

Impact Study Commission to assess the costs and benefits of legalized gambling in America from a less biased platform.

Sincerely,

DR. GUY C. CLARK,
Chairman.

Attached: Our bulletin article.

"HARVARD"—THE BEST NAME MONEY CAN
BUY

Harvard, the venerable institution founded in 1636, is among America's most recognizable academic "Brands". Its public reputation is among the highest of America's institutions.

Through association, the phrase "Harvard says," becomes powerful validation, even when followed by statements Harvard didn't really make, or, perhaps, was paid to say. Thus it follows that when one of America's least reputable institutions—gambling—went shopping for a spokesman, they determined "Harvard" was the best name money could buy.

The American Gaming Association (AGA) opened shop in Washington, D.C. in 1995 to promote, in their own words, "better understanding of the gaming entertainment industry by bringing facts about the industry to the general public, elected officials, other decision makers and the media through education and advocacy."

The AGA became the propaganda machine for the commercial casino companies that funded it. The casinos faced tough questions from politicians and anti-gambling groups as gambling proliferated across the nation in the early 1990s.

Those questions intensified in 1996, when Congress funded the National Gambling Impact Study Commission (NGISC). Despite gambling's expensive attempts to stack the commission and its success in stripping it of subpoena power, the commission's final report in 1999 posted strong warnings about gambling expansion. It called for a "pause" in the expansion of gambling until more information on addiction, bankruptcy, crime, job cannibalization and other topics could be studied.

But gambling proponents were already staging their response. The same year the NGISC started its research, casinos founded their own "gambling research" organization, the National Center for Responsible Gambling (NCRG). Boyd Gaming Corporation provided the start-up funds for the NCRG and made a 10-year pledge of \$875,000. Other leading gaming companies, including Harrah's Entertainment, Inc., International Game Technology, Mandalay Resort Group, MGM Mirage and Park Place Entertainment Corporation were "early and generous supporters," according to NCRG's own web site.

The site notes, "Today, with the contributions of the casino gaming industry, equipment manufacturers, vendors, related organizations and individuals, more than \$13 million has been committed to the NCRG, an unprecedented level of funding for gambling research. This financial support has enabled the NCRG to attract the best minds from the most prestigious institutions to conduct research in this uncharted field." (Emphasis added.)

They boast the group is run by scholars and health care professionals, but it is chaired by professional lobbyist and former Congressman Dennis E. Eckart, with William Boyd, chairman of Boyd Gaming, serving as president, and the AGA's senior vice president and executive director, Judy Patterson as secretary-treasurer. Only five of the 21 remaining directors represent health care or academic organizations. The rest are all gambling executives or lobbyists.

Among the five is Howard J. Shaffer, Ph.D. Director, Division on Addictions, Harvard

Medical School, which is funded by the gambling industry through NCRG.

Gambling interests funded the NCRG with, according to their own accounts, \$13 million. Of that they have contributed \$6 million to "research," with that funding now going exclusively to the Harvard Project.

Harvard insists the NCRG board exercises no control over its research, but at least two noted treatment experts left the NCRG board because of their concerns about just such problems. Both indicated the NCRG would not likely allow researchers to tackle the big issues of proximity, high-speed addiction of machines and other factors that could be damaging to the industry.

Clinical psychiatrist Dr. Henry Lesieur from the Rhode Island Hospital's gambling treatment program and UCLA's Dr. Richard Rosenthal resigned from the NCRG board three years ago after concluding that the gambling industry wielded too much influence over the research.

Still, Harvard's addiction department continues to disburse grants to other research applications. With Shaffer as editor and other Harvard staff on the editorial board, *The Journal of Gambling Studies*, served as a prestigious gathering point and filter for research. Harvard editors in turn spent considerable ink "debunking" other contributed research. As an adjunct to its publishing efforts, Harvard distributed the WAGER, an online review of current topics between 2004 and 2005. The typical WAGER review comprised an outline of a study's premise, followed by the study's findings. Typically the last WAGER paragraphs were dedicated to a repetitive disclaimer that results were not conclusive because of sample size or some other weakness.

A classic example was the August, 2002 examination of suicides and their relationship to gambling. "Do Casinos have Casualties? Mixed Evidence for a Gambling-Suicide Link." Why Harvard would choose to review this study, which it concluded was inconclusive and flawed in many regards, is unclear. The Harvard editor dismissed the study's results for a number of reasons, including, "relationships between gambling settings and suicide rates could potentially be due to common features that influence suicide other than casino presence. For example, Nevada is home to a great number of retirees, a population which has demonstrated higher suicide rates."

