

Few Local Girls; You Have To Import Date

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At a normal (i.e. coeducational) college, a date is a pretty routine affair, hardly different from a date with your girl friend back home. You ask a girl anywhere from a month to an hour in advance; she accepts (or, if she doesn't, you ask someone else); you pick her up at the appointed time; you bring her back by curfew. But at all-male A&M the situation is slightly different and deserves some attention. Here's the gruesome set-up:

The College Station-Bryan area boasts an all-male military college (that's A&M) with more than 6,000 students, an air base with some 3,000 personnel and a military prep school with an enrollment of more than 400.

But the two cities also have a business college, numerous offices and two high schools, and in these places are GIRLS. The only problem is to find a way (preferably a respectable one) to meet them.

The easiest method is to go to church. The local churches are just loaded with young women who are only too happy to extend a welcome to a homeless Aggie. And nothing surpasses this in respectability. The girl can tell her mother, "He's an Aggie, but he must be nice. I met him at church."

Another good way to get a date is to have a car. (Anything with four wheels and a means of propulsion comes under this classification.)

Once your buddies find out that you have a Means of Transportation, you will be swamped with offers of blind dates. With no effort at all on your part, you can have a date any night of the week.

There are other good ways to meet the fair females of the community. Some of these ways are, in brief, working on the various com-

mittees of the Memorial Student Center, visiting professors who have daughters between the ages of 12 and 25, enrolling in the MSC dancing classes (this is a dandy, incidentally), attending community functions, having a roommate who dates a local girl who has friends, hanging around the doors of the high schools at 3:30 in the afternoon, and having friends or relatives in Brazos County.

Once you've met a girl, you've made it over the highest hurdle. The actual date is as simple as Simon. Any advice on the subject can be found in an etiquette book, or in an advice to the lovelorn column.

So we shall move on to another facet of the dating problem at A&M. Let us suppose (a) that there is a big weekend coming up and (b) that all the girls you know in College Station are booked up—this frequently happens—and (c) that you, therefore, are without a date. Do not despair. You can import a girl from out-of-town. In fact, you will discover that you will import most of your dates for big games and dances.

Now on this sort of date the procedure is a little more complicated and probably less familiar to you. The first thing to do is, of course, to invite the girl—at least three weeks in advance. Your letter should be casual, as if this really

weren't a Big Deal. It won't be the last time you write to her about the weekend, so save most of the vital statistics.

Just be sure to mention what the occasion is, when you expect her to come, and how long you want her to stay.

You wait. She won't answer right away because naturally she doesn't want you to think that this isn't old stuff to her. Finally after about ten days you get a letter. Buried on page three is a sentence to the effect that she would love to come. This delay doesn't bother you, because of course you made all the arrangements before you ever asked her, knowing that she wasn't your only possibility.

Your next move is to write the letter of information, a delicate composition which must tell her everything she needs to know without giving her the impression that you doubt her sophistication.

In this letter be sure to say how to get to A&M and when. Don't leave it up to her to look up the train or bus schedules. It's safer to tell her what train to take out of what station at what time arriving where when. If she's new at this game (but for heaven's sake, don't let her know what you think she is!), it's nice to find out which of her friends or schoolmates are coming down for the weekend, so that she can tuck herself under a

wing if she needs one.

Make it plain how to find you when she arrives. You'll meet her at the station if she comes by train or bus. If she comes by car, arrange a specific time and place for the meeting (The MSC is a good place—it's easy to find and has comfortable chairs to sit in while you wait. You'll probably have to wait.)

Let her know what the two of you will do right after she arrives. This clues her about what to wear for the trip. She'll want to know whether she'll have a chance to change clothes or if she'll go directly to a party.

Be sure to tell her exactly where she will stay. The move is to get her a room in the MSC, but chances are that all rooms are booked solid for the next five years. So if neither of you has friends in College Station or Bryan, you'll either keep her in one of the Bryan hotels or else see the Housing Office for a list of rooms for rent. These are in the homes of local families and are usually very inexpensive.

