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Girls Don't Date in China

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Chu I Yang Tells Betty Melcher That

Girls Don’t Date in China

When 10 o’clock comes at least 3 hours too soon on the night that you have a date with the man, don’t moan because you have to keep hours; instead, shout out your joy that you are in school at Iowa State College and not Cheelu University in China!

Chu I Yang, Chinese coed who is taking graduate work in entomology here, her native country, thinks we have unheard of freedom. She is a graduate of Cheelu University. In her own country, China, the word “date” just isn’t! If a young, handsome lad has a charming lass, he has to get three or four other couples to go along before he can even take her out for a walk. Even then, they may have a chaperon hovering in the background. In Chinese universities, nice girls just don’t go cut with men alone—unless they have known said gentleman for some time and their interests toward each other are strictly honorable.

Miss Yang is a delightfully charming girl who fairly radiates her lively personality. Her teeth are remarkably white and regular and her small eyes, typical of her race, sparkle like brown topaz from behind her gold rimmed glasses.

In her charming foreign accent, Miss Yang says, “In China we don’t have dates. We meet young men in our classes, in organizations, science clubs and societies. We go to these places in groups always. Sometimes a party of young people go to the theater together—but never alone—or the girl’s character would be questioned if anyone should find out about it. ‘Chinese are not a kissing race. We never, never do what you call ‘neck.’ Of course, after a couple are engaged, they kiss a little, but only in private, and then secretly.’”

In China, you can’t even kiss your own mother or dad! At least one never does. Miss Yang tells about a professor she once had in high school who gave a talk on Chinese customs. “In China we do not kiss,” he said, “You go ahead and kiss your mother—I will give you 10 dollars! But no one wants to kiss his mother—no one wants the 10 dollars.”

The famous “5 pounds” which play a part in the coveted dream of every coed at Iowa State are unheard of in China.

When a young man and girl desire to announce their engagement, they sometimes send out announcement cards inviting their friends to come to their party at a certain time. When the friends go to the party, they often take gifts to the engaged couple and they always take “good words.” The “good words” the guests offer to the couple depend on the individuals. Some of the more common phrases are: “We hope you will live until you are both very old and die together;” or “Long life;” or “We hope you will have many children.” The latter is a good blessing—for in China children in a family mean the parents are blessed. Married people, according to Miss Yang, are considered “no good” if they do not have children, because no children is a sign of an ill-blessing.

When university students in China wish to “go some place,” they never consider a dance as we do, because dances in China are only for foreigners or bad people. Bridge is a vague game that only Christian organizations plan. When Chinese students get together for the evening, they play Chinese chess, group games, work puzzles, and they even compose poetry in game fashion.

Miss Yang on the campus wears the costume of her native country. One of her dresses is made of green velvet trimmed sparingly with green satin. It is cut wrap-around style, fastening on the side, while the skirt boasts a modest split to the knee. Her neck is clothed in a high, tightly fitting collar and her sleeves are only three-quarters in length. Her slim figure gracefully carries her simple, straight and comfortable costume.

It is a dress of a design similar to this that Chinese girls wear to their formal dinners—only they don’t call them formal dinners. As Miss Yang explains, “We do not have formal dinners. We have formal feasts! Of course, they may be either formal or informal.”

Before this feast is served, the guests are entertained at a tea party. Hot tea, watermelon and squash seeds, cookies, dried fruit and candy are served—and in between the guests talk. After everyone has been properly teased, the party goes in to dinner. The very smallest feast must have at least 12 different dishes of food, while the very formal affair boasts of 60 to 100 dishes! The feasting lasts 2 or 3 hours.

The Chinese feast is carried on somewhat like the American installment plan. To start the dinner off, a platter of meat, a bowl of vegetables, and possibly a dish of sea food are served. In the meantime more viennois are being cooked and prepared in the kitchen. Everyone tastes the different foods, and if he likes something he can have more of it—if he dislikes it, he isn’t wasting it by taking a complete serving the first time. This

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Hats Show It
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bhorn. The ribbon of black belting intro-

duces tiny flower motifs in red and green, a

version of novelty ribbon which is well

liked in the French collections. An ele-

stic bandeau at the back holds the hat on

the head.

Some hats suggest the 1900 influence.
They have brims about three inches wide,
slightly curved up at the sides; crowns are
round and low. These hats are worn quite
straight and high on the head. The
year 1900 is also suggested by the large
shapes with irregular brims, low and
drooping at one side and very much off
the hair on the other.

Though hat makers are reckless with
their upturned brims and faithful to the
shallow crowns, giving them individual
creases, tucks or draping, there are few position crowns seen. A
smilled hat with rolled brim on the sides
and square crown is of the pillbox type.
It is of a truly spring-like emerald green
felt.

All these types are lovely and exciting
and new, but perhaps you've been won-
dering about the little hat, the kind you
can jam on your head and dash to class
in, confident that with a few curls pulled
out here and there you look very pre-
sentable.

