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# MAGAZINE

COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1990



Richard Rhone brings a Corvette in for its final cleaning after a test drive. Rhone has worked for the Chevrolet-Pontiac-Canada Plant owned by General Motors on Corvette Drive for 23 years.

## Corvette: A Classic on Wheels

There's this movie, "Corvette Summer."

While everyone else is at the last dance before graduation, Kenny Dantley goes down to check on the car he has put his heart and soul into — a Corvette Stingray.

The shop teacher tries to tell Kenny to give up his love because it isn't worth it.

"Kenny, I've been around automobiles all of my life. Their mechanical devices, they always let you down.

"You buy 'em, you drive 'em, you break 'em, you fix 'em, you sell 'em," Mr. McGrath says. "Goods in the marketplace. Easy come, easy go. Don't get too attached to this car."

Kenny looks at him and smiles. "You don't fool me, Mr. McGrath. You might know cars, but you love this one just as much as I do."

There is, indeed, a mystique about the Corvette.

Maybe it's the huge engine or maybe it's the high resale potential — but enthusiasts agree there is a distinct aura surrounding the Corvette that is reserved for only a few sports cars.

"It represents freedom to people," said Jerry Burton, editor of *Corvette Quarterly* — a magazine devoted to the car.

"It's the kind of car you can't take the wife and kids along in." But for Julie Bowen, Corvettes have been a family affair.

Her red 1984 T-top is her second hand-me-down Corvette from her father. "When he was younger, he just decided that someday he was going to own one," she said. "Now he can afford it."

She said she isn't as obsessed with the car as her father because "I have driven them so much that it isn't as big a thrill. Except on

See **POWERFUL**, Page 4B

# Western's trash troubles bring many waste worries

By KIM KING  
1990

That's when a glass bottle thrown away today will decompose. A soft drink can discarded after lunch will take 200 to 400 years to break down. A tennis shoe sole — 50 to 80 years. A cigarette butt — two to five.

America is a throw-away society. But the waste disposal problem isn't being solved by the neighborhood garbage man.

University garbage collectors and oodles of salvageable items in campus junk piles. Especially during finals week, when students are more apt to discard, rather than lug home loot.

Landscaping superintendent Claude Threlkeld listed some unusual discoveries: radios, televisions, hair dryers, irons, watches, clothes, shoes and illegal pets — still alive — such as gerbils, guinea pigs, cats and birds.

Western's dwellers keep garbage collectors' hands full 10 hours a day, six days a week — collecting about 8,500 pounds of non-toxic trash daily. Threlkeld said. This heap swells into about

225,000 pounds in a month and more than 3 million pounds in a year.

In less than a year, Western puts out enough trash to fill Diddle Arena to the rim.

Western's massive accumulation accounts for the 80 daily stops on the garbage collection schedule. Once the trash is picked up, it's hauled to Monarch Environmental, the sanitation service where trash is compacted.

After compaction, the garbage is shipped to the Morgantown landfill in Butler County, where bulldozers constantly dig, and level dirt.

The entire removal procedure cost Western \$36,000 in 1989, Threlkeld said. However, if one of the university's two garbage trucks breaks down, which he said they often do, Monarch supplies a truck and driver for an extra \$250 a day.

This year's trash-burial cost is expected to be \$90,000, Physical Plant director Kemble Johnson has said. He also said that the price could reach \$144,000 within the next couple of years if Western dumps the same amount of trash

in landfills.

The rising cost of disposal is one reason Western has become interested in recycling, Johnson said. Landfill costs have more than doubled in 1990 because of tighter state and federal regulations, such as requiring liners to keep landfills from leaking.

These regulations, including those by the Environmental Protection Agency, change monthly to meet the country's heaping trash troubles. The EPA comes in once or twice a year to make sure Western sticks properly to those regulations, said Brendan Bowen, a certified hazardous materials manager for Western's Environmental Programs Office in the Physical Plant.

Bowen is accountable for assuring that the university meets codes set by the EPA and Occupational Safety and Health Administration, as well as other state and federal laws. He's also responsible for Western's hazardous waste, even after it is disposed.