Be precise about the name, address and phone number of the spot (emergency information), and also tell her what kind of place it is. Whether it's an adjoining-bath or a cold-dormitory type of stopover spot makes a difference in her packing.

Finally, give her a semi-detailed sketch of plans for the weekend. You don't have to spell this out quite as carefully as you planned it; the idea is to coach her on what to wear when and where. Be direct only about the big events—whether the dance is formal or informal and if the picnic calls for jeans.

If you don't tell her everything she needs to know, she may try to guess, and she'll probably guess

wrong. And if she turns out to be the only girl at the dance not wearing a formal, she's going to be mighty uncomfortable. And so, my friend, are you.

On the other hand, she might just play it safe in a little "basic black" that she can dress up or down. And there are few garments as unexciting as a "basic black."

Make the plans for the weekend with at least one other classmate, because the secret of college week-end is this: Stay with the crowd. Unless you and she are exceptionally crazy about each other's company, you will find that to be alone on a college weekend is to be lonely and left out.

The way to avoid that is to plan everything in advance with your friends. Don't leave anything at all up to the girls. Nothing will dismay them more than having to speak up about what they want to do. They will expect you to have made all the plans, and if you haven't, you're in for quite a bit of aimless wandering.

As for expenses, they're all on you, from the moment your date arrives to the moment she leaves the

campus. You pay for her room—usually in advance. If you have put her up with local friends where there is no question of paying for the lodging, you give the hostess a bread-and-butter present, and you take your date out for her meals.

Expenses, by the way, can get pretty expensive, especially if your date is a high-toned lass who expects ritzy living quarters, steak for breakfast, and a black orchid for every party. You'll discover, though, that most girls don't have such champagne tastes, and that the amount of money spent on a weekend is not necessarily a measurement of the pleasure derived.

There is only one thing that the girl pays for: that is her transportation. If she brings a car and turns it over to you, you might fill the tank for excursions during the weekend, but you wouldn't pay for her to-and-fro gas any more than you'd send her railroad ticket.

To sum up the whole mess—your career at A&M need not be a series of stag parties. These are women around. They're harder to find than at Denton, for instance, but they do exist.

Money Is a Problem Even at Cheap A&M

Although A&M is one of the least expensive schools in the country, you're going to have to have some money, and money always involves problems.

The best way to keep your

money is to start a checking account in one of the local banks, in either Bryan or College Station. This will keep your money safe, and give you valuable training in handling check stubs and bank books.

When you come to the campus, don't bring all the money you will need in one big check; it will be too difficult to cash. Have a check made out for about the cost of your fees, as outlined in the college bulletins, and have two or three smaller checks made out for books, uniform extras or other clothing.

Your books will run you from \$15 to \$25 dollars, depending on whether you get new or used ones. If you will study engineering or any other major where you will need special tools, like slide rules or drawing instruments, be sure and include the cost of these in your figuring.

If you are going to be in the corps of cadets, you will need some extra uniform items, besides what you will be issued. Your company commander will tell you exactly what, but briefly, you will need a couple of caps, brass and cloth insignia, belts, a khaki shirt and pants suit, and another pair of winter uniform pants.

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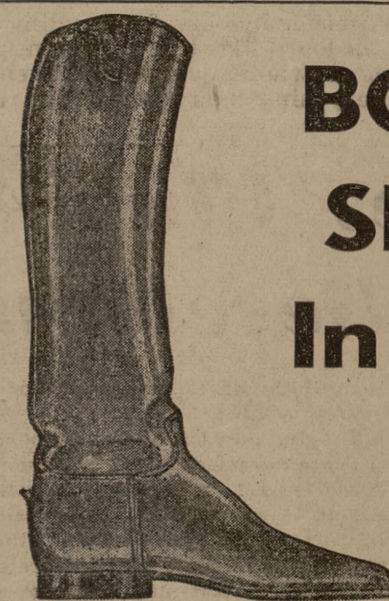
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