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- Politics & Government
- Columns
- Entertainment
- Calendar
- Features
- Public Safety
- Religion
- Obituaries
- Weather

- Email Story
- Print Story

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## Speeding toward a new relationship

Walking to Tony Roma's in Glendale, I finally had a chance to think about what I'd like to ask the men I was about to meet during my cupid.com speed date on a recent Wednesday night.

After covering the Burbank event last month, I was intrigued to try it. I was alternately nervous and excited about the chance to talk to more than 10 gentlemen for six minutes each in one night.

Some of the things I wanted to ask my prospective dates were if they enjoyed ballroom/swing dancing, playing golf and if they lived or worked near the Burbank/Glendale area.

I also was looking for someone with an outgoing personality, who likes to get out and explore -- whether it be dinner, movies, museums, concerts or the like. I'd also like to meet someone who feels comfortable meeting new people and deciding to do things on the spur of the moment.

After signing in, I was given a number and sat down at a table for two. I was soon joined by a man who I had met at several other singles events in the area. "What are the chances?" I said to him as he sat down across from me.

We already knew what the other did for a living and he was glad to hear I was still at the newspaper. We talked about the other times we'd met, including swing dance lessons we'd both taken at the Pasadena Ballroom Dance Society.

Before we blinked twice, the bell rang, and he moved onto the next table to meet a new lady. I jotted down some notes on my results list and invited the next gentleman to sit down.

The most popular question asked of me was what I did for a living. Some of the gentlemen were curious if I had been married before and if I had children.

Everyone I spoke with was dressed in professional attire, was articulate and had an outgoing personality. If they were nervous, they hid it well.

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I was surprised at how relaxed the process was and how all my uneasiness melted away, once the interviews began. It was more like a big party.

The participants had five days to go to the website and enter their final choices of who they would like to talk to again. I decided on three out of the 13 possible. I received the final count of those men interested in me on the fifth day, and found one of the three wanted to talk to me again also.

But I want to get to know him a little better via e-mail through cupid.com's e-mail system before giving him my personal contact information.

I can honestly say, it was the most fun I've had at a singles event. Since divorcing in 1999, I've tried to meet single men at dances, online and through friends, but have not met someone I have enough in common with.

This event was such a kick that I wouldn't mind doing it again. And it's true, it only takes six minutes to know if you'd like to talk to them again.

And, it never hurts to build one's ego while plodding down the road to a new relationship, after all, how many people can say they had 13 dates in one night?

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