

Easy Money

IT MAY SEEM LIKE LOTtery players are just throwing their money away, but if you're in college, they might actually be throwing money at you.

Thirty-seven states operate lotteries, and several earmark a percentage of lottery money for higher education.

DOLLARS

For some Georgia high school students, the lottery is their only HOPE of going to college. Since 1993, about 200,000 students have cashed in on Georgia's HOPE (Helping Outstanding Students Educationally) scholars program, which allows any Georgia high schooler with a 3.0 to go to any college in Georgia — public or private — for free. The program, funded by the Georgia Lottery for Education, gives students a renewable scholarship, including full tuition, fees and a book stipend.

One-third of the Georgia lottery, which earns around \$550 million annually, is reserved to

fund HOPE scholarships. This fall, 97 percent of the entering in-state students at the U. of Georgia are HOPE scholars, as are 98 percent of in-state freshmen at Georgia Tech.

Governor Zell Miller, a former college professor, created the HOPE program to help students in the same predicament he faced as a student. After two years of community college, Miller ran out of funds to continue his education and joined the Marines. The G.I. Bill allowed him to get his degree later.

"I recently met a nurse in DeKalb. She makes \$28,000 and has three kids in college. All of them are HOPE scholars," Miller says. Without help, she couldn't have sent one, he says.

Other states with lotteries reserve between 30 and 38 percent of lottery profits for education. California's lottery, designed solely to benefit education, gives 34 percent of sales to schools. Of the \$8 billion generated since 1985, the state's community college system received 12.57 percent; the California State U. system, 4.22 percent; and the U. of California system, 2.42 percent. The lottery's official Web site (<http://www.calottery.com>) lets students pinpoint exactly how much money was given to their school.

Florida had been in a three-year revenue drop when the lottery was established in 1988. According to Rebecca Negrón, a representative in the Florida state lottery office, ticket sales now average \$800 million. In 1995-96, the lottery raked in more than \$124 million for higher education.

When it comes to the lottery, looks like you *don't* have to play to win.

By Megan Christensen, Moorhead State U., Minn./
Illustration by Joseph Wos, Carlow College, Pa.



'50s: Wanna go steady? '90s: Wanna move in?

Live-in Learn

BIRDS DO IT, BEES do it, even educated fleas — um, college students, actually — do it. But unlike the song, these young couples aren't just falling in love. They're taking the next step: cohabitation.

The "C" word for young couples in the '90s is that twilight zone between single and married life — a fifth dimension, where dating and sex mingle with housecleaning and phone bills.



"It's a test drive to marriage," says two-time cohabiter Michael Hallstone, a sociology grad student at the U. of Hawaii. "Do I really want to buy this model?"

For years, sociologists have argued whether cohabiting will prepare a couple for a blissful marriage or lead them down the highway to relationship hell. But one thing is certain: Move in with people, and you'll get to know the real, uncensored, unrestrained *them*.

"He's much messier than I thought," says Erin Weston, a U. of Houston grad student, of her live-in mate.

When the happy couple moved in together, both cited financial convenience as one of the biggest reasons. But Roland H. Johnson III, a Blinn College, Texas, sociology instructor, says the sexes usually cohabit for different reasons.

"Most females really believe they are going to marry the guy," he says. "But young men say their No. 1 reason for cohabitation is readily available sex."

Johnson says couples can also face problems with division of labor, finances and parental disapproval — the fear of which can cause the whole relationship to become a lie.

"I don't really want my dad to know," says a California State U., Fresno, junior, who wishes to remain anonymous. "He just thinks my boyfriend comes over a lot."

The psychology major admits that living together without the safety net of a commitment can be difficult, but she hopes cohabitation will lead to something more permanent.

"I don't know if we'll get married," she says. "You can't say you will or you'll jinx it. But I hope so."

By Lisa M. Chmiola, U. of Houston

Guest Expert: Sandra Bernhard

On shackin' up: "It's fun and a little more innocent than it will be five years from now. Then the buck stops and the whip comes down, so have fun while you can."

Shackin' Stats

Thinking about popping the not-quite-so-big question? Well, here are some facts you should know about shackin' up before you sign on to the lease.

- About 15 percent of people in their early 20s have lived with a partner.
- The average cohabitation lasts less than one year.
- The number of young cohabiting couples has risen from 500,000 in 1970 to 3.6 million today.
- Although studies vary widely, cohabiting before marriage generally doesn't affect marital satisfaction or divorce rates.
- There is a higher level of domestic violence in ongoing cohabiting relationships than in ongoing marriages.
- Most housework is done by the woman in both cohabiting relationships and marriage.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Kristin A. Moore, Ph.D., Child Trends Inc.; Yllo, K. and Straus, M.A., Family Relations; Stafford, R., Journal of Marriage and the Family; Cole, C., Cohabitation in Social Context; Newcomb, M., and Bentler, P., Journal of Personality Assessment.

Massachusetts — It's illegal for a hotel manager to allow a woman to room with more than one man for 30 days if the room is smaller than 400 square feet.

Cleveland — Women are not allowed to wear patent-leather shoes because they might reflect up her dress.

Mississippi — S & M is against the law. Specifically: "The depiction or description of flagellation or torture by or upon a person who is nude or clad in undergarments or in a bizarre or revealing costume for the purpose of sexual gratification."

Minnesota — Bestiality — "whoever carnally knows a dead body or an animal or bird is guilty" — is illegal.

Fairbanks, Alaska — It's illegal for two moose to have sex on the city sidewalks.