

Experts: gambling on rise among American youths

By David Crary
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Whether with their friends at parties, at school or in solitude on the Internet, millions of American teens are taking up an ever-more-accessible national pastime — gambling.

Much of the action is small-time — underage purchases of lottery tickets, playing cards or dice games for spare change. But experts say the long-term stakes are high because gamblers who start young are the most likely to develop addiction problems.

"This is the first generation of kids growing up when gambling is legal and available virtu-

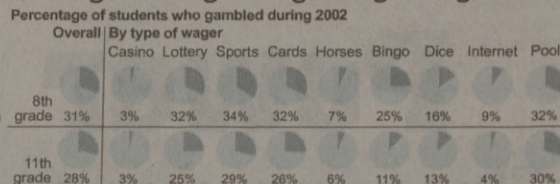
ally nationwide," said George Meldrum of the Delaware Council on Gambling Problems. "Casinos, racetracks — they take it for granted."

Nationwide statistics on youth gambling are scarce, but regional surveys suggest more than 30 percent of all high school students gamble periodically.

Middle-schoolers are following suit, as evidenced by the uncovering of a sports-betting ring at a Glenview, Ill., middle school last year. In Delaware, Meldrum's agency recently conducted one of the largest-ever surveys of student gambling; nearly one-third of 6,753 participating eighth-graders said they had gambled in 2002.

Survey finds a high rate of gambling among teenagers

A survey of middle and high school students in Delaware showed roughly three in 10 students gambled during 2002.



SOURCE: Delaware Council on Gambling Problems, Inc.

Those who gambled were much more likely than other students to smoke, drink alcohol, use illegal drugs and commit petty crimes, the survey found.

Such trends are the focus of research at the International Center for Youth Gambling Problems, based at McGill University in Montreal. The center's co-director, Jeffrey Dervensky, said studies indicate

that compulsive gambling problems afflict up to 8 percent of young gamblers, compared with up to 3 percent of adult gamblers.

Adult gambling addicts may seek help when they realize their job or marriage is imperiled, but young people are less likely to do so, Dervensky said.

"These kids still live at home, and nobody's dragging them in,

saying, 'If you don't go for help, I'm leaving you,'" Dervensky said. "These kids steal money, usually from their family. If you get caught, your parents are not going to turn you in."

Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling, said more than 80 percent of American adults now gamble at least occasionally — a possible reason for what he sees as a worrisome tolerance of youth gambling.

"We've had a number of parents say, 'Thank God, it's just gambling,'" Whyte said.

