

Match maker

Dating in high school can be extremely frustrating. We at the Tom Tom understand this and took the liberty of playing cupid for those students who are looking for love, bragging rights, or just someone new to hang out with on a Saturday night.

The process: Students filled out surveys that included personal information, dating preferences, and interests, and we matched students up to go out on a date based on this information. The couples had the choice of going out or backing out.

The result: We got a clear picture of the Antioch Community High School's dating scene in all of its glory from the first-time daters to good friends to the anti-daters.



"I like this because it's a good way to go on a date without the hassles of asking."
Ryan Tack Senior

"I still have no idea who she is. I'd been forgetting to call, but it's not like I don't want to go."
Steve Gorski Senior

"I signed up because I knew that if it turns out bad the worst that could happen is that it'd be a funny story to tell."
Lila Kate James Senior

"I like to know who I am going on a date with. I just don't like the idea of not knowing."
Justin Mehaffey Senior

"I didn't do it because girls hate me. I didn't want some girl to be disappointed."
John Rauch Junior

"I think it's kind of pathetic. I can get my own dates."
Matt Murawski Senior



"I have the seniority." Dan Miodonski, senior, joked before the date. He was matched up with sophomore Mandy Vickers. Dan and Mandy went on a double date with Tom Kenney, senior, and Amy Shouse, sophomore. Both couples didn't know each other before.

The group went to Prime Time in Lake Villa for a night of karaoke. They went with a larger group of friends, but the four people on dates secluded themselves while during dinner and began to get to know one another.

"At first it was a little uncomfortable, but as soon as everyone warmed up to each other, everything went fine," said Dan. He isn't ruling out a second date.



Seniors Tristan Gandolfi and Adam Placko have known each other since their fourth grade year. However, this was the first time they have ever gone out.

"I like that you know the people, but you don't really know them," said Tristan.

Tristan attended Adam's basketball game on Friday night and after, they attended karaoke singing at Prime Time Saloon and Eatery in Lake Villa. Adam was "Not at all nervous," before the date and brought flowers.

Adam felt that signing up for the service was good and he would do it again. "I'm not that intimidated to take risks anymore."

Both agree it was worth their \$3.



"Boyfriends are only obstacles in the game of life," said senior Mark Hansen about his date, junior Robyn Mortenson. Robyn signed up for match making before she started going out with her boyfriend.

Mark showed up quite late, but the two had a good time at Chimp's Pizza in Vernon Hills. Mark brought along two friends, who added to the entertainment during the night.

"I'm looking for an overall good time, and I'm hoping to get to know Mark better," said Robyn. They ended the date by going to the Lake Forest Oasis for Frosties and dancing in the parking lot.

"I would like to go out with her again," said Mark.



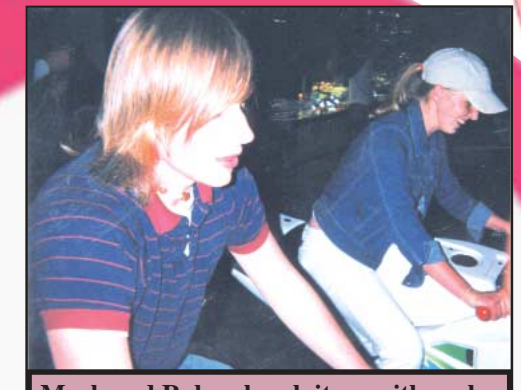
Some things in life are just meant to work out. Such is the case with senior Tim Shebesta and junior Liz Nobler.

Shebesta spoke with Nobler for the first time over the phone on Feb. 13, and evidently something clicked, because the two found each other spending Sat., Feb. 16 evening together.

"I didn't know how well it would go," said Shebesta about the first date. He was expecting a nerve-racking evening, where two people would desperately be trying to hold a conversation.

Nobler, on the other hand, had higher hopes.

Fortunately, Shebesta and Nobler hit it off so well that one evening wasn't enough. The pair attended Turnabout on Feb. 23.



Mark and Robyn laugh it up with each other on their date.



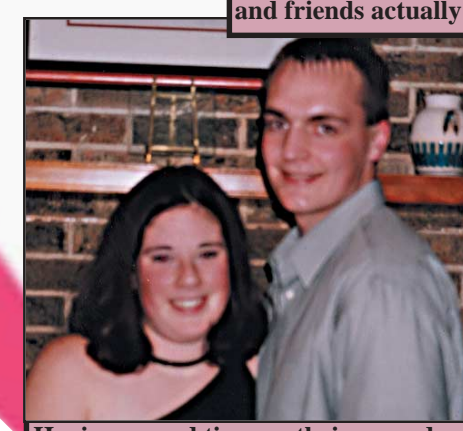
Mark took friends Tom Kenney (above) and Dan Mahar on the date.



Lost in the moment, Kiolbasa and friends actually got lost.



(Left to right) Amy Shouse, Mandy Vickers, Tom Kenney and Dan Miodonski double dated at Prime Time Saloon.



Having a good time on their second date, Liz Nobler and Tim Shebesta attended turnabout Feb. 23.

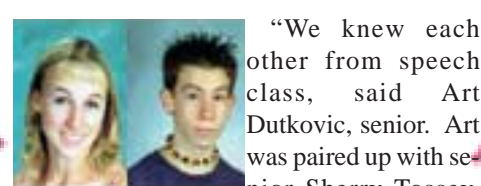


Ben Bratton breaks the fall of Mary Kiolbasa at a flea market.

Both burst out laughing when they heard who they were matched up with. Tom Denison, junior and Jenny Thompson, senior, found irony in the matching because they are very close friends.

It started with a concert and went to dinner at Applebee's. "I actually paid, but it was just because the bank was closed," said Jenny.

Although the two had fun, neither foresee their relationship going beyond good friends.



"We knew each other from speech class," said Art Dutkovic, senior. Art was paired up with senior Sherry Tossey. Before the date Art was surprisingly not nervous. The pair went to dinner and a movie. "Although their were a few pauses and stuff, I thought it went very well," said Art. In fact, he says wouldn't mind another date, but will see how things go.

"I signed up because I thought it would be a fun experience," said Ashley Miller, senior. It ended up that she got experience at playing cupid. Ashley is thinking about forgoing her date with Paul Urcini, sophomore, in favor of setting her friend, Rachel Piasecki, senior, up.

"It's not that I didn't want to go, I just knew that they [Rachael and Paul] had gym together, and I thought it would be cute." Their date has yet to happen, but it is in the works for this upcoming weekend.



Everyone who Sean Trulzsch, junior, asked about Lila Kate James, senior, said she was good at playing the guitar. Lila learned from her investigations that Sean was hard into soccer. This was truly a blind date. With talking to mutual connections, they were able to set up the date. Sean and Lila hung out on a weekday, going to a movie and then dessert afterwards.



"Since we didn't know each other at all, I tried to make it so the date wasn't that awkward," said Evan Bello, senior. Kari Hintz, junior, and Evan had never talked prior to being set up. They went to Portillo's for lunch and followed the meal up by playing an arcade dance game. Both went into the date just wanting to have fun and the afternoon turned out to be just that.



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