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WISCETIQUETTE

A Brief Guide to
Wisconsin Student
Social Conduct



1938

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WISCETIQUETTE

**A Pipe Course
In Wisconsin Student
Social Conduct**



**SPONSORED BY
WOMEN'S AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF THE WISCONSIN UNION**



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FOREWORD

DON'T THINK YOU CAN get through college by reading only text books. Of course, to read them is important. But the mere getting from book to book requires some social finesse, both on and off the Hill (campus to you).

So before the six-weeks exam grades come out we suggest that you whip through this "pipe course" in Social Education, just to get you in shape for things to come — On the Hill, With Dates, and Without Dates.

ON THE HILL

Covering Some Cases of Apple Polishing, Skyrockets, Magazines, Cribbing and Ski Suits

SOME OF YOU WILL GO OUT FOR TRACK, some for swimming, some for studying, and others will go out for that extra-curricular activity known as apple polishing or mit wringing. But whatever you call it, don't fool yourself that it isn't recognized both by your victim and by other students with the same fell motive.

There are two schools of thought on this matter. Personally we're agin' it, because there is nothing so discouraging to the professors as to know that they are being sought out by students not for their own sweet selves but rather for the difference between an A and a B.

Not that you should avoid them as the plague or look upon them merely as a necessary evil. But when you go up after class to get some help, don't commit educational suicide by beginning breathlessly:

"Oh, Mr. Blivit, I enjoy your lectures so much. You make everything awfully clear, but I wonder if you could explain

this one to me..." (This usually ends with the query as to when his new book will be published.)

All this won't make any difference to the professor because he will go on in his own quiet little way putting down the grades you earn, but it is a waste of his time and yours. And it is fatal for any one else to hear any part of this line. You'll suffer an immediate loss of popularity.

Don't take this so seriously that you dismiss professors from your life. Whether you've met them and whether they



know you personally or not, it's quite all right to greet them on the hill or street with a "Good morning, Mr. Hostetter."

And this applies to fellow students. If you encounter someone in your class, it is equally all right to say "hello" even though you don't know his name. Of course, the girl usually has the privilege of speaking first, but we're talking about the way they do things at Wisconsin—not the way Emily Post says they should be done.

● SSSS, Boom, Bang

BUT TO GET BACK TO THE CLASS ROOM and the professor. One of them has had the fortitude to take a definite and constructive attitude on the matter of skyrockets, which—in case you don't know—follow the general plan of 'Sssss, Boom, ah! professor's name (or appropriate comment).' This particular professor says that it is very discouraging when the skyrocket gets only to first base. You can also see that it isn't too heartening to have them progress only as far as the "boom" with the last consonant practically non-existent.

And we urge you to be present for all skyrockets at the beginning of the classes, especially if you sit in the middle of any row. There is nothing so destructive to the morale of the entire row when half of it has to let down the arms of those deucedly inconvenient (no nice girl swears) seats about seven minutes after the lecture has started, only to spend the next 11 minutes trying to get them back on a working basis.

You have progressed fairly well into the lecture. If at this point, you have lost interest, please don't turn to your neighbor for a social half hour. Maybe, with his debased sense of values, he is getting something out of it. Or maybe he is asleep, and you shouldn't disturb him. There are a lot of people that don't get their eight hours sleep when they cut classes. It is also bad form to talk in either library for these same reasons.

Newspapers, too, are taboo in classes. Not that anyone cares whether you read them or not, but it makes a lot of noise when you turn the pages. And if you must catch up on your magazine reading, do it in the Reader's Digest rather than Esquire. You get the general idea, don't you?

If, however, you are going after your education with a vengeance, why not do it the easy way and bring paper and a

pen with ink in it to class? In other words, try to be a fairly independent unit in your classes. And this applies to the matter of notes. Follow the lecturer rather than your neighbor's notes, and come to class often enough so that you don't become Public Enemy No. 3, the note borrower.

Public Enemy No. 2 is the person who returns the tattered remains of someone's notes several weeks after he has borrowed them. And Public Enemy No. 1 never returns them.

On a different rating of Public Enemies you have the ink showerer, the paper scatterer, and the person who has the firm conviction that he has a right to put his elbows not only on the arm of the seat in which he is sitting but also on the arm on which you are writing. The only remedy is to get your arm there first and exert a steady pressure against his left elbow. This handicaps your writing, but you will gradually learn to adjust yourself.

