

This Is The Law

CAN I GET OUT OF THE CONTRACT

You've signed a contract obligating yourself to buy something or to perform some other obligation. After a few days of reflection, your spirit of anticipation has been replaced by a trapped feeling.

You ask, "Is there any way that I can get out of that contract?"

There may be, but usually there is not.

The law may give you a way out. You generally have the right to cancel a contract made in your home with a door-to-door salesman if you cancel within three days.

If the contract is so one-sided that it is grossly unfair to you, you may be able to obtain relief in court.

The contract itself may permit a cancellation under certain circumstances.

But ordinarily you must perform - assuming, of course, that the other party has performed or is willing to perform.

Needless to say, contracts should be signed only after careful thought.

"Things That Matter"

by Lucien Coleman
WITCH HUNTING

The Reverend George Burroughs was hanged in 1692. It wasn't a very dignified way to die. After his body was removed from the scaffold, his clothes were stripped off and his corpse was dragged through the streets of Salem behind a horse to the place of burial. The earthly remains of the Reverend Burroughs were then thrown into a shallow grave, along with the bodies of John Willard and Martha Carrier, who had also been hanged.

What were his crimes? Had he done something horrible? Had he raped and murdered little girls? Had he terrorized the community? No, nothing like that. Burroughs died because he had been convicted by a duly constituted jury of being a witch.

The townspeople of Salem had decided that he was certainly a witch because ... well, because he was unusually strong, and he had failed to attend communion regularly, and, some said, he had treated his wives badly.

The chief witness against Burroughs was Ann Putnam. It probably was just coincidental that the preacher had not gotten along very well with Anne's father, Thomas Putnam. Another witness was Mercy Lewis, who had been a domestic servant in the Burroughs household, but was, at the time of the trial, employed by the family of another of the Putnams, John.

The evidence against the Reverend Burroughs was less than overwhelming. But what difference did that make? If the Putnams said he was a witch, then he must have been a witch. To the witch-hunters, accusations were more important than evidence.

But, lest we be too hard on our New England forebearers, let it be admitted that the witch-hunting mentality is very much alive today.

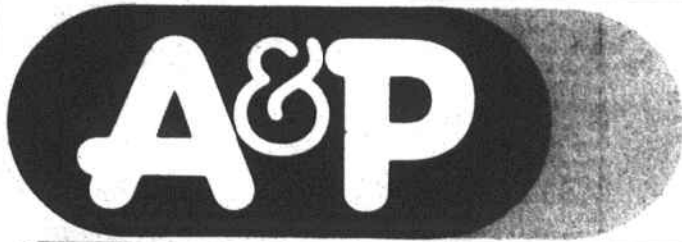
A recent example is an outlandish rumor related to the Proctor and Gamble company. According to the rumor, which seems to be making the rounds in some religious circles, the company's moon and stars trademark is a satanical occult symbol. The story even has it that a Proctor and Gamble official recently appeared on the Phil Donohue television show to discuss the company's connection with satanism.

There is not one shred of truth in either part of the story. The trademark in question goes back to a mark put on a P&G carton in 1851. And company officials have a letter in hand which documents the fact that no P&G representative has ever appeared on the Donohue show.

It just goes to show that if you say something loud enough and often enough, someone will be naive enough to believe you. That kind of mentality sent the Reverend George Burroughs to the gallows in 1692. And the Lord only knows how much damage it does today.

Please don't
burn up
my home.

Sincerely,



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THROUGH SATURDAY MAY 15th
DAILY FROM DAWN TO DUSK
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