

Welcome to Elon's version of 'Dear Abby.' This weekly column will entertain you with questions from the minds of actual Phoenix students. Do not fear the subject matter of the questions.

THE GURU

"Why is it that men go through all the trouble of asking for your phone number, but never end up calling you?"

There seems to be an epidemic out there of chronically "dead" cell phone batteries. This mysterious problem strikes those phones owned by the males of the species, and has a habit of occurring at the most peculiar of times—like after a date.

Interesting isn't it?

To my knowledge (which as you know is extensive) there have been no tests conducted regarding the reason behind men and their inability to call.

However, you don't need a Ph.D. from Harvard to figure it out.

Men don't talk.

Oh, they know how to use their vocal cords all right, but when it comes to sitting on the couch and having a three-hour gossip fest it just doesn't happen.

How many men do you know that dial their best bud whenever they happen to run into the girl they like?

None. It's "unmanly."

Plus it plays havoc with their cell phone bill.

Men would rather spend time with face-to-face (or mouth-to-mouth) contact, rather than attempting to bond over the phone lines.

Another source of confusion over male phone etiquette derives from the stark differences in "male time" and "female time."

Most women like to have things planned out in advance. They want to know on Tuesday what they will be doing on Friday. After all, it takes awhile to pick out an outfit.

Men, on the other hand, are in the habit of procrastination. And you know what they say about pro-

crastination ... it's fun. I am a big advocate of it myself.

Since men are not quite so deadline oriented, they lose track of time very easily. As my good friend likes to say, "men lead very busy lives, with all that ESPN and PS2, its no wonder they forget what day it is."

And while many men are able to correctly understand a calendar, her point is nonetheless valid. If he happens to call the night before Friday's scheduled date, it could be because he honestly didn't realize that it was Thursday.

But, all the blame cannot be placed at the feet of the guy—despite how much you wish to dump it there. Before you go bad mouthing his "rude" phone etiquette to your friends, think about how the number exchange actually happened.

Did he ask you for it? If so, was it after you woke up next to each other? Such exchanges end up being based more on courtesy than an actual desire to see you again.

Or did you hand it to him? It is a hard pill to swallow, but unless he asked you for your digits he may have simply taken the number to be a gentleman. Few things are worse than public rejection.

Before you start to sink into some self-deprecating slump, worrying that he never really wanted to call you in the first place, fear not. Because the fear is really his.

Men aren't afraid the telephone is some scary monster hiding in a closet waiting to gobble them up. Instead, they are afraid of you.

Society places a lot of pressure on the male to be the one to go after the female. It is his job to pursue, to work for it.

While this is unfair, and straight

out of the Dark Ages, it is nevertheless a relic of past times that will not disappear. Kind of like Chinese food, the smell still lingers in the kitchen long after you have thrown it away.

Because of this pressure to be the one in control of the dating, many men feel like they need to be the ones to take the first step; to be the one who calls.

Once they have built up the courage to ask for your number, they are racked with doubts. After all, you could have just been being nice. Or, if it happened in a social setting, he could be horrified that you were wearing a particularly strong prescription of beer goggles and will run in terror the next time you see him.

So if a guy you like asked you for your number but doesn't call, don't stress.

Well, don't stress too much.

He may honestly be afraid that you will reject him when he does call.

To ease his fears, the next time you see him find a way to let him know you would be excited to hear from him again.

Whatever you do, please, don't find his number and attempt to call him. Because then I can guarantee he will not call you. Ever.

Send a question to the 'GURU' at elonguru@yahoo.com

Where are the WMD?

John Dugan

Columnist

As our troops continue to search for weapons of mass destruction, keep order and provide support in Iraq, the initial reason for their existence is not forgotten. The Bush administration's rationale for entering Iraq was that the corrupt Saddam regime's possession of weapons of mass destruction was, and is, a threat to the United States and the global community in general. So, where are these so called weapons of mass destruction?

Personal views on this topic may vary depending on the individual's political preference. However, the fact of the matter is, whether you're a strong, conservative Bush supporter, or a whiny, liberal "Bush-basher", weapons of mass destruction do exist in Iraq. They have been seen, videotaped, confirmed and unfortunately experienced. The WMD I am referring to is the Saddam Hussein regime. This man has committed mass murder on the people of his country, and others, just to show is power.

According to a former Iraqi colonel (name is anonymous for security reasons) who provided BBC News with video footage of his experience at several of Saddam's "mass graves," the scene was "absolutely horrific." A modern grave was found, with skin and hair still existing on the corpses. In the BBC report the colonel remembered, "The skulls had holes in the back of the head, as if they had been shot." He had estimated between 150 and 250 bodies had been buried there.

This form of genocide is by no means new in Iraq. The Saddam-led regime is infamous for exterminating "disloyal enemies" in Kuwait and Kurdistan. One mass gravesite in particular, located in central Iraq, is said to contain the remains of some 3,000 people.

These facts are undoubtedly enough evidence to justify military action in Iraq. Saddam is responsible for millions of unjustifiable deaths and therefore must be held accountable. The United States is doing everything possible to hunt and destroy this weapon of mass destruction, but continue to take heat from the liberal-led "Bush-bashers" who have failed to open their eyes. The Bush Administration should be applauded on its effort, not criticized by selfish "know-it-alls."

Critics of Bush's decision to dismantle Saddam, ultimately resulting in lives saved, should be ashamed of themselves. Perhaps you should pick another topic to bash Bush about, such as the kind of toothpaste he uses or what his favorite golf course is. Hey, figure these things out, and you guys could have a field day.

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