● Put This On the Cuff

TECHNICALLY A MAJOR CRIME — you *can* get flunked in the course, fined grade points, or thrown out of school on the basis of it—cribbing is also just outside of the social pale.

People do it, of course. But this is hardly an excuse in a university where exams count over half of most courses and proctors spend exam time leering over their shoulders at all potential offenders.

The sanest attitude toward the whole business, whether the method is the use of crib notes or the helpful whispers when all proctors are at the other side of the room, is that this is another crime which doesn't pay. The whole-hearted resentment which the non-cheating majority has is directed against every student who tries to manipulate the outcome of his exams. The people who can help you along in activities or

social life are very likely to be the ones who give non-committal shrugs in response to your frantic questions as to the color of George Washington's white horse.

In other words, whatever your fool-proof super-system may be, don't use it. "Cribber" is a pretty harsh word to have people use to describe you.



● Watch the Signs

THERE ARE FEWER SMOKERS among co-eds than formerly so you are not unique if you don't indulge. On the other hand, the institution is daily considered less vicious, so no one will pay any attention either way. In other words, the habit is up to you, only please, *please*, PLEASE, practice your first fifty cigarettes peacefully and thoughtfully in your own little rose and lemon-yellow boudoir, and don't say "Yes," if you really don't want and won't enjoy a cigarette.

Shielding our heads before the storm of protest breaks, we say that you can smoke anywhere except in campus buildings,

at large meetings and concerts, or near anyone who has indicated that he or she is being annoyed. Unless you want to become a rather conspicuous young lady, you won't smoke on streets that are not exclusively collegiate, or anywhere where you will be the only one smoking; other smokers are probably refraining through courtesy.

In the interests of progress (from one class to another) you might try waiting to light up after class until you are outside the building. There might be someone directly behind you who is trying to get from Music hall to Ag hall and he isn't going to feel any too friendly if you decide to stop to light a cigarette in the middle of the congestion at the only exit.

● A Dis-Dressing Matter

THE SUBJECT OF WHAT TO WEAR deserves a passing comment. We don't give two whoops about what Schiaparelli is doing to the feminine silhouette, and we haven't the faintest idea of how Esquire stands on the matter of colored evening dress for men. But we do know that you can't bring down campus disapproval any quicker than to be bizarre in your dress.

The accepted thing for the girls seems to be just the regular school dress, suit, or sweater and skirt and fairly sensible walking shoes. You can get infinite variety with this simple beginning. We refuse to enter the arena by committing ourselves on the subject of ankle socks and hats. But we do say that you won't be out of place on the hill if you appear in ankle socks and utterly disregard your hat even during cold weather.

The masculine element registers a violent protest each year against ski suits during cold weather. They also look askance at scarfs tied over the top of the head. But if you have no

qualms about looking like a duck or someone fresh off Ellis Island, then go ahead and wear these things and keep warm.

You know only too well the masculine prejudice on the matter of make-up. Let your conscience be your guide—keeping in mind that the procedure is the same at universities as in civilized communities so far as makeup is concerned. Be conservative, and for heaven's sake, don't antagonize these touchy males by applying your makeup in class rooms and corridors.

You fellows can get by with wearing suits or sweaters and slacks. In the case of the latter, don't absentmindedly neglect



to don a shirt, although an open shirt collar is all right once in a while. And bear in mind that there is nothing that detracts from your appearance like a sweat shirt.

The feminine poll indicates that men may go without hats and garters and still remain within the social pale. They can

have crew haircuts and wear white shoes in the winter. But there is a terrific reaction against bow ties.

It is possible that the men would be willing to concede the bow ties if the women would take off the red finger nail polish Sunday night. They are more or less resigned to polish during the weekend, but they have the idea that it is pretty revolting on Monday.

● Don't Rush Things

IN GETTING UP AND DOWN THE HILL, the best method is keep the same pace as the rest of the people on the hill. Don't take your own time when the walks are crowded, and don't go leaping along endangering the life and limb of everyone in your path unless you can dodge in and out skillfully enough to avoid accidents.

● Fee Card, Please?

