

asking that same old pointed question: "When are you going to get hitched and settle down?" Friends pull the old surprise introduction to their "available" pal. That sort of thing.

Meanwhile, everyone with a spouse and kids envies your lifestyle.

Hell, when you think about it, you can come and go as you please, create environmental hazards in your apartment and no one cares (except maybe the Fedz), stay out late, wake up next to some god-awful horror film reject...

But you've resolved to find a mate anyway. So be it.

Forbes magazine ranked Dallas as one of the top 15 cities for singles, at least on their Web site. We're not certain they didn't list every city in the country in the top 15. The only complaint they reported from local residents was a consistent chorus regarding the lack of single men or women—strange for a top-15 location. The magazine also listed Deep Ellum as the place to see and be seen.

OK, so the hookup process may require a bit more effort than you imagined. Yet the key to finding a mate is really just that: See and be seen.

Here are a few places to start:

Resolution Guide 2005

regrettable moment or a potentially meaningful encounter. Or 40 clicks wasted on a moderate buzz.

Yeah, we know. Probably the latter.

Bars are full of men and women on the prowl, looking for just one thing: vodka. Yet there are decent folk in any mix.

Check out Sense (3001 N. Henderson Ave., 214-370-4448),

Candle Room

(5039 Willis Ave., 214-370-4155) or **Dragonfly** in Hotel ZaZa (2332 Leonard St., 214-550-9500) to start. Of the three, Candle Room draws the younger, hipper crowd. In all three locations, however, people mingle easily.

The best venue for people-watching (and more) may be **Nikita** (3699 McKinney Ave., 214-520-6454), but only on Sunday nights. It draws from a range of party people, industry types and hardy souls just hoping to extend the weekend by a few more hours. Other options include **The Quarter** (3301 McKinney Ave., 214-754-4940) on Tuesdays and **Medici** (2404 Cedar Springs Road, 214-855-0202). Once a haven for aging and overweight males (and their "girlfriends," if you get our drift), the place is in the midst of a solid comeback, attracting a share of young and comely singles.

dating options exist that may prove worthwhile to thro' your name out there and see what sticks...no, that's not right...to hang up your banner and...never mind.

Match.com is the traditional starting point. Lately, however, sites catering to Christian singles, gay and lesbian singles, swingers and probably even Eskimos popped up on the Internet. Some use a simple search-and-match process. Others provide tools to weed out the hack writers. Check out more general sites to start:

PerfectMatch (www.perfectmatch.com), **Metrodate** (www.metrodate.com) or **Eharmony** (www.eharmony.com).

Eharmony requires users to fill out a lengthy questionnaire, but it claims to match the 29 key dimensions guaranteeing "deep compatibility" between those it brings together. Funny, centuries of research by dedicated professionals somehow missed these things, yet a handful of computer geeks managed to solve the mysteries of human love.

Hmm.

Anyway, the site probes character traits, family background, values, temperament and other factors to create a personality profile, in much the same way coppers pin

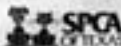
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