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Shots of Advice

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By ELAINE GODFREY
Photography KAIT MCKINNEY

In today’s stereotypical high-school culture on college campuses, it’s a wonder where chivalry has gone—and if, in this generation, it exists at all. So we took the liberty of asking students what they think about chivalry in all of its forms. “Chivalry isn’t very ancient,” says Kelly Sebetka, junior in English and international studies. “Opening car doors and always letting the girl go first! It’s really just an inconvenience and kind of awkward. It’s also very presumptuous that a guy is trying to look a certain way in order to impress a girl.” But this sentiment isn’t felt by all the women here. Many say chivalry is much appreciated. “Chivalry certainly isn’t dead,” says Lauryn Wright, freshman in apparel merchandising and design. “Guys still pay for meals on dates and are constantly opening doors for us. Last weekend my friend and I were walking home from a dance, and two guys offered to walk us home. They even offered us their jackets because it was so cold outside! I really loved that. That kind of stuff doesn’t happen as much as I think it should.”

But, Wright admits, she may be too hard on the male population here at Iowa State. “I’m pretty old-fashioned,” Wright says. “I’m definitely a tad over romantic!” Leshia Newman, freshman in biology, agrees. “I love it when guys open doors for girls—it’s so nice. I think that’s chivalry. Like when your guy friends do really nice things for you, just because they can. It’s also better when your guy friends do really nice things for you as well.”

But Rachel Philiph, sophomore in materials science, rather than college, it seems, is one person who doesn’t think it’s important. “I think it’s just an old thing of legend?” Rachel says. “It’s not that guys aren’t being chivalrous and respectful to women, but women simply don’t appreciate it anymore. They don’t even notice when a man does something thoughtful for them.”

Sara Pape, freshman in industrial design, feels this way. “It doesn’t have to be a lifelong thing,” she says. “Just be courteous on a first date… do all the traditional things. I’d love to be courted, wooed! Male students also have a lot to say about the age-old practice. Jordan Cooper, sophomore in chemical engineering is certain chivalry is dying. “It’s not that guys aren’t being chivalrous and respectful to women, but women simply don’t appreciate it anymore. They don’t even notice when a man does something thoughtful for them.”

Sam Bernhard, freshman in biology, agrees that the tradition is fading. “I think chivalry is being lessened by feminism and the movement for gender equality. Chivalry sort of lost its place when women wanted to be treated equally. It’s hard to be chivalrous when you’re supposed to treat everyone the same.”

But he still tries to make a point to keep tradition alive by paying for the meal and opening the car door on a date. “I don’t feel obligated to do it,” Sam says. “I just feel good about doing it.”

By KATELYN MCCOLLOUGH
Photography KAIT MCKINNEY

Students all across campus trade in that ratty pair of sweatpants and t-shirt for a night out. They put on that outfit they’re positive they look drop-dead sexy in, hoping they’ll catch someone’s eye at least one of the bars this weekend. It only takes a couple of drinks for confidence to go up and any trace of shyness to vanish. But what do we do in our intoxicated state of self-confidence isn’t always as smooth as we think it might be.

You may never remember which cheesy pick-up line you used, but there is one person who will: the bartender. They’ve seen it all, heard it all and know what works and what doesn’t when trying to find love at a bar.

The local bar owners may have seen their share of failures when it comes to flirting, but that doesn’t mean they’ve never witnessed any success. “The oddest thing I have seen was actually this Halloween. There was a couple of boys dressed as Easter bunnies and they had eggs filled with eggs that contained their numbers in it. I mean, they probably gave a lot of numbers away that night, but it was definitely clever and cute,” Waddell says.

Chivalry, to most, is simply men being respectful and courteous to women, regardless of whether it’s an act as simple as opening the door or as labor-intensive as being a late-night chaperon. Chivalry today is not as black and white as it used to be, but most students agree, it is—and should be—still found on college campuses.