



BETH M. HOWARD

115 OF THE CITY'S BEST ATTORNEYS

seattle

TOP LAWYERS

2003

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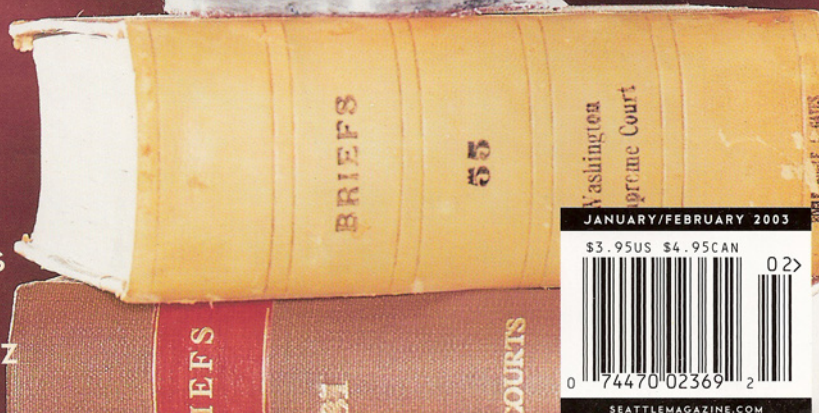
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SINGLE IN SEATTLE

Back by popular demand: our survey of the city's most eligible and unattached. Get out your Palm Pilots. These folks are catches...

BY BETH HOWARD PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADAM L. WEINTRAUB

You work 60 hours a week, you're commuting two hours a day, you're divorced with shared custody of two kids, and you're training to climb Mount Rainier. No wonder you can't find a date.

"No time" is the most common complaint of singles in Seattle. To give you a few pointers on efficiently navigating the local dating scene—and to prove there are indeed fabulous Seattleites who are ready to meet their mate—we bring you, once again, our most eligible singles list.

Happy hunting.

JOAN HOUSTON (RIGHT)

54, Northwest area director for the United Negro College Fund

What she does when she's off the clock:

Talk about diversity, this dynamo enjoys reading about the latest in quantum physics, gardening and watching silver-screen movies. She also loves shopping. "I can spot a designer sale sign from the side of the road going 50 miles per hour," she says.

The perfect date: If you want to impress Houston, you're going to have to whisk her off at the spur of the moment to Rosario Beach in the San Juan Islands.

Best place to meet people in Seattle: Her list is long: Columbia Tower Club, Rainier Club, Harbor Club, Four Seasons Olympic Hotel, Whole Foods, City People's and "any of the hardware stores in Issaquah or Bellevue."

Greatest accomplishment: Houston cites her current project—"raising funds to help to provide the means and the opportunity to help some very deserving kids"—as her greatest accomplishment.

What she is looking for: An intelligent man who is "on the edge—seasoned but unscathed, and breathing."

What makes her such a great catch? Her friend and associate from UNCF Pat Stanford says, "She's got a heart as big as the universe."

Bottom line: Be prepared: She's wittier than you.



SARA JONES (BELOW)

34, retired Microsoft general manager, who just launched UrbanMulch.com, a site for people who want a gorgeous but low-maintenance city garden.

What she does when she's off the clock: This spunky, athletic, Jodie Foster look-alike can be found snowboarding. A former Midwesterner, she moved here to be near the mountains.

Her perfect date: Flying to Paris on the Concorde.

Best place to meet people in Seattle: "You tell me."

Best quality: "I laugh easily and can find humor in a lot of life's events."

Worst quality: "I can be very direct, and have a tendency to step on people's feelings."

Greatest accomplishment: Gutting her 1907 Capitol Hill Craftsman-style house. "Now I can plumb and build walls," she says. "I think it says a lot about my ability to take on challenges."

What she's looking for: "Someone who can pick up *The New Yorker* and laugh at the cartoons and get them. Someone who can make walking the dog romantic."

Why she's still single: "I've had a lot of great relationships, but nothing that was 50-years worthy."

