

THE INTERVIEW March 13, 2006

(Sponsee is sitting in a chair and secretary is typing nearby)

SPONSEE: NEXT!

(POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 1 enters)

SPONSEE: Good afternoon. How are you? *(shakes Potential Sponsor #1's hand)*

POTENTIAL SPONSOR #1: I'm great, how about yourself?

SPONSEE: Quite well, thank you. Would you like some coffee or bottled water or something?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 1: No, I'm fine, thanks.

SPONSEE: You seem a little nervous.

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 1: I am just a little bit nervous. It's kind of strange because I've held many positions comparable to this one in the past so this should be old hat to me. Perhaps it's because this is the first time I've ever actually interviewed for this kind of job.

SPONSEE: Well, we do live in a changing world. So let's get right down to it, shall we? I've looked over your resume and have to say that I am very impressed. You definitely appear to be qualified for this position.

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 1: Thank you.

SPONSEE: You're most welcome. Now, can you tell me exactly why you think you are the right person to be my sponsor?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 1: Well, I've been sober for a number of years and have sponsored many people.

SPONSEE: I see. Do you happen to have a spreadsheet documenting the approximate sobriety success rate of your sponsees?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 1: Well...no...

SPONSEE: That's a real shame. Perhaps you've prepared a PowerPoint® presentation detailing the specific methodology and principles you incorporate into your sponsoring regimen?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 1: What? I don't even know what you're talking about! I just pass on to my sponsees what was passed on to me!

SPONSEE: That's interesting. You appear to have some unresolved anger issues. Is that why you were let go from your previous sponsee?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 1: What are you talking about?

SPONSEE: Well, on your application under section 5: "Sponsorship Employment History" it says that your last sponsee fired you.

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 1: What it doesn't say is that she refused to work the steps and got drunk!

SPONSEE: I see, and in your mind, that's a failure of your sponsee and not you?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 1: Of course it is! I don't take responsibility for anyone staying sober nor anyone getting drunk! I just try to pass on the message as Step 12 suggests we should! I'm still sober!

SPONSEE: Well, that's a quaint idea but this is 2006 and technological advances have made many of the methods you appear to subscribe to obsolete. Thanks for coming and I'll...uh...contact you as soon as I've made a decision.

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 1: Whatever!

(POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 1 exits)

SPONSEE: SECRETARY! I need you in here now!

(Secretary enters)

SECRETARY: Is it too much to ask you to call me by my name? Or maybe to even remember that in this day and age I am referred to as an Executive Assistant and not a secretary?

SPONSEE: I'm way too self-absorbed to worry about all that. Here, "file" this resume with the other ones.

SECRETARY: Whatever you say.

(secretary shreds the resume and then exits)

SPONSEE: NEXT!

(Potential Sponsors#2 enters)

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 2: Good afternoon.

SPONSEE: How are you?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 2: Why do you ask; do I not look all right?

SPONSEE: Um...no, you look fine.

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 2: Are you sure? Because I can go change my clothes if what I'm wearing is not appropriate. I keep a spare outfit in my car. It's no problem at all.

SPONSEE: That...uh...won't be necessary.

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 2: You see, I was going for business casual but sometimes I can get too casual and completely forget about the business part and just get so super casual. It's my shoes, isn't it? I'll go change and be right back and ...

SPONSEE: Relax! Your shoes are fine. Your clothes are fine. Can you just tell me why you think you should be my sponsor?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 2: I have to tell you why? Then...then...you didn't feel an instant connection with me when I walked into the room?
(pulls out hanky and begins to sob) Oh God! I've blown it again! I knew this

was going to happen! Why me? Can you excuse me for a moment? *(she pulls out cell phone)* I have to call my sponsor! *(dials and then waits a beat)* Hello? Mertle? Yes, it's me again! I know you said not to call back a ninth time today but this is an emergency! Yeah...yeah...I'm still at the interview now. No...no...I blew it! Well, first he hated my clothes and my shoes and then he felt no connection with me whatsoever...

SPONSEE: Excuse me! Will you hang up that phone!

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 2: I have to go now Mertle. This is the part where he tells me he'll call me to let me know when he's made a decision and then after I leave he'll have his secretary shred my resume. Okay bye!

(hangs up and puts cell phone away)

SPONSEE: Well, you do seem to know the drill. Uh...thanks for coming in. By the way, you might wanna try Self Esteem Anonymous. I hear they're hiring.

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 2: Thanks!

(POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 2 exits)

SPONSEE: SECRETARY!

