

**YES... CRAB THEORY
REMAINS VERY
STRONG IN THE
DEAF
COMMUNITIES!**

**And most deaf
organizations are doing
almost nothing to
address the crab theory
crisis we are facing these
days.**

**The analogy is to a
bucket of live crabs:
whenever one crab
attempts to escape the
bucket by climbing out
of it, the others reach up
and pull it back down.
The result, of course, is
that no crab succeeds in
escaping the bucket.**

**Crab theory is more
widespread in the deaf
communities than any other
minority groups.**

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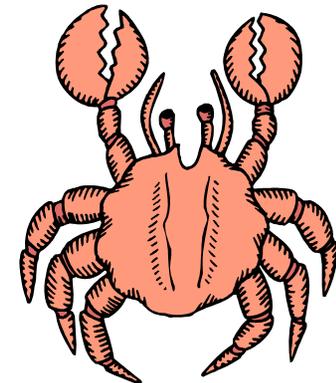


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**DEAF
SHOULD
FEAR NO
DEAF**



**ORANGE COUNTY
DEAF
ADVOCACY
CENTER**

When people gossip about successful Deaf people, our whole community suffers.

“Crab Theory,” by Matthew S. Moore, refers to the destructive practice of Deaf people pulling and putting down successful Deaf persons. This is done through vicious gossip (back-stabbing), spreading false rumors (slander), sending hateful e-mails, etc.

The problem of “Crab Theory” is not unique to the Deaf community. And when successful Deaf leaders complain about the lack of support and downright hostility they encounter from members of their own Deaf communities, that’s crab theory.

Here is just a partial list of known victims of slander and gossip in the Deaf community: actress Marlee Matlin, Miss America Heather Whitestone, Dr. Ben Soukup of CSD, Dr. David McKee, Gallaudet University President Dr. I. King Jordan, and countless other prominent Deaf individuals, including Richard Roehm, our very own CEO.

Remember, before you repeat a story about someone, ask yourself: would I want this sort of thing said about me? If not, do not use the story as a tool to hurt someone else. You never

know when something truly damaging can be said about you, too.

MY NAME IS GOSSIP

I have no respect for justice. I maim without killing, I break hearts, and ruin lives. I am cunning, malicious, and gather strength with age. The more I am quoted, the more I am believed.

I flourish at every level of society, and my victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me, because I have no name and no face.

To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become. I am nobody’s friend. Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same.

I topple governments and wreck marriages. I ruin careers and cause sleepless nights, create heartaches, and foster indigestion. I spawn suspicion, and generate grief. I make innocent people cry into their pillows at night.

Even my name hisses with evil. I am called Gossip. I make headlines and headaches. Remember, before you repeat a story, ask yourself: is it true? Is it fair? Is it necessary? If not, do not repeat it, KEEP QUIET.

--Author Unknown

FIGHTING CRAB THEORY INVOLVES TORT LAW

In the law, a "tort" is private wrongdoing not arising out of contract, and the twin torts of libel and slander make up the general tort category of defamation of character. In general, libel is written and slander is oral, although it is likely that broadcast defamation would be considered libel in California because of the serious potential for harm to reputation resulting from widespread dissemination of a defamatory statement. The crux of a libel or slander claim is a false statement that damages a person's reputation.

Therefore, both libel and slander require that the statement in question have been communicated to at least one person other than the person who made the statement and the person about whom it was made. Thus, it is not possible to sue for defamation if the statement was heard or seen only by the person about whom it was made. This rule is called the "publication" requirement, and the term is used even in slander cases which involved oral statements. If a person repeats a defamatory statement originally made by another, the repeater can be liable for "republication."