The hazardous waste includes



Chris Lamaster/Herald

Paul Barbour, a Physical Plant worker, keeps an eye on the trash as he empties it into a dumpster behind Cravens Library.

See TRASH, Page 6B

## INSIDE

### Dream car

People are fascinated by Corvettes — and Bowling Green turns out the sleek machines by the thousands. Since 1981, the plant has been a major contributor to Warren County's economic life. Story by Travis Green. Photos by Mike Teegarden.

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### Taking out the trash

What Western throws away could fill Diddle Arena in less than a year. Because waste collection is becoming more costly and more dangerous, officials are studying the problem. Story by Kim King. Photos by Chris Lamaster.

Page 2B

### Looking for love

It's not difficult to fall into romantic relationships during college, professors say. But finding an ideal life-long partner takes keen thought and planning. Story by Cassandra Murray Doyle. Illustrations by John Chattin.

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Dana Albrecht,  
Magazine Editor

Omar Tatum,  
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# Campus is 'natural place' to spouse search

Kelly Thornton went to a class on the wrong day last August. And she accidentally found her future husband.

The Harlan junior walked into the combatives gymnasium for her self-defense class, but instead she found the judo club practicing there.

"The judo coaches invited me to their Thursday club meeting, and that's where I met him," she said.

For James Damron, it was love at first sight.

"When you meet someone, there might be a little spark. But with her, there was an inferno," the Owensboro sophomore said.

"There are no illusions of grandeur," Damron said, and no illusions of perfection.

"He's a morning person," Thornton said, "and I despise mornings. And he's real jealous."

"A little jealous," corrected Damron.

They're planning a small wedding for this May or June and plan to stay in school until they graduate.

Thornton has savings set aside for her tuition, and Damron, 26, gets tuition assistance from the Army and government grants. "There should be no problem with the money continuing," he said, but they do have alternate plans for income just in case.

Thornton, 20, said her family has a history of finding their counterparts in college.

"My grandparents, parents and brother all met their spouses at college," Thornton said. "My dad was dating my mom's roommate, and it kind of chance happened."

"My brother was standing in line to register for classes, and he turned around and nearly ran over his future wife."

According to Delbert Hayden, college is a natural place to meet a future spouse.

"You have this structure and setting where there are hundreds of people around who are eligible," said the home economics and family living professor. "There are so many people unmarried but within the marriageable age."

He said that sending their children to college is one way parents influence who their children marry.

"In America children would be outraged if they thought parents had anything to do with their choice of who to marry, but they



Stories by Cassandra Murray Doyle • Art by John Chatten

do because they help arrange where the child will be during the mate selection years."

"Once you get out of college, people don't have opportunities to meet people because they don't have time," Hayden said. "Odds are better of finding someone in college than in a post-graduate job."

"But if you don't choose carefully, it (college) can be negative because it's easy to get linked with someone you don't have things in common with," Hayden said.

"People run into each other now like two amoeba floating in a watery substance. It's sort of

accidental."

Hayden said the most powerful force in bringing people together is nearness. "You're likely to marry someone you've met," he said. "It's simple, but it's profound."

"Frankly, I don't think people consciously deal with mate selection in our society very well," Hayden said. They think chance will bring them to the right person, and "that's not wise," he said. "Ignorance is the best preparation for nothing."

"You need to put yourself into organizations where you're likely to meet someone with whom you

have something in common."

"It's a common myth that if you just sort of try to be good people, you'll know how to get along with each other," and be able to understand each other, said Vic Pestrak, a counselor at University Counseling Services. "But it's just not true."

Hayden said couples "in love think things will work themselves out without any rational thought."

But Pestrak added that "it might be asking too much of a person to be rational in a state of infatuation. Some choices are not conscious. You can be in love with somebody who makes you very

angry or drives you crazy."

Hayden said that state of infatuation is common in college relationships.