(secretary enters)

SPONSEE: I need you to...

SECRETARY: *(cuts him off)* I know the drill too.

(secretary shreds the resume and then exits)

SPONSEE: NEXT!

(Potential Sponsors #3 and #4 enter)

SPONSEE: Hi there. Are you two applying as a sponsorship couple?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 3: You must be a genius to figure that out on your own, Einstein. You called “next” and two of us walked in here together. You figure it out! Moron!

SPONSEE: That’s some attitude you have there. Are you both that unruly?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 4: Don’t you pay him no never mind, honey. You just ask all the questions you want and we’ll try to answer them to the best of our ability. Nice office, by the way.

SPONSEE: Thank you. So, the two of you have done this tandem sponsorship thing for some time now I gather?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 3: I sure hope the questions are gonna get harder than that or I’m gonna fall asleep due to boredom. Look, it says right there on our resume that we’ve been doing this for over 12 years. Do I need to read it to you?

SPONSEE: You’re a real jerk, you know that?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 3: Look wise guy, I ain’t got time for this nonsense. If you wanna work the steps you’ll hire us and I’ll put your little smart Alec butt in my new sponsee boot camp where I’ll be your father, your mother, your best friend, your worst enemy, and your higher power all at the same time. You’ll learn to read the big book, eat the big book, breathe the big book, and live the big book!

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 4: Now, of course, the unconditional love of AA will be shown to you in full measure. We’ll attend potlucks, dances, and a myriad of social events highlighting the wonderful fellowship that can be had when you follow the simple suggestions of the AA program.

SPONSEE: Wait a minute. I get it now! You two are trying to “Good Cop/Bad Cop” me! Or, more accurately, “Good Sponsor/Bad Sponsor” me! Nice try, but I don’t like gimmicks. I should have known something was up when I called the sponsee references you listed on your application and half of them were bubbling pink cloud floaters and the other half were too afraid to talk to me. Both of you hit the road!

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 3: Your loss, punk!

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 4: Take care dear!

(POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 3 and #4 exit)

SPONSEE: Secretary!

(secretary enters)

SPONSEE: Okay, I need you to...

SECRETARY: *(cutting him off)* I'm not stupid you know! The only thing I do in this skit is sit over there pretending I'm typing until you call and have me shred a resume! You don't have to tell me to do it every time!

SPONSEE: I was just going to say that this time just shred his resume. I liked her.

SECRETARY: Whatever!

(secretary shreds resume and exits)

SPONSEE: NEXT!

(POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5 enters)

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5: Hi, how are you?

SPONSEE: Wait. How come I don't have a resume from you?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5: Because I didn't submit one.

SPONSEE: Well, why not? This is a job interview. Besides, shredding resumes is the only thing my secretary is good for. Look, I've had a number of applicants today and none of them have seemed right. So let's just get right down to the point: Why do you want this job?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5: I don't.

SPONSEE: You don't? Then why are you here?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5: I'm here to ask if *you* are ready to work the steps.

SPONSEE: Yes I'm ready.

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5: Then I will be your sponsor.

SPONSEE: What do you mean, "you'll be my sponsor?" It's not that easy!

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5: Sure it is.

SPONSEE: But I've got several questions to ask you! This interview process can take considerable time!

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5: Look, sponsorship in AA isn't a job, it's a privilege. By passing on what we've received we get to participate in our own recovery and hopefully help others. It's not a matter of hiring and firing.

SPONSEE: I wish I had interviewed you first. I coulda saved myself some time and aggravation. So, that's it huh? The old "when the student is ready the teacher appears" deal?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5: Pretty much. Now, we will need to talk about payment...

SPONSEE: I knew it! I knew it was too good to be true! So now you want me to pay top dollar for your services, right?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5: Wrong. I meant payment for *you*. If you are painstaking about working the steps, you will be paid in full by the promises outlined in the Big Book.

SPONSEE: Oh...so you don't require any payment at all?

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5: No, I do get paid.

SPONSEE: I knew it! Everybody's on the take! Get out of my office!

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5: Relax! The first thing we're going to have to work on is your trust issues! I do get paid for being a sponsor. But I get paid in hugs. And I'm ready to receive a big down payment right now.

(they hug)

POTENTIAL SPONSOR # 5: Come on, let's go get some coffee and get started on the steps.

(they start to exit—the secretary walks over)

SECRETARY: Hey! All that warm fuzzy stuff being paid in promises and hugs may be great for you but I expect cash!

SPONSEE! You're fired!

THE END