



Wherefore Art Thou, Romeo? Apply Today!

I was sitting at my computer on yet another dateless Friday night, mulling over what topic to touch on for my next *Express* column, when I was suddenly struck by a thunderbolt of inspiration so rich with abundant possibility I was amazed my fertile mind hadn't thought of it sooner.

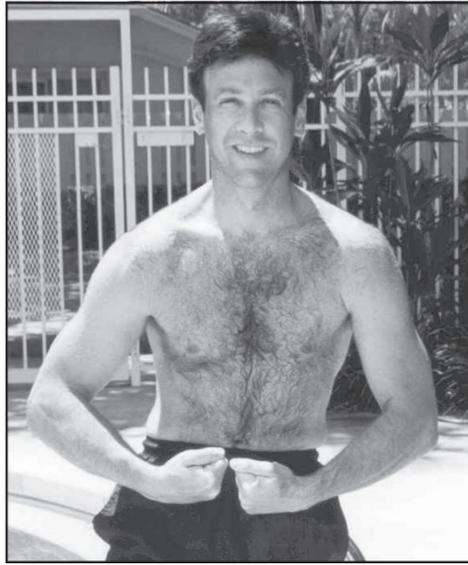
Over the past year, I've used this forum to share many intimate details of my life and chronicle the numerous romantic misadventures I've endured in my attempts to unearth that elusive yet oh-so heavenly entity called love. But as my fingers hovered above the keyboard on this particular evening, I discovered that my creative flow had trickled to a frustrating halt.

My journalistic muse must have sensed my distress because within seconds an absolutely awesome idea flashed through my consciousness: Why not appeal to the vast readership of *The Express* to help me lasso the stud of my dreams?

Almost immediately, my proactive brain cells conjured up a misty yet masculine vision of my soon-to-be soul mate as he browsed through the latest issue of *The Express*. Within minutes a smile as wide as Oprah Winfrey's hips spread across his winsome face as he began reading a comical yet oh-so-insightful column about a certain writer's quest for romantic fulfillment. Instinctively, he knew his journey has ended and that the man of a million mirthful words (me, of course) was the destiny he'd been forever seeking. (I can dream, can't I?)

So what are the personal traits and physical characteristics that would make me wax poetic about a potential mate? Because

attractiveness is a subjective matter, it's easy to see why one's man's trash is another man's treasure. Unlike many of my friends, who seem to lust for either blond, muscular All-American types or swarthy Latinos, I clearly have an affinity for trim or slightly stocky hairy-bodied men, especially those of the



Jewish or Italian persuasion.

Of course, while physical attractiveness plays a pivotal role in determining the chemistry quotient between two people, it's the commonality they share in a range of areas that ultimately decides if they are a match made in heaven or hell. For me to come up a winner in the soul mate sweepstakes, I know the man I ultimately wind up with is going to possess qualities and enjoy hobbies that mirror mine.

When I envision my love match, I picture a man who can communicate his feelings freely, who doesn't retreat into his shell or resort to passive-aggressive behavior to express an emotion. The man of my dreams is someone who is comfortable cuddling on the couch after a hard day's work and embodies traits like intelligence, monogamy, passion, benevolence, humor, sensitivity and tenderness. He's also an individual who can reveal his strength as well as his vulnerability in a relationship based on affection, respect and reciprocity.

Although there's an old adage claiming "opposites attract," I'm really not a big believer in that philosophy at this stage of my life. If you're a little bit country and I'm a little bit rock 'n roll, chances are we're going to spend an awful lot of time squabbling over our differences instead of embracing them. Consequently, while I'm not seeking a carbon copy of myself, it certainly makes life that much easier when two people enjoy the same hobbies and share similar tastes in music, movies and ways to spend a sunny Saturday afternoon.

So just who is this 5'9", 155-pound wonder named Scott, and what makes him such an intoxicating catch? To summarize, I'm a tennis-playing, music-loving man who disdains drugs and extols a healthy lifestyle. I enjoy movies that provoke laughs, tears or thought but shy away from the bar scene as a means of socialization. For me, an ideal weekend could range from taking an

impromptu trip up the coast to lying lazily in bed in each other's arms.

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Despite the funks, traumas and setbacks we all periodically experience, I honestly believe life is a precious gift to be treasured and shared with that special someone who "gets" you in a way no one else does. I've seen how love has transformed the lives of many of my friends, and now that I have hit that much-maligned age of 40, I'm oh-so-ready to experience the divine and establish an enriching romantic relationship.

Since years of random encounters and scoring dates on the Internet and through personal ads have failed to reap me a Prince Charming, the time has come to take my cause to the gay masses. So take a chance and pen me an email, care of my writerwhiz@aol.com address, if you think we have a shot at success.

Who knows? You could end up being chronicled as dud date No. 12,433 in a future *Express* column. Then again, you just might be the man whose eternal, unadulterated love finally sends me rocketing into a heartbreak-free romantic orbit.

Scott is an amazing male specimen who revels in the living of life and the simple joy of being. He can be reached at SColton@ExpressGayNews.com



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"and that guy she was with..."

"What about that hair!"

"That's not her hair."

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