What makes her such a great catch? Says pal and former business associate Chad Haight, publisher of Sasquatch Books, "She's brilliant. Anyone who's looking for a mental match—she has the ingredients. And she's got the best laugh in the world."

Bottom line: She wears the (Carhart) pants.



SINGLE IN SEATTLE

JOANIE PARSONS (RIGHT)

38, owner, Parsons Public Relations

What she does when she's off the clock:

Comfortable in the backcountry or a five-star restaurant, this busy PR guru, who's behind powerhouse events such as the Northwest Flower & Garden Show, fills her precious free time with hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, sailing, gardening, and arts and music events.

The perfect date: "I plan events all day, so I would love someone else to do the planning and surprise me."

Best place to meet people in Seattle: "Through friends and mutual interests—not at a bar."

Best quality: Versatility. She's a chameleon when it comes to activities and style.

Worst quality: "I'm overly enthusiastic. I want to do too much."

Greatest accomplishment: Creating Parsons Pet Project, a foundation whose mission is to stop the poaching of sea turtles. She is trying to raise \$50,000 by May to build an educational center in Costa Rica.

What she is looking for: "A co-conspirator who likes adventure and the outdoors. A playmate."

Why she's still single: "I haven't found the man of my dreams...or someone who would show up."

What makes her such a great catch? "Joanie's got it all going on," says her business associate Pam Perry. "She's Nordstrom meets REL."

Bottom line: Get your tuxedo cleaned and break in the hiking boots.



ISA D'ARLEANS (RIGHT)

38, artist

What she does when she's off the clock:

"Anything to do with culture," says this refined, French beauty.

The perfect date: A trip to Tahiti.

Best quality: Openness. If you just met her that day she would invite you to her dinner party that night.

Worst quality: "I'm too easygoing. I trust too easily, and that can get me in trouble."

Greatest accomplishment: D'Arleans is proud-est of a mural she painted in 2001. Entitled

September 11, it depicts peace, freedom and hope.

What she is looking for: You'd better be smart.

"Intelligence is number one," says D'Arleans. Of course, "style, kindness, sense of curiosity, and definitely culture" also score high points.

Why she's still single: Twice divorced, she admits, "Now I'm incredibly careful."

What makes her such a great catch? "She's fabulous, smart, funny, easy on the eyes," says her friend JJ McKay. "And she makes you feel as if you are a piece of art."

Bottom line: Get your tuxedo cleaned.



MAX BORTHWICK (LEFT)

32, owner of Toi restaurant

What he does when he's off the clock:

"I love going to the gym to work out, but basketball is my favorite sport," says this tall, dark and handsome single. "I'm an NBA junkie."

What he's looking for: "Someone who is well traveled, well educated and passionate—stylish but able to put on sweats, turn her hat backwards and shoot hoops with me."

The perfect date: Going to the spa at the Four Seasons Olympic Hotel for a massage, and then dinner at Marco's Supperclub.

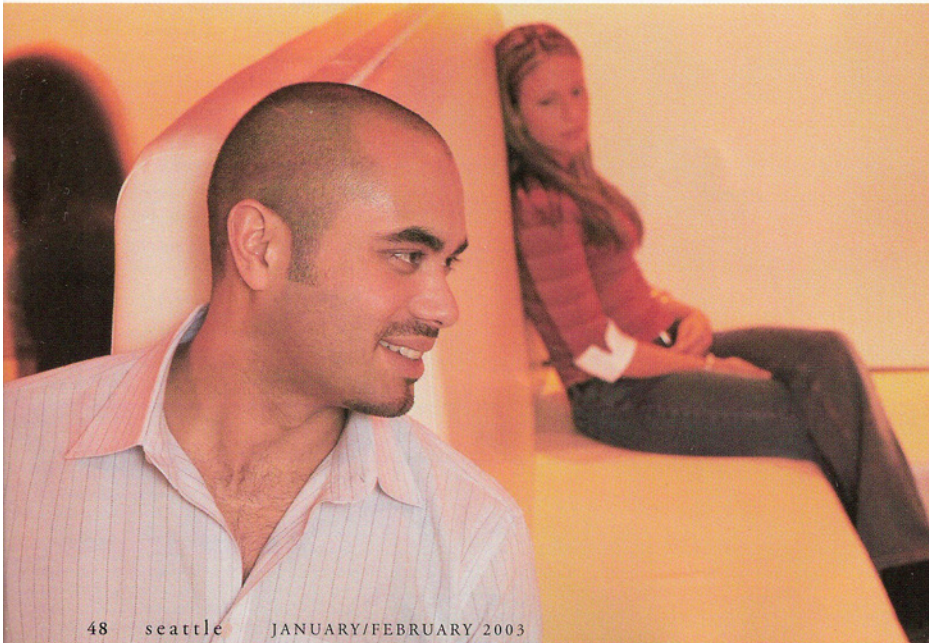
Best quality: "I'm nurturing."

