

The Bottom Line

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In Higher Power We Trust

*A monthly newsletter published by: Debtors Anonymous of Greater New York
314 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019.
(this is a mailing address only)*

Step Five Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Tradition Five Each group has but one primary purpose -- to carry its message to the debtor who still suffers

"...If I speak, if I talk
If I bear you my soul
I'm a child growing up
I'm no longer alone..."

Susan W.

FYI

An amendment to a main motion will temporarily suspend any discussion on the main motion. The main motion will not be discussed again until the amendment is disposed of, either being incorporated into the main motion or by being defeated. An amendment is handled using the same procedures as a main motion.

EXAMPLE: "I move to amend the motion to change the committee from Jill & Sally to Jill and Maura."

The amendment requires a second. It must be restated. It must be debated. Upon completion of debate, amendment must be restated and voted upon. If it is passed, the main motion will be reread with the change and discussion can continue on the main motion.

An amendment can be amended. For example, someone could move to amend the amendment to remove Jill from the changed committee and substitute Jeff. Discussion on the primary amendment would be suspended until this new amendment is handled in the formal motion procedure. When the amendment to the amendment is disposed of, then discussion can continue on the amendment, etc.

WARNING: While an amendment can be amended as shown above, the assembly cannot discuss two amendments simultaneously. If an amendment is on the floor concerning the makeup of the purchasing committee, it would be out of order to make a motion to amend the spending limit for the party to \$125.00. This amendment could be moved separately once the amendment concerning the makeup of the committee is disposed.

Love and Money

Recently I saw a television commercial that went something like this: a man and a woman are vacationing in the Bahamas on their modest sized sailboat. As the woman is taking in one of the sails it suddenly falls on her. Obviously feeling upset she says, "Why are we doing this?" At that moment she sees a large sailing yacht enter the bay. "That's mutiny," the man says. We next see them continuing their vacation on the large yacht. The woman is clearly enjoying tanning herself as the man is making purchases in a ship's store and inquiring if they accept the American Express card. They are then shown having a good time together on the boat.

This commercial has brought up many feelings in me. I think that it preys on many of my own fears and beliefs in regard to money and spending issues within the context of dating and relationships. It seems to me that the thrust of this commercial is to make the man who tries to live within his means (vacationing on a modest sized sailboat) feel inadequate -- and that this man should fear that his mate/lover might desert him for a richer man/lifestyle ("That's mutiny") if he doesn't take advantage of some ready credit. Only by spending beyond ones' means can one really make a woman happy and keep the competition away... this is the insidious and derogatory message implied here.

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"So what are you going to tell your sailing buddies when we get back home?" she teases him as the commercial fades out. Good advertising people know that all they have to do is hint at something and our subconscious will fill in the rest. In the commercial the man is being encouraged to feel humiliated for trying to vacation on his small boat. Will he make up stories about his sailing adventures to his buddies so he won't have to explain that he couldn't "cut it" as a sailor, will he come up with some fantastic "fish tale" about how they landed up on the big yacht, will he tell them to give up their love of sailing and charge their next vacation like he did? I have often felt compelled to overspend on dates in order to prove my financial security and earning power; yet realizing all the while that it was all a desperate sham -- I am a chronic underearner and really couldn't afford that level of extravagance. I am now understanding that there is beauty in simplicity and hard work.

Love and Money, continued.

There is always some newer or better version of whatever it is that I have, and there are also richer and better looking men in the world than I. I must realize that my greatest strength lies in being true to my own recovery and sticking with my spending plan as it is. Charging to appear bigger and superior can only make me feel like I am a dinghy captain sitting at the controls of an ocean liner... in other words, inadequate and totally out of control. And even more importantly I am realizing that it takes more integrity and character (building blocks of a real relationship) to take the hard road than it does to go into debt and walk around in my "peacock suit" trying to impress people. I must be ever vigilant of commercials that try to reprogram me into my old fears of inadequacy.

Larry G.

Items of Interest

From State Senator David Paterson, 29th Senatorial District

Debt Collection Practices:

New York State law requires fair and equitable collection practices by creditors and their collection agents; abusive practices are illegal. Unfortunately, creditors still resort to threatening debtors and engage in practices such as calling them up early in the morning or late at night with the intent of harassment.

submitted by Alexandria B.

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Keep your cards and letters coming!! Send articles, poems, cartoons, etc. about your experience, strength, and hope; the tools, or the steps and traditions (up to 700 words) to:

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SERVICE IS NEEDED AT THE G. S. O. ON TUESDAY NIGHTS AT ST. IGNATIUS'S CHURCH, 84TH AND PARK, FROM 6:30 TO 8:30. THERE IS NO SOLVENCY REQUIREMENT. CONTACT CAROL R. AT THE CHURCH -- YOUR RECOVERY WILL THANK YOU FOR IT...