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College Women Score Dating

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Julie Wendel reports campus opinions on dating and marriage revealed in surveys by students.

Courtship and dating opinions of Iowa State students is the subject of recent surveys conducted on the campus. Tabulations of home economics women's preferences state their nominations for the qualities of a "smooth" date and reveal unusual side-light on aspects of courtships. One survey concerns the difference in ideas on courtship held by seniors as compared with views held by freshman students.

A majority of the questions received a close percentage of the same type of answers by both seniors and freshmen. For instance 84 percent of the seniors and 80 percent of the freshmen consulted wanted a husband from a socio-economic background similar to their own. The only question which was unanimously voted down by all 55 women questioned was one stating that it is better to marry than to bear the embarrassment of breaking an engagement.

Several questions drew surprisingly different ratios of answers from the two groups. Only 40 percent of the senior women believed it wise to marry against the serious advice of one's parents, while 60 percent of the freshmen questioned would follow the dictates of parents.

Two-thirds of the freshmen questioned believe that one "is naturally jealous" of the person with whom he is in love, while almost three-fourths of the seniors held the opposite view. Similarly, a high percentage of freshmen agreed that one should tell her future husband her past history and that "love is increased if one must suffer for it."

Seniors ranked companionability as the most important factor in choosing a husband; freshmen thought a good disposition essential. Common interest and dependability were high on the list of desirable traits in both groups.

As a result of this study one may gather that freshmen and seniors have the same fundamental attitudes toward choosing a husband. Freshmen in this group seemed slightly more idealistic than seniors.

The same students were also questioned concerning the present standards which an ideal date should fulfill. High on the list were manners, intelligence and neat appearance. Good grooming especially was stressed.

Twenty-four women were consulted as to their opinion of important prerequisites for accepting a first date. Only two would judge a man by his position on campus, while four would consider good grammar an outstanding asset. As in the high school survey, polished appearance and acceptable manners ranked far above other qualifications on the list of desirable points. Five said they would accept a date on the basis of the event to which they were invited.

Twenty percent agreed that a date need not be handsome to be acceptable and twelve percent of the group ranked interesting conversation as important.

Another survey conducted by a sociology student was for the purpose of comparing engaged couples. The student compiling the report contacted 18 college women who are now engaged and who had been previously engaged or "seriously interested" in someone.

To the question, "Where did you meet your fiancé?" seven of the women listed their present acquaintance as arising from first meetings at exchanges, twisters or varities. Four of the group met their future husbands at church services; blind dates accounted for two romances. Two of the women are engaged to high school associates.