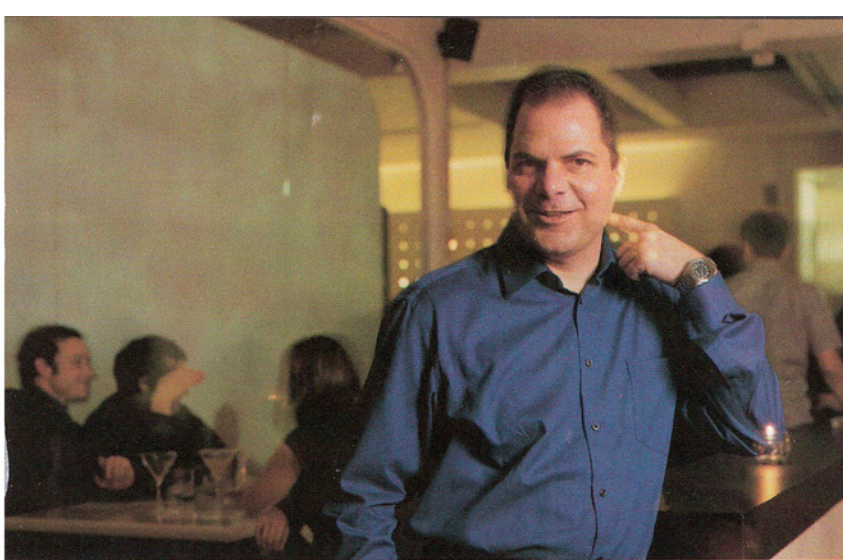
Worst quality: "I'm impatient and overly meticulous. I drive myself nuts."

Greatest accomplishment: "Opening Toi. I've wanted to open a Thai restaurant since I was 12."

Why he's still single: "The older you get, the pickier you get. You get independent."

Bottom line: Waiting to meet Sue Bird.





DAVID ARMSTRONG (ABOVE)

44, producing artistic director at the 5th Avenue Theatre

What he does when he's off the clock:

This savvy but slightly eccentric city slicker travels to quirky, small-town places like the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show in Oklahoma or the Washington Lumberjack Festival.

The perfect date: "A strenuous hike and coming back to a really great inn with a hot tub and massage...and, of course, a great night at the theater."

What he's looking for: Smart and funny are tops on his list.

Best quality: "You hate to describe yourself as 'smart' and 'funny,' but I think that I am."

Worst quality: "I work too many hours a day, so somebody would have to put up with a great deal of competition from my job."

Greatest accomplishment: "Taking *Hairspray* to Broadway. We premiered it here last year, and now it's the biggest hit on Broadway."

What makes him such a great catch? "He mesmerizes you with his stories," says friend and entertainment reporter for NorthWest Cable News Guy Farris, "especially about his experience on Broadway."

Bottom line: There's no business like show business.

SAMUEL LONG (BELOW)

37, managing director of Pinpoint Venture Group

What he does when he's off the clock:

Flying airplanes, skiing and hiking; his latest trips were to Antarctica and the Grand Canyon.

The perfect date: "Flying to Christina's on Orcas Island for brunch, and afterward building Andrew Goldsworthy-inspired art on the beach."

What he's looking for: "A shared destiny."

