

STREET SCENE

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The pickup and things people say

By Joanne Bobczak
special writer

LISA GORECKI AND HER girlfriend make their way up the stairs to the Box Top, a patio-like lounge atop the Juke Box nightclub in Royal Oak. Little does she know that evening she would be prey like many others — male and female — who do the bar scene. Some of the lines will work; others will not.

Whether flattery, rude or crude, in a bar atmosphere, all is fair in love and sex and it doesn't matter who stoops to cooquer. The trick is being able to read between the lines.

Antonio "Nino" Cueter and his cousin James Schukts came prepared — lines and all — for the thrill of the hunt.

"Most of the time we're here just to have fun," said the 25-year-old Cueter who visits clubs like the Juke Box as often as five times a week. "We're not looking to meet anyone."

His often used approach is "would you like to sit down and have a drink?" Cueter admits the response is often "no," but he doesn't give up easily.

"You know what? The only thing that stands between you and me right now is air and opportunity!" or "You see any reason why your people and my people shouldn't get together and form a merger," he'll say.

Now, according to this young entrepreneur, the object of his attention will either say "excuse me," or "get away from me" or she'll start to laugh and be amused by it. It's like a "fish or cut bait" type of line.

According to Cueter, owner and president of Cueter Investment Co., a commercial real estate and development firm, by this time the woman either tells him he's "full of it" or she's hooked and stays for the duration of the evening.

Schukts demonstrates his method. Calling out to Gorecki as she passes their table, "Would you like to meet my mother and father?"

Gorecki stops, attracted to his question. She says "yes."

Schukts opens a photo album containing pictures of a recent party hosted by himself and Cueter and introduces his pictorial family to Gorecki.

The 21-year-old Gorecki is certain that his question was just another pickup line. The method deserved credit for creativity, but it wouldn't have worked on her, she said.

The kind of guy the Redford



Darren Makarski gets an exasperated look from Jennifer Shimoura in the opening scene of the pickup game on the rooftop of the Juke Box in Royal Oak.

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resident likes would have to be interested in her occupation and goals. If the sultor uses the simple line of "Hi, how are you," and she finds him attractive, she'll determine then whether or not to continue the conversation.

Gorecki did stay for the duration, deciding Cueter and Schukts, all lines aside, were nice guys worth her company for the remainder of the evening.

IS THE game cruel?

Dr. Robert Hymes, social psychology professor at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, says no.

"There isn't anything more cruel about using that routine to hit on a woman than there is when a woman says 'Give me your number and I'll call you' and then she never calls," he said. "The bar scene in general is an insincere situation. If one goes to a bar expecting sincerity, they're naive."

"It goes back to the conquering mode. It's not even to see if the man can have a relationship or sexual encounter but just to see if the guy can get a woman to the point where she is willing. So the goal is the chase and not the

end encounter."

Jennifer Shimoura, a 28-year-old phlebotomist (blood drawer) at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, realized that the drink she ordered while at the Metropolitan Music Cafe had never been served. Taking matters into her own hands, she went to the bar to get her drink.

While she was waiting, she encountered a male patron in his early 30s, who boisterously asked, "Are you a natural redhead?"

RECENTLY divorced, Shimoura admits her error of blurted out a naive answer. The man offered a crude retort that she unconsciously knew was coming.

"I spent two years either bedridden or imprisoned in my home," she said. "What I had forgotten, in regards to bars, was not only are they pickup joints, meat markets and fashion shows, but they are comedy castles within themselves."

Shimoura categorizes the lines she's heard as typical, unspoken and too much too drink.

The typical lines are those in search of information — name, age, marital status. However, she

said, "no one is saying you are going to get the true answer."

Unspoken lines are "the guy standing over in the corner who is watching your every move, never saying anything, not asking you to dance, not sending over a drink, not so much as a wink of the eye. But he's watching and he knows you know he's watching." Shimoura finds that type frightening.

The too much to drink or "I'm just a jerk" lines are like the guy who grabbed her as she passed him.

"HEY, BABY I want to marry you," he proposed. "You don't even know me," she answered. "No," he confessed, "but I sure like the way you wear your skirt."

Even though Shimoura, Gorecki, Cueter and Schukts are all in their 20s, according to Hymes, age is no factor in the hunt.

"Whether they are young or old, I think most males tend to look for the conquer in all this," said the 34-year-old psychologist. "For males, it (pickup lines) is a way to boost the ego and have a quick entry to sex. It rarely includes looking for a solid relationship."

"For women, it (going to the bar)

tends to serve more as a fun night out. They may think of meeting the man of their dreams, but they are generally more realistic than that. They go for female bonding — women tend to not want to leave other women at the bar as much as men want to be on their own."