That would be interesting if it were true. Nevada ranks 44th in the nation for population over 65, Nevada has ranked first in the nation in suicide rates for 10 of the last 14 years, never coming in lower than fourth. In suicides per capita it was surpassed recently by Montana, which has more video lottery terminals and Gamblers Anonymous chapters per capita than any other state in the nation.

Still, AGA spokesman Frank Fahrenkopf traverses the country announcing that "peer reviewed" studies have "failed to prove" a relationship between gambling and suicide. In AGA logic, having "failed to prove" an assertion is equal to a "proof" of its antithesis."

Fahrenkopf and his peers have deceived numerous legislators with illusions of "peer reviewed" studies that "prove" there is no correlation between gambling and crime, no correlation between casino proximity and addiction, and that gambling takes money away from other businesses.

Harvard's addiction department is not the only tool of the gambling industry. The university's renowned Kennedy School of Government is deeply connected to Native American organizations dedicated to the economic and political development of Indian reservations. Unfortunately, those organizations

have adopted the NIGA mantra of gambling as the "New Buffalo" which will elevate the reservations to the status of economically and politically independent nations.

Again, the "Harvard" brand is a deliberate purchase of the gambling tribes. In 2003, just after Time Magazine published a blistering expose on the status of Indian casino development, NIGA commissioned Harvard to produce a study deliberately designed to show the benefits of Indian gambling.

News reports at the time quoted Deron Marquez, chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians saying, "NIGA's fellow trade organization, the AGA, constantly produces numbers to help its cause. The data bolsters policy decisions and helps make problems go away. Our study would allow the same to take place."

The study was to be headed by Katherine Spilde, a former Director of Research for the NIGA, and an ardent proponent of gambling expansion. Spilde told reporters the study would help reverse "a bona fide public relations crisis," for Indian gambling.

NIGA's Marguez said the study would be "the centerpiece of a public relations campaign" to promote Indian gambling. "The PR and the research go hand in hand. The study will provide the necessary data, and the campaign the necessary visibility."

The study was funded to support an intended finding, with an advertising campaign as the intended result.

Spilde also played the "peer reviewed" card, noting the study would be "validated" by other academics. "A peer-reviewed report will have the highest integrity possible and insulate us from critics who may try to imply that funding from Indian Country has influenced the results," she said.

"Gambling industry lackies vouching for gambling industry apologists," fumes NCALG/NCAGE chairman Dr. Guy C. Clark. A dentist by trade, Clark said, "It reminds me of a mouthwash introduced some years ago with a claim that its in-house studies showed the product was highly effective at removing plaque. Later independent studies showed the product was 'slightly less effective than water.'"

"Harvard's motives look about as transparent as water too, no matter what they claim for intentions. I would think they would want to be more protective of the school's heritage," Clark concluded. "These so-called studies are no more than gambling industry in-house advocacy dressed up as academics."

TRIBUTE TO THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SILICON VALLEY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley as they celebrate 50 years as an advocate and resource for its members, business owners, professionals, students and the community in general by being the premier voice for Hispanic and minority businesses.

The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley, originally called the Mexican American Chamber of Commerce, was founded in 1955, and incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1975 when it began offering services to the Latino small business community.

Over the years, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has provided assistance and support to numerous Latinos and other minority small businesses in business education, economic assistance, international business, entrepreneurship, education, community development, loan program development, and procurement assistance, to name a few. The Hispanic Chamber has helped over 5,000 clients in the past 50 years and has helped businesses procure loans totaling over \$3 million.

The Hispanic Chamber is a recognized leader and influential player in the development of the social, political and economic landscape of this region, and was recognized as the best Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in the United States by an independent auditing firm in 1999.

I am proud of the leadership, volunteers and network of supporters whose dedication has built Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley into an integral part of the fabric of our local community. And, in so doing, the Hispanic Chamber is contributing to making Silicon Valley a place that recognizes the vital role Hispanic businesses play in the economic development of our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 27, 2005, I missed the following votes: rollcall number 322, H. Res. 199, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the massacre at Srebrenica in July 1995; and rollcall number 323, H. Con. Res. 155, urging the Government of the Republic of Albania to ensure that the parliamentary elections to be held on July 3, 2005, are conducted in accordance with international standards for free and fair elections. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both Rollcall number 322 and rollcall number 323.