"Couples make a mistake if they base the relationship solely on mutual attraction," said Dr. Corrie Vanderkooy Vos, clinical psychologist for LifeSkills Inc. "The initial emotional feeling doesn't last to the same degree of intensity. When it decreases, that's when commitment can take over and love can grow."

"To be successful in a long-term relationship takes a combination of commitment and compatibility," she said.

"You can love several people in a lifetime, but if you married them it would be a disaster," Hayden said. "Love shouldn't always be an excuse for marriage. There's a lot more that goes into it."

Karl Miller said marriage and a family are important to him, but he doesn't plan on getting into a long-term relationship until a few years after college.

The Elizabethtown junior started dating a girl during his junior year in high school and continued to see her throughout his sophomore year at Western.

"When I got to Western I was looking at all the girls and wondering what it would be like to date around," he said. "But I wasn't really looking for anyone" because he had a girlfriend.

"It turned out that she was doing the same thing. When we broke up, we both wanted to try it out, and we figured if we were meant to be, we would happen."

Miller said they've been dating again recently, but the time apart was good for them, and now he has a better idea of what she needs from the relationship.

"I missed little things like going to parties with the guys. It was always 'me and her,'" he said. "There are little things you might want to do that you don't do — like going to Hardee's for a milkshake at 2 a.m."

Miller said that when he and his girlfriend broke up and he started going out with the guys, "I had never picked up a girl. I didn't know how. All my friends were pros at it. What do you say to a girl when you walk up to her? I had never done it."

Pesthak said that students in

See COLLEGE, Page 7B

## Majority say college is place to find mate

Two hundred questionnaires asking for opinions of on-campus residents about dating and mate selection were distributed last Wednesday in Poland, Keen and Bemis Lawrence halls. The response rate was 28 percent; 31 women and 26 men completed and returned the survey.

Because of the non-random, non-probability nature of the sample, the results cannot be considered representative of the entire campus.

Sixty-nine percent of the men

and 55 percent of the women said they have had more dates since they came to Western.

■ Five of 26 men, and eight of 31 women said the possibility of finding a mate entered into their decision to attend college.

Twenty-six percent of the women and 32 percent of the men said they are dating someone they met at Western.

Four men said they would consider a relationship serious after dating for less than one month. Two men and two

women said one to two months, and five women and four men said two to three months.

Eight women and two men said three to six months; and four men and two women said six to 12 months. Seven women and two men said it takes at least one year to consider a relationship serious. Several students were undecided, and several said it depended on the person.

■ Forty-four percent of 25 men said they would prefer to get married after they had a secure

job and finances. Only two said they would get married immediately after graduation, and none said they would get married during college. Thirty-six percent said they would prefer to get married from one-to-five years after graduation.

Twenty-six percent of the women said they would prefer to get married immediately after graduation, and two of 31 said they "wanted" to get married during college. Forty-five percent said they wanted a job or

financial security before marriage, and 19 percent said they wanted to wait from one to five years after college.

Thirty-five percent of the women and 25 percent of the men said they would consider getting married during college if they found Mr. or Ms. Right.

Fifty-six percent of the men and 52 percent of the women said they expect to meet their future mate in college.



## Powerful engine lends to the Corvette's mystique

Continued from Page 1B

warm days when I can take the top off and drive, I fall in love with it again."

A junior from Olney, Ill., Bowen said that being from a small town, "it was a big thing to drive one. It helps me get a lot of attention."

On the other hand, "you don't know who your friends are. I just went out with this guy last week, who just asked me out because of my car."

In Bowling Green, though, the Corvette is more than just a bitchen' set of wheels. It is a big contributor to the economic life of the city and is Warren County's second largest industry next to Fruit of the Loom.

General Motors moved the plant to its current site on Corvette Drive next to I-65 in 1981 after 27 years in St. Louis. The plant in St. Louis was outdated and too small for the production of the car, according to Earl Harper, the Bowling Green plant manager when the plant moved here.

The plant moved into the building previously occupied by Fedders Airtemp Corp. and spent 18 months re-fitting the plant for production of the car.

