnston Photo*

Plan your wedding carefully to have a successful day

The wedding that is carefully planned is one that comes off beautifully. Wedding plans should be laid starting at least six months in advance of the wedding date.

The first thing to decide is the type of wedding desired. It can be simple or elaborate. The reception can be held inside or outside. There is always the option of being married on a boat or some other extraordinary site that suits the temperaments of the bride and groom.

The next step is to determine the budget available for the wedding and to allocate resources as equitably as possible. There is also the list of guests, which will have an impact on the budget.

There will be meetings to organize with the church minister or civil official, as well as with various suppliers and professionals.

Think of the florist, musicians, limousine service, caterer, hotel or restaurant, the photographer and video producer.

You will have to choose the bride's wedding dress and the outfit for the groom. There are rings, invitations and members of the wedding party to consider, as well as the attendants' outfits.

If the bride and groom wish, there is a list of potential wedding gifts to be drawn up. Thought should be given to the lodging of out-of-town guests. Arranging honeymoon plans is something that should not be overlooked.

There are gifts for the wedding party and thank you notes to think about. And a visit to the hairdresser and beautician should not be forgotten.

Add a personal touch

It's little details that make great weddings. Chocolates, always associated with love, are indispensable wedding items.

Presented different ways, chocolates can fill several needs at the wedding reception or can be used as gifts, even at the most sophisticated weddings.

One or two pieces of chocolate can be presented to guests in a decorative box. The box can be white with an engraved heart or it can be silver, in a traditional shape. Very romantic, these boxes can be personalized with the names of the bride and groom and the date of their wedding.

The following chocolate selection has both an exquisite~ taste and a refined look: a white chocolate heart with Cointreau-flavored filling, a heart of dark chocolate with Grand Marnier-flavored filling and a white chocolate bell filled with a hazelnut cream.

You could also choose almond bark made with fresh almonds surrounded by milk chocolate, dark chocolate or a pastel-colored chocolate.



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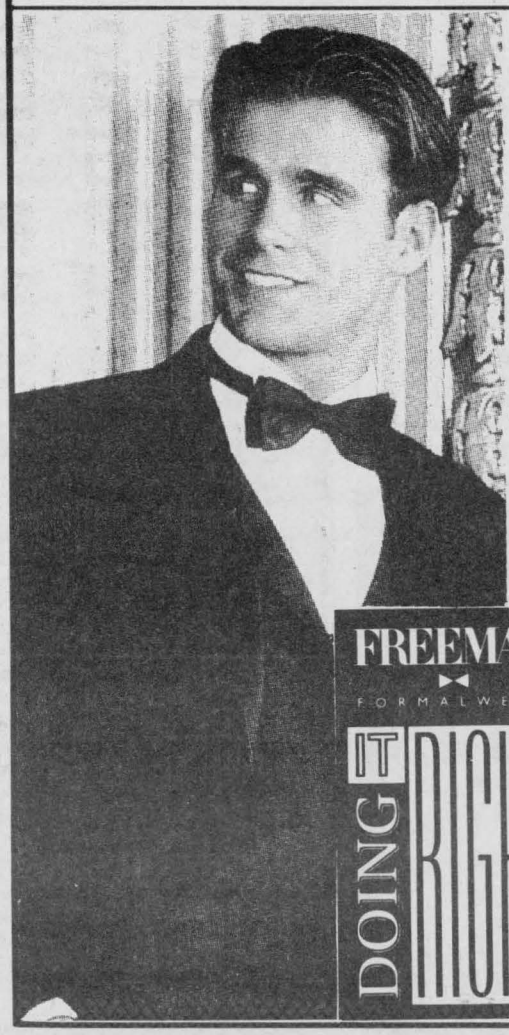

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Steve Barkley's J & S Disco will keep everyone dancing

by Michael Bailey
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Steve Barkley has been in the disc jockey business for 9-years and there are only two types of music he doesn't offer - classical and ballroom.

That's not to say he won't play those types of music, he just doesn't normally carry the discs.

For years, Steve has also donated his services to raise money for the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), hosting a sweet heart dance at the Matilda Hall.

"I do everything," explained Steve, "birthday parties, dances, hockey pubs, just about anything." He mentioned that he enjoys wedding receptions and stags the most, but noted, "I enjoy every night or I wouldn't be in the business."

Having been in the business for so long, Steve has heard and seen almost everything. "I remember doing a stag in Ottawa for a gentleman from Uganda. It was very interesting. They had all kinds of specialty rums and things I've never seen before."

He also enjoyed Julie Kerr's benefit dance. "I'm not sure which one was more fun," he said.

According to Steve, people looking for a disc jockey should make sure the person they choose has a large selection of music. They should also try and attend a function before hand to get an idea of what the DJ can do.

"I've had quite a few ladies come out to receptions that I'm doing so they can hear me," he said. However, you do have to let him know when you're coming so he can get approval.

Right now Steve charges $275 to DJ a wedding reception. The price will increase slightly in '98. If you would like more information on J&S Disco, call Steve at (613) 774-3563.

