



Voice illustration by Jovian Turnbull

IS LOVE LOST?

By Charmell Harris
Voice Features Editor

It doesn't appear that many people on campus are trying to establish serious relationships with one another. That is not necessarily a bad thing. After all, many students are young and/or need to keep their focus on their education. But one would think that part of the college experience includes dating and learning to interact and have meaningful connections with others.

Much of the choice to date casually has to do with student schedules, their different attitudes about relationships and their own personal goals.

"[Dating] is too overrated. You're here in college trying to learn. It's cool to [be in] a relationship, but it takes a lot of time," said junior busi-

ness major Anthony Johnson.

Time seems to be the biggest impediment on student's "love lives." Those in the nursing program, ROTC and students who play sports have very rigorous schedules and many feel that they just lack the time it takes to nurture a relationship.

"[I don't flirt] because if I do and I end up liking him, it would just take my mind away from school," said freshmen biology major Tysha Monroe.

Instead of having a serious girlfriend or boyfriend, many just want to "hang out" and enjoy each other's company. Students do not want to have to give their relationships a "title."

The thing that many people worry about is not students dating, but students being safe in dating atmospheres.

7 tips to keep you safe on a date

Pamela Smith, of the Personal Development Office, is a counselor who specializes in working with students who have relationship issues. She advises that students listen to their instincts when out socializing to keep safe. She suggests that students follow these dating tips to help prevent dangerous incidents:

- **When going on a first date**, meet at a public place and have your own transportation.
- **Trust your instincts.** If you feel uncomfortable, if you feel like you are in danger, most likely you are.
- **Do not let friends**, family or your date convince you to go against your gut instincts. You may be wrong but it is better to be safe than sorry.

- **NO ALWAYS** means NO!
 - **Never leave your food or beverages unattended**, if you do so, discard it and get another one. You never know what people will put in there.
 - **Be aware of your alcohol and drug intake** while out on a date. You will not be in a clear state of mind, leaving you vulnerable for people to take advantage of you.
 - **Know the signs of an abusive relationship** (controlling, putting you down, isolation) and avoid
- "Dating is risky because you don't know this person. You should go into it with your eyes open and start out as friends. That's what dating is about, getting to know people," said Mrs. Smith.