Best place to meet people in Seattle: He says Sun Valley, but his favorite local hangout is Cactus in Madison Park.

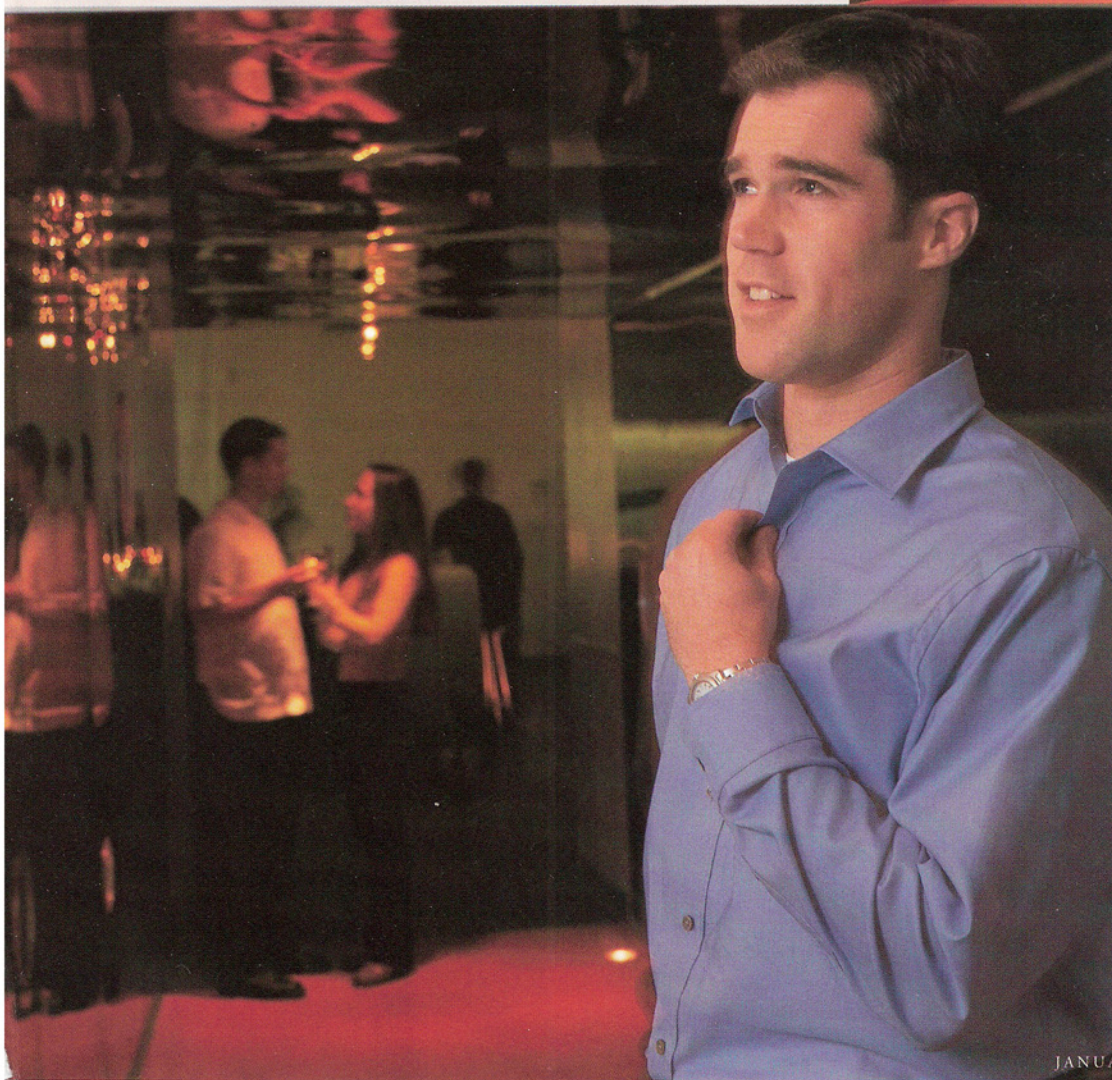
What's your best quality? "Integrity. And I score high on flexibility."

