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**Comments:**

As a young married woman in her 30's I'm sorry I ever got my first credit card. Originally as a college student it was presented to me on campus (away from my parents) as a "phone card" that I could sign up for from AT&T on campus (at one of the tables they allow on campus to solicit unwary students) to call home. Then AT&T mailed me a letter saying that I did such a great job at paying my phone card bill that I could apply for a real AT&T Universal credit card. It seemed like a reward to me for doing good at the time. But now, I see it was a cheap tactic to get me into debt over my head. After having numerous credit card solicitations, incentives (free t-shirts etc), teaser rates, and them congratulate me by raising my credit limit so I can give them more of my money, at this time I have 5 credit cards and I'm just affording to pay the minimums. Through all of this I've felt like a victim of a evil unAmerican system that goes beyond consumerism and freedom. I'm a daughter of an independent financial planner and have felt guilt for years that I should have supposedly been smarter about these things. What about the other people that don't have financial planner Dad's to even warn them about these things growing up? They certainly don't tell this to kids in economics or civics class in high

school. Also, in all of the years I've own credit cards, I've had decent credit because I pay my bills on time. This year upon asking for a credit increase, something I rarely do, instead of receiving an expected increase, or even a simple not at this time response, American Express DECREASED my credit by over \$1,000 with a simple letter saying that due to a recent review of my credit they thought it would be best. My husband (who is a U.S. Airforce Veteran) and I were going to use that existing credit balance to pay in-advance for his college tuition and books until he was reimburse thru the government for his veteran tuition benefits a few weeks later. Instead we could not do this. As recent newlyweds we had to go hat in hand to my parents who also didn't understand why a credit card company would do this. What about single veterans that don't have a parent to turn to to ask for a couple extra dollars to get them thru to next month? Even after we called American Express to ask them to just leave our limit alone or at least put it back where it was before we requested an increase, all they said was it seems like we hadn't been paying off more than the minimum and we could ask for an increase after 6 months. Where does it say we have to pay more than our minimum to not have our limit reduced???? We have decided that after we eventually pay off the card we will be closing our account with American Express. We will be closing our Fifth Third Bank credit card too because they mailed us brochures that said if we spent \$500 between Sept-Dec (or something like this) of 2007 that we'd get 10% back plus be entered into a sweepstakes. I spent the \$500, but never got any acknowledgments, anything cash back, or entered into the sweepstakes. When I called them they said during that period I went over my limit and they said I wasn't qualified for the offer. Nothing in their written brochures said anything about my not being qualified. If I wasn't qualified why was I mailed the brochure? Why did I spend \$500 for no reason? I could go on and on about false advertising too but at this point I think consumers are tired of talking and want to see action.