"It certainly has provided a lot of payroll for the city and all of the things that go along with that," said Rick DeBoe, operations manager of the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce. "We have attracted other satellite companies that make parts for the Corvettes and the Corvette museum."

During the summer, construction will begin on the museum — a \$5 million project paid for by the National Corvette Museum Foundation, a non-profit organization of Corvette owners — that is expected to be completed by mid-1991, said Dennis Griffin, executive vice president of the Chamber of Commerce.

A restaurant, an amphitheater and an exhibit area will be part of the museum, the first of its kind. DeBoe said a variety of cars will be displayed, not only the Corvette.

The museum to be located on 30 acres on Louisville Road will create between 12 and 24 jobs, but

its biggest impact will be indirect.

"They are expecting to bring in 60,000 to 100,000 more tourists a year," DeBoe said. "The extra visitors will be a great benefit to local businesses, especially the hotels and motels."

Mayor Patsy Sloan said, "it will give people a reason to stay in Bowling Green for more than one night. On ordinary weekends, we don't have any major attractions. With the museum, people might plan their vacations here and spend more money and the spinoff will be greater."

Since the plant first opened in 1954, about 936,000 Corvettes have rolled off the line. About 200,000 of them have come from the Bowling Green plant that opened in June of 1981.

About 1,200 people work daily in the 1-million-square-foot plant, assembling the 2,430 parts that compose each car. Five days a week, about 112 cars are produced

a day to be shipped to dealers.

The drive train starts out with a basic steel frame that is sprayed with a primer and is assembled in the back of the plant where the transmission, engine and gas tank are added.

Meanwhile, throughout the main section of the plant, the body of the car is being born.

Doors, body panels and a hood are added to the basic frame and then transported by conveyors to the paint booth where four coats of paint — two base and two clear — are applied to give the car its shine.

After getting an interior, a dash, seats and windshields along with any extras the customer wants — such as a CD player, cruise control or a light to tell the driver everything from low fuel to low tires, — the body comes to a section where it and the drive train are "married".

Tires and roofs or convertible tops are added. Then the car is started and put on a dynamic roll and brake test where the car's

## HOME of the CORVETTE

### Chevrolet ZR-1



acceleration and braking systems are checked.

After the car is washed and checked over, it is moved outside to join the other cars waiting to be shipped all over the United States and the world.

To find faults and strive for customer satisfaction, three cars are randomly selected to go through a thorough inspection.

"It's a quality audit," said auditor Sherman Wilkerson. "We check the car completely over."

Wilkerson takes a sheet of the different things to test on the car to

make sure it is in working order. Loose bolts or nuts, flaws in the paint, non-working electrical systems or flaws in the interior of the car such as trim and seat covers are the common things Wilkerson looks for in his one-hour check.

The check also includes what L.E. "Cowboy" Clark calls a "cold start-up."

"We run the car a little and leave it to sit for 24 hours and go and start it again," he said.

Then comes the 20-mile test run around Bowling Green.

"Are you afraid to go fast?"

Clark revved the engine of the black 1990 ZR-1 before shifting down and going from zero to 100 miles an hour in less than 10 seconds on the private lane that circles the plant.

He said he looks for anything that might be "disagreeable to the customer" during the drive.

"This, in my opinion, is the best-built car in the world," Clark said. The plant has brought in other models to compare with the Corvette.

But "this car is a lot better in

handling, acceleration and braking."

His love affair with the car that he spends his days with began six years ago.

"If you buy a 'vette today for \$30,000 to \$40,000 and keep it for 30 years, it will be worth more when you sell it," he said. "If you buy a competing car for the same amount, you will be lucky to give it away after 30 years."

Clark said a Corvette coup would cost about \$30,000 for the basic car, about \$36,000 for a basic Corvette convertible and the new ZR-1 has a \$58,000 base price.

"It's America's pre-eminent sports car," said Doug Kott, assistant editor of Road and Track magazine. "It is the showcase of General Motors' technology."

“

This, in my opinion, is the best-built car in the world.