Worst quality? "Intensity. I'm too focused and serious sometimes."

Greatest accomplishment? "My philanthropic pursuits..." he says. Seattle Repertory Theatre, Seattle Symphony and the Puget Sound Environmental Learning Center are a few of the organizations he helps.

Why he's still single: "Timing is everything."

Bottom line: Fly me to the moon.



PETER ALEXANDER (LEFT)

26, news anchor/reporter for Q13 news

What he does when he's off the clock:

You can find Alexander on the court, on the greens or on the road, as golf, tennis and road trips rank as his favorite activities.

What he's looking for: "Someone who wears less makeup than I do. And definitely someone who shares my values."

The perfect date: A trip to Banff, where his parents went for their honeymoon.

Best place to meet people in Seattle: Just about anywhere. "When you work in TV, you're lucky. People say hello to you. That makes it easier."

Best quality: "I'm not too proud to think I'm funny, and I'm full of energy."

Worst quality: "Waking up with make-up on my pillow. Being a perfectionist."

Greatest accomplishment: "Making it to Seattle at a young age in this business."

What makes him such a great catch?

As if it weren't enough that *The Jewish Transcript* ran an article dubbing Alexander a "nice Jewish boy," Leslie Miller, Peter's co-anchor at Q13, states emphatically, "Peter is the perfect example of the 'total package.' He combines breezy good looks, intellect and obvious talent with a huge likability factor."

Bottom line: Move over, Matt Lauer.

SINGLE IN SEATTLE

CYBER-DATING SAVVY

The dating landscape has changed dramatically with the popularity of online matchmaking services like Match.com, a site popular among single professionals in Seattle. So it should come as no surprise that some mating rules and rituals have changed as well. Here are a few do's and don'ts from those who've been there and emerged wiser—and not necessarily still single.

- Have a list of the 10 qualities you want. If a prospect doesn't meet five to seven of your 10, forget it. That's the benefit of cyber-dating services. As opposed to meeting someone at a bar, where physical attraction can impair judgment, cyber-dating services help you make those distinctions right away, before you're too invested.

- You can tell a lot by the way people write—whether they're pretentious, whether they care enough to hit spell-check. On the flip side, put thought and care into your own e-mail persona. (Use of a thesaurus is acceptable.)

- Don't let e-mail banter continue too long before a face-to-face meeting. It's easy to become attached to a computer personality, but don't forget physical attraction's part of the equation, too.

- Set a schedule. When you're cruising online for a mate, it's easy to get addicted to the computer. Put yourself on an e-mail diet, and don't become a shopaholic!

- Be wary of the free cyber-dating services. Often, paying a nominal fee keeps out the riffraff and ensures people with profiles listed are fairly serious.

- Don't be ashamed. When people come out about their use of cyber-dating services, they are often surprised to find how many couples they know met the very same way. It may help to remember this: Though we may think we're high tech and cutting edge, using a matchmaker is actually a practice as old as time. **JENNA LAND**



DANIELLE VILLEGAS (BELOW)

40, COO of Utilikilts, a local company that makes alternative kilts.

What she does when she's off the clock: Villegas' real dream is to make films. She spends her little free time writing screenplays.

Her perfect date: A picnic in front of the fireplace.

Best place to meet people in Seattle: The Wild Rose on Pike Street, or Seattle Storm basketball games.

