

ON THE SPROWL: Rick Sprowl, right, needs to be 'inspired' to strike up a conversation, and his friend Tanya Connolly, far right, has heard some pretty lame pick-up lines.

STAFF PHOTOS BY
TARA BRICKING



Thinking of throwing out a few beaus next time you're at a bar? Strive to stick to the straightforward best — and ditch the rest.

FORGETTABLE 5

“You look a lot like my sister!”

“I just came back from Bali. Want to see my passport?”

“You're tall.”



PICKUP shticks

When it comes to romantic pitches, loose lips sink twits

By CARA NISSMAN

The memory bubbles up like a flute of fine champagne. Even today, Tanya Connolly can't keep from cracking up at the thought of the worst pickup line ever pitched her way.

“I can't believe it! It's so bad,” said Connolly, 28, of Boston, flanked by Frank Sinatra posters at the retro Lucky's Lounge in South Boston on a recent Thursday night.

“A guy asked me, ‘Can I have your autograph?’ and I said, ‘Why do you want my autograph?’ and he said, ‘You must be famous.’ Isn't that the worst ever?”

Not really. People apparently favor putting their feet rather than their drinks in their mouths when they're out digging for dates. You'd think that since Forbes.com cited

FUNNYMAN: Brad Stevens, left, usually breaks the ice with a ‘Seinfeld’ joke, which he says puts people at ease.

“Want to come back to my apartment for a beer?”

“I just divorced my parents. Will you adopt me?”

FABULOUS 5

"This place is tight. How long you been coming here?"

"Did you hear about the Sox?"

"How you doin'?"

"What are you drinking?"

"Hey, you from here?"



THEY'VE GOT DESIGNS: Jessica De Tingo, left, says guys often ask her to look at their homes when they learn she's an interior designer.

STAFF PHOTOS BY TARA BRICKING



TRUTH IN ADVERTISING: Svetlana Husseini, above, says eye contact and sincerity are important.

FEELING LUCKY?

Out on the Edge has 13 places to try out your new pickup lines, coming this Friday.

Ran 6/11/03

Boston as the top city for singles in 2001, folks would know how to approach each other. But for most unhitched hotties, it's easier to choose who should marry the Bachelor than it is to find the right words to start the sparks flying.

"The genuine approach is probably the best," said Bill Costa, general manager for Lucky's, where tunes such as Paul Simon's "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover" and glowing red lighting set a romantic scene for the low-key "Swingers"-esque hangout. "But a lot of people get intimidated. I've heard some really horrible lines."

People commonly ask about a person's profession to break the ice.

"When guys find out I'm an interior designer, they say, 'Oh, my place needs so much work. You should come and see it some time.'" said Jessica De Tingo, 29, of Boston. "I try to be nice when I reject them."

Others think a joke will spur them in the right dating direction.

"I always say that line from 'Seinfeld,' 'You wouldn't know it to look at me, but I run really fast,'" said Brad Stevens, 29, of South Boston. "I usually get a laugh. It puts you at ease, then you can start a conversation."

Some people sound like they're shopping for a horse, not a honey, praising people's teeth, hair and other body parts to establish a connection.

"Guys sometimes say, 'You have such beautiful hair. What shampoo do you use?'" said De Tingo. "I usually come up with something, but like they'd know what I use!"

Bartenders often encounter folks with more than beer on their minds.

"I have a tattoo on my back and one guy once said, 'Nice tattoo. Let me see the front (referring to her chest),' said bartender Laura Perras, 27, of South Boston. The lithe blonde said she usually laughs at men's advances, although sometimes she gets creative: "I invent stories. I say I'm getting cloistered next week. I get sick of it

sometimes. It drives me insane."

Women try the subtle approach with drink jockey Josh Sontag.

"I get the boring ones," said Sontag, 24, of the North End. "Like, 'How long have you worked here?'"

Bartender Greg Schnitzspahn lucked out at Lucky's after a woman he had been flirting with asked him out.

"Less is more," said Schnitzspahn, 27, of South Boston, who has pretended to be the boyfriend of many gals seeking safety from seedy guys. "We had been flirting back and forth. She asked me out and we've been seeing each other for five months."

But people seriously searching for love should try honesty in place of fabricated phrases, Svetlana Husseini said.

"Pickup lines don't work," said Husseini, 27, of Boston. "Eye contact works. Saying, 'Hi,' is nice. As long as they're themselves, anything's better than getting a cheesy line."

Dean Serpico, 33, of Lexington said he has to establish a rapport with someone before asking a woman out on a date.

Rick Sprowl said he has to sense a spark before he makes a move.

"I have to be inspired to talk to someone," said Sprowl, 28, of South Boston. "Everything's chance."

Others prefer a polite nod of acknowledgement.

"I like it when a guy sends a drink over," said De Tingo. "It shows manners when you do that. Needless to say, that doesn't happen very often."

Husseini said rather than run the gantlet of goofy pickup ploys, she prefers meeting people outside of bars.

"We all believe we're not going to find someone we want to spend the rest of our lives with at a bar," said Husseini. "A girl's got to know how to network. You know, those networking events aren't just for work!"