And, emphasizes Hyme, should women embark on the hunting adventure and engage in similar verbal tactics, it is purely for the challenge.

"Sex is the last thing on their mind," he said.

JEFF BADMAN, 37, is often complimented for his "cute butt."

The Huntington Woods resident, who prefers to attend a couple BBT (Bloomfield, Birmingham, Troy Singles Club) socials a month, is "quite taken" by the remark but laughs it off.

He confesses that older women try to pick him up more often than the younger ones, but he doesn't use a standard line.

"You could find lines here (at the BBTs); there are plenty of guys who have an opening line but there are a few like me who don't," said the food marketing liaison. "My opening line is whatever the

moment is. The lines that I use are definitely sincere. If I have something to say, I generally mean it."

Badman believes people go to bars out of loneliness and also because the lounges are "quick," no planning needs to be done like buying concert tickets. He personally despises bars and seldom goes to them.

"You can't get a straight story from anyone in a bar," he said.

"Bars are non-committal. If you meet someone there, you should be prepared for plenty of broken promises. Here (at BBT), it's a little different. People are more relaxed."

"ES doesn't flow as much as it does in a bar."

WHETHER IT be out of pure socialization or just to go dancing, Hymes advises not to look for that special person at a night spot.

"There are more profitable places and opportunities like college classrooms, adult education courses, dance lessons and church activities," he said. "The theory is to focus on the fund-raiser or learning experience rather than being single."

Groups provide mingles without 'the game'

By Joanne Bobczak
special writer

Divorced and single once again, Joan Wright and her friends had had it with the meat-market syndrome they experienced at nightclubs.

Wright, living in Birmingham at the time, decided that what her city needed was a place where people could get together for a "giant house party" to mingle and enjoy music.

"I didn't want it to be just for singles," said the Oakland Township resident. So six years ago, she went to community leader Bob DeLaura and expressed her idea of using The Community House to throw a once-a-month party, open to single and married people.

As a result of her efforts, Bates Street Night Out — named after South Bates, where the Community House is located — became a popular attraction.

"The whole atmosphere is less intimidating than a bar," said Wright, director of banquet and catering at the facility. "You have the opportunity to communicate while dancing. You can dress up or down as long as it's tasteful."

"It's more comfortable and hopefully more sincere than a bar."

This new concept in social scenes draws about 250 people from all over. No disc jockeys at this one. Wright hires nine- to 12-piece bands like the Sun Messengers that perform a variety of music, from oldies to Top-40 tunes.

ALWAYS the second Thursday of the month, a \$5 admission charge buys hot entertainment and free hors d'oeuvres. A cash bar provides the beverages.

Wright estimates that the partygoers range in age from 21 to 70; the crowd is mainly sophisticated business professionals. You can dress up or down as long as it's tasteful.

Now, if you really like exclusive, there's the First Society of Detroit. Founded in 1983 by several young adults who sensed a need for single people to contrib-



As the game progresses, Cindi Averill and Sam Buidoun get acquainted at the Juke Box's downstairs bar.

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ute to the well-being of the metropolitan area.

According to Rick Voss, a 38-year-old single on the society's executive committee, the non-profit corporation benefits mainly children's charities — Children's

Hospital of Michigan, Children's Home of Detroit and the Foundation for Exceptional Children.

But what's so exclusive?

"People who are members of the organization re-

cruit the new members," said Voss, a salesman with Consolidated Business Forms. "We don't want anyone getting in who will cause trouble. It has to be on a select basis."

Usually, members are between 28 and 38 in age and "above average" compared to others in the singles scene — college-educated and in higher income brackets.

The organization's fund-raisers certainly reflect that criteria. They're always held at a country or yacht club. The benefits (dances) generally cost \$20 to \$25 a ticket and require formal or business attire.

"I THINK the people, because someone recommends them, treat each other with a little more respect than they would in a bar," said Voss, who lists the bar atmosphere as his last choice these days. "The focus is changed from picking someone up to benefiting a cause in the community, and perhaps, encountering a nice person that you can spend some time with."

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Finally, if sorting through the weeds to find a flosser is really frustrating you, try what 28-year-old Jennifer Hirsch did — a dating service.

Hirsch was quite satisfied with partners chosen for her by the Great Expectations dating service in Southfield.

For more information about Bates Street Night Out, call Joanne Wright at 644-5832. For STAR Singles (there's a membership fee of \$10 per person, \$12 per married couple), call the hot line at 648-7417. For the American Cancer Society Young Professionals-Oakland Unit (there's a \$20 membership fee), call 557-5353.