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Cyber Love

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Cyber Love: Not as Dirty as it Sounds

Story: Amanda Murphy

Internet dating sites, once a stigma among singles, are becoming popular new tools to find “the one.” Whether you are asked what you like to do on a Friday night or prompted to answer a multitude of personal questions, each site promises love for the lonely. So read on, hopeful singles: Maybe the next love of your life is lurking somewhere in cyberspace.

WHAT WE LIKE: Dr. Neil Clark Warren, founder of eHarmony, lacks nothing in the area of education. He has devoted 39 pain-staking years to offering Kleenex to crying couples and guiding the under-loved members of society to happiness.

WHAT WE DON’T: If you are in a hurry, or are particularly impatient, there’s no way you are going to find the love of your life on eHarmony.com. It takes about an hour to finish a profile.

OTHER FEATURES: With an impressive 436-question relationship questionnaire and 29 facets of compatibility, eHarmony sounds like a lover’s dream come true. And for those stuck in a loveless marriage, eHarmony offers advice for couples at the end of their rope.

MEMBER TESTIMONY: “I met Dennis about a month before my membership expired.”

WHAT WE LIKE: Who doesn’t like an endorsement from Dr. Phil? This iconic figure adds some weight to the Internet dating scales, enticing members with his advice program, MindFindBind.

WHAT WE DON’T: Match.com might as well be MySpace.com. Unlike other sites, there is no screening process, and members are free to include whatever they think might entice a date. But then again, maybe we were just too pampered by the folks at eHarmony.

OTHER FEATURES: Match.com makes its claim to fame through numbers. It is the most popular internet dating site, spanning internationally to include six continents and 18 languages.

MEMBER TESTIMONY: “Provocative tips and techniques with workshops that are far more fun than work.”
Friendfinder.com
Friendship, Love, and More!

WHAT WE LIKE: There is a laundry list of reasons why Cyclonesingles.com is a must see on the Internet-dating tour. If you love Iowa State, are single, have no friends, and only want to date a person with the same M.O., this is the place for you. The local flavor that this site offers is its most intriguing feature.

WHAT WE DON'T: You don't necessarily have to attend Iowa State to sign up. As with other ISU loopholes, you just have to have an active university e-mail.

OTHER FEATURES: There is a longer list of character profiling options than found on Match.com, including favorite Cyclone sport, drinking behavior, musical style andquestionably, relationship status.

MISSION STATEMENT: “Now you can find [love] in an environment populated with people like you.”

Perfectmatch.com
The Better, Smarter Way to Find Your Perfect Match

WHAT WE LIKE: An impressive 3 million members makes this site enticing, at least in volume, and being able to search by area code helps weed out those pesky lovers who live too far away for a quickie.

WHAT WE DON'T: What happened to friendship? Friendfinder.com is only the tiniest bit misleading, as a member looking for a new buddy will be sorely surprised when they are promised love and more on this Web site. As a point of inquiry, what kinds of dirty things could possibly be constituted in the “and more” column?

OTHER FEATURES: A sheer plethora of features is offered through Friendfinder.com. Not interested in simply clicking through profiles? Sick of waiting for a member to stumble upon your own profile? This Web site offers a personal blog option, chat rooms by area code, and a questionable “favorite people” network. This Web site makes it simple to turn a ménage à trois fantasy into reality.

MEMBER TESTIMONY: Surprisingly, there are no testimonials speaking of the superiority of Friendfinder.com.

Cyclonesingles.com
Where Cyclones Meet

WHAT WE LIKE: Finally, a Web site that gives eHarmony a run for its money! This site comes complete with a hellish character analysis, equaling that of eHarmony’s hefty questionnaire. Also, like eHarmony, Perfectmatch.com was founded by an over-zealous relationship “authority,” Dr. Pepper Schwartz. Note that Dr. Schwartz is, in fact, a woman who, instead of pursuing her own relationship, has written 15 books and worked 31 years on the subject of soul mates.

WHAT WE DON'T: Upon accessing perfectmatch.com, a member is berated with slander against it’s competitor. Can’t we all just get along, Internet daters?

OTHER FEATURES: The apparently patented Duet Compatability Profile™ promises to rate members on core values, including religion, risk factor and even what makes a potential match laugh. All that’s missing is the marriage license.

MEMBER TESTIMONY: “We laugh about how appropriately named the web site is, because we really are a perfect match!”