

Brent A. Nichols
495 15th St. SE
Salem, OR 97301

June 25, 1998

Gambling Hot Line
PO Box 637
Portland, OR 97207-0637

Dear Gambling Hot Line,

I am a Salem resident with a unique gambling-related addiction. I would appreciate any help you could offer in a reply letter.

I work for a government agency, and every lunchtime my coworkers and I ritually play pinochle. To spice up the game, it is a common practice to bet our lunches. I am an unskilled card player, but feel I must play pinochle in order to fit in with my coworkers. As a result, I have not eaten lunch for the past several months.

My lunch is a sought-after prize because my wife lovingly spares no expense in preparing my meals. For example, it is not uncommon to have a roasted game hen with a sweet cranberry sauce.

I don't mind going hungry, but my wife has noticed my blatant weight loss. For a few weeks, I got by on the excuse that I had a tapeworm. Now she wants me to see a doctor.

I don't know how much longer I can live with this lie. Please write soon with your help.

Desperately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brent Nichols". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Desperately,".

Brent A. Nichols