

African wedding couple's choice

Continued from page 1B

either could have accomplished separately.

Q: Is such an agreement an indication of philosophical differences that could doom the marriage down the line?

The Hopsons: It could certainly indicate philosophical differences. It is important to explore this. We would like to suggest an exercise in our book ("Friends, Lovers, and Soul Mates") on page 27 titled "Self-Assessment Exercise: The Soul Mate of Your Dreams." Here, you are encouraged to identify the characteristics that especially matter to you. You can then establish personal priorities through ranking the importance of each identified characteristic. While completing this exercise you can also look at whether most of your personal priorities are external or internal qualities. External characteristics (e.g. money, good looks, etc.) tend to be more superficial and not as longstanding as internal ones (e.g. compassion, trustworthiness, loving, etc.,)

Q: Does our disagreement over something like whether to have an African-centered wedding indicate major philosophi-

cal differences and possible difficulties down the line?

The Hopsons: It could certainly indicate philosophical differences. It is important to explore this. We would like to suggest an exercise in our book ("Friends, Lovers, and Soul Mates") on page 27 titled, "Self-Assessment Exercise: The Soul Mate of Your Dreams." Here you are encouraged to identify the characteristics that especially matter to you. You can then establish personal priorities through ranking the importance of each identified characteristic. While completing this exercise you can also look at whether most of your personal priorities are external or internal qualities. External characteristics (e.g., money, good looks, etc.,) tend to be more superficial and not as longstanding as internal ones (e.g., compassion, trustworthiness, loving, etc.,)



Q: Have you ever had to help

a couple resolve an issue like this before? How did they work it out?

Darlene Hopson: Yes. The couple agreed to compromise for the greater good of the relationship. Although the male felt his plans were not included in their entirety, he was able to accept one that reflected a consideration of his wife's level of comfort. His wife, in turn, felt some discomfort with some of the displays of Afrocentricity, but agreed to have the inclusion of symbolic items such as Kente table decorations and the historical tradition of jumping the broom.

Q: Should all the wedding stuff really be left up to the bride since it's usually thought to be her day?

Darlene: No. The groom should be comfortable with the plans as well. After all, it is their first major experience with decisionmaking, negotiating and compromise.

Q: Are symbols like libations and broom jumping really that important to the wedding ceremony?

Derek: Yes. Such practices or symbolisms are often the prelude to a couple experiencing a sense of deeper spiritual connection. We must remember that the behavior of jumping the broom, wearing African clothing and libations can foster or generate feelings of unity, commitment and intimacy, but we must be open, willing and desirous of this experience.

Q: How should couples handle family members who are not open to an African-centered wedding?

The Hopsons: They need to be unified in their approach of dealing with family. The couple could however show some sensitivity by asking significant family members to participate in ways they feel comfortable.

They could solicit their ideas. However, it is important to remember that this too sets a precedent. The couple must not allow family members to become controlling or too intrusive. It is best from the beginning to establish clear boundaries or limits.

A Wedding to Remember

- Bridal Portraits
- Weddings
- Restorations

See us for...
BRIDE & GROOM

- INVITATIONS
- ENCLOSURES
- NAPKINS
- THANK YOU'S
- RECEPTION ITEMS
- ATTENDANT'S GIFTS

EDISON'S
PHOTOGRAPHICS
3530 N. Tryon St.
704-333-0123

Flowers by LOIS

- for all occasions -

- Weddings
- Funerals
- Birthdays
- Reunions
- Coronations
- Anniversaries...

and "To Get Out Of The Dog House"

Call Today:
377-2625
2624 Statesville Avenue

FOR ALL YOUR WEDDING ACCESSORIES & GIFTS

CRYSTAL SHOPPE

CRYSTAL SHOPPE

BRASS KEY CHAIN
\$7.95

CAKE SERVER SET
\$14.95

HEART TRINKET BOX
\$5.95

TOASTING GLASSES
(w/names & date)
\$12.95

STERLING DECANTER SET
\$21.95

Join Us Sat. April 5th
For Our In-Store Bridal Event
Featuring Godiva Chocolatier

