

## HOW TO DO STUFF BETTER

Part 4 of 5



JEFF SMITH/THE BATTALION

## Today's Lesson: Crash and burn


Ladies, if you let him down, let him down easy — Let us help you out.

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The Battalion

**S**o here's the situation: Take Joe College on a Friday night. He's got his hair combed and cemented into place and is actually wearing a clean shirt. After a little daily affirmation in the bar's bathroom mirror, he concludes that tonight all his lonesome doldrums will be succumbed with a little feminine sunshine. He tackles the bar and scans the p.m. crowd.

He sees you. You see him see you. As he makes his way across the crowd, you notice his fly is down and he has sweat rings around his armpits the size of a small head. When he finally reaches you and manages to get out an old-fashioned "Can I buy you a drink?" all you can do is laugh in his face before stumbling back to your girlfriends, so they, too may join in on the comedy.

Ladies, if you are experiencing *deja-vous*, read on. Maybe it's time to think about the groveling male and the bar trauma you are putting him through. Guys have feelings, too, and it's not always easy to approach the babes when he's been clumsy and clueless since puberty.


 Safety in numbers.

**Situation:** It's Ladies' Night Out and you and your girlfriends are dressed to salivate all the hyper-hormonal hearts. As you sip on a beer, a cold clammy hand taps your shoulder and you turn to face a sweet-faced — though not particularly attractive — guy attempting contact. Every girl at the table leans in to hear his line, and you just coolly cock a brow and say, "Yes?"

**Solution:** Though maybe there's nothing particularly wrong with this scene to you, remember bumbling gorillas are extremely intimidated by overwhelming amounts of estrogen. Try a warm smile to put him at ease. Then, if you're not interested, politely tell him so.

Bill Kopesky, an oceanography graduate student, said girls always seems to travel in packs.

"Women at bars usually are in a group," he said. "They seem more stuck up and snobby when they're all together than when you just approach them alone."


 The drink-and-run maneuver.

**Situation:** A not-half-bad prospect has just offered to buy you a drink. He seems nice, but you've been thinking about getting back with your ex, so you're not particularly interested. However, a drink sure would be nice. You go ahead and let him pick up the tab, and after cautiously making sure it tastes up to par, you graciously thank him and then bail.

**Solution:** Admit it ladies — you've all pulled the drink-and-run stunt, but did you ever think about how this makes the guy feel? He's out \$4.50 on an amaretto sour, and all you can do is sip and split. The morally correct thing to do would be to sweetly refuse the drink and his company. But for all you drink-lusty heathens, if you really want the freebie, at least sit and talk with the guy until you've finished it. Otherwise, you're abusing a nice system and giving the rest of women a bad use-'em-and-lose-'em reputation.

Dave Stroman, a senior history and range land management major, said nothing makes his teeth grind quite like drink-and-runners.

"You know, they let you buy them a drink and then don't have the courtesy to stay and talk until they finish it," Stroman said.

 I'll call you later, maybe.

**Situation:** Let's say a guy approaches you that you're actually interested in, and you give him your number. Next weekend, you've got a date, but once you see him without the beer goggles, it's hard to remember what he has that initially attracted you. One full date later, you give your victim a quick kiss on the cheek and tell him to call you — later. When he does, you give him a courtesy call back but tell him that you won't be available this weekend due to the unicyclers convention in Waco, which you simply must attend. The next month is spent screening phone calls and avoiding the bar where you met.


**Solution:** The overwhelming majority of males questioned felt this was the lowest blow of all on the list of hard hits. Ricky Wood, a junior theater arts

major, said this sort of sting is what sucks the most about dating.

"I mean, this has never happened to me," he said. "But you go out on a date, you have a good time, and then afterwards, they don't even call you, even when they say they will. I mean come on. Be honest. If you don't want to see the guy again, face up and tell him. Or, and I quote [the musical group] Cake, 'People just need to buck up.'"

Ryan Clayton, a senior speech communication major, said women not calling after a seemingly entertaining date is his field-playing pet peeve, as well.

"It'd be better if she's honest," he said. "You know, if she'd just say, 'Thanks for the date tonight, but um ... have a good life, okay?'"

 Putting the proof in the puddin'.

**Situation:** So you don't have a boyfriend, but you could if you wanted to. And just to prove it to the obnoxious suitor convinced you're his soulmate, you decide to find a role-playing partner to tame the dog from his heated hunt.

**Solution:** This, of course, is dishonest and is bound to be more trouble than it's worth. After all, your partner in crime may enjoy the game a little too much, and then you've got a new problem on your hands. As the fortune cookies say, "Honesty is always the road to virtue."

Asking to remain anonymous, one A&M student said he experienced the role-playing cheap shot at a party, and the wound was deep.

"Yeah, here's a real easy let-down," said the denied Sigma Nu. "The girl I approached just went and made out in a corner with one of my pledge brothers. I was crushed."

Overall, ladies, the guys want honesty. No beating around the bush, no pole-vaulting their approaches. Just give them the straight truth in the kindest, gentlest way possible.

Right on. Now be sweet, ladies.

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after they sleep through class.



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