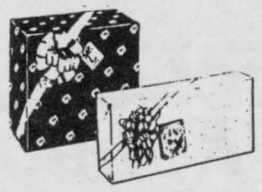
Traditional weddings

"Something old, something new...something borrowed, something blue...this traditional rhyme is a blend of old traditions that stretch back in time. To wear "something old" is to show respect and honour to the past. "Something new" represents hope for the future. "Something borrowed" is meant to bring good luck, the reasoning being that tradition holds that you borrow something from another who has been happily married for a long time...and the "Something blue" reflects a belief in many cultures that blue is the colour of loyalty.

A ring, the symbol of eternity, placed on the fourth finger of the left hand has long symbolized marriage and its origin goes back thousands of years. The ancient Egyptians believed the heart to be the residence of intelligence, the will and the emotions...our soul. The most direct line from our world to our soul was through a vein that ran from the fourth finger directly to the heart. The linking finger with the soul symbolized an eternal bond.

A bridal handkerchief is a superstition that has become a tradition. It is said that a bride who sheds tears during her wedding will shed none afterwards.

For Weddings...



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A wedding can be stressful time

As anyone who has been married can tell you, the months leading up to a wedding day can be a time of stress as well as happiness. There is so much to think about...so much to do!

You need to find ceremony and reception sites, choose just the right clothes to make your day perfect, those sometimes touchy decisions about who will be in your wedding and what role they will play, where will you live after the wedding, and then there is the look into the future about what lies down the road for you and your partner...and then those nagging doubts about whether you should be getting married at all!

While wedding jitters are about as common as weddings, there are no sure fire ways to make certain the anxiety does not get out of hand.

BRIDE"S MAGAZINE has some timely tips to assist with these pre-wedding jitters:

* Do not be afraid to admit you are upset. Share with your partner what is bothering you, whether it is a serious question about your relationship or a relatively trivial worry that you will go blank when it comes time to say your vows.

If you try to keep the stressful feelings to yourself, you will only transfer them to something else, such as getting overly irritated at a late train, or a run in your stockings.

* Take positive action whenever possible; sign up for a pre-marital workshop. Practise reciting your vows in front of a willing friend. This is true especially if you write your own vows...do not try to recall what you wrote without first going over them numerous times.
* Share the wedding responsibilities. If you are the bride do not assume you have to do everything yourself. The idea is old fashioned and very exhausting. Ask your fiance to join you in picking out a catering hall and registering for gifts. He can write some of the thank you notes, handle all the honeymoon arrangements.
* Keep a calendar of everything you have to do. This kind of master plan gives you the secure feeling that you are not going to forget any detail no matter how small or critical.

Also, gathering any business cards, fabric swatches or magazine clippings you can accumulate all together in one place, either a wedding planner specifically for this purpose or a simple manila envelope. Organization has the magical effect of reducing anxiety to a manageable level.

* Pace yourself. Do not plan to scout for reception halls the same day you have a report due at work. You will make it through those pre-wedding months if you promise yourself you won't tackle more than one major job a day.
* Guard your health. Do not let a hectic schedule keep you from eating right or often not enough. You will feel even more jittery from the weakness that results from a drop in blood sugar.

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What is it that makes your wedding memorable? Weddings are by their very nature memorable events, but the memories are often of the day and centre around one or two moments that are especially meaningful just to you. These moments may have been something original that the two of you have invented for the occasion. They could however be the re-enactment of some age honoured custom that has particular significance to you.

Weddings are ancient and universal rituals. Therefore, customs tend to gather round them. Every bride finds the customs surrounding her wedding, especially those not perceived as meaningful acts but rather rigid etiquette, restricting in their carriage. Who will toast the whom? Who will say what? Who will stand where? when? How can the bride prevent her brother from playing some tasteless honeymoon joke?

When you turn your mind set to consider customs as things you choose to give special meaning to your wedding, they become infinitely more enriching.

There are literally millions of wedding customs from all over the world, almost all carrying some sort of meaning, and in the melting pot that is North America, the borrowing and sharing of ethnic traditions has been extensive.

It is best to not struggle too hard against customs imposed upon you by your elders. When they are understood they can truly be memorable. Tricks played on wedding couples go back as far as ancient Greece, when couples would hire the village strong man to guard the marriage chamber door. Did you know the tossing of the garter was originally a riotous invasion of the bedroom as guests stripped the bride of her stockings and the groom of his trouser laces.

Superstition hovers around the rite of union, and many wedding customs like the "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue" is essentially a good luck charm, meant to draw down happiness, fertility and prosperity upon the young couple.

While customs are time honoured rituals that enhance the meaning of your marriage, conventions are the social practice of the time and place. Explore the conventions as well as customs in planning your wedding, with a view to making the most of the occasion with the resources available.

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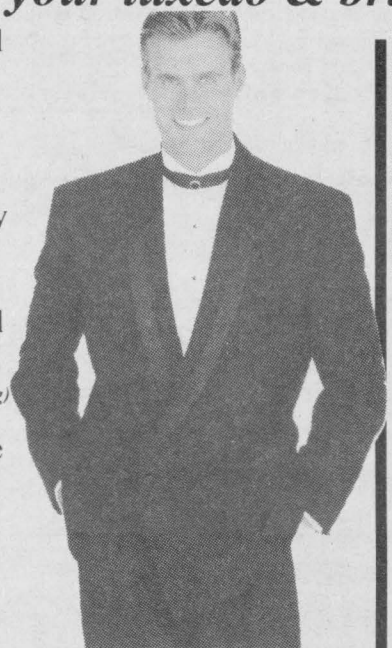



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