14200 E. Independence Blvd., Indian Trail, NC
MTWFS: 10-6 • Thurs: 10-8 • Sun: 1-6 • (704)821-7678 • 1-800-852-3111

HOLLOWAYS MENS SHOP

MENS SUITS *Weddings • Easter • Proms* **BOYS SUITS**

Sizes 36 Reg • 36 Long • 54 Reg-Long Sizes 2T • 20 Husky

Wide variety of hard to find colors
White, Cream, Beige,
Navy, Taupe & Black

- Shawl Collars
- Double Breasted
- Nehru Collar
- 3 Button Single Breasted
- Cumberbunds & Bow Ties
- Silk Ties
- White Parade Gloves
- Socks

Shirts for men with impeccable taste designs by Carlo Merandi, Stacy Adams, Mezlan, Giorgio Brutini

\$29⁹⁹ up

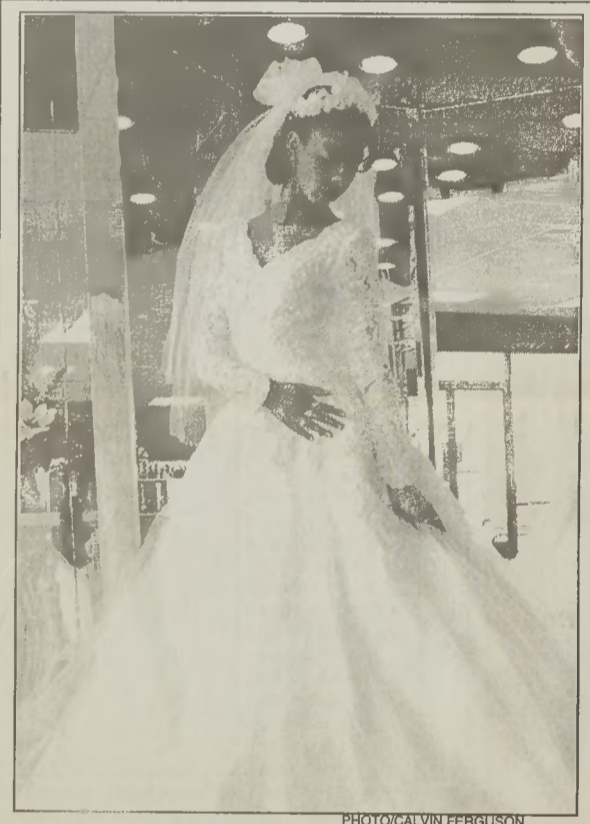
Featuring, rocodile, Deer Skin, Lizard, Snake Skin and Calf Skin

Wide Variety of Colors
Double Breasted •
Collarless •
Nehru Collar •
3 Piece Vest Set •
(Shirt, pants, vest)
Boys Shoes and Hats •

Freedom Mall
391-9436

Holloway's
James Holloway, Master Tailor

5430 N. Tryon St.
Near Big Lots
597-8153



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

White satin gown with tulle overlay, lace eyelet sleeves and bustle train and Tiara fingertip veil. Design: Forever Yours. Found at The Exclusive Bride. Cost: \$600 range.

Catch The Charlotte Post on the world wide web

<http://www.the.post.mindspring.com>

Bobby and Joann Cook

B & J CATERING SERVICE

Presentation and Service are our specialty All at Affordable prices

- WEDDINGS
- COMPANY PARTIES
- PICNICS
- SPECIAL OCCASIONS

TASTY HOME COOKED FOOD WITH A SOUTHERN FLAIR

"Ask about our family reunion package including T-shirt"

(704) 529-5524

• Special discount for all churches •

Since 1936, our tuxedos have made women **LOOK GREAT.**

The nation's most experienced formalwear store proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary.

gingiss Formalwear
Eastland Mall
(704) 563-5003

gingiss
FORMALWEAR

\$15 OFF
GROOMSMEN
TUXEDO

&

1/2
PRICE

ON TUXEDO FOR:
THE RING BEARER
OR
FATHER OF THE BRIDE

Grooms tuxedo free with five paid rentals

- Wide range of designer tuxedos and vests to choose from.
- 30% off Carlson Craft Wedding Invitations
- On the spot alterations
- Courteous and helpful Customer Service guaranteed
- See store for details

If you are having trouble receiving your subscription to the Post please contact us at **704-376-0496**

Thank you