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Interpersonal Communication (COMM 218)

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Assignment: Interpersonal Journal #5

Date Due: 8/3/2017

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**Interpersonal Journal Entry #1**

**Context**: August 1st, Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Skinner’s Butte Park

**Situation:** My girlfriend and I are conversing about a situation with my oldest daughter while the kids are playing at the park.

Description of Interaction:

“Babe, something has been bothering me and I need to tell you”, my girlfriend opened.

“You won the lottery and are moving to Venezuela?”, I said jokingly trying to lighten the mood.

She wasn’t amused. Looking me dead in the eye she said, “I’m serious. It’s about Valentina. And you cannot tell her I told you. She does not want you or her grandmother to know”.

“O’kay”, I said. “She’s not pregnant, right?”, as I made another attempt at humor.

“Not exactly, but she did ask me to go with her to go get birth control”, my girlfriend responded.

“You’re joking, right?”

“Nope”.

“She’s not having...”, and I couldn’t finish the rest of the sentence so I just made implied gestures.

` “Not yet”, she confirmed. “But things are getting close with her boyfriend and she wants to be smart and safe. Promise me you won’t say anything”.

“Okay, I won’t”.

Evaluation/Improvements of Interaction:

This conversation left me torn in many ways. First, my daughter is very bright and capable of making her own decisions. She was raised in an **extended family** (pg. 326) with the matriarch (gma) communicating highly under the dimension of **conformity orientation** (pg. 330). I can understand my daughter’s reluctance to want to share her personal life with the extended family because of fear of rejection and judgment. I was also pleased that she felt comfortable sharing intimacies with my girlfriend. That makes me think that I’m dating the right person – *for once!* Also, my girlfriend trusts and cares for me enough to keep me up to speed on the situation. That is a good indicator that we are doing something right in the relationship.

Having said all that, I want to grab Valentina and scream! I know if I do that I will be committing **romantic betrayal** (pg.307) by being disloyal to my girlfriend. That will not only hurt our relationship; it was also hurt her and Valentina’s relationship and also my relationship with my daughter. There is really not a win – win situation here. I am not going to say anything to Valentina. I don’t think there is any benefit for going back on my promise. I don’t see any improvements to be made. I feel that I am handling this situation like a conflict slayer/grade A romantic partner. But I still want to scream!

**Interpersonal Journal Entry #2**

**Context**: August 1st, Tuesday, 5:35 p.m., Skinner’s Butte Park

**Situation:** My girlfriend and I are discussing the possibility of cohabiting while the kids are playing at the park.

Description of Interaction:

“So, my lease is up this month. Are you sure that we should move in together?”, my girlfriend asked.

“I think if we find the right space that is the right fit for us, then we should do it”, I responded. “I have alerts set up on all the major web services. It’s just a difficult renter’s market right now”, I went on.

“I’ve been looking too. I think it will be good. We can really help each other out a lot”, my girlfriend said affirming her commitment.

Evaluation/Improvements of Interaction:

I was pleased with this interaction. **Cohabitation** (pg. 326) is a feasible living arrangement for both of us. We both are head of household of a **single-parent family** (pg. 326)**.** This might lead to some conflict; however, I feel with proper communication we can resolve and/or cope with any conflict that may arise. I did let it be known that **space** (lecture 7/18) is a very important factor in our cohabiting. I feel that I was sincere and honest about my intentions. We are not starting a new family or **testing the waters of marriage** (lecture 8/1). We are simply sharing some financial strain and providing companionship for each other.

To improve on the situation in the future, we do need to have a further conversation about finances and roles in the household. I really do enjoy the way our relationship and interpersonal communication has grown healthier over the summer. I’m excited for the future.

**Interpersonal Journal Entry #3**

**Context**: August 2nd, Wednesday, 12:30pm, virtual FaceTime between my girlfriend and I.

**Situation:** We are discussing availability for alone time.

Description of Interaction:

“Hi, How’s your day going?”, I asked while watching my girlfriend on my phone.

“It’s hot!”, she responded. “But my day is good, I just need a break”, she confessed.

“Me, too!”, I said while looking at her. “I need some Rachael time.”

“We should plan a getaway. Just the two of us?”, she suggested.

“Yes!” , I said happily.

“Maybe this weekend?”

“I think I can do that”, I agreed.

“O’kay, it’s a date!”, she said excitedly.

Evaluation/Improvements of Interaction:

I love this interaction! It made my whole day. The night before, I had read in the text about **relational maintenance** (pg. 300). I kept in mind to be pleasant, upbeat, and positive. Also, I evolved the interaction into a **relationship talk** (pg. 303) where I shared my concern that I needed some alone time with my girlfriend. Disclosure made us both vulnerable, and allowed for us to express the want fulfill each other’s needs.

To improve on this interaction, I need to make sure to follow through with my commitments and make time in my schedule to maintain the relationship.