

# Only the Lonely

Study charts how lonely college students stay lonely with 'dating drought'

By ALLISON LUCAS

The Daily Northwestern, Northwestern U.

Loneliness can be a major factor leading to bad dating strategies on college campuses, according to a study done by two Northwestern U. professors.

Northwestern communication studies Professor Michael Roloff and former Asst. Prof. Robert Bell examined loneliness in relation to dating strategies on campus from a sample of 178 undergraduates.

Students were asked to evaluate their loneliness level. The professors then created a loneliness scale ranging from zero to 80, according to Bell, who is now at the U. of California, Davis.

The poll then asked how students would pursue a romantic relationship and what

they would write in a monologue for a college dating service, Roloff said.

The study found lonely people less likely to put themselves into situations where they would meet new people.

"They were less likely to use contrived encounters," Roloff said. "On the other hand, people who are not lonely choose situations where they could meet new people."

Sarah Young, a junior at Northwestern, agreed.

"The loneliest people are the ones who lock themselves in their rooms and don't meet people," Young said. "When you go out, you always see the same people, and it's always the outgoing, very friendly types who are there. The quiet and shy don't meet people."

Gabi Kahn, a junior at Wesleyan U., said lonely students aren't always perceived as lonely. Sometimes they are viewed as independent. The drawback, Kahn said, is that you don't really get to know people. "People at Wesleyan feel like they don't want to put themselves on the line."

In the second part of the study, students were asked to write out a monologue for a hypothetical video dating service.

Lonelier people were more likely to give information, such as "name, rank and serial number," Bell said. But if the information was personal, they tended to leave it out.

People who were less lonely described their personalities and the things they liked to do, Roloff said. "Non-lonely people would give more of a description of 'who I am.'"



JOHN LIN, THE TARTAN, CARNEGIE MELLON U.

## Residents

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Julio Lana, a senior at the U. of Missouri, Columbia, has lived on Bouchelle Avenue for more than a year. Her neighborhood is across the street from the UM campus, just behind a row of fraternity houses.

Although Columbia recently passed zoning laws similar to Gainesville's, the mix of residents on Bouchelle works well.

"Bouchelle is pretty quiet," Lana said. "When kids do throw parties, they try to keep the noise down. Our neighbors have only asked us to tell them which nights we'll throw a party so they can go out for the evening and avoid the worst of it."

"...The cars were all blocking the streets, and people were urinating in all of the neighbors' yards... I guess we didn't live up to their standards."

—Reggie Grant

Lana's neighbors, both attorneys, gave free legal advice to the students and even attended a few of their parties.

However, not all Columbia residents are as eager to share their space with the louder, more active student population. Chester Edwards, a Columbia city councilman, was recalled from office earlier this year after endorsing a student housing development near an already-established neighborhood.

Less than a month later, the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority purchased a house in a residential area, only to be chased out when their neighbors filed a lawsuit to block the women from moving into the house.

But some areas use the student-resident relationship to a mutual advantage. At the U. of Wisconsin, Madison, both sides have respect for each other.

"It's pretty good here," said Greg Larson, a junior at UW. "There's one UW student on the town council, and the mayor's a UW alumni, so the city gets along with the students."

Bob Brennan, director of local affairs at the Madison Chamber of Commerce, said the good student-resident relations are sweetened by the money UW brings into town. A recent study by Brennan showed that \$2.4 billion is pumped into the local economy each year by UW and its 45,000 students.

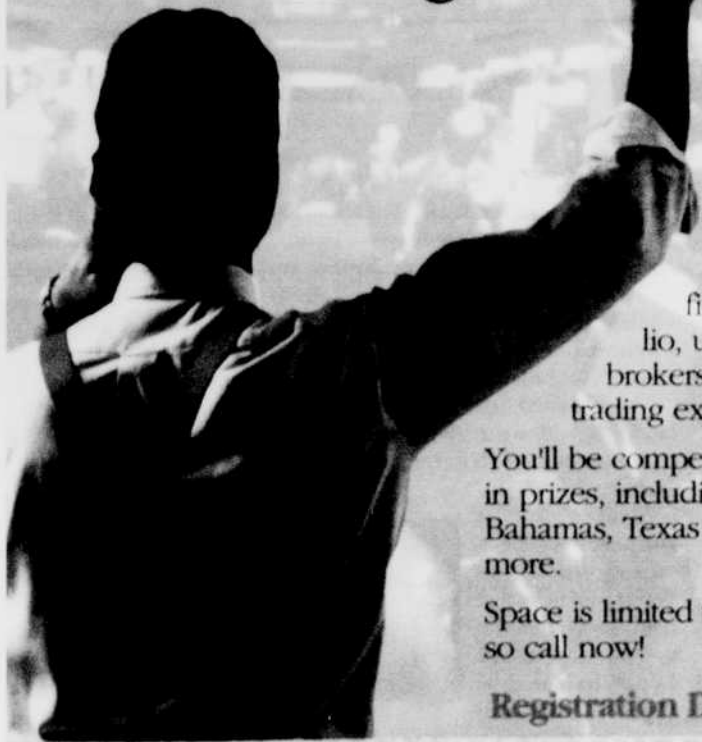
In larger cities, however, the college barely affects the economy. Georgetown U. and George Washington U., both in Washington, D.C., often are targets of local neighborhood associations who want students to stay on campus.

"Our relations with the residents are not that good," said Ted Goestch, a GWU student. "They don't like us. They call the police on us when we throw parties."

"Every year, they meet with the university president and yell at him."

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