

Prince Charming: A Thing of the Past?

BY MAILI LIM

The woman of today is nothing like her grandmother.

No. The recent trend observed in today's youth leads psychologists to believe we are undergoing yet another sexual revolution not seen since the 1960s. The problem is not that we have entered an era where the behavior of teenagers on the dating scene is troubling; rather, it is that we have entered an era where the idea of courtship and dating is becoming obsolete altogether.

So what is the rationale behind some 70-80% of college students on campus participating in the exchange of sexual favors before even the exchange of names (*The Week*, "Love in the Time of Hooking Up")? Granted, times have changed over the past century; the portrait our society paints of the "acceptable" is indeed a far cry from that of our grandmothers' generation. But as uninhibited sexual activity begins to replace relationships, we neglect to see how the situational power of today's young women drops substantially.

From an evolutionary standpoint, this current trend in behavior does not piece together logically at all. It is widely accepted among biologists that females, by nature, are pickier than males when it comes down to the selection of a partner.

According to *Psychology Today* article "Sexual Liberation: Whose Sexuality is Liberated, Men's or Women's?", the female's significant investment and energy expense in the offspring as opposed to that of the male leads to the inevitable differences in sexual motivation between the genders. In theory, the judicious nature of females pushes males to compete against each other for this womanly "resource".

Scientifically, women and men have different needs; this discrepancy is bound to manifest in behavioral differences. The male's eagerness to mate is universal; in every country of the world, men beat out women with their interest in non-committal relationships (*Psychology Today*).

While there are still women who claim to be interested only in casual sex, let's look at this realistically. What woman wouldn't want to be the lucky

girl in a Nicholas Sparks fairytale? Still, numerous women proudly assert their masculine insensitivity to the issue, claiming they can play the same game of "no-strings-attached" as men do.

But between men and women, whose basic psychological needs are truly being met? A survey conducted in 2007 found that men are three times likelier than women to feel satisfied with a one-night-stand: women are twice as likely to regret the decision. According to *The Week*, this psychological phenomenon becomes even more prevalent on college campuses. With the increasing number of sexually available women (some 100 females for every 75 males on college campuses), women continue to give themselves away under "high supply, low demand" circumstances (*Psychology Today*). This leaves women with no choice but to behave more like men in order to keep up in the romantic race.

In the end, women lose far more than just virginity: respect is frequently lost in the process. In other words, once Prince Charming realizes that he doesn't need to be a Prince in order to get what he wants, why should he still act like one? In spite of this loss, recreational sexual activity is still argued as a means for power and control. But in all actuality, women have relinquished much of their power in being able to harness a secure emotional commitment.

And what happens when the evening is over? While young women today are indeed experiencing a "sexual liberation" from previous decades, it may not be all that it's cracked up to be. "You have contact with many, many more people, but each of those relationships takes up a little bit less of your life," one 25-year-old woman living in New York City confessed to *The Week*. "That fragmentation creates a lot of loneliness."

With the tables turned, we begin to wonder if this isn't a sexual revolution for men after all. So what happens, ladies, when we give ourselves over too easily? Where are our knights in shining armor?

No wonder chivalry is dead.

Students Respond to Internet Cut-off

BY KEXIN YIN

In today's society, it is becoming harder and harder for teens to live without the internet because it is the place where they go to download music, to find information, to play video games, to watch movies, and to keep in touch with friends.

As students of North Carolina School of Science and Math, our dependence on the internet is even more greater due to the fact that it is the main source used by the school faculty to provide vital information to all students; it is the medium used to find and turn in homework and to keep from going insane during winter when sundown is at 5PM.

Although the standard 1 A.M. internet-cutoff was not implemented at the very beginning of the year, due to parental concerns, the administration began cutting internet off at 1 A.M. again. The reasoning is that the internet cut off would prompt students to finish their homework before 1 A.M. and to go to sleep earlier than they would normally have; however, many students are not happy with this change.

Junior Jane Ma stated, "I get that the administration's intentions are good, and they

simply want us to get to sleep in a timely manner. But honestly, I have a lot of work some nights, especially with [swim] practice and meets, and a lot of times that work requires the internet. I find myself going to sleep at 2 or 3 A.M. and then getting up at 5 A.M. to finish internet work. I realize the smart thing to do would be to do all the internet work first, but sometimes I just don't have enough time."

