



Maddie Costa dances with Steve Courtney at a recent Singles Zone dance at the Fall River Country Club.

MIAMI PHOTO: I DAVE SPAID

# Meet ♥ on your feet

Group lets singles mingle the way they did before the Web: at dances

**Linda Murphy**  
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**L**ong before social networking sites and online dating services provided a way to find love, harmony and that perfect match, there were singles dances. And now the dances are back, and they appear to be more popular than ever.

Gussying up for a night of dinner and dancing may sound more like an activity from days past, but singles appear to be embracing the traditional way of meeting someone new.

"The majority of people I've talked to are turned off by online dating," said Madeleine (Maddie) Costa, who organizes the dances with her brother Martin. "The dances are an old-fashioned way to meet socially. I think people sin-

cerely want a way to go out and meet others. This way you can see what you're getting from the get-go."

The Westport siblings formed Singles Zone this past summer and began planning the monthly night of dinner and dancing as a way for singles to meet face-to-face. The first two dances held at the Fall River Country Club in August and September drew more than 100 people, and the Costas said

they expect the same numbers at the Halloween masquerade dinner and dance this month. "The reception (to the dances) was very good; people were thrilled by it," said Martin Costa.

Motivating people to hit the dance floor and have a good time isn't foreign to Martin Costa, a disc jockey who ran MC Productions

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