”

L. E. Clark

Kott explains the car's following on its "extremely powerful engine and its powerful look."

However, Kott said, "Personally, it's not my kind of car. It's kind of too big for a sports car and it sits really low, but its performance per dollar is pretty good."

Sherman Wilkerson, a Corvette plant worker, said the engine makes the car a legend.

It's extraordinary engine and the fact that it was the first American-made sports car that gave the Corvette an eager acceptance into America's driveways — and even on television.

As Sonny Crockett on "Miami Vice," Don Johnson drove a Daytona Spider, but underneath exterior was a Corvette, said Louie Papproth, another plant worker.

"That was the only car that could stand up to the type of driving."

In "Corvette Summer," Kenny's dream car is stolen and his chase to recover the car leads him to Las Vegas where he eventually gets it back.

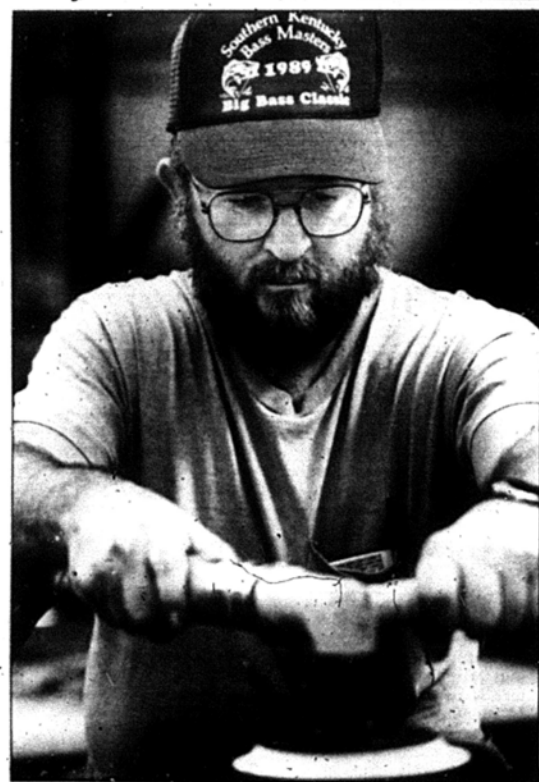
At the end of the movie, Kenny returns the car to the high school. He then races to catch up with Vanessa, the girl he became involved with while searching for the car.

"I see what it is," Kenny says laughing, while Vanessa walks away from him. "Any guy who doesn't own a Corvette just doesn't get a kiss from you."

(Left) End of the line. This is where Corvettes come off the assembly line. (Below) George "Money Man" Spiller spikes one during lunch. He and his co-workers play volleyball almost every day. Spiller has worked at the plant for 23 years.



(Left) Corvettes lined up and ready to go. (Above) Julie Bowen, a junior marketing major from Olney, Ill., and her 1984 Corvette.



David Henrick, a plant employee for 22 years, buffs a rough spot out as the car gets a final cleaning before it is shipped.

# Trash woes pile up locally, nationally

Continued from Page 2B

paints, solvents, pesticides and refrigerants — substances used for chilling and preserving.

"The Physical Plant and the chemistry department produce the greatest amount of hazardous waste," Bowen said. The biology and agriculture departments, photojournalism and print shops add to these toxic wastes.

Chemical Waste Management, a company commissioned by Western that Bowen said is "the nation's top hazardous waste collector," collects and ships the waste to Illinois, incinerates it and buries the ashes.

The price of hazardous waste disposal is also high. It costs an estimated \$25,000 to \$30,000 every year plus contingencies to remove hazardous wastes, Bowen said.

He and his small staff work hard to find the best hazardous waste removal solutions, but the constant updates in EPA codes sometimes aggravate their efforts.

“

The EPA is very strict and rightly so. If you generate trash, you are responsible for it from cradle to grave. That's why we take our jobs so seriously:

”

Claude Threlkeld

Within the past few years, Western planned and spent money for a site near the Physical Plant to store hazardous waste until it's collected. But when the EPA said the waste couldn't be transported across public roads which surround Western, the university lost a lot of money had to find another alternative — the one being used now with Chemical Waste Management handling the toxics.

