



# College Parties and Raunch Culture



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## Abstract

“Raunch” culture describes a hyper-sexualized climate that oversexualizes women while encouraging women to sexualize other women as well as themselves. Raunch culture influences much of our social life. Drawing on observation at five parties, and interviews with 12 women about their experiences at college parties, this study explores manifestations of raunch culture at college parties. This research finds that some male party-goers display an aggressive entitlement to female bodies that we speculate is a consequence of sexist cultural norms.

## Demographics

**Total:** 12  
**Gender:** Female  
**Race/Ethnicity:** 9 white, 2 Hispanic, 1 black  
**Sexual Orientation:** 8 straight, 2 bisexual, 1 Pansexual, 1 lesbian  
**Class:** 1 freshman, 8 juniors, 2 seniors, 1 alumnus



Main Themes	Implications	Quotes from Interviews:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“outsider” men at college parties – these are not fraternity members and they are typically older</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They go to the parties to have easy access to young and intoxicated girls</li> <li>The college parties make it easier for these men to be predatory because their actions can not be tied to them since they were never on a ‘list’ to begin with</li> </ul>	<p>“I absolutely hate older men because there have been older men at homecoming and a lot of older people that are visiting and I don’t really like to go to them anymore because they feel almost entitled to dance with you as if, ‘I’ve been here before, or this is my turf, I’m going to dance on you.” – Female student, 21.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internalizing the myths of rape culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being at a party one accepts the premise that they will be touched and accessible, so whatever happens to them at a party is essentially their fault</li> </ul>	<p>“It made me uncomfortable trying to walk through the party to get outside. There were people who would stare at you extremely uncomfortably, almost violently, I wasn’t even in this bikini type outfit, I came in a long sleeve and completely covered my boobs, but people were still staring.” Female, 20.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objectification of the female body at the college parties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All females can get into the party, while men can only enter if they’re on a ‘list’ or part of the fraternity</li> <li>Women are encouraged to dress down and they are usually the one’s to participate in the themed parties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“A Halloween party at a frat party you would find girls wearing chips and a nickel and that’s it, they try to look as trashy as possible.” – Female student, 20.</li> <li>“It’s extremely hard to find someone that sees you as a person and not just as a f**k object”- Female student, 21.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phenomenon of ‘designated drivers’ provided by the fraternity members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fraternity members exert control over who gets to get a ride from designated drivers</li> </ul>	<p>“Girls get into parties because they perpetuate raunch culture. You can get frat guys to assign a DD to take you to and out of the party.” Female, 18.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Style of dancing emulates popular music videos of grinding and twerking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grinding and twerking are sexualized forms of dancing.</li> <li>It’s the preferred form of dancing at college parties.</li> <li>This supports the idea that college parties are influenced by raunch culture in the media.</li> </ul>	<p>“There is a lot of twerking, a lot of girls bent over in front of guys just grinding their butts on his groin.” –Female student, 20.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raunch culture is being perpetuated at college parties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women sexualize themselves and each other and participate in the college party atmosphere of objectification.</li> <li>Women are expected to dress provocatively, dance provocatively, and behave provocatively all for the pleasure of the men at the party.</li> </ul>	<p>“College parties are just a little microcosm of the U.S. and it’s just an intensified version where a lot of the same things happen in the regular community but a lot of it is dulled down.” –Female, 21.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Predatory behavior occurs at college parties</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Men exhibit stalker-like behavior when they fixate on a woman they intend to hook up with</li> </ul>	<p>“A man sees someone they want to go for and makes the choice, ‘I want to take her home, let’s do it,’ so he shadows her around and once she’s alone, he’ll go to her and try to strike up a conversation.” Female, 21</p>

## Method

This was a qualitative narrative analysis of personal experiences of females at college parties. Interviews were conducted in order to obtain information about experiences at college parties and how participants viewed raunch culture and it’s relevance at college parties.

## Findings

Our findings support a sexist culture that is being perpetuated at college parties and is emulated through interactions between men and women. Hyper-sexualization of women occurs at college parties by other women as well as men. There are expectations of dressing a certain way and behaving a certain way that illicit hyper-sexual attitudes.



Pop-Culture ‘Twerking’



College Party ‘Twerking’