

# Courtship Adjourned?

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PHOTO BY BARBARA WITZ,  
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REMEMBER IT WELL. SHE WORE FLANNEL — ripped. Her nose ring glistened like a morning dewdrop. She danced with ease, never once spilling her beer.

Damn. Of all the dollar-pitcher joints in all the college towns in the world — she had to walk into mine.

Ah, college romance. Instead of dressing up, spritzing on cologne and trying to remember which is the salad fork, we're hooking up, popping in gum to cover beer breath and trying to remember what name we gave to the person we're dancing with.

*What happened to dating?*

## Cashless society

The answer may be pathetically simple: poverty. We aren't dating in the traditional style because we're broke. Hanging out in groups and meeting people at parties is much more economical than going on individual dates.

"It's costing more and more to go to college, and parents and students aren't making more and more," points out Anita Cory, coordinator of Greek affairs for sororities at Washington State U. "Stu-

dents can't afford dating the stereotypical way. It becomes studying together or going to campus events."

And when someone goes on an actual date, it *is* a campus event, Cory says.

"There's this student I know pretty well who asked a girl out, and after the first date, he sent her flowers. All of the students were just amazed. It was such a novel idea."

Group dates, however, allow you to take inventory, to decide if you're ready to commit to the bigger investment of a real date.

"Mostly, I meet girls at a party, then ask them to go out on a date," says Jason Willey, a senior at Marshall U. in West Virginia. "I don't go out on too many dates. Sometimes I'll see them again at another party and go from there."

## If it feels good...

The answer may be even more simple: We don't date because we don't have to. If there are always other fish in the sea, the Campus Ocean is where to cast your line. See, dating used to be something you did for awhile before you had sex. These days, it's often the other way around.

"Dating is more like a drunken hook-up than a nice dinner and a movie," says Jeanne Fugate, a senior at the U. of North Carolina. "Last night I heard some guys talking. One of them was going on about how he actually took a girl out to dinner — spent probably \$10 — and was upset because she wouldn't have sex with him."

Our parents didn't have this problem. But they



The jury's still out on whether dating is dead