National university regulations regarding hazardous waste have become applicable in the last three years and have increased Bowen's responsibilities.

"The University of Louisville has 12 people on staff doing what I do," he said.

But Bowen doesn't let himself slack off on the job. "There are people in my position being thrown in jail for liability," Bowen said. "We're (Western) 100 percent aboveboard."

"The EPA is very strict and rightly so," Threlkeld said. "If you generate trash, you are responsible for it from cradle to grave. That's why we take our jobs so seriously."

With an enormous obligation, Bowen realizes it takes more than a single man's efforts.

"The university community should be aware of the complexity

of these environmental issues," he said. "They effect everyone on campus. Hopefully, all departments realize the seriousness and will continue to cooperate. It takes a group effort."

According to the Transmissions Project of the United Nations Environment Program, each American generates a ton of trash per year. And as that amount and the cost of waste removal rise, places to stash trash shrink.

The Morgantown landfill will reach capacity in three to four years, Threlkeld said, and Bowling Green is hunting for a new site.

He suggests that "the city actually needs two landfills, one for nondegradable trash and another for degradable. The second could be filled repeatedly. Two landfills would be much cheaper."

But problems are literally piling up nationally. The U.S. Conference of Mayors estimates that more than half of America's cities will be out of landfill space within 10 years.

As the space for trash shrinks, some alternative burial sites are harming water, land and air. Garbage has been dumped into the middle of the ocean only to wash ashore. It's been burned only to pollute the air.

"Everyone knows it's important to dispose of trash, but no one wants it in their neighborhood," Threlkeld said. "Up to 30 percent of all trash is recyclable. It's time we started paying the piper, and recycling is really the only answer."

But engineering professor John Russell has said recycling won't completely solve Western's garbage problem.

Russell proposed a faculty study of possible waste-management programs to determine how much trash Western produces and ways to get rid of it besides burial. He began the study proposal last fall while working on a waste-management study for Bowling Green.

Monarch Environmental is one



A bulldozer rests at the Morgantown landfill in Butler County where Western stashes its trash. Chris Lamaster/Herald

group making an effort. In August it began a waste separation and recycling project in Bowling Green that costs more than \$90,000.

The program was scheduled to end in June, but participation was so overwhelming that the project deadline was extended five months, said Lawrence White, Recycling and Industrial Coordinator of Monarch Environmental.

“

College students are too busy or too lazy to recycle.

”

Pam Cromwell

In the program, Monarch supplies participating households with separate bins for paper, cans and plastic. Then on certain days Monarch collects and empties the bins and returns them to people.

"We were only anticipating 200 households, but the interest has

grown to include 600 families," White said.

Some individuals have become interested in recycling.

"I have customers who come in every day," said Bud Lyle, manager of Mid-State Recycling on Kentucky Street. "A lot of them collect cans at Western, and they make a bundle."

They should. Western throws away between \$1,000 and \$1,500 of soft drink cans every month. The cans are worth 43 cents a pound (27 cans make up a pound), but their value can go up to 58 cents in the winter because fewer soft drinks are consumed, said Jim Briggs, sales manager at the Coca-Cola Bottling Company in Oakland.

Pam Cromwell, a sophomore from Caldwell, Idaho, said she feels Western has a waste problem.

"College students are too busy or too lazy to recycle," Cromwell said. "I recycle aluminum cans and would be willing to do more if I knew where to take them and had a way to get there (recycling centers). When I lived in New York, people were fined if they didn't separate their trash."

Jana Wilson, a Centertown junior, said the university should

Two student organizations have taken strides.

Last spring, Associated Student Government sponsored the "Adopt-A-Spot" program to challenge students to clean up the campus. Groups of students picked certain areas and were responsible for picking them up.

However, "we are going to get the program back strong," he said. One may be scheduled near Earth Day, April 22, which was established 20 years ago to raise public awareness of national environmental issues.

