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Making a Move:

Women changing rules, doing the asking for dates

by Megan Finnerty

At the end of Sixteen Candles, Samantha Baker walks out to the street and finds her super-hot crush, Jake Ryan, leaning against his car waiting for her. But for most women, Saturday nights never come with a neatly penned John Hughes script full of men just waiting to take them out. Which is why more women are choosing to make the first move and ask out men.

Candice Gomes, 25, remembers when she asked out a man at a party at Arizona State University. "I'd never seen him before, but he was tall, skinny, the kind of alterna-boy I like," said the software trainer at Arizona Power Supply. "It was about 2 a.m. and we'd been talking all night. I figured I had a pretty good chance of him saying yes."

She got his number and the two spent the next night partying on Mill Avenue in Tempe.

Mary-Lou Galician, 56, of the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication

at ASU, said that as more women make the first move, it will become increasingly acceptable, regardless of stereotypes

"Women need to take the lead in this, because for many men the socialization is so strong that if they don't do that asking and the paying, they think there's something wrong," she said.

Phoenix matchmaker Bonnie Wills suggests that women ask men out casually.

"A girl asking a guy out can be threatening to some guys," she said. "So just say, 'If you want to do something sometime, give me a call.' That way, you're not asking him out on the spot, but it lets him know you're interested and you took the initiative."

Wills, founder of www.bonniethematchmaker.com, said business cards are a key tool because they're casual, convenient and people are used to getting them.

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