How Is Your Date-Rating?

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CONVERSATIONAL ability was rated the number one spot on the list of desirable qualities in a date by both men and women students. The similarity in what men and women want in a date breaks there.

The second choice of the women went to "popularity as a date" with "dancing ability" in third place. The men look to dancing ability secondly and then to beauty. Good looks turned up fourth on the feminine score sheet with "physical attractiveness" on the same spot on the men's side of the record. "Smooth lines" hit last place with the women while the men spotted "popularity as a date" as their last consideration in a date.

Men without cars need not grumble and feel sorry for themselves for the women, 99 times out of a hundred, do not consider a car important when accepting a date. "Ability to spend money" was given a gold star check by only one woman out of the 80 completing the survey.

Little Fraternity Preference

Preference for dates from a specific house or dormitory is of little concern to Iowa State students as 72 percent of those interviewed considered it an irrelevant point. Only seven students gave the matter of fraternity or sorority membership any weight in determining who a date would be.

"I do my own choosing," was the answer given by 89 percent to the question "How do you choose your date—your own choice, influenced by friends or influenced by parents?" Those acknowledging outside influences were all over 19 years old. This same group regarded knowledge of social etiquette as a highly desirable prerequisite to a first date.

Dating well-known men and women on campus was considered important by 47 percent with 53 percent discounting the possible prestige gained by dating a prominent student.

The amount of money to be spent on a date varied considerably. The men tend to set a higher limit than the women indicated for them.

Date talk centers around mutual interests, according to the 75 percent majority vote for that topic. Campus activities were next high with 18 percent saying that while on a date they usually talked about what goes on around college. Only 8 percent claimed to talk about other people and less than 1 percent admitted discussing grades.

"When on a date do you expect to kiss goodnight, neck, pet, have sex relations, or none of these?" A good-night kiss is expected by 50 percent of those students interviewed, with 32 percent saying they do not expect to do any of the things listed. Necking got 11 percent of the votes with petting and sex relations polling 2 percent and 3 percent of the votes respectively.

The cross-sectional groups of interviewees were given separate questions to indicate the traits or behaviors most undesirable on a date. 21 percent of the women checked their votes in the "too fast" column, and "flirting with others" was close behind with 19 percent of the votes. The trait "boisterousness" held down number three rank with a 20 percent score. The women also indicated heavy black marks beside the traits of "drinking" and "egotism," Only 4 percent judged their dates being "too slow."

Flirting Objectionable

"Flirting with others" bothered the men, too—21 percent of them. "Nail biting" polled 20 percent of their grudge checks. The men checked their dates as being "too fast" with 16 percent of their votes. Long skirts were objected to by 7 percent of the men completing the survey.

The second report asked many of the same questions as the first but also asked detailed questions on important things to know before accepting a first date, such as religious affiliation, age, classification, major, hometown and fraternity affiliation. Age was the only outstanding requirement before a first date according to the survey, with a few scattered notations under religious affiliation and height.

Advance notice for a date was set at one week. Times given by the men, however, were as close as 3 minutes before date time. The women showed preference for longer times—as extended as three weeks ahead.

First Date

What to do on the first date? A show was considered the best activity, with dances a second choice. 72 percent claimed to enjoy first dates. Double dating on first dates was preferred in 83 percent of the cases.

The goodnight kiss on a first date was brought up in this survey also and found the men still voting for it with a 66 percent majority. Only 16 percent of the women felt they could approve a goodnight kiss on a first date.

The establishment of a dating bureau was favored by 25 percent of the fraternity and sorority affiliates interviewed, 33 percent of the dormitory women and 52 percent of the dormitory and unaffiliated men. Dormitory men have expressed difficulty in finding satisfactory ways to meet prospective dates. Other comments on a possible dating bureau included the objection to the commercialized angle of such a bureau and the fact that probably only the unpopular would patronize it.