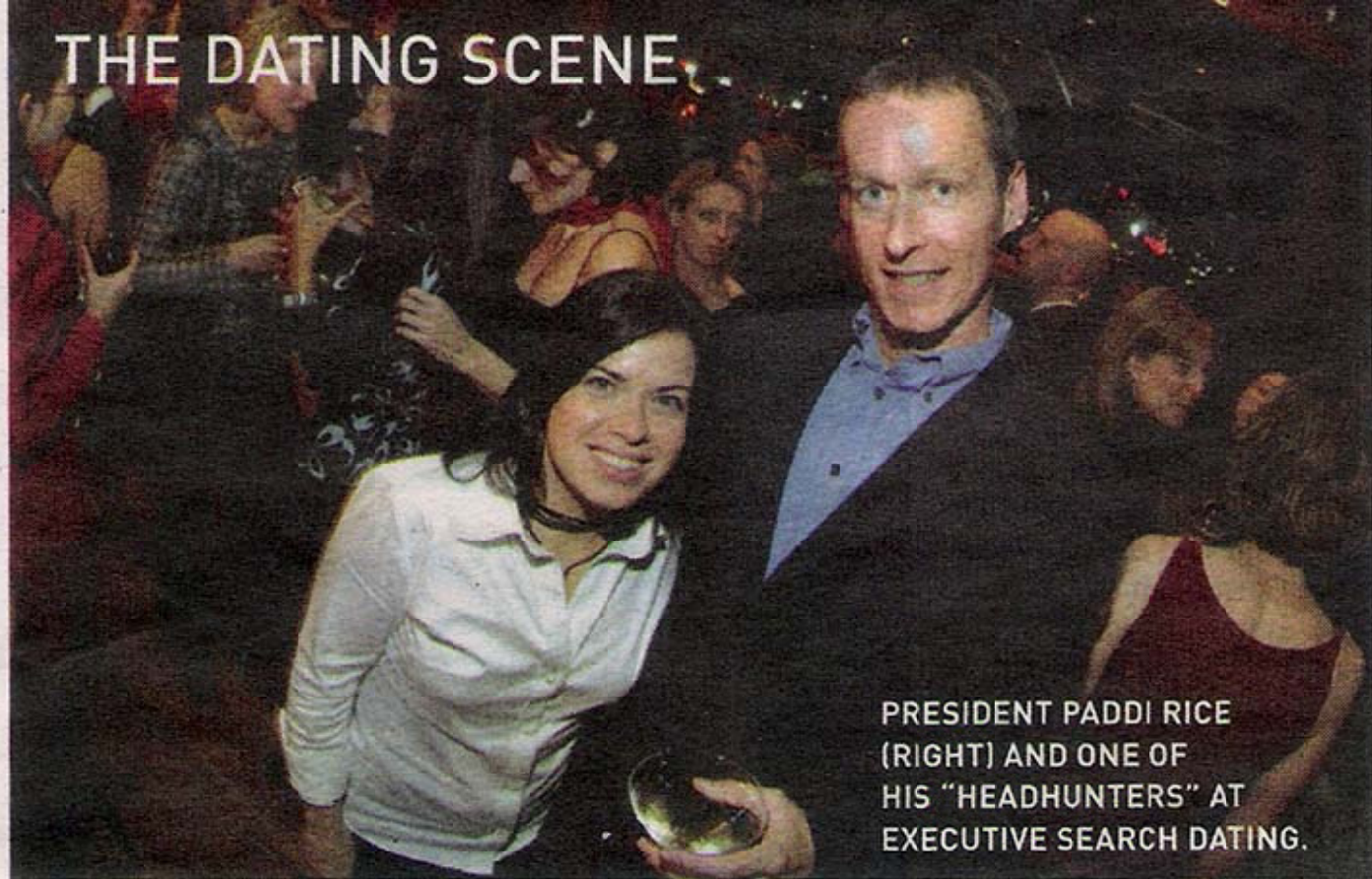


THE DATING SCENE



PRESIDENT PADDI RICE (RIGHT) AND ONE OF HIS "HEADHUNTERS" AT EXECUTIVE SEARCH DATING.

singles mingling & hooking up *(part one)*

by Helen Peterson

Single women looking for a partner definitely have their challenges.

No offence to any of these parties but with a plethora of gay men, uneducated labourers and assorted deadbeats (remember Seth Rogen's character in *Knocked Up?*), the talent pool in this city can be pretty shallow.

There are great men out there, but a lot of them are taken, and these odds can seem overwhelming to the unsuspecting single gal, but remember—it only takes one! The single woman has got to trump the competition, and those secrets are about to be revealed.

And don't just go to your own shindig—spread out! There are many reunions going on in town—volunteer to do registration for another grade, or even another school. Cast your line into assorted academic waters.

Lesson Number Two: Going online is cheap, anonymous and voyeuristic. It is not the best showcase for your social skills, your intelligence, your appearance or your personality in general. Websites like Lavalife, plentyoffish, etc. have been the catalyst for many matches, but really... how much effort was necessary for that to happen successfully? A hundred e-chats and 25 different dates?

Lesson Number Three: You wouldn't trust

If you are a 40-something woman who still looks pulled together, well, regardless of that... you are NOT going to find Mr. Right at a bar. You will never compete with the oodles of slim, perky-boobed, wrinkle-free, half-undressed 20-somethings that are flitting about.

Lesson Number One: When gravity takes over, it calls for new measures. One source for scoping out men is the high-school reunion. The 20-year bash I like to call "the year of the affair," when unhappy married guys may test the waters. The 30-year is the best, because half of the 47-year-olds will be divorced. You'll have youthful reminiscing in common—plus you'll have mutual friends so you can be assured he's not a creep. He will most likely have kids, so bear that in mind.

some stranger online to buy a Mercedes for you. Busy women sometimes have to call in the big guns to help them find decent, professional eligible men.

Companies such as **Executive Search Dating** and **It's Just Lunch** do the legwork for you, with quality face-to-face matches. At Executive Search, they'll actively seek out and recruit your perfect match; hand-select and carefully screen all candidates; make all the date arrangements for you; and provide one-on-one personalized service and follow-ups.

In summary, you get what you pay for in the dating world. If you want to hook a fish you've got to use premium bait! For more information on these services, plus some riveting testimonials, read our next 'Fresh' lifestyles section October 16.