HERE'S WHAT YOU HEAR as often as your name is called in a Friday quiz section. Since it's an old custom around here to have to whip out your fee card at the Libe, while cashing a check, and practically everywhere but at church, it's a good plan to package your fee card in one of those cellophane thing-a-majigs to keep your best means of identification from becoming frazzled and worn at the edges.

This is just in case your honest face hasn't convinced the fellow on the other side of the counter.

WITH DATES

Blind-Dating a Major Menace, Plus Pin Hangings and the Wisconsin Dutch Treat

AND NOW WE COME TO THE NO CREDIT COURSE with the largest enrollment on the campus—dating.

The horrible ogre that makes us shiver with expectation and grit our teeth as if in anticipation of a painful ordeal, yet that has come to be as popular as cutting classes is herewith exposed in all its awfulness. This thing is called the sightless engagement or the blind date. Horrible as it seems, it's not really as bad always as it was the time you got a blind date with buck teeth and warts. Often, the blind is quite nice.

The fact that the date isn't busy at the last minute doesn't mean that he or she is a terror. Many, many explanations account for this situation. Should your date turn out to be a first class baby scarer, don't show that you are afraid of it. Goons often have good connections and quite possibly know the right people, so if you spend the evening thinking and staring madly at corners, the date may spoil things for you with its friends. Don't be a scaredy, take the date, and have a good time, no matter how hard it is. You may not be a

campus beauty yourself (in the eye of your date), so be friendly and alive, but don't take the responsibility on yourself of amusing the entire party.

Keep a liff upper stip about the blind date business as it won't last long. In the first place, don't feel down if you're forced into a blind date. Everybody has them at one time or another. A good blind date may lead to lots more dates, with or without the original blind. In no time you will be going to formals, parties, movies, and an occasional coke date. Sounds like the clip the coupon business, doesn't it?

One thing more—if you're the one who wants the date get it early.

● Stiff Shirt Stuff

ONCE IN A WHILE comes the time in every one's life when he wiggles or struggles, as the case may be, into a formal and looks stately and dignified at least for an evening. Going to a formal isn't quite as bad as going to a quiz, and it takes just one thing to keep it from being a bore.

Tuxes or tails are O. K'ed by everyone, but—girls—don't come down the stairs dressed like Mrs. Astor's horse or a cool summer breeze in mid-winter. Moderation in dress and accessories make a much bigger hit than trying to impress the big moment with the latest innovation from some fashion magazine.

Just because you had to wiggle and squirm to get into that party rig is no sign that you have to continue to act that way at the dance. Talk—dance—laugh—be nonchalant, anything to be at ease. Don't for one moment let your date know it's your first party.

Formals won't be the only kind of parties during the year. If it be a bowery party, informal party, or if your date calls for you in a hay-rack—get the swing of things, don an old

pair of overalls, old shirt and sweater or your best date dress. Or if it is mid-winter and it happens to be a sleigh ride, toboggan party, or ice-boating, don't be afraid of looking like an old Southern mammy—put on those extra sweat shirts, ski pants and old boots. Everybody dresses for the occasion and not merely to be in style. Outdoor, athletic girls are just as popular and even more so than the clinging vine.



● Up to You

THE SAME REMARKS hold for drinking as for smoking, but we'd like to underscore five times, answer "No, thank you," if you don't want to drink and ten times the No if you don't want another drink.

Don't believe a word of it if people tell you that everyone at Wisconsin drinks—they don't—not by a long shot. But here is just a little incoherent advice on this subject. Know what you're drinking, so a little bit later on it won't creep up behind you like a thug with a blackjack and go "Clunk."

Sip, don't guzzle, even beer. If you feel your liquor, stop, because you'll feel it more before the evening's over, not to mention the next day.

In case no one ever told you these time-honored rules, heed them now:

1. Don't mix your drinks.
2. Don't drink on an empty stomach.
3. Count your drinks, and don't ever lose track of the number.

If we're not mistaken, college students strive to be smooth. Did you ever see a person smooth and even half-tight at the same time?

For a parting word of parental advice, we consult the anonymous Yugoslavian sage who said, "If everyone tells you you're tight, go home even if you know you are quite sober."