ASG President Amos Gott said the program will continue, but "participation has fallen by the wayside."

United Student Activists held a Trash Bash in October and also plans to have another one near Earth Day, said president Erica Card, a West German sophomore.

The Trash Bash brought in several groups and individuals to go around campus collecting trash and getting it recycled.

Card said, "We wanted to do something that would make people more aware about how big the trash problem is here on campus."

## NEEDED: JUDGES FOR STATE SPEECH COMPETITIONS FROM STUDENTS AND FACULTY (Kentucky High School Speech League)

Western Kentucky University became the official host institution and State Headquarters for the Kentucky High School Speech League in August of 1988.

The Junior and Senior State contests will be held on our campus March 16, 17, 23, and 24. Approximately 206 judges will be needed for the three preliminary rounds on each Friday. Ninety-nine judges (three judges per section, per event) will be needed for semi-finals, and sixty-five judges will be needed for finals (five judges per event.) You will receive a small stipend of \$5 per round you judge, or you may waive payment if you so desire.

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# College isn't always the time to find partners

Continued from Page 3B-

relationships need to recognize the differences between the way men and women perceive things. Men and women need different things from a relationship, and he said that can cause problems.

"Male and female brains work differently," he said. "There have been studies done where men and women were told to think about the same things, and their brains just do it differently."

He said when college males were asked the question "Why do you 'date?'" the number-one answer was "sexual gratification." But that answer was not so prominent in females.

"It's clear that males are more sexually oriented, and females are more relationship oriented," he said. "Men go out looking for lust, and if they find love, they'll take it in the deal. Women go out looking for love, and if they find lust, that's frosting on the cake."

Petrak said males and females also get jealous for different reasons. "Males get jealous if they think there's sexual interaction with someone else. Females get jealous if they feel they're getting cheated out of time and attention."

"Male jealousy will lead to the question 'Well, did you do it?'" he said. "Females will ask, 'So, do you love her?'"

He said there's a greater biological need for men to have sex than for women. "It doesn't bother many men to have sex with

someone whose name they don't know. Women won't do that."

Miller said he found the idea of a man's complaining that a woman "just used him" amusing and a little ludicrous.

"Guys are always looking for that possibility of having sex," the Poland Hall resident assistant said. "They're dating a new girl and they are wondering what she'll be like and 'will she?'. A big complaint of guys is 'she's getting way too serious on me'."

Miller said from his observations men don't put as much emotional significance on sex as women. "It messes with the girl's mind a lot when people start having sex," he said.

"I think maybe the first few times people are together and the girl takes it more seriously and ends up getting hurt, it really bothers the guy. But after a while the guilt wears off, and most guys can sleep with a girl, and even if she says 'you used me,' he doesn't care."

"I think the guys ought to think more about it," he said.

"That's why men and women both need to be cool and keep the sex out of it so they can assess where they are," Hayden said.

"People who are older and more mature have a better chance of correctly assessing what's going on," because after things get physical, college-age partners can't look at each other objectively.

"I believe you're going to think

more clearly about everything. There are a lot of mind tricks that go on in a relationship. If you want the person to stay interested, you have to create a tension."

He said a young woman often gives in because she thinks it will increase the man's commitment.

"But if you can get what you want without having to commit yourself, you're going to take that path. And then you're not going to have respect for the other person."

Kelly Felton envies Western students who are engaged or have long-term relationships, but "I would probably shy away from it," she said.

“

People run into each other now like two amoeba floating in a watery substance. It's sort of accidental.

”

Delbert Hayden

"Just because I know what I want, and I want something (education) to fall back on." The Louisville sophomore said she is afraid getting engaged or married during college might keep her from finishing school and starting a career.

"I don't want to make the same mistakes I've seen my parents make," Felton said. Her family has been through several divorces, and she fears becoming a statistic.

She also values her independence. "I want full control of my life, and I'm afraid if somebody interferes, it's not going to go the way I want it to."

