

# 'Electronic cupid' helps singles select suitable dates

United Press International  
LOS ANGELES — Single people combing the big city crowds for a desirable date often discover they are difficult to find.

Trolling the bars for attractive, interesting men and women to go out with is expensive, time consuming and usually futile, said Jay Ullman, who has built a business of getting people together.

Ullman, 32, created Great Expectations, an aptly named method of finding a date, which he insists is not a dating service or computerized matchmaking. It is video dating that makes the old "blind" date obsolete.

Its creator likes to refer to the selection process as an "electronic cupid." He got the idea, he said, from his frustrated friends.

"We are programmed to look for 10s," Ullman said of singles in America. "My friends were not losers, they were busy, active people — professionals who were tired of looking in all the wrong places for the right person."

At Great Expectations, he said, "you see more singles in an hour than you could meet in a year."

There, clients find their own dates in a system that one young woman said was "like going into a candy store."

It's spreading, Ullman said. Franchised branches have opened under other names in San Jose, San Diego, and Denver.

Single men and women pay nearly \$400 to join Great Expectations, and annual \$200 renewal fees to entitle them to continue

making date selections. The fee offers members the chance to peruse photo albums containing snapshots and personal information on a first-name-only basis about all other members of the opposite sex.

When they find someone interesting, they enter a private booth in the firm's offices and watch a videotape of their prospective date being interviewed by Ullman.

Members meet only by mutual consent.

Clients are delighted by the novelty of being able to choose someone out of a book, watch them on a TV screen, and then have a neutral party find out if they want to date them, without being rejected face-to-face.

The process eliminates married people, homosexuals and "the emotionally walking wounded," Ullman said. Clients are usually secure people with high personal esteem who delight in new experiences, he said.

Ullman developed the concept in 1975 after observing that many singles had problems finding good dates.

He says 74 percent of the women and 93 percent of the men are professionals such as doctors, attorneys and engineers. There are more men — 52 percent — than women in the club.

Robert Brotnow, 42, said he was an architect whose dating used to be hit and miss — "women I met in restaurants, or through friends." He joined Great Expectations six months ago.

"I never had a bad time," he said of the more than 30 women he dated in the first four months. "All of them were at least a 'six.'" He said he spent \$1,200 for all of the dates and "it was worth it."

Brotnow was dating several Great Expectations women — a real estate agent, a court reporter and a clinical psychologist, he said.

"They are sexy, feminine, warm, affectionate and well educated," Brotnow said. He had been married at a young age and also had some long-term relationships. Now he was enjoying the dating circuit again.

"You don't necessarily go to bed with a person on the first date. Actually, there is not a whole lot of

sex (in his Great Expectation encounters). I am very serious about dating. I paid my money and I really want my money's worth."

Phyllis Gordon, 36, a sales representative, said she met the man she is now living with at Great Expectations.

"It sure beats hanging around bars and discos," she said.

"I didn't think I needed something like (Great Expectations), but looking at the tapes was like a kid going to a candy shop."

"You can't meet anybody out going to a bar or without introduced." She had just broken engagement when Don, she said.

"We both went into it to have fun and it worked. Where your mind is at determines whether you're going to get something out of it. I went in thinking 'this is beneath me,' and it turned out to be the best thing I did."

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## Agents check grain blast for fumigant

United Press International  
CORPUS CHRISTI — Federal and state officials say they are investigating whether a highly flammable pesticide could have sparked the April 7 explosion in a grain elevator which killed eight workers.

David Ivie, Texas Department of Agriculture science division chief, said Monday that investigators are looking at fumigation records from the Corpus Christi Public Grain Elevator, specifically checking the use of a fumigant called phosphine.

"Grain dust is probably more explosive than anything else, but we asked the people doing the investigation to check into all possibilities," Ivie said. "It could have been enough to create a spark to get the grain dust going."

Robert Kunkel, Federal Grain Inspection Service spokesman in Dallas, said federal inspectors had complained about excessive phosphine fumes several months before the explosions.

Investigators have said they believe the explosions originated in a conveyor belt system or in the elevator legs.

However, officials said they have not determined what served as a spark for the explosions.

Meanwhile, the eighth victim Jose Franco, 42, died from extensive burns late Sunday at Memorial Medical Center in Corpus Christi.

At least 11 other persons remain hospitalized from injuries suffered in the explosion.

## Reporter to plead 5th at hearing

United Press International  
PHOENIX, Ariz. — A federal judge has been asked to send a reporter for The Arizona Republic to jail for refusing to divulge his sources for a story.

James Powers, lawyer for millionaire Kemper Marley, filed a motion asking for reporter Jerry Seper to be found in contempt of court.

U.S. District Court Judge Carl Muecke scheduled a May 11 hearing on the motion.

Powers wants Seper to reveal his sources for two 1978 stories about an Internal Revenue Service investigation into Marley's liquor business. Marley was cleared of any wrongdoing.

Marley filed suit against the IRS in December 1978, claiming that one of its agents released confidential tax information to Seper. The suit originally named Gary Gard as the agent, but he subsequently was dismissed as a defendant and replaced by a "John Doe."

In a series of opinions last year, Muecke ordered Seper to name his sources, saying Powers had no other way of identifying them.

Powers took a deposition from Seper March 2, but Seper refused to identify his sources, citing the Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination, Arizona's "shield law," which protects a newsman's sources and the First Amendment guarantee of a free press.

Powers claims Muecke already has ruled against Seper's claims to protection under the First Amendment and the shield law. He said Seper raised the Fifth Amendment right as an "afterthought."



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