To keep this from becoming too prudish may we say that there is nothing quite as friendly as a cigarette and a beer and a quiet talk over a table in some local refreshery? Much as we hate to spoil Mr. Rathskeller's business, the Union basement is the private sanctum of the men, and they hate to see its masculine appeal marred by a fluttery female. They will let you into the Paul Bunyan room, though. Reserved for the less fair sex is the privilege of roaming the streets at night, and invading the ale-eries in bunches. It's a shame, isn't it, but the women get back at them some other way.

● How Much, Mister?

IT IS NOT TOO GOOD AN IDEA to get back at them by ordering a luscious array of food on a Sunday night date or after a movie date without tactfully finding out just what sort of food your date would care to pay for. Many a poor lad has quietly

sipped a coke while he hungrily watched his date plow through a lusty repast.

Just how do you go about this tactful finding out? Well, you can usually judge from the occasion. If it's Prom or Military Ball, he prob'ly expects to spend more than on the usual date. If it's after a movie, he's probably figuring on something in the malted or beer-and-sandwich price class. It's up to you to figure it out, but when in doubt, be moderate. For Sunday night, it's usually safe to figure that you've had dinner, and that the 6:30 meal is supper. The difference is worth remembering.

● Can You Spare a Dime?

THE CAR-TAXI-OR-WALK SITUATION in Madison is relieved a lot by the dime fares which apply to most cabs. If the girl lives in what the papers love to call the Latin Quarter, she can expect to walk to movies, dances at the Union, and some fraternity parties if the weather is nice. For basketball, football, boxing, and the rest of the Camp Randall shows, the guy should say something like, "Let's find a cab, shall we?" To which she can either assent or else say she wants to walk, depending on how she feels and how the walking is. But in most cases, the fellow has to get the cab before he comes, for he can't expect to get one by phone in less than half an hour.

The gal who expects to see her man wheel a Packard roadster up in front of the house will probably be more than a little disillusioned the first time it doesn't happen. And she might as well know that it is going to not happen rather consistently for four long years. The boy with the car is a rare bird and the Ford coupe is by far the commonest car. For going dancing outside of town, there'll undoubtedly be some sort of conveyance in the offing, but both fellows and girls

might as well get used to double dating or even tripling on these occasions.

● Do You Like Jam?

NOW, TO GET BACK TO THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM. There are several places on the hill that just seem to collect mobs, and the front of Bascom hall is the worst. We will disregard the crowds on the steps of the Law and Engineering buildings because lawyers and engineers don't know any better.

But seriously, why not practice a little individuality and meet the light of your life somewhere else between classes besides the steps of Bascom hall? In the first place you haven't any privacy, and then it seems a shame that only those with football experience should be able to get to class on time.

And when you walk on the hill with the aforementioned light of your life, it is a matter of no importance if you naively hold hands, but the student body in general frowns on glaring examples of sentimentality. We don't go into the manifestations, because you encountered all that years ago in high school.

● Get the Hang of This

IF A GIRL WEARS a man's fraternity pin, they're engaged. Sound funny? Of course it does, but in the initiation or national laws of almost every fraternity you'll find this or its equivalent.

Wisconsin doesn't live up to the letter of the law; neither do most other schools. But a hung pin shows more than passing interest, even if it wouldn't justify pappy's getting out the old shotgun and asking the lad if his intentions are strictly honorable. There are a few types worth considering.

Type Number One is the girl who turns up every two or three weeks with another pin. Aside from the fact that it

looks awfully funny, it also brings up a lot of comment concerning the techniques used in getting them. The comment, by the way, is seldom kindly.

Type Number Two has two or three badges tucked away in the upper bureau drawer. She keeps the owners all scattered and all happy, but if they ever met—

Type Number Three is a guy. Grandmother would have called him a cad for he seems to hang his pin for what he can get out of it—and often for what he hopes he can get. Lady, analyze his motives before you grab the hardware.

Although there are a few widely-separated cases of girls with pins who are not going steady, it's safest to figure that they are. All of which means that you don't ask that swell blonde with the Alpha Chi Rho pin to go to the fights tomorrow night. Get it?

And by the way—it just won't do a girl any good to yearn for an Iron Cross pin or a pledge button. You just won't get 'em.

● Get 'Long with 'Em

AS LONG AS THERE ARE CAMPUS PARTIES there will be chaperons. At least the custom is as well established as chariot racing was in the day of Ben Hur. As far as we can see, there is only one thing to do—race right up to the chaperons and say Howdy without looking as if you'd eaten a sour cherry.

