It's called "super going steady" by a Cornell student, "love leasing" by a University of Michigan professor. College administrators dryly refer to the "incidence of student cohabitation." Exasperated parents use harsher expletives. By any name, the game is a familiar one at the multiversities—and in many cases not even the end of the school year breaks up the relationship. Student couples who have contrived to remain together for the summer lend a domestic atmosphere to neighborhoods just off campus. At UCLA, the place for light housekeeping is just above Gayley Avenue. At the University of Chicago, couples cluster in the old brick apartment buildings about one-half mile south of the freshman dorms. And in Ithaca, N.Y., Cornell couples tend to live together in College town, the converted houses along Eddy Street and College Avenue.

Many students want—in the current campus vogue phrase—"an unstructured relationship." Sometimes it begins when a boy gets tired of walking his girl from his apartment back to the dorm. One girl moved in with her boyfriend because she could no longer "stand the sight of my roommates." Some students maintain that the arrangement creates a better atmosphere for studying. But one coed confesses: "We really spend most of our time half-studying."

Liberal new student-housing rules have made living together relatively easy. At Cornell, for example, curfews for junior women were abolished in 1964; graduate women may live where they choose, and about half the undergraduate men live off campus. In addition, the administration does not interfere in the lives of the off-campus students. "When we abolished the curfews for juniors and seniors," says Dean of Students Stanley W Davis, "we assumed they were old enough to make their own decisions." "I imagine there's a lot of that sort of thing going on," says the University of Chicago's Dean of Students Warner Wick, "but we take disciplinary action only if we discover students are violating dormitory rules or creating a community nuisance." Then, too, parents tend to look the other way or are so far removed that the only communication is the check they send each month. The near-100 per cent effectiveness of birth control pills and their wide availability—a druggist near UCLA gives a 10 per cent student discount to coeds—is another factor....

Eleanor and Jim (not their real names) are both undergraduates at the University of Chicago. Soon after they began dating two years ago, Eleanor moved in with Jim (his two apartment-mates coolly looked the other way). Eleanor’s parents had given her permission to spend nights out of the dorm, but they didn't know she was spending them studying, watching TV and sleeping with Jim in his room in the $100-a-month flat.

"When you live with somebody, you get to know them an awful lot better," said Eleanor, "like he knows not to talk to me in the morning because I'll be grumpy." Jim,
21, plans to attend graduate school elsewhere, but Eleanor, 20, has another year at Chicago. She wanted to be engaged immediately and Jim did not. "I feel I need a firmer commitment," she said. "I want to be able to say to other boys, 'No, leave me alone'." "I don't want to feel completely tied down," said Jim, "but I know in a year or so we'll probably get married."

David cooks breakfast every morning for himself and Mary. They have separate bedrooms in their $155-a-month apartment near the UCLA campus. "This way we both can get a good night's sleep," explains David, 22, who has posted in the bathroom a sign reminding Mary to take her pill. The furniture is primarily cheap "early Akron"; the bookshelves, made of concrete blocks and planks "liberated" from a nearby construction site, contain a nearly complete collection of Henry Miller paperbacks.

The couple dated for two years and spent weekends at David's old apartment, but Mary felt uncomfortable eating breakfast with his roommates, so she and David began living together a year ago. She is on a scholarship and planning to start work in the fall; David, still supported by his father, a corporation executive, is beginning graduate study. They have separate bank accounts and split their expenses.

David's parents send his mail to his old address, but Mary thinks her parents know what's going on. "I really don't care," she says. "Since they packed me off to college, I've spent more time with David than with them. It's him I owe my loyalty to." "We sent out Christmas cards with both our names on them," said David, "and get invited to weddings together. Their own wedding will be this winter, according to Mary, or next summer by David's reckoning.

Bill, a graduate student at the University of California, and Barbara live together in Berkeley with no idea of marriage. "I have the image of marriage as a contractual, nonromantic relationship in which nothing happens," Bill declared. "Just living together, you feel young, and you're not tied down by joint possessions." And Barbara thinks "it's more hypocritical to sleep with a boy on a date than to live with someone you really care about. One problem, though, is that you lose your independence."

The landlord thinks the railroad flat is occupied by two girls; actually it shelters two unmarried couples. "It's an exercise in living," said Bill. Not even final exams could rock the nonconubial boat. "You realize the other person has tensions, and you tolerate their moods," explained Bill. "Living together makes me feel like an intelligent person–like Sartre and his mistress."

Certainly it is more above ground than ever before. "I think it is a great deal more open today," says Boston's Dr. Malkah Notman, a former consulting psychiatrist for Wellesley College. Mrs. Notman also thinks living together reflects "more equality" between the sexes. A Berkeley pre-med student agrees: "Living together's anti-double standard. It demonstrates that, since the pill, a girl can behave like a boy." ....
All in all, there seems to be growing tolerance, if not applause. Dr. David Powelson, chief of the psychiatric division of Berkeley's student health service, says unstructured relationships may be the shape of the future. "Stable, open nonmarital relationships," he says, "are pushing the border of what society is going to face in ten years." But Berkeley's Emily Reed, an associate dean of students, raises a practical consideration for the present: "A girl is sometimes hard put to explain what happened when the next fellow comes along."