

Making a love connection

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Where do lonely professionals in Denver go to find romance? More and more are turning up at matchmaking services hoping for help where Cupid failed.

For a fee, these agencies will assess their clients and find them a potential match. Professionals in particular seem to be the ideal demographic for companies like Singles Professionals Introduction Service, a Denver-based matchmaking business with more than 600 active members.

Owner and founder Greg Wasleski said his company provides a service for people looking to get married or get involved in a long term relationship.

"They're basically single professionals who are established in their careers," Wasleski said. "They're particular about who they meet but don't have time to find the right person."

That's where companies like the Minneapolis-based Table for Two matchmaking service come in. The company expanded to the Denver Tech Center in March and will continue its expansion when it opens another branch in Phoenix later this year. Owner and founder Amy Rolando said her clientele is typically educated with over 60 percent of her clients having advanced degrees.

"Our clients are financially stable and they all get dates," Rolando said. "This is not about finding dates. This is about finding and connecting with the right person."

Taking a slightly different approach to the dating scene is Karla Griffin's A Match Made in Heaven. Her Greenwood Village-based company eschews dating in favor of courting. Griffin said her company is evenly split between teaching the art of courting and making matches.

"Dating is all about gratifying



Ana Brun is branch manager of Table for Two, a matchmaking service that caters to professionals.

your sexual or emotional needs completely," Griffin said. "Courtship is about becoming friends and slowly moving towards marriage."

For \$200, Griffin teaches a two hour session on the art of courting. She said once her clients learn the difference between men and woman, then she will personally make them a match for an additional \$100. She said her seven month old business is booming with people who want to return to the simpler days of courting.

"Nobody's happy with the current dating scenario," Griffin said. "It's not that we have a bad quality of people, it's that we have a bad quality system."

"Richard," a 32-year-old sales person in the Internet and telecommunications industry, said he began using the services of Table for Two because he does not frequent bars and was not meeting people he considered dating material.

"Before I did this there was a little trepidation on my part," Richard said. "I wanted to try and meet someone on my own. I didn't think I needed help but I realized that I did need help."

Wasleski, whose Singles Professional's Introduction Service charges between \$350 to \$650 for yearly membership, said more single people are realizing that there is

little to no stigma attached to using a matchmaking service. He said single people used to rely on meeting potential dates at work but that work climates have changed to deter dating among co-workers.

"People are just so busy in their everyday lives that to really look for a partner, especially one that meets their criteria, takes a lot of work," Wasleski said. "If they go out to bars they go for entertainment and not to find somebody."

As the stigma attached to dating and matchmaking services declines, these Cupid's for hire find that they are not immune from utilizing the service they provide. Wasleski said he has on occasion submitted his profile to potential dates and has experienced some dating success.

"I've been able to meet real nice ladies that way including my current girlfriend," Wasleski said.

Griffin said it would not be appropriate for her to use her own service but she would reconsider using A Match Made in Heaven if it had a different owner.

"Before I started this service people were always fixing me up," Griffin said. "Now that I've got this service nobody is matching me up. I've got this problem where I need a matchmaker myself and I wish there was a service like mine that I could use."