

sonal ads and various services. Although I've received responses, I have not been successful, at least so far.

The CONTAX group you have talked about interests me, but I have to acknowledge on Sept. 19 I took the "L" to Belmont and between 7-7:30pm, walked past Ann Sather at least three or four times.

Lacking the guts to walk in, I took the "L" back downtown. Fears about my age, not fitting in, and being dressed in business clothes made it easier, though stupid, to get back on the train and return to a neighborhood bar when I am notoriously unsuccessful in meeting anyone.

I understand that you are a columnist and not an institution for aging, wayward, ivy-league style, on time yuppies with average looks, and substantial self-doubt and fears. However, do you have any suggestions or advice as to how I might meet others besides waiting patiently?

Signed, Tired of Being Patient

Dear Tired,

As cold and brutal as this may sound, there isn't anything anyone can do for you until you are ready to begin doing it for yourself.

I sense, from your letter, that you have a self-image problem and aren't sure that you would be desirable to another person. You are allowing that insecurity to become a self-fulfilling prophecy... basically, I can't, therefore, I don't, and it doesn't.

If you cannot visualize yourself taking a degree of risk, you may very well sit around and grow old waiting for the phone to ring. The only problem is that you haven't given the number out to anyone. Except for a wrong number, that phone won't ring.

What we are talking about here is vulnerability. Being vulnerable assumes that you will take a risk. That risk may result in you getting involved and that involvement may not work out and then you'll be hurt. Bottom line is that getting

... of too early, or too whatever else you want to plug in.

Until you reach a point where you can decide to accept the risk and walk in, you will be helpless.

My suggestion is that you don't decide to go to a meeting until the moment you must leave to be there on time. Don't anticipate and dread going. It will only cause you to build an ironclad case with 50 mentally justified objections as to why it won't work. Mark down several dates of meetings, look under the Organizations listings. Choose several and then, on a day you are feeling particularly gutsy, just go!

Make a commitment to yourself that you will follow through, no matter what, and do it. After your experience proves that the decision was right, you can do the next one easier. Give it a try. Your fears are far worse than any group meeting could ever be!!

Dear Jeff,

Regarding your column in the Aug. 29th issue of *Gay Chicago* (issue no. 35), there is a water sports club in Chicago called GSA-Chicago. The club does promote and practice safe sex in water sports activities.

For further information, your readers can write to GSA-Chicago, P.O. Box 408564, Chicago, IL 60640.

Signed, DF

Dear DF,

I spoke with DF to confirm the above information. He indicated that GSA (short for Golden Showers Association) is a spin-off of the Chicago Jacks J/O organization and is similar in format to a GSA group in New York with which some may be familiar.

GSA-Chicago meets five times annually on a Saturday evening from 9pm to 2am. The cost is \$5 and includes beer, soda, and all the "necessities."

If anyone is interested, write to the address above for more information. I appreciate DF writing and providing this info so those with an interest can enjoy the group.

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