

A Gift For My FAVORITE MAN

by *Martha Burleigh*

Technical Journalism Sophomore

Too often, choosing a gift for your favorite man can become a panic instead of a pleasure.

"Should I even get him a present?—How much should I spend?—What would he like?" There's no better way to find the answers than to ask the source of your dilemma—the men themselves. That's just what the Homemaker staff did, and their quizzing of a cross-section of Iowa State men turned up the following gift-buying guides.

Is a Gift in Order?

The length of time fellows feel they should date a girl before a gift is in order varied. Slightly over half said that 3-6 months was long enough, while about a fourth said 1-3 months. Fifteen per cent specified 6-12 months, and only three per cent thought the couple should have dated over a year.

Should a girl give a fellow a gift if they aren't going steady? Sixty three per cent of the men questioned thought she should, while thirty five per cent said no. Several felt that under mutual agreement, exchange of gifts was proper.

Do fellows always expect a gift from a girl if they give her one? "No," said an eighty four per cent majority. Only sixteen per cent thought this was necessary.

How Much Will I Spend?

When asked how much money a girl should spend on the gift, the men agreed that she should keep within a reasonable price range. "If she buys something expensive we feel obligated to match the gift," they commented.

Sixty nine per cent set the amount at \$5, twenty nine per cent at \$10 and two per cent said \$15. Many fellows added that the value of the gift needn't increase with the seriousness of the couple's relationship. "If they're serious enough to be pinned or engaged she should be saving her money for a future home," said one man.

What Type Gift Will I Buy?

What type of gift to buy is the next problem. When asked if they felt it's poor taste for a girl to give them personal gifts such as clothes, over ninety per cent answered "no." Of the remaining nine per cent saying "yes," one boy qualified his answer by saying, "It all depends on how well you know her."

Eighty per cent of those interviewed said they preferred practical gifts, in contrast to the fourteen per cent who like impractical gifts.

Men like to buy personal things such as hobby equipment for themselves, according to eighty four per cent of the fellows questioned. Several of the twelve per cent who favor such a gift added that the girl should find out what equipment they need and not just buy blindly.

Men Rate These Favorite

And now for the check list of what the men rated as their favorite gifts—

Sweaters came in first with forty nine per cent of the vote. Next came shirts with twenty one per cent. Jewelry, records and shaving lotion each were chosen by seven per cent. Hobby equipment received the votes of four per cent. Books polled only three per cent of the vote, and ties were named by only one per cent.

The fellows came up with a variety of answers when quizzed about how the ladies should find out exactly what they wanted for Christmas. Most preferred being surprised, while some thought their girl should put her feminine ingenuity to work with a little discreet questioning. Many suggested talking to the fellow's roommate to get a masculine viewpoint on the gift.