

It's a Date, I Think

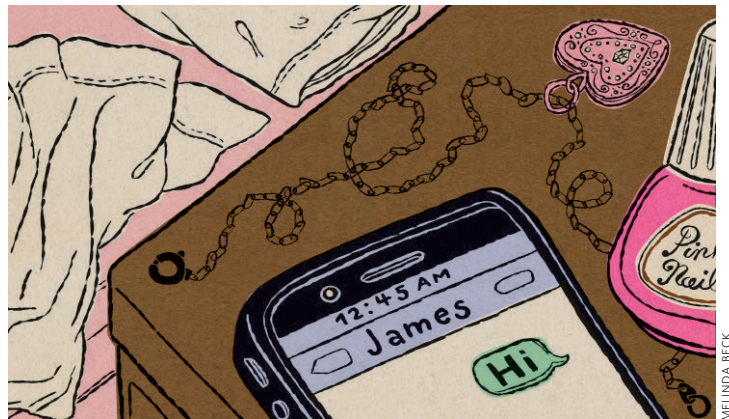
A campus-wide survey on how students date reveals preferences, piques

BY AMY LASKOWSKI

WHEN IT COMES to dating, this generation of college students is writing its own rules, and often deleting them as quickly as they are written. Bulldozed by social media, buffeted by changing attitudes, today's dating landscape can be a baffling place, and BU is in some ways more confusing than most.

According to a survey conducted last winter by the daily news site *BU Today* and answered by more than 4,000 students, it's not always clear that a date is a date, it's hard to know when a relationship is a relationship, and the best clue to the true nature of an invitation is often the time of day (or night) that it's issued. (Male and female students agree that any suggestion to get together that arrives after midnight can be construed as a "booty call." Students of other gender identities put the demarcation at 10 p.m.)

The nonscientific survey, which asked about such things as what constitutes a date and the usefulness of



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social media, tells us much about the dating preferences of students on the Charles River Campus. Looks are less important than personality, a group date is not a real date, and online dating sites are creepy.

College, it turns out, also happens to be a wake-up call: 48.4 percent of female respondents say their love life has been disappointing. Popular wisdom blames that frustration on BU's lopsided female-to-male undergraduate ratio—9,935 to 6,689 last year—but in fact, the ratio is similar at most

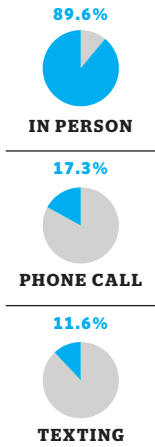
colleges across the country.

Curiously, the survey shows that the generation that studies, plays, and meets online has the best luck meeting love interests the old-fashioned way: through friends, around campus, in classes, and at parties. The preferred method of asking or being asked out is in person, by a wide margin.

And what, exactly, is a date these days? Is it hanging out together? Can a group going out together be a date? Apparently not: most students believe it is a date only "as long as it's the two of us."

Dating by the numbers at BU

BEST WAY TO ASK SOMEONE OUT:



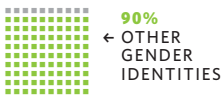
ARE THERE ENOUGH ROMANTIC PROSPECTS AT BU?

"NO"

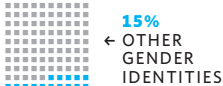
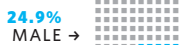
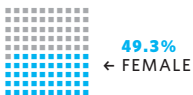
SAID
75% OF FEMALES
30% OF MALES
75% OF OTHER GENDER IDENTITIES

WHEN IS IT OK TO HAVE SEX?

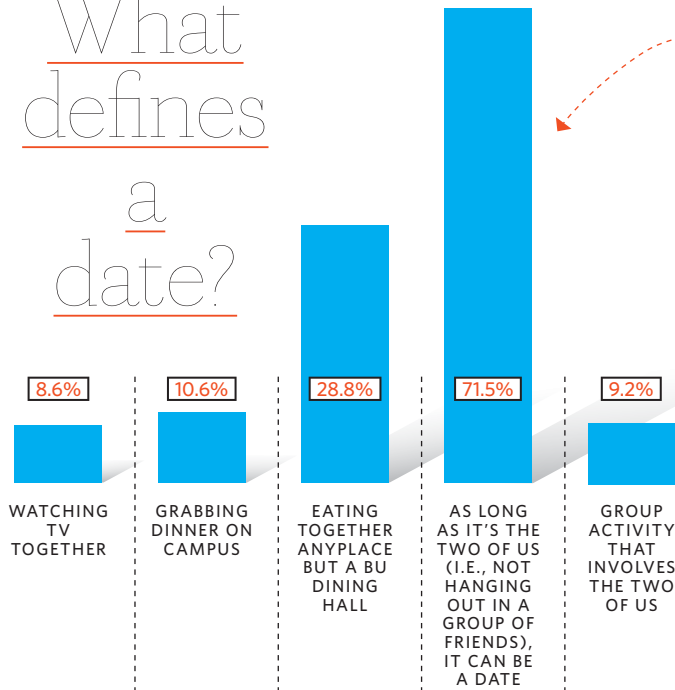
"ANYTIME"



"IN A SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP"



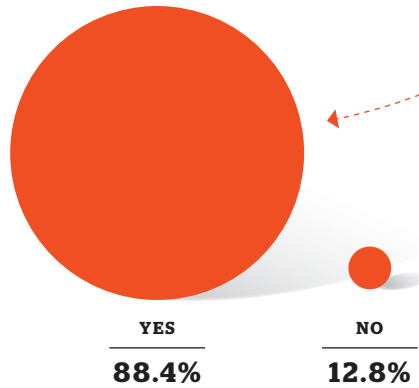
What defines a date?



"Romance used to be about two people. Now, it's about two people and all of their Facebook friends."

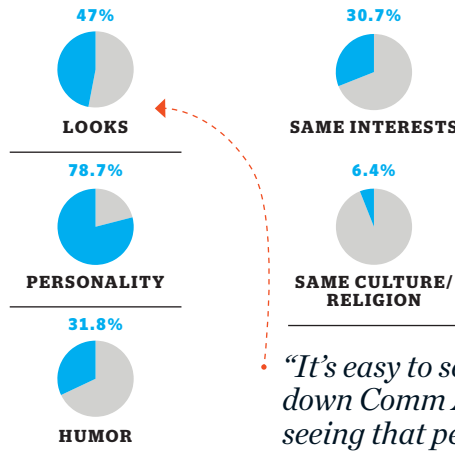
"It's college. You hook up a lot and maybe you'll find someone you'll fall in love with."

Do you think there is more of an emphasis in college on hooking up than on actual dating?

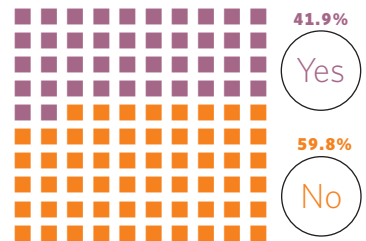


"So much...is lost in social media. You don't have to work toward getting to know someone."

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TRAIT YOU LOOK FOR IN SOMEONE?



HAS SOCIAL MEDIA TAKEN THE ROMANCE OUT OF ROMANCE?



"It's easy to see attractive people as you walk down Comm Ave, but the chances of ever seeing that person again are very low."