

## Dating

There is a form of dating that is becoming quite popular, it might be considered the opposite of speed dating where a table separates the prospective couples, but doesn't actually last that much longer. It's the run-into-each-other-and-have-sex date. Some of these couples know friends of friends of each other and were introduced before having sex the very same night; others just ran into each other. After this so-called first date they decide if further contact is going to happen. The benefit of this kind of dating is obvious – you get to see the merchandise long before you consider a purchase. This is not true if their judgment was clouded by drugs or alcohol, and, let's face it, that's usually how they ended up having sex to begin with. The downsides are also obvious – possibility of disease as well as the less harmful waking up next to a frog when you are certain you bedded a prince.

Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but I think people should pay for sex. The nervous first date filled with conversation, the patient second date where he starts wondering if it's too soon for some of his moves, the third date where she begins to wonder if he's interested because he hasn't made those moves and so on. You pay with rattled nerves and patience. But you benefit by getting to see the emotional merchandise. And you can still check out the physical merchandise before you buy as lots of people, even people who talk about the good old proper days, have sex before making a big commitment to each other.

What's the big rush into someone's pants? And if a person is so damn hot and horny they shouldn't need to drink so much first (one drink is often enough to calm rattled nerves). Building suspense does take time and social skills, and perhaps some people don't have either. It's odd that they don't develop them because people are often mentioning how they want to spend their life with someone, and that certainly takes time and social skills. So, developing these skills is an important aspect of attaining that goal. That's part of why dating began; we put time into honing our social skills while finding the right mate by judging theirs.

The first date sets the pace of the relationship. Having a quick romp without having to use time or social skills says "Let's share a life together without really getting to know each other; we'll have minimal emotional intimacy and little time together." Are "couples" confused later when one of them wants more of these things and the other one looks at them as if their nuts? The first date has perhaps been seen as an agreement of how things are to be. The agreement can be adjusted along the way, but again that takes time and social skills.

If both parties only want a one night stand, well that's just fine if they're both consenting adults. But if one or both is looking for a partner, the night has turned into a date, and for people lacking time and/or social skills, the beginning of a confusing relationship. And aren't relationships confusing enough?