We suspect that this rapid transformation from the ordinary being into a chaperon is 99.44% the fault of the other



people at the party—the .56% is probably due to the chaperons longing to be anywhere but on the chaperons' bench. It may not be mathematically sound, but if you go half way it will be 100% better. Just think ahead a little how you'll feel first time you find yourself being a chaperon!

● “Sly and Wise”

THE NUMBER OF GIRLS who are perfect models of feminine wisdom, who make their men feel like born protectors, who ask for small cokes on movie dates, who reach for their own checks in the Union cafeteria, but who drive their dates mad with their talk is far greater than most women are willing to admit.

There's a little poem which sums the whole thing up pretty nicely—

*“The modern woman, sly and wise,
Seldom mentions other guys
But concentrates her verbal dither
Upon the gentleman who's with her.”*

According to this, you see, the gal does not talk about the swell formal she went to last week. She does not recover from having her feet walked on by pointing out that Joe Hostetter is a wonderful dancer. Ah, no. “She concentrates her verbal dither upon the gentleman who's with her.”

● On the Pitching of Woo

NECKING. No doubt this is what you have been waiting for. Necking is when a boy and a girl do things a housemother frowns on. Probably this little indoor sport belongs in the same category with fraternity pins; it doubtless has its place.

To be ungrammatical some more, its place is not when the date is the first one, and not when the place is public. Neck-

ing requires a sort of mutual agreement that usually comes out of several dates, and often not at all. It can be done nicely, and is, but it should not be done under the old adage that practice makes perfect.

● Phone Phonies

THE ETIQUETTE OF THE TELEPHONE — to be horribly formal about it—is divided into two parts. One is calling to call, and the other is calling for a purpose.

If you are a call-to-call caller, heaven help you! You are the type of person whose opening sentence is "Guess who this is!" and who is willing to talk to any voice with a sorority or dormitory phone number and a pair of high heels. Although Sister Blivis may be hopeful enough to hang on the receiver for a couple of minutes, the results of the "engaging," "non-chalant," and "man of the worldly" conversation will probably be a swift verbal kick in the pants after she hangs up.

If you're calling for a quiz assignment, be the other party man, woman, or beast, make it brief! If the other end wants to talk some more, it'll find subjects, but don't make a casual request the excuse for a half-hour conversation.

Calling or being called for a date has practically the same requirements. It's really not necessary to talk five minutes before asking for a date, but even more to the point is this angle—if the girl turns you down, don't say, "Well, all *right!*" and hang up. Be suave, people, be suave.

The one last word is this—remember, others are going to want to phone, too.

● Wisconsin Dutch Treat

IN CONNECTION WITH BUYING MEALS—people at Wisconsin do go Dutch, although it's more the exception than the rule.

The chief requirement is that the girl has to know the

boy pretty well and act matter-of-factly—and quickly. Many fellows resent it, so don't make an issue about it if he makes more than a half-hearted protest. In some circumstances the man is justified in expecting it—if eating together is a date (meaning pre-arranged), he'll probably expect to pay; if it just happens, the gal should reach for her purse and her check simultaneously.

● Flowers for Mademoiselle?

FLOWERS ARE SENT not too frequently and practically according to formula. This is both unfortunate and true. Christmas or spring formals—either fraternity or sorority—and “big parties” really mean a corsage. These parties can be listed rather easily—Prom, Military Ball, Pan-Hell (remember, she asks him to this), and other big formal ones. Unless the choice is orchids, stay under \$2.50 or the lady will think you're trying to set up a funeral home or buy her immortal soul. And last of all—find out (by hook or room-mate) what she's going to wear ... this will let you pick the right flowers or else confide in the florist people and take their advice.

● Outcast

ABOUT BREAKING DATES...DON'T! Which is very fine, you say, but there are times when you have to...well—

In the first place, if you don't want to be rated as an old scrounge you can't list a more attractive invitation as a good reason.

In the second place, if this must be logical, try like all get out to break the date a couple of days ahead of time so that another date may be had.

In de toid place, ha, variety, try and fix it so that the

excuse will reach the party of the second part by a round-about route, so that it will convince him, her, or it.