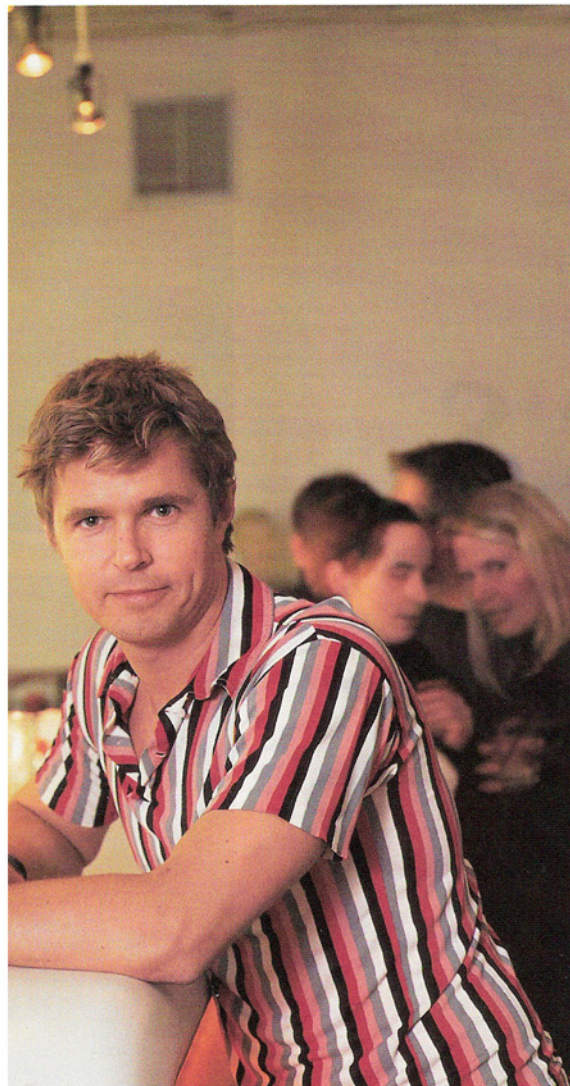
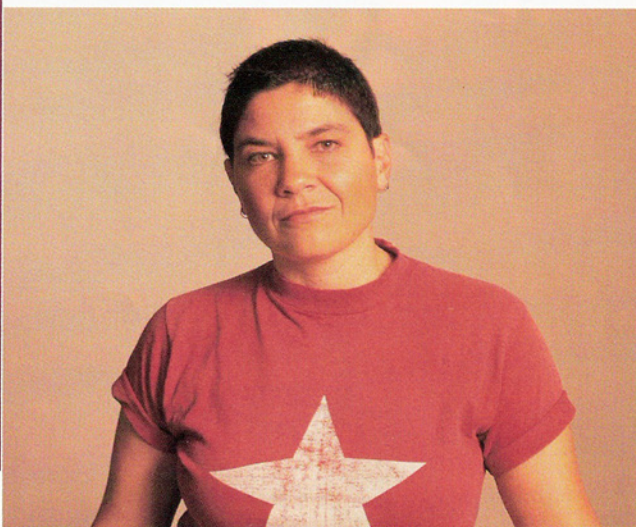
Best quality: Generosity, though her friend Cheryl Slean would say ambition. "She has an amazing amount of energy for getting things done," says Slean.

Worst quality: "Whining," admits Villegas. "Though I'm working on it."

What she's looking for: She wants "someone who is not stuck in their ways." "And," she adds "I like artists."

What makes her such a great catch? "She is both direct and romantic and has this open and evolving energy," says Slean. "She's so charismatic she instantly makes you feel like her best friend."

Bottom line: You'd better like kilts. Er, kilts.



JANUSZ POZNIAK (ABOVE)

37, glass blower, artist

What he does when he's off the clock: Raised in England, Janusz (pronounced "Yanush") likes to socialize, get outdoors, ride his motorbike, and travel.

What he's looking for: "A female! Someone who is confident, outgoing and interested in new sports like sea kayaking and climbing."

The perfect date: Fly to San Francisco for a nice dinner, then walk by the Golden Gate Bridge while the limo waits.

Best place to meet people in Seattle: Caffe Ladro, Jitterbug in Wallingford, Brasa downtown.

Best quality: "Honesty," he says without hesitation.

Worst quality: "Sensitivity. I can get a little insecure if someone is coarse with the way they say something."

Greatest accomplishment: "Still doing what I'm doing after 17 years and not ever having compromised on my ideals, and gaining the respect of my peers."

What makes him such a great catch? "He has an interesting, artistic life, and he's grown up. He's ready," says the wife of his best friend.

Bottom line: No bull in this china shop. **\$**

For more singles and dating tips, including places in town to meet singles,

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