DELAWARE RIVER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 27, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1412, the Delaware River Protection Act, which institutes a variety of measures to protect the Delaware and other American rivers from future oil spills and environmental disasters and which I am pleased to have voted for. As the longest un-dammed river east of the Mississippi, the Delaware is a crucial part of America's infrastructure, serving as a key route for commercial shipping, a popular area for recreational activity, and a vital water source for hundreds of counties and municipalities on or near its path.

In late November 2004, the tanker *Athos I*, accidentally hit an unmarked, submerged

piece of iron pipe on the shore of the Delaware River near Paulsboro, NJ. The metal tore a hole in the ship's single hull, releasing roughly 265,000 gallons of crude oil into the river and soiling over 200 miles of coastline. Hundreds of birds became oil-covered and died; countless fish—including many endangered short-nose sturgeon—were sickened or killed. The Coast Guard estimated the cost of cleanup to be in excess of \$200 million—that in addition to revenues lost when shipping routes along the river were forced to close and power plants along the river were forced to shut down. But under current law, the tanker's owners are responsible for less than \$50 million of that cost; American taxpayers are forced to foot the bill for the rest.

For almost 15 million people—including much of the New York metropolitan area—the Delaware is a primary source of drinking water. Polluting such a valuable resource should be far costlier than it currently is, in order to encourage companies to practice the safest shipping possible. The Delaware River Protection Act would have just that effect.

First, the bill increases responsible parties' cleanup liability by nearly ninety percent for single-hulled vessels like the *Athos I*, and by over forty percent for double-hulled vessels, which are safer and more resistant to hull damage. The bill also requires any person with knowledge of submerged objects in U.S. waters to report those objects to the Coast Guard or be subject to civil and criminal penalties; prior Coast Guard notification of the iron pipe submerged in the Delaware's banks could have prevented the *Athos* incident entirely.

Finally, the bill proposes two programs. The first, established jointly within the Coast Guard and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, would be devoted to determining the environmental effects of submerged oil, and to developing methods to locate and remove it. The second, the Delaware River and Bay Oil Spill Advisory Committee, would be devoted solely to recommending ways to improve prevention of—and reaction to—oil spills on the Delaware.

In all, this bill makes important strides toward the environmental protection that our planet, our region, and the fifteen million Americans who rely on the Delaware for drinking water need. Preventing future oil spills and related disasters on the Delaware River is a vital and necessary goal. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Delaware River Protection Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed votes on June 24th, 2005. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 309, 310, 311, 312, 314, 316, 318, 319 and 320. I would have voted "no" on rollcall Nos. 308, 313, 315, 317 and 321.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST NICK IDALSKI

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and respect that I wish to commend United States Army Specialist Nick Idalski for the service and sacrifice he paid to this country. Specialist Idalski was tragically killed in the field of battle, while bravely conducting combat operations in Ramadi, Iraq, on June 21, 2005, just over a week shy of his 24th birthday. Specialist Idalski served our country with great honor, valor, and courage.

Specialist Idalski was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, and 2nd Infantry Division in Fort Carson, Colorado. His sacrifice will be remembered at funeral services on Wednesday, June 29, 2005, by a community that has been devastated by the loss of one of its own.

A native of Crown Point, Indiana, Specialist Idalski graduated from Crown Point High School in 2001. After graduation he went on to work for a local construction company and then to train as an emergency medical technician, where he finished at the top of his class. Instead of taking a more conventional route, Specialist Idalski bravely decided to enlist in the army to make a difference and to make his family proud.

Many of his friends and his family recall him as a free spirited teenager, so it came as a surprise when Specialist Idalski decided to join the Army. However, as his time in the army progressed and he finished basic training in 2003 at Fort Benning, Georgia, he made his friends and family proud. After spending time in Korea, he was sent to Iraq in August of 2004, where he courageously served his country. Specialist Idalski had chosen to make a career out of his service in the Army.

He loved his country and the members of his unit; however, Specialist Idalski treasured his family above all else. He is survived by his Mother, Kim Greenberg; Step-Father, Rick Greenberg, a retired Marine; Step-Brother, Army Sergeant Kevin Greenberg; and girlfriend, Lisa Wheeler. His community mourns with his family, and he is missed tremendously. The city of Crown Point, Indiana will honor Specialist Idalski with a moment of silence at the beginning of their Fourth of July parade.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Specialist Nick Idalski. Specialist Idalski sacrificed his life during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and his passing comes as setback to a community already shaken by the realities of war. Specialist Idalski will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country; thus, let us never forget the brave sacrifice he made in order to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.