

maleCall

Question: I've noticed that most men list the preferred age range of the women they want to meet on the Internet as eight to 20 years younger. I rarely see an ad from a man looking for someone his own age, let alone older. I can only guess they want arm candy or an ego boost. What's the deal? Infant mortality is hardly an issue, nor is needing more farm hands. Do they realize how stupid they look?



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Hmm. "Do they realize how stupid they look?" See, that's what we Professional Rhetoricians™ (people who argue for fun) like to call a "self-answering question."

Grammatically speaking, such a question is best answered by another question, such as: "Have you ever watched Donald Trump on 'The Apprentice?'"

But seriously, there seem to be a lot of men out there who believe that a divorce decree returns them supernaturally to their pre-marital status of (perceived) "hunkitude," capable of having any woman they want, even though reality has left them with more gut and less hair.

The over/under age thing, though, is certainly one of the top issues of the past decade.

I'm afraid it's simply the way society sets things up. That is, men have always sought, and managed to attract, younger women. And very rich or famous men have always attracted women well beyond the standard deviation, so to speak, for age differences.

Demi Moore notwithstanding, everyone seems to be pretty comfortable with this arrangement...within certain bounds.

Male Call thinks that it's only when it gets out there on the skinny side of the

bell curve that we start questioning the wisdom of the system.

So, what's the acceptable customary age difference? And, even more interesting, why do we get peeved when someone doesn't seem to respect the cultural boundaries?

Fact is, women have been indoctrinated to believe that they're younger-looking than their age. No woman on this planet has ever gotten a truly straight answer to that question since Eden. I suspect Eve's friends were saying, "Gosh, girl, you don't look a day over 249!"

When we look at these men who seriously think they can attract a woman 10-15 years younger, it seems as though they're not only violating society's conventions but deluding themselves as well. Of course, we know several women who say, "Oh, I seem to attract younger men." Well, lady, that may be true...in your mind...but tell us how many were successful relationships.

So we get peeved or annoyed when people stray too far from the contemporary standard age range differential because when the suitor is much older than us, it's an insult, as though to say, "Do I really look so old that you think you can get *me*?" And when someone age-appropriate passes us by, we think, "You old fool...what makes you think *you're* so hot?"

Next month, unless I find something better, *Male Call* reveals the magic number to add to a woman's *stated* weight to compute her *actual* weight and other great "guy formulas" that I'm busy thinking up.

James Roberts is a significantly over 40-something Phoenix-based writer, author of "On Being Eight Again" and "The Tao of Coyote." Divorced with no children, he has been exploring the dating scene and collecting tales of woe for many years. Need a guy's perspective? Jot a note to Male Call at frobertpenn@aol.com.