

ANTICHRIST ALMIGHTY

ROBINSON LEAVES "THE OFFICE" BEHIND. PAGE 16

metro

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PTSD setting in for victims hit by Sandy

Trauma. One-third of adults hit by the storm are still suffering months later. **Coping.** A new city program offers advice, group therapy and professional referrals for those in need of help. **Kids.** Children may be especially affected by their experiences during the hurricane, doctors say. PAGE 02



Only you have the power to make your dad cool. Consult our gift guide to see how.

Gift guide. Happy Father's Day, nerd. PAGES 19-20

Toll rises after Philly building collapse

PAGE 06



With fresh and sober eyes, **DWIGHT GOODEN** shares the most intimate moments of his successes and failures, from countless self-destructive drug binges to three World Series rings.

"He was the perfect citizen, always upbeat, always the first person at the ballpark. What happened next was the biggest shock of my baseball career."

—**DAVEY JOHNSON**

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HOOK 'EM AND HOOK UP (OR JUST BE FRIENDS)

Funky Brown Chick

TWANNA A. HINES, M.S.

AWARD-WINNING EDUCATOR AND SEX COLUMNIST. FOLLOW HER ON TWITTER @ FUNKYBROWNCHICK.



Creepy, desperate stranger isn't a good look. Whether you are interested in meeting friends or flirting your way to a good relationship, it can be difficult to forge connections with interesting people. Think of it this way: If an unknown person came to your front door and started a conversation with you, you'd wonder, "What do they want? Why are they talking to me?" It's the same when picking up a stranger. Barging in with little purpose — other than getting into their underwear — can feel awkward or make you look like a jerk. You can do better than that. The propagation of the human race depends on it. Here's how to rope someone into a conversation, friendship or your bed.

DON'T do it by yourself.



Don't be a creeper — make sure you approach a new person with an interesting, unique reason. / GETTY IMAGES

Invite the hot stranger and their partner (or friends!) to join you and your partner (or friends!) for drinks, a comedy show or dinner. Triads and quads keep things light and provide a higher number of possible conversation combinations and permutations. It's the platonic version of threesomes and swinging.

Advice

Do your research

You may already have potential targets among friends of friends. Ask around. Chances are that those you love and respect are in touch

with like-minded souls. Tell everyone you want to meet someone new and suggest they recommend others who might be good matches for you. Have the friend introduce you or contact them yourself.

At the same time, DON'T be afraid to be alone. It's okay to fly solo at public lectures, gyms, art gallery openings, author readings at your favorite bookstore and city-sponsored cultural events. Going alone means you'll grow more comfortable with independence — a necessity for all healthy interpersonal relationships. You'll also meet other singles with shared interests.

DO put your typing fingers to work to get creative about breaking the ice. Dating sites aren't only the tip of the iceberg, they're also melting. Seriously, who doesn't have an Internet dating horror story?! Try MeetUp.com or DiscoverOutdoors.com. Google local film societies and social sports clubs. Make the earth below you your common ground:

the hiking trip, movie or soccer game provides great conversation fodder. Remember: It's easiest to connect when you have a connector. For example, instead of rushing out when credits roll, casually mention to the person seated near you, "God, wasn't the end of that film awful?! I love this director's work, and she's usually much better with closing films."




PLUS

Contest

Outdoor dates

Discover Outdoors is inviting you to get outside. Send the story of the time you had the most fun on a date outdoors and compete for a \$150 gift certificate for any trip with by Discover Outdoors. Send your story to contest@discoveroutdoors.com. More details on destinations and activities at www.discoveroutdoors.com




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