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My Date With Michael Phelps

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Laura McGrath met Michael Phelps Sept. 4th, through mutual friends at a club in Las Vegas. At the time, Laura wasn't aware of Michael Phelps' fame. She had heard his name and knew he participated in the Olympics, but didn't realize that he was a big deal. The two were introduced, but the flock of women constantly surrounding Phelps restricted their conversation to a simple exchange of "hello"s. Later in the evening, Phelps confronted McGrath for ignoring him. McGrath explained how difficult it was to carry on a conversation with a man surrounded by other women. Phelps asked McGrath back to the The Palms, his hotel for the evening, saying he wanted to leave because all of the lights from the cameras were getting to him.

McGrath accompanied Phelps back to his hotel where they played pool. The following morning, the two spent time together at the pool and Phelps asked McGrath on a date that night. McGrath accepted. On their date that night, McGrath explained to Phelps that he was nothing special to her. She hardly knew his name when the two were first introduced and wasn't about to jump on the bandwagon as an obsessive fan.

"[My words] may have hurt his ego—and he does have an ego," McGrath said. When fans took pictures of the couple that night, Phelps "would take their camera out of their hands, delete all of the pictures and give it back," McGrath explained, although she said they had an enjoyable time on their date.

"He knows where he comes from and he keeps in contact with his friends," McGrath said. "But right now he's enjoying his fame. He's living it up."