By HEDIE BIELAK

"There’s so much stuff to make, but in the end I’m just not going to bother," Susie Gall said. "I don’t really want to think about cooking after working all day."

Gall and her American exchange student and friend, Blaise Hart-Schmidt, are not alone in their dissatisfaction with Thanksgiving. In fact, according to the Gallop Poll, only 51 percent of Americans said they liked the traditional meal. That's down from 64 percent in 2001.

"I just wanted to bring everything American to dinner," Hart-Schmidt said. "We have ham, brownies, pumpkin pie and everything."

During the day, the family went to their friend's house to celebrate. "We just got together and ate food, and it was just a lot of fun," Hart-Schmidt said. "I just don’t like staying home and eating alone."

Though Thanksgiving is a time for family and friends, some students have chosen to stay away this year. "It’s not the most fun time of the year," said Sophomore Sarah Wadud from Saudi Arabia. "I just didn’t want to stay home and be sad, so I just decided to stay here with my friends."

Wadud is not alone in her decision. "I decided not to come home for Thanksgiving this year," Sophomore Megan Coburn said. "I decided to stay here and celebrate with my friends."

Coburn and her roommates decided to celebrate Thanksgiving with friends instead of family. "We couldn’t afford to make a whole Thanksgiving dinner for everyone, so we decided to just bring our traditional foods to their place for Thanksgiving dinner," Coburn said. "It was a lot of fun and we got to try new foods!"

On another occasion, Coburn discovered that "American exchange students usually don’t celebrate Thanksgiving because they don’t have family here." Coburn and her friends made a guest book and "had them bring it." They asked them to bring a traditional American food to share. "We couldn’t afford to make a whole Thanksgiving dinner for everyone, so we decided to just bring our traditional foods to their place for Thanksgiving dinner," Coburn said. "It was a lot of fun and we got to try new foods!"

Although students, like Naji and Wolf, will celebrate Thanksgiving this year, others will not get to see their families. "I’m not going to see my family this year," Sophomore Sarah Wadud said. "I just didn’t want to…fly across the Atlantic Ocean for just one week."

Still, some students have decided to stay home for Thanksgiving. "I’m not normally a big fan of Thanksgiving," Sophomore Beth Deeken said. "I don’t really like it, but I do like the food."

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