

This weekly column will entertain you with relationship questions from the minds of actual Phoenix students. Do not fear the subject matter of the questions.

THE GURU

"What constitutes cheating?"

Let's make this simple. I believe cheating is anything and everything that you would not want your significant other to find out about. This can range from "platonic" lap dances to a simple kiss on the cheek.

There are multiple levels when it comes to cheating. And it is up to the individuals in a relationship to make that call.

Often, the problems occur because the two people have very different meanings of cheating. Due to the large amounts of alcohol consumed on this campus, it is not surprising that drunken episodes happen. The most frequent being the drunken dance floor kiss. You know what I am talking about, even single people fall prey to this action.

The lights are low, the music is thumping and you are having fun, when suddenly your lips aren't just for breathing. The drunken kisser has struck again.

Fear not, this is not some random bit of juiciness that I felt a compelling need to write about, it does have a point.

The point is how you feel about it.

Do you consider this cheating? And secondly, does your partner feel it is cheating?

Communication is the source of all goods and evils in relationships. When it comes to what constitutes improper cross-gender interactions, both partners need to be clear on where the boundaries are.

When discussing this with your significant other please be honest. Don't play the "Oh it's fine if you and your best guy friend from home sleep in the same bed while he is visiting. I mean you are just like brother and sister, you even hold hands..."

If what your boy/girlfriend is

going to do is something that bothers you, speak up. Tell him/her that it's not something you are kosher with.

At one point in your relationship, somewhere between a month and "I do," there comes a time when you really have to sit down and discuss. You can leave the conversation about your future children's names for another time; this discussion should be solely on your boundaries.

And we all know that there is nothing more fun than pushing boundaries, so make yours a tad bit narrower than you would truly allow. That way if someone slips, it's not the end.

Don't listen to other people's opinions of "problems" within the relationship causing cheating to occur. It's ridiculous and just an excuse for bad behavior. If your partner truly cared for you, he or she would bring the problem to you—not someone else.

In the end it all comes down to how you feel. Cheating is purposefully doing something that can hurt the other person in the relationship—as well as the third party. Being the "lover" is never easy, especially if the "lover" status is not truly understood. As my friend says, "there is nothing like being the 'kept' lady when you don't even know you are being kept."

Cheating toys with people's emotions and has the potential to turn everything sour. Very sour.

The answer is clear; cheating is anything that will hurt your partner.

So just don't do it.

Really, it's that simple.

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



Crisis of Creativity in America

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Columnist

It isn't often that someone finds himself hoping for a crisis, but that's exactly where I find myself now. There's no hiding the fact that the economy is turning around. The highest GDP quarterly growth rate since 1984 and the lowest unemployment numbers in six months are great news. However, an awful lot of American workers are looking over their shoulders and trying to figure out how the economy recovered without them.

For more than a century now the United States has defined itself as the greatest industrial power on the planet. While this is for all intents and purposes still true today, our dominance is nothing like what it used to be. Economists who champion globalization argue that by outsourcing manufacturing jobs to other countries, we free up the time of American laborers to do other things. The catch here is that we have to find other things for American laborers to do.

Nearly 80 percent of the new American economy is made up of service companies. The phrase "Made in America" has been diluted to "Assembled in America" and is rapidly moving towards "Brokered or Sold by Americans (but made somewhere else)." Globalization economists champion this sequence as the pursuit of self-actualization and human progress. They point out that by freeing up the time of American laborers to do other things, like think up new ideas or become more educated, we move our society, and consequently humanity, forward.

Theoretically, this progression makes sense. It's a lot like doing chores as a child. As you get older and are capable of doing more, you pass the less entertaining and more strenuous chores down to your younger siblings and spend your time partaking in more stimulating and hopefully more advanced activities.

However, as with most things, if it's too good to be true, it probably is.

With all this free time on our hands, Americans have set their innovative radars on technological developments. Through the use of these technological breakthroughs we have vastly improved manufacturing efficiency as well as communication and data compilation capabilities.

Americans have gotten fat by "cutting the fat" out of business. We do more with less and we shorten supply chains. We cut back on the number of laborers, replacing them with machines and we cut back on the number of middlemen between the manufacturer and the consumer by implementing improved distribution channels and online shopping.

So what happens when the manufacturing countries that we create by outsourcing our manufacturing jobs, take our technology to cut us out of the supply chain? In other words, how long can a service country survive without finding something new to make? I don't think Americans are going to like the answer to that question.

What we need is a crisis. We need a crisis of creativity. The American people need to stop being satisfied with the innovations of the 1970s and 80s and embrace the opportunities created

by the globalization of the American economy. The industrial revolution in the United States has long since come to pass. It's time to replace it with an idea revolution. We need to relieve ourselves of the humdrum manufacturing tasks of the industrial revolution. In its place, let us turn our now idle factories into new, state of the art factories that produce more advanced products.

Globalization, otherwise known as natural progress, is supposed to allow for Americans to utilize our freed up time to become smarter. So let's do just that. Let's market SMART. Let's manufacture SMART. Call it the "Sustainable Manufacturing of America's Revolutionary Technology" if you want.

Why buy American? Because it's the cheapest. No longer can we use that answer when it comes to questions about textiles, rubber and steel. However, if we make the conscious decision to leave behind the comfort of the industrial revolution and its products and become innovative once again, perhaps we can spark a new, even more impactful revolution that will secure America's place at the top of the societal ladder long into the future. Instead of saying our product is the cheapest, let's answer with "it's the most advanced" and "we're the only one capable of producing it."

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