

Gambling...It's Not Always Fun

Picture the setting: It's Friday mid-morning, you just hung up with your sweetie from work, and you're planning the beginning of your weekend. You'll be meeting another couple for dinner, and then, with or without your better half, you're planning a 10:00 PM arrival at the Casino de Montréal. You were in a great mood all day...it's Friday! All the troubles of the week will soon be gone, and the anxiety, or rather, the anticipation, of an evening at the casino warms the cockles of your heart.

Fast forward 10 hours as you slowly pull up to the Castle of Greed; The Building of Bouillon; The Mecca of Money; or, as realists like to call it, a Place to Piss Away Your Money, A.K.A. The Montreal Casino. There are more

smiley faces in the valet area than at the Woodstock concert; More happy faces than at a Wal-Mart head office meeting. Soon, the miles and miles of smiles begin to sour. Eventually, an hour or 2



Howard P. Riback
The Winning Hand
Times

into your evening, your hopes, dreams and wishes of a lovely weekend have already turned to dust as you somehow have managed to again prepay your provincial tax by losing at the casino. The first chapter of your weekend has already put you in a bad mood and we haven't even

hit Saturday! Look at the body language and smiles of those getting out of their cars about to walk in for the evening, and then look at those in line waiting for their cars to be brought back to them by the car jockeys. It is simple: Smiles get out of the car, whilst frowns and crappy moods are going home.

Do you ever wonder why there are 3000 slot machines that take your money? Do you ever wonder why there are 90 Black Jack dealers, Baccarat dealers, PaiGow Poker dealers and Roulette Spinners, but only 5 cashiers? Do you think something is lopsided? It is obvious that Lotto Quebec takes in far more money than it gives out. It is such an easy premise to understand and such a hard premise to figure out why we don't understand it. The worst that could happen at a movie is that you've wasted 30 bucks on 2 tickets and popcorn. The worst that could happen at a restaurant is that you've wasted 100 dollars and you won't be recommending it to your neighbours. Numbers show (Quebec government statistics) that 80% of



those that go to the casino or who are lottery ticket buyers are the same people. They go day after day, week after week and month after month. Why then, do people partake in

something that is so self-destructive?

The activity of gambling be it in lottery form or going to the casino is considered by the government to be entertainment. This is a misnomer. If the above statement is true, here are some questions: If you go see a movie that you don't like, was it entertainment? If you go to a new restaurant and you didn't necessarily enjoy the food, did you still have a nice evening? And more specifi-

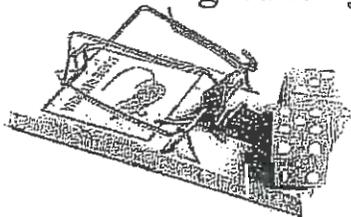
cally, if you have gone to the casino and lost money, did you have a nice night? Now seeing as how far more people lose than win, does that mean far more people leave the building unhappy versus happy? And if so, why is gambling entertainment?

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For more information Howard P. Riback the Gambling/Gambling Specialist and Inspirational Speaker a.k.a. "The Cleaner" can be reached at 514 659 5621 c howard@theribackgroup.com or view his website c www.theribackgroup.com .

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Are you prepared to lose it all?

For HELP call

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He has been there and has come out on the winning side

www.theribackgroup.com howard@theribackgroup.com