

# FORMALS MEN PREFER

by Nancy Butler

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Here it is—an approximation of the man's ideal formal. Patricia Jones, home economics sophomore, models the white net gown and stole from Tilden's.

**I**T'S REALLY a beautiful formal, but I'm not sure it's the type that would make a hit at college." Vicky couldn't help overhearing this remark made by a perplexed young woman who was gazing at her reflection in a department store mirror. The idea of taking a poll to discover Iowa State men's preferences in the line of formals had once occurred to Vicky and, seeing the girl's worried look, she was convinced that many of her college friends would welcome any information she could gather on the subject.

Vicky found Iowa State men were firmly convinced that the type of formal depends a lot on the type of girl. Therefore, she had them imagine that their date for the formal was the perfect girl who could wear any type equally well before deciding which type they would prefer.

The questions Vicky asked and the results she got are below:

*Q. Do you prefer extreme or more conventional formals?*

Vicky found that almost all prefer the more conventional type of formal. "I don't mind seeing someone else's date in something extreme, but I don't want my date to look startling," is the way one senior puts it.

*Q. Which length do you like best—ballet or long?*

Almost 75% of the men Vicky interviewed are in favor of the long skirt. "It looks more like a formal," sums up their reasons for this. Some like ballet length formals because, "You don't have to worry about stepping on them."

*Q. Are you in favor of strapless formals or formals with sleeves?*

Formals with sleeves rate first and off-the-shoulder

formals second and strapless rated third. "I think the girl seems more at ease and can concentrate more on having a good time than on her dress," one junior, who favored off-the-shoulder formals, commented.

*Q. Does the slinky or demure type formal appeal to you most?*

This, Iowa State men agree, depends a lot on the type of girl, but still the ones questioned are overwhelmingly in favor of the demure type. "I might look twice at the slinky type, but I'd rather my date didn't try to look so sophisticated," was one idea on the subject.

*Q. What color do you prefer for formals?*

Vicky found that on the whole, men prefer a color to black or white for a formal although there were a few strong supporters of black and white, too. Pastels are favored over bright colors on the grounds that they're more feminine and are well suited for evening wear.

Summing up her results Vicky concluded that men of Iowa State prefer a ruffled, demure off-the-shoulder formal with a long full skirt in a plain pastel material. She decided her poll might prove useful to a college woman who just can't make up her mind about a formal. Of course, the first consideration in choosing, as men themselves point out, should be whether the particular style or color is becoming to her.

And when the big night of the formal comes, Vicky advises, don't worry about your dress. Just relax and have a wonderful time.