

HOW TO DO STUFF BETTER

Part 1 of 5



ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

Today's Lesson: Be suave, always

Avoid embarrassing yourself in public — Let us help you out.

BY MELISSA PANTANO
The Battalion

As the semester rapidly approaches its close, it is apparent some of you just don't get it. We all like to think of ourselves as cool, calm, collected and super-suave, but the truth is a gross majority of us are not much better than the stumbling, drooling high-school kid who cut you off in traffic last week while driving his mother's minivan. Fear not, socially inept ones — help is on the way. Here are a few simple tips to help anyone get through the social trials and tribulations of college life.

Always assume they have caller ID on their phone

The Situation: You go out on a date with a great girl. After you drop her off at her house, you drive home. When you get home, you can't stop thinking about her, so you call her. No answer. So you sit and have a couple of beers with the guys. Once you get a little tipsy, you think you'll call again, just to make sure she made it the 10 feet from her door to her bedroom. No answer, so you call again — at 4 a.m.

How to be suave: With caller-ID being so affordable these days, it's always safe to assume the lady in question has the service. Never call more than two times a day without good reason unless you are playing phone tag. This is the easiest way to scare off a girl before you even get to know her.

Shelley Klotz, a senior psychology major, knows the annoying nature of a persistent tele-Romeo.

"I went out with this guy once," she said. "He called like 15 times the next day and then hung up each time."

Klotz said his unsuave antics killed the relationship before it even started.

"I wasn't sure if I was interested," she said. "But after he called 15 times, I feared that he was becoming a psycho stalker."

Women have facial features as well as bosoms

The Situation: You are at a party with your girlfriends when you see this really cute guy from across the keg. You catch his eye on the way to the potty, so

you stop and talk for a while. To your dismay, you find yourself picking his chin out of your cleavage and wiping the saliva dripping from his mouth as he attempts to have an intelligent conversation.

How to be suave: Although some girls do not mind the attention, most find it really annoying to be seen solely as sexual objects. Contrary to popular belief, some chicks do have features above the collarbone.

Surprisingly to some, not all guys are pigs. Some stare about six inches too low without even noticing what they are doing.

Chad Steitle, a senior biomedical engineering major, said some guys are just shy — not perverted.

"A lot of guys have trouble looking people in the face, especially pretty girls," he said.

Steitle said sometimes testosterone just takes over. "Some of it is hormones, but some guys are just really shy," he said.

Margaret Griffith, health education coordinator at the A.P. Beutel Health Center, said not all males are drooling heathens.

"Not all guys do that," she said. "Some are very sensitive to the way girls feel about it."

Griffith said guys who stare on purpose are not impressing anyone.

"If there's a feature that stands out about that person, that's the one that your eyes are going to be drawn to," she said. "But some guys who do it intentionally to impress their friends need to know that girls really hate it."

Only meatheads get involved in bar brawls

The Situation: You are sitting at The Chicken with your buds when a big, drunken redneck trips over your foot and spills his pitcher of beer all over himself. He turns around, his eyes red, as he explains he had to pawn his tractor to buy the pitcher. As his massive overall-clad body stands over you, you must decide whether to fight and die at the hands of this merciless animal or flee and live.

How to be suave: Ok, so we've all heard the line, "The bigger man walks away," but the truth is nothing is more important to the typical male than his sense of pride.

Lorna Breault, coordinator of first-year student alcohol education for the Department of Student Life al-

cohol- and drug-education programs, said pride should not take precedence over responsibility.

"It's just not worth the risk," she said. "There is a risk of being arrested, jail time and of physical harm."

Breault said the financial risk alone should be enough to hinder fighting words.

"Who wants to spend all of this time and money going to college to mess it up?" she said. "If you get arrested, you could go to jail and have that on your record, which could keep you from getting a job. Also, there is the cost of being in jail, bail and the possibility of being sued by the other person or the bar owner."

Don't pay with gift certificates

The Situation: You are out on a date with a cute guy from one of your classes. You meet at a popular chain restaurant for a great dinner. Things are going well until the check comes. He picks it up, looks at it and reaches for his wallet. You offer to pay (any chick worth her salt would), but he nods and says, "No, I've got this one." Suddenly, all of the violins in the background come to a screeching halt as he pulls out a prepaid gift card, waves it in your face and says with a drawl he hasn't had all night, "I wouldn't have taken ya to this nice, fancy place if I didn't have this."

How to be suave: Everyone understands college finances. Not everyone has an unending money tree (Mommy and Daddy) to pay for everything. But come on, kids — show a little class. Don't do more than you can afford. If Taco Bell is all that your job will allow you to buy, so be it. Don't cheapen the date and make the other person feel uncomfortable by using Aunt Frita's Christmas gift.

Brandi Leggett, a senior recreation, parks and tourism sciences major, said paying with a gift card does not make a difference to her as long as the guy shows a little class.

"It doesn't matter to me if he pays with gift certificates," she said. "But if he made a big deal about it and said something, I think I might be creeped out."

One does not need to be a British secret agent to be ultra-cool in any situation. Just remember — canned soda is best neither shaken nor stirred.

ATTENTION BBA AND MBA STUDENTS



Billion-Dollar Fort Worth Hedge Fund is coming to campus!

WANTED:

BBA

Junior Analyst
Junior Trader
Junior Accountant

MBA

Assistant Portfolio Manager
European Arbitrage Analyst

Interested Candidates are Invited to Attend
an *Information Session on Q Investments*
November 3rd, 5:30-6:45 p.m. in 302 Rudder

Resumes and cover letters to campusrecruiting@acmewidget.com
Minimum GPA 3.5, SAT >1200

Investments is an equal opportunity employer