"I can honestly see myself living with someone for the rest of my life and having children and not getting married," she said, "because it's easier to get out of when you're not married."

"People perceive it (living together) as helpful to know whether they can stay together as married partners," Hayden said, and many college-age men and women, move in together as a temporary arrangement before getting married.

But he said recent research shows that living together is not a good predictor of marital success or failure, and people who live together first do not adjust to marriage as well.

"Cohabiting is an artificial situation," said Debra Sutton, a health and safety professor. "Marriage is not just a piece of paper. It's what the piece of paper represents."

"We are a society that loves symbols. We feel comfortable and secure with symbols such as the wedding ring."

"Marriage is a legally binding

commitment. It's also a religious bind. It's much stronger than just a verbal decision to exist together."

"If someone's worth living with, they're worth marrying," Damron said. "I think that if they get in a fight, they're more apt to just call it quits if they're not married."

Sutton said college might not be the ideal time to make lifetime commitments.

"College-age people are in a period of self-discovery, searching for their future needs and desires," she said. "When they try to do that for two, they usually end up compromising their own individual needs and directions to avoid rejection."

Thornton said life is different in a committed relationship. "I don't do a whole lot with the people that live around me. I think they don't invite me because they think they're intruding on mine and James' time together."

She said if they hadn't met on campus it might not have worked. "This way we had no major outside contacts with anyone else, and we decided on our own."

"But I don't think college is necessarily the place to meet your future spouse. It worked for me, but it's not the way for everybody."

She said her family history of successful college matches speaks for itself. "My grandparents met at Union College in Barboursville, and they've been married 50 years."

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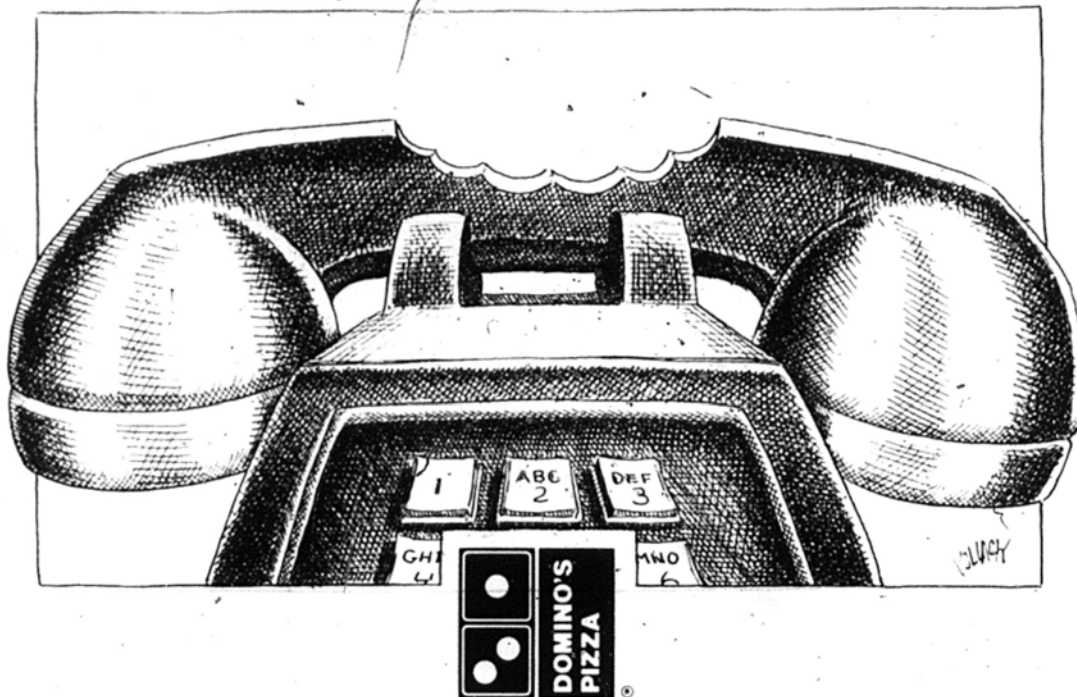

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