

It's mating season

Students visit various social spots in search of potential spouses

By Amber Johnson
THE BATTALION

For many students, the dating life at Texas A&M is anything but a fairy tale. While a number of Aggies are spoken for at the moment, plenty of fish remain in the sea — especially if one knows where to look.

Heather Bludau, a 1998 graduate of A&M, would often venture to a number of area clubs with her single friends when she was searching for a special someone. In addition to frequenting clubs and bars, Bludau said she and her friends were partial to finding a good party when they wanted to have a good time and seek out potential dates.

Despite the fact that she and her friends attended many social events, Bludau said she found her significant other when she met up with an ex-boyfriend from high school.

"We dated in high school for about a month. Then we broke up and never really talked after that," Bludau said. "Then he transferred to A&M his junior year. Since I knew he was new in town, I called him up. We started hanging out a lot together and eventually went out on our first date to Bennigan's on St. Patrick's Day."

Bludau's last name is now Zamykal, and her high school ex is now her husband, Landon. "Our wedding march was to the Aggie War Hymn and one of our wedding presents was a picture of our Aggie rings interlocked," Zamykal said.

There is hope for many single Aggies out there to one day have an Aggie wedding as well. Clubs and bars such as Hurricane Harry's, the

Dixie Chicken, and Shadow Canyon attract a wide array of interesting people. These clubs often designate days of the week to be ladies' night with drink specials to draw in a large crowd.

Jocelyn Marlatt, a junior psychology major, said particular venues dictate what type of dating pool one can expect to find.

"Wherever you go, you can pretty much assume the type of people that are going to be found there," Marlatt said.

"For instance, I feel the type of people that can be found at bars or clubs are just people who are looking to hook up for a short while. I know that is not always the case, but in a stereotypical sense I feel there are a lot of people out there who are just looking for a one-night stand at a bar or club."

Marlatt said she is not single by choice and is looking for Mr. Right.

"It is definitely not my choice to be," single," she said. "The dating pool is pretty good here, but it just hasn't happened for me yet. Maybe I'm not looking in the right places."

In the meantime, Marlatt said she depends mainly on her friends when meeting new people. She said parties

and gatherings are always excellent ways to meet new people because a number of students find their love interests there.

While many students enjoy going to parties to mingle and meet, Sophomore General Studies Major Chad Aultman said finding

someone in class or on campus is his best bet. He likes to start a conversation with someone interesting while on a bus ride or on campus.

"There is a good supply of the opposite sex here, but I just can't seem to find anyone for me," Aultman says.

Aultman said he feels as though there are few places suited for dating.

"If there were more places than the clubs or bars, then it would be better," Aultman said. "Drinking, dancing or the movies get old after a while."

Marlatt said that in addition to the standard dating scene, there are several places people can find potential dates. In search of an athletic person, Marlatt said the Student Recreation Center is the perfect place to meet athletic Aggies.

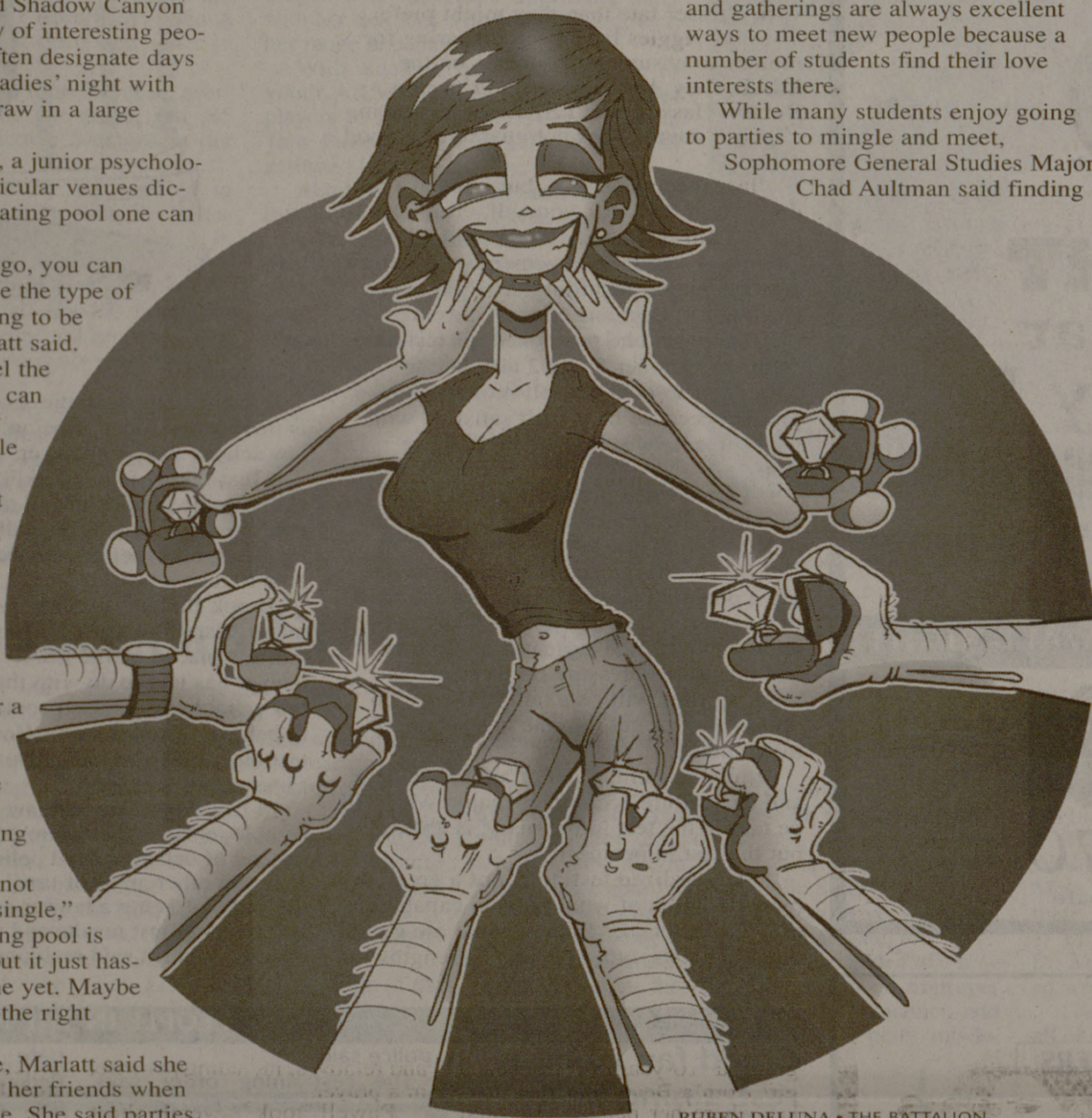
"I love going to the Rec not only to work out, but for the eye candy as well," Marlatt said. "Swimming is especially a good sport to get into at the Rec, if you catch my drift."

While many students constantly look for places to meet potential dates, Heather Zamykal (formerly Heather Bludau) said it is important to be single for a year or two while at A&M.

"Don't get frustrated if you cannot find a date right away," Zamykal said. "There is so much partying and going out going on it is hard to really get to know people. Be single, find yourself, discover who you are and have fun."

In short, Zamykal said the best way to find a significant other is not to look too hard.

"You are only in college for a short time of your life, so absorb it and don't fret over who you are dating," she said. "Go out and live life, and you just might meet someone."



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