

*Aisle File



Back to the Future

For years, the trend in bridal fashion was simplicity at its finest, thanks to Carolyn Bessette Kennedy in her silk bias-cut, Narciso Rodriguez-designed wedding gown. But now stylish Atlanta brides are adding something old to their wedding wear, inspired by their grandmothers' gowns of yore. "We're seeing a lot more lace in wedding gowns today," says Wayne Johnson of Impressions Bridal Salon in Atlanta. "While we still have brides looking for simplicity, we're seeing more detail, more lace, more embroidery and more color returning to wedding gowns"—a throwback to the vintage styles found on brides in the early 1900s. "Brides didn't always wear white," says Johnson, adding that it wasn't until the 1950s that brides began to wear white with traditional diamonds and pearls adorning necks, ears and hair. Even jewelry is returning to color in the new millennium, particularly in vintage brooches and hairpins passed down by Grandma herself. Says Johnson, "Color has returned dramatically in bridal jewelry, and tiaras are still popular while lending an old-fashioned, yet traditional look to the bride." —Lissa Poirot

Late-Night Snacks

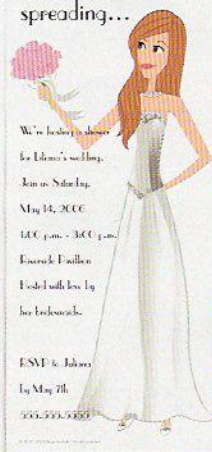
Atlanta weddings that last into the wee hours have created a new catering trend... the end-of-the-night snack. One great witching hour treat for your guests is late-night dining from The Varsity. After all, what Atlantan hasn't turned to The Varsity (thevarsity.com) for a greasy, midnight snack at the end of a long evening? Its on-site catering team can bring the same food to your guests—perhaps grilled-cheese sandwiches and its famous French fries. —L.P.

WIN IT!

Design-her Gals (designhergals.com) offers stationery that's even more personal than a monogram: The cool notecards, invitations and more feature stylized images that resemble the people who order them. And you can win 20 personalized correspondence cards with a cool caricature of you, based on a photo you submit. Log on to ModernBride.com/stationerycontest for your chance to win.

No purchase necessary. Must be a legal resident of one of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia and at least 18 years old as of the day of entry to enter. Entries must be received by 11:59 P.M. on June 1, 2006; one entry per person is allowed. Winner will be selected in a random drawing. See complete rules at ModernBride.com/stationerycontest.

The word is spreading...



TOP LEFT, KERRIE HESS/ARTSCOUNSELING.COM; BOTTOM RIGHT, DESIGNHERGALS.COM



FREE STUFF!

ONE LUCKY WINNER

will receive a basket full of beauty products to help her look and feel beautiful on her wedding day. The basket (approximate retail value, \$200), from DramaQueenStyle.com, contains tools for prenuptial pampering (like a soothing bath cocktail and a silky robe) and the perfect items to keep you primed on the big day (like the credit card-sized Bella II Fiore Touch and Go Makeup Kit). Log on to ModernBride.com/beautybasket for your chance to win.

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Wedding Girls Gone Wild

What's the big trend hitting Hollywood, as well as serving as a unique pre-wedding gathering for the girls? Exotic dancing. And what better opportunity to try it than your bachelorette party? The Exotic Bachelorette Party by the Art of Exotic Dancing for Everyday Women (866/447-7655) can help you organize a private event in the comfort of your own home. "Our bachelorette party classes are one- to two-hour versions of our three-hour studio class and are more about having fun and learning sexy moves like hip rolls, how to make powerful eye contact and walks," says Art of Exotic Dancing's co-creator Leah Stauffer. "For the full classes in studios, there are lessons in floor work and how to strip off a man's button-down shirt and, newly launched in 2006, theme parties using props and costumes." Prefer shopping to strutting, but still want to go wild? Try a passion party. Just like an old-fashioned Tupperware or Avon party with a twist, Passion Parties by Rachel (678/592-0507) will come to your home with sensual aid samples and toys, provide demonstrations and take orders from guests to ensure selections arrive in time for the honeymoon. —L.P.

Beyond the Basic Album

Atlanta-area photographers are finding new ways to display wedding photos. At Eileen Adams Photography (404/680-3686) a couple can purchase an image box, a collection of heavy-duty photo cards stacked in a coffee-table-worthy box accented with inlaid tiles. Photographer Steve Williams (404/524-4959) has created The Wedding Album by Steve Williams, which is actually a wedding-photo-album time capsule. The clear, oval-shaped display works as a traditional frame for one featured photo and opens up to a unique collection of wedding prints. And Carol Cole Photography (770/777-2327) is one of many Atlanta-area photographers offering coffee-table-style wedding albums. These library-bound, embossed books can be designed in a variety of layouts, including panoramic images that spread across two pages for a classic-yet-contemporary display. "I haven't had a bride order a traditional mat album since I started carrying these coffee-table books two years ago," says Cole. "Brides love the look with panoramic photos and no mats or restrictions. My best seller is the GraphiStudio wedding album by an Italian company that started the coffee-table trend because it comes with an identical 4-by-5-inch book brides can give to their parents." —L.P.