Last and finally, also the fourth place, it is not too good a plan to break dates just for the merry of it. No one will like you better for it, and you won't get a chance to do it often once you start.

Thus ends our text on the popular no credit course. You may have found that it's not a pipe, but it's well worth the taking. When you are ready to graduate, you should be able to take the final without cramming or any crib notes. We do not guarantee to place every graduate from this course, but we are sure that it will help to make sororities, rooming houses and dorms vacant on week-end nights.

● Good Night

WHEN THE SNOWS FALL and the winds blow, don't stand at the open door and like Juliet wish your date a thousand good-nights. Practically, it chills the house and blocks the entrance; actually doesn't it seem a little silly, when that's what you've been doing for the last half hour, and after all you're not going to be parted forever—not even for 12 hours.

WITHOUT DATES

You Can and You Can't But Better Remember that Wisconsin Has Its Grundys

WERE YOU EVER A GIRL and did you ever have to pass three or four fellows on a corner? You are and you have? Well then you've felt like a bundle of cellophane, you've caught remarks slung at you and have felt conscious of being graded A, B, or C—and we'll guarantee you didn't enjoy it and purposefully go back for more. Of course we agree that a good looking gal can't always slip by unnoticed, but here's a hint to the look'er-up-and-downer! If you like her a nice quiet whistle will convey your state of mind better than stage-whisper remarks. How about it?

● **On Your Toes !**

WE FEEL LIKE A FLAT FLUNK when we're stood up, but being stood up *for* makes an A plus-plus feel like nothing compared to us. If youse guys would only put all your weight on your two feet when a petticoat swishes into the room—well, there might be an epidemic of deaths from sudden shock, but a few pleasantly surprised looking corpses could tell a pretty

convincing tale. Some say "Oh, don't get up," but it's a good idea even though everything in sight gets knocked down in the struggle — and then there's always the possibility that if you rise for her she might fall for you.

If you're a co-ed and get a little disgruntled at having to let yourself in and out of cars, here's a swell idea that'll work if you're smart enough to try it—and we're betting one try will do the trick. As soon as the car stops, tear like mad to the door your escort will use, open, and hold it for him. That's a dare! Your compact may come in handy to patch up a red face that isn't yours — but why worry? It's your game.

Some kinds of hold-ups are criminal offenses but we assure you it's no crime to hold up a girl's coat. Only thing is you have to sort of judge distance and height so no broken bones are left lying around after the struggle is over.

● Bovine Mood

GUM CHEWING? Depends on the movement. We say it does things for concentration, fashion says go to it and get beautiful. Whatever the urge it's plainly evident that the gurgling contortionist is unanimously voted down at card tables, in theatres, and such. We agree that the stuff is hard to get rid of second hand — first 'cause it's pretty stick-to-itive and then too, it loses something; but as to the parking problem — sorry, you'll have to use your head—!

● Hangout Hang-Arounding

A HANGOUT may be defined as a haven for that group commonly recognized as sitter-onners, stick-arounders, stay-putters, or what have you—anyway they're always on the spot to greet a chance stopper-inner and might almost be pigeon-holed as living ads for said establishment. We'll grant that cokes help

the day along and gambling machines have a certain come-hither, but it's a darned shame there's no salary, bonus or commission for the patron-perpetual.

Concerning campus-frequented ale-houses, most gals feel that a date is the best kind of pass word. The more bold will go in unescorted — in two's or three's. There might be a question about how late at night you can get away with it — but don't feel just because you haven't got a date you can't do anything or go anywhere. Everybody can't date all the time. Sure — we know — you figure maybe somebody'll see you and feel sorry for poor, lonely, unpopular you. Which is silly, since you might as well go to the movies, a concert, game or whatever's going to happen—rather than sit around and mope because for one evening you've been left out of the shuffle.

● About That Rushing

IF YOU COME TO SCHOOL with the idea of joining a fraternity or sorority you must expect to be picked apart and torn to pieces but you have to grin and bear it. If you try awful gushy hard to impress the club you like, they'll gush you out of the front door. If you sit like a dummy and never open your mouth they don't know you the next time. Your problem is to make somebody think you're swell and we can't lay down any law for that! Anyhow, *don't* call them "frats."

