

Be The Life Of The Party Without Leaving Home

(TVA)—The next party you go to may not require an invitation—just a computer. That's because virtual gatherings and celebrations have become the rage with many of today's Internet users, with thousands of people "attending" events each day.

For instance, one of the new "hot spots" on the Internet for the single adult, allows the users to create their own virtual identities and mingle about at a virtual party. After creating a character—that includes choosing personalized outfits in a "dressing room"—people can navigate the site and meet other partyers (picture Rocker-Randy meeting SurferSuzy in the virtual lounge).

The virtual characters can move about in any of 12 chat rooms, including the "Pub," and "Coffee Shop," where they can find different users "hanging out."

If a member meets someone he or she would like to get to know better, the two users can set up a private chat or a video chat.

If things go really well, one user may try to woo another with an e-greeting card or virtual gift (both are available through the site).

Called VirtuallyDating.com, the



Mingling On The Web—A number of surfers visit sites where they attend virtual parties.

site also features an internal message center, spam-free private mailboxes and a profile search feature—as well as a games room where users can relax and enjoy some friendly competition.

For many people, the site has become a fun place to stop while surfing the Web (it's been compared to popping in to a coffee shop), or an interesting place to hang out for an evening and meet other single people.

For more information or a free 10-day membership, visit the site www.virtuallydating.com.