However, many adults are worried that if the internet is left on until later, students are likely to spend most of their time on social-networking sites such as Facebook.com, or just procrastinating in general.

When asked how the Facebook website affects her studying habits, Brooke McKenna, a junior, answered, "I feel like it really depends on the people. For me, I set goals and only allow myself to sign onto Facebook when I finish a certain amount of homework and so on. But yes, I can see how the site could be distracting and take away time from school work especially when looking at pictures and using Facebook chat."

Ryan Boodee, a senior voiced his own opinion, "I think that Facebook, even while a distraction, can provide a nice medium by which

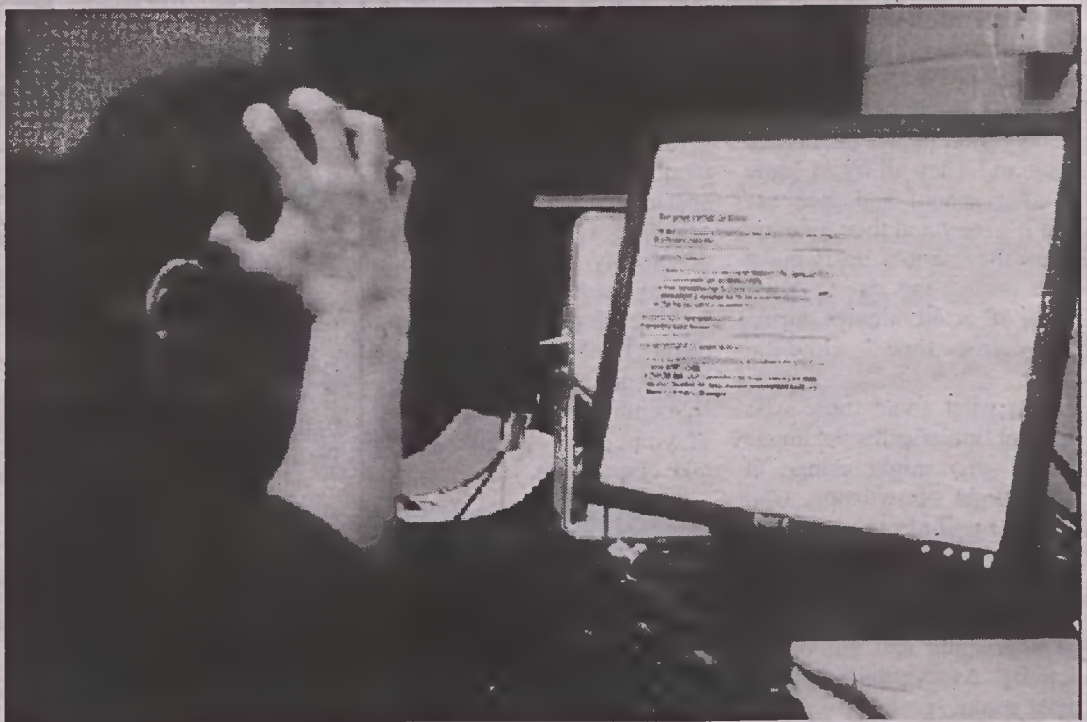
you can communicate on group projects, which I personally, seem to be spending a great deal of time doing."

As for the internet cut-off, Boodee's take on it is that it is a decrease in efficiency that students have to learn to deal with. He also believes that the internet cut off is not helping students finish their homework early and go to bed. Boodee believes "it [internet cut-off] ensures that if students need to work after one, they find themselves unnecessarily burdened by the lack of ability to do research required for classes."

It can be concluded that while the internet cut-off is a good idea, it is not suited for all of the students' working habits, and the belief that Facebook hinders most students' ability to work is simply not true because even if Facebook disappeared, those who have bad self control can still find other addictive sites on which they could pass time.

Many students would like their parents to rethink the internet cut-off and consider the situation more closely because NCSSM is not the typical high school that parents are used to dealing with.

Opinions? Write a letter to stentorian@ncssm.edu



Senior Daniel Jones is just short of pulling his hair out over Moodle and NCSSM At a Glance not working after 1am. •Photo courtesy of Dustin Burleson

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