A large group of little caps, closely
fitting the head are being shown. They
are in natural or white linen and some-
times combine two colors. For evening
a cap of black satin is open worked by
croading. Another has two large sati
flowers, one white and one black, posed
flare for this type of hat.

Perhaps you've noticed Virginia
Larner's flare for this type of hat. She
is a firm believer in the philosophy
that nothing adds more chie to a costume
than a little hat of a material matching
a dress, or one of plain material—linen,
crepe, satin—touched up with a bit of
trimming to match the outfit. Sometimes
we have good ideas, but no convenient
method of carrying them out, but Vir-
ginia has hit upon a clever and easy
method of making her little hats.

First she constructs a simple little
toque that fits her head exactly. She
lets it come down around on all sides
quite far, because when she begins, she's
never quite sure what the results will be.
Now the real art of millinery is called
into action, for she uses this little
foundation shape on which to drape her
material. Draping and pinning, tucking
and pulling, a bit of stitching, a button
or two or perhaps a clever clip—that's
the way a little hat is made. They fit
perfectly, says Virginia; they really have no
other choice, if this method is followed.

It's not a bit expensive, either, she says,
because only a few more inches of ma
terial are required and generally that
much is left over anyway.

Virginia is especially partial to linen
hats and plans a jaunty dark blue linen
one to go with a figured crepe dress she
is making—white and dark blue on a
lighter blue background. It will not be
an extreme of any style, she says, and
will cover up some of her forehead.
Another of Virginia's hobbies that's just
as clever as making her little hats is the
making of felt and linen costume purses
that match her outfits.

If you've gotten the hat-draping fever
after hearing about all this, here's the
description of one that's not too hard
and results are guaranteed to be potent.
It's a small ciré satin bonnet made with
fat rolls of the ciré satin molded
expertly to perch on the back of the head
and goggled out in front to expose a bit
of your bangs. With two round trans-
parent ornaments stuck on top and your
most charmingly demure smile, Easter
should be dawning clear and beautiful
for you.

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course is then removed and more hot food
is brought from the kitchen. This con-
tinues until the meal is finished. It is al-
ways proper to leave something in the
serving dish because that signifies abun-
dance—and Chinese like to feel that
their country is one of abundance. Sweet
dishes and fresh fruits are the last
course.

Wine and beer are always placed on
the table for those who wish it. The tea
that the guests partake of before the
feasts helps to digest the dinner—which
is generally greasy.

At some of the feasts, men students
dress as the men do here, but most of
them still wear their Chinese dress. It is
very similar to that of the Chinese wo-
men. The marked difference is that the
men's gowns are longer and the side
slit comes almost to the hip. The sleeves
on the men's costume come to the wrists.
For very formal wear a black jacket is
added to their attire.

Smiling her broadest smile and re-
vealing her clear white teeth, Miss
Yang says, "In China 'formal dress'
means that we dress up. Here you dress
down—you half dress with bare arms
and backs when you go to formal dances
and dinners. Chinese girls never wear
sleeveless dresses, but sometimes at for-
mal feasts we do wear gowns without
collars."

Even the music in China differs from
ours. Our music affects Miss Yang as
something which 'creates sexual expres-
sion to stimulate feeling. The music in
China is usually heard only as accompani-
ment to a play. It expresses good lessons
for truth and love and one feels that
piety is a trait of good character.

The most shocking of American cus-
toms to Miss Yang when she first came
to America 2 years ago, was the open
freedom of boys and girls and their evi-
dent dating. But she is not shocked now.
She has accepted our customs for what
they are worth as we accept hers. Never-
theless, she remains firm in her former
beliefs.

"I am Chinese," she says, "so of
course I like Chinese customs best. I am
not against your customs because we
have different backgrounds and no one
can say which is right or wrong. The
only thing for us to do is to accept what
has been taught us."

Saleswomen Size Up
Shoppers
(Continued from page 4)

mates they bring with them. They usually
make up their minds in a hurry if they
come alone, but sometimes they bring as
many as four girls along," was one an-
swer.

Other saleswomen are pretty sure that
all coeds aren't alike and said that some
put on just one dress and are satisfied,
while others try on dozens and then be-
come discouraged. They are usually
fairly sure what they want and take time
to find it.

An experienced saleswoman with a
dughter who used to be a coed summar-
ized coed-shopping in a few words:

"Coeds are very frank. I'd rather wait
on them than older people. If they like
something they say so, and if they don't
like it, they say they don't. They usually
want new dresses at moderate prices,
rather than few at high prices. They
want snap and style. They like sport
clothes. They are not price-quibblers
and they make up their minds in a hur-
ry."

Sandwich in Sandwiches
(Continued from page 12)

drops of lemon juice, or chopped ham
and prepared mustard spread on slices
of bread, dipped in a mixture of milk
and eggs and fried in butter.

Fruits and vegetables may be included
in the children's diets in the form of
sandwiches. The following are some sug-

Suggestons for wholesome and tasty ones:

Wash and core apples, slice very thin,
butter bread on both sides and place ap-

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