Teas are continually hitting one in the face with what to wear, how much to eat and how long to stay. Occasions vary so you have to decide for yourself or among friends. A street-length afternoon dress with hat and gloves is a pretty good guess for any tea on the campus. We'll agree the food problem is kind of ticklish—they usually put such dainty looking little tit-bits in front of you but nobody wants to be labelled PIG. Eat and run if you have to — some sort of apology is a

good idea. If the conversation sounds dull and makeshift, be all ears anyway and maybe add a witty word or two. If deans or faculty are present be sure and give 'em the hi-sign.

● Ease Not Elegance

IT'S NOT THE CROOKED LITTLE FINGER on the spoon that counts, but the ability to eat watercress bathed in French dressing without getting spots on the tablecloth or looking like a blissful goat in an uncut hayfield.

Ease in performance is the result of constant practice, so if you want real finesse in table manners, you must practice them at every meal. You'll never be an artist if you have one set when there's company and another when it's just the family.

Abstractions don't help much so here are a few musts for a start:

1. Do as the hostess does.
2. Generally progress toward the plate, when selecting the implement you wish to use.
3. Eat and drink noiselessly.
4. Playing with things on the table such as the silver or tallow from the candles is taboo.
5. When finished, lay the knife and fork parallel and resting completely on the plate.
6. When you lay down the spoon with which you are eating a fruit cocktail or dessert, place it on the plate below the glass from which you have been eating.
7. Talk about subjects the whole table can share and enjoy.
8. There should never be a rumpus at the table; some people have touchy nerves and elusive appetites.
9. Criticizing the food at the table is bad "taste."
10. Break a small piece of bread and butter it; cut one piece of meat, eat it, and then cut another.

11. Don't say "I'm sorry" or the equivalent if someone asks for the bread that's near you; after all, you're not supposed to be psychic.

12. Check to see if you hold your silver correctly.

13. Only unfold your napkin half way.

14. At luncheons and dinners you dress as to the hour and function; formal or informal.

● Line Play

THE RECEPTION LINE isn't exactly our favorite campus sport. As lines go it does pretty well at holding out but the attitude of the few stragglers who manage to wade through to the other end is a complete give away. Some shake hands—some don't. Sometimes a crier will yell your name—whereupon you feel conscious of everything that holds you together—but don't fall apart or anything. If your name is just passed along the line you may have to repeat it—that's o.k. If you've forgotten it—blush—you should. Anyway—as long as they're holding out go on through 'em. Nobody'll bite you.

Introductions often get bawled up. In deciding between "Pleasedter meetya" and "How-de-do" choose the latter. You'll find it requires far less effort on your part to get it out. "May I present" is always a safe beginning and of course younger to older and Miss to Mrs., and men to women.

● Terminal Facilities

THIS IS WHAT ONE OF THE FACULTY WIVES calls the ability to know when to go home. Regardless of how glad you are when a few friends drop in Sunday afternoon to call, in time you become bored and anxious to put the finishing touches on the weekend's jobs before the next week starts. Since you are a cordial host, you just don't rise after they've been there one hour and taking them gently but firmly by the elbows push

them toward the door, saying, "It was good of you to stop in, but come again when you can't stay so long." No, you valiantly keep up the conversation with pleasant smiles, which seem to imply that you wish they would stay for at least a half day more.

Leaving is always at the discretion of the guest. He should generally go a little before he would like to, unless his early departure will break up a party that is really not ready to end. Of course, it is possible to drop hints to friends who come into your room that you are just swamped with work, and they will understand and soon depart. Twenty minutes is a good length for a rushee to stay at a formal rushing tea or smoker. If you go calling, make your visits short, since in these parts people are nearly always busy, and a long call will cause a serious deficit in their time budget. And this applies to calls on the faculty at their offices!

Naturally we can make no rules, so we merely ask you to be aware that in spite of your charm, you may very easily outstay your welcome. If you leave when they wish you would stay a little longer, you'll be more welcome the next time.

● Leave It to You

SOME THINGS ARE DONE and some aren't, and we've tried to give a few hints on the hows and whys of campus life. We don't like to make rules, but we'll let you in on one that was not made, but should be followed, at Wisconsin—and that is "be yourself." Manners and customs are to be followed, but don't let them swamp all your individuality. Learn what to do and learn it well, and then stop worrying about what you should do next.

It will save a lot of wrinkles, and wrinkles never made anyone a smoothie.



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