

Date Fate?

In 1890 *courtship* happened under adult supervision in public places. It was largely replaced by *dating* by 1930. Dating has turned out to be a risky, sometimes violent venture.

According to a [survey](#) of 1,353 teens in the United Kingdom released in September by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, nearly 90% of those aged 13 to 17 had been in an intimate relationship.

One in three teenage girls have suffered sexual abuse from a boyfriend. One in six said that she had been pressured into having sex and one in 16 claimed to have been raped.

One in four experienced violence in such a relationship, including being slapped, punched or beaten by their boyfriends.

U.S. figures cited by the Center for Disease Control in [2007](#) are similar.

Having an older boyfriend (just 12 months or more) placed girls at a higher risk of abuse, with **three-**



quarters of them saying they'd been victims.

Many girls said they had to put up with the abuse because they felt scared or guilty, or feared they

would lose their boyfriend.

The primary triggers for physical abuse cited by the report were refusing to have sex and breaking up.

The current economic recession also has led to higher abuse statistics according to a survey sponsored by [Liz Claiborne, Inc.](#)

Eighty-one percent of parents surveyed either believe teen dating violence is not an issue or say they don't know if it's an issue.

It's an issue – for one of every three girls who date and their boyfriends.

Cyberspace Courtship



Courtship keeps evolving as *Skype* embraces speed dating.

Speed dating was invented in 1998 in Los Angeles by Rabbi Yaacov Deyo as a way to help Jewish singles meet and marry. Today speed dating normally brings fifty or more singles together in one room for multiple, five-minute, one to one interviews. Typically there is a charge of \$25-\$50.

Skype is a computer program that enables voice and video communication via the internet.

Skynecandy brings whirlwind match-making online, using a computer, a webcam and a microphone.



After your online speed date is finished, you click *Yes* or *No*. If you both choose *Yes*, you're considered a potential match and are given each other's contact information.

SPEED DATING

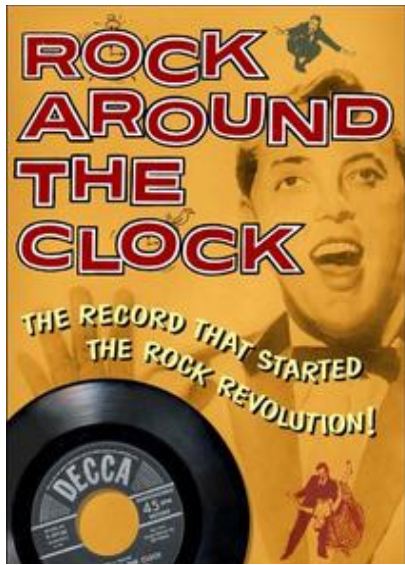
- 30% more women try speed dating than men, but men go speed dating 30% more often.
- 60% of women come with friends, 10% of men do.
- Women reject twice as many candidates as men.

The History of Youth Culture

(Part 2: 1955-1956)

Rock Music and Rebellion

Youth culture continued to develop in the decades after the 1920's. In the mid 50's another sea change happened with the rise of rock and roll music and the promotion of rebellion.



In the late 40's rock and roll music had been brewing in the music clubs. It combined elements from gospel, jazz, country, and rythm & blues.

In 1954 Bill Haley and the Comets recorded the song *Thirteen Women and*

One Man. It was a dud. On side "b" they recorded *Rock Around the Clock*. But in March 1955 that song was used to open the movie *Blackboard Jungle*. By July 5, 1955 it was the top single in America. It was the first rock and roll hit. "One o'clock, two o'clock, three o'clock, rock..."

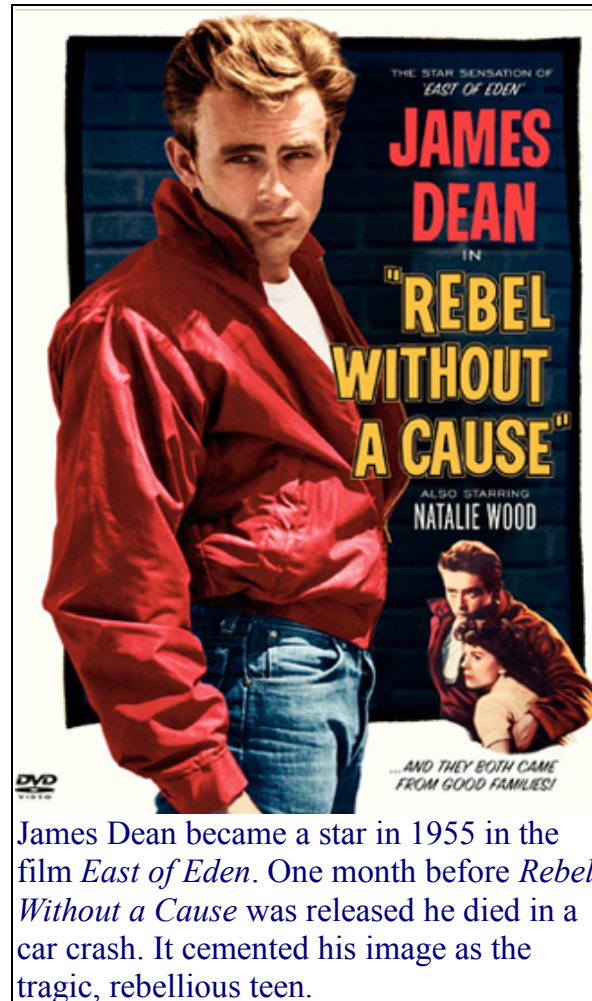
Vocabulary

Rock & Roll is a double, double-entendre. Both words were slang for "having sex."

Side "b" refers to a 45rpm (revolutions per minute) vinyl record popular in the 1950's and 60's. Side "a" was the song expected to be the hit. Side "b" wasn't.

Blackboard Jungle was about an idealistic teacher confronted by a class of cynical teenagers who had disengaged from conventional culture and morality.

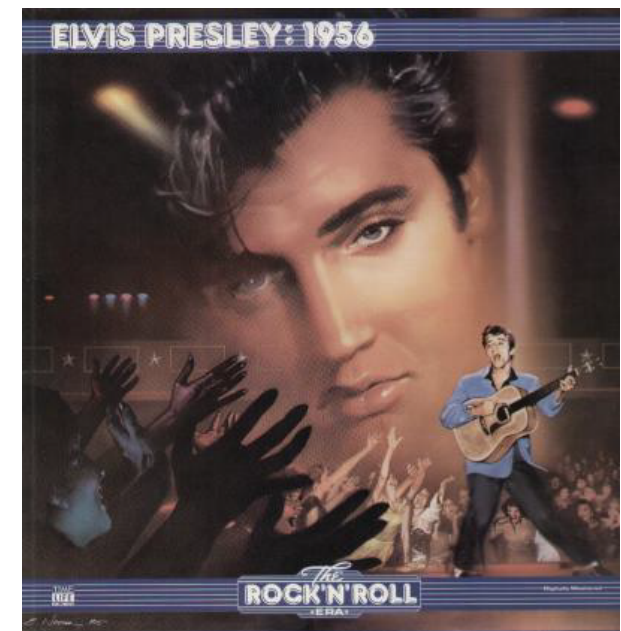
The theme of teen rebellion got a further boost in the public eye in October 1955 through the film *Rebel Without a Cause*. The movie's tagline was "teenage terror torn from today's headlines." James Dean was the teenager dealing with quarrelsome parents, hot sexual desires, alcohol abuse and other high risk behavior.



James Dean became a star in 1955 in the film *East of Eden*. One month before *Rebel Without a Cause* was released he died in a car crash. It cemented his image as the tragic, rebellious teen.

In 1956 Elvis Presley became another overnight sensation with the songs *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Hound Dog* and *Blue Suede Shoes*. Elvis made visible what rock-n-roll meant. His "grunt and groin" antics, as they were called by the *New York Daily News* were causing girls to riot at his concerts. The Jesuits denounced him in their weekly magazine, *America*, and on television he was only shown from the waist up because of his sexualized dancing style.

Late 1955 and early 1956 saw the rise of two key components that have stamped youth culture ever since. First rock-a-billy music, as it was then called, went mainstream and was renamed rock-n-roll, and second, teen rebellion with its angst and high risk behavior grabbed center stage. Both have remained central features of youth culture for over 40 years.



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