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The more we know.... It seems the less we know....

As a Gaming/Gambling Specialist and Inspirational Speaker on the said topic, I am privy to some of the world's finest and best written journals from around the globe on the topic of GAMBLING. It befuddles and confuses me, my colleagues and others world round, that with all we know, that with all that we are learning about gambling and gambling patterns and behaviours, that the direction of the compulsive gambler is headed clearly in the wrong direction. It's like geese flying north for the winter. **TURN AROUND GUYS! TURN AROUND!!**

George Carlin, the brilliant comedian that left our world way too early, did a great bit about the world today. He said something along the lines of, 'We are better educated, but a dumber society. We have tell-all books, but we know less. We have more diet clinics and diet pills, but America has never been so fat. We have cell phones, computers and texting,



Howard P. Riback
The Winning Hand
Times

are seemingly more glamorous and have greater notoriety. The world of gambling, compulsive gambling, pathological gambling, and all that goes with it is exploding with ferocity.

I ask the community at large to educate themselves if there is even a notion of a dear one who gambles more than the norm. Let's give each and every one of them credit (mental, not monetary). We know if WE have a problem. We certainly know if a son, daughter, friend or relative has a problem too.

Gambling has often been called the silent addiction; the drug you cannot see, touch or smell. The addiction that has no social pattern. It doesn't know from skin color or from gender. Gambling addiction doesn't know from age, educational background or country of origin.

We must learn about the gambler as we learn about the drug addict and smoker. We must learn about this addiction and how it grows

into a full blown illness.

Don't condemn. Don't yell. Don't point fingers. Don't preach. Do help. Do support. Do work with them. Do educate. Education is one the world's most powerful tools. For the gambler who is out of control, this world is seemingly endlessly bleak and very lonely. Help is all we can hope for. But wanting to help your loved one comes first.

Brilliant, but quite sadly, true. Gambling. Gaming. Call it what you will. We have learned that it destroys. It sometimes even kills...and it ALWAYS hurts. It rips apart families, crushes our values and leaves its ugly imprint on all that it touches. We have gambling and gaming counsellors, therapists and experts in the field whom haven't quite got the answers yet. We have hotlines that turn cold. We have Gamblers Anonymous, but the anonymous remain anonymous and still gamble (a certain percentage, factually).

I feel that we still have not begun to face the enormity of gambling addiction. It is an illness that must be studied. It must be understood. It must be respected as other addictions that

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

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Gambling... Are you trapped?

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