April 2012

Shots of Advice

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Recommended Citation
Available at: http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/ethos/vol2012/iss2/13

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By ELAINE GODFREY
Photography KAIT MCKINNEY

In today’s stereotypical hookup culture on college campuses, it’s a wonder chivalry has gone—and, in this generation, 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 Sabotka, 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 the tradition is fading by itself. Many say chivalry is much appreciated.

“Chivalry certainly isn’t dead,” says Lauryn Wright, freshman in apparel merchandising and studies. “I love it when guys open doors for me, just because they can. It’s also better when your guy friends do really nice things for you.”

“Chivalry isn’t very sincere,” says Kelly Carnaroli. “I always try to hold the door open for the lady in mind, says freshman in business Joey Waddell. “I just feel good about doing it.”

Stevie-based, rather than college, it seems, is placing less value on chivalry. But only a small number of students think it’s actually dying. Chivalry, to most, is simply men being respectful and courteous to women, regardless of whether it is an act as simple as opening the door or as labor-intensive as being a late-night escort.

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.

But is chivalry just a thing of legend?

From Nicholas Sparks books and sappy teen fiction to Disney movies and Taylor Swift songs, the idea of chivalry is deeply rooted in our culture. We are familiar with rowdy fist fights over a woman’s honor, the classic phrase “ladies first,” and men paying for, well, everything. We’ve all read fairy tales since we were kids and have grown up believing that the prince is responsible for saving the damsel in distress, always putting her happiness and safety above his own.

“Isn’t that courteous on a first date…do all the traditional things. I’d love to be treated, wow me!” 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 Bernard, 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.”

But should women expect to be treated this way?

“Chivalry exists,” Carnaroli says, “but many men choose to ignore it. And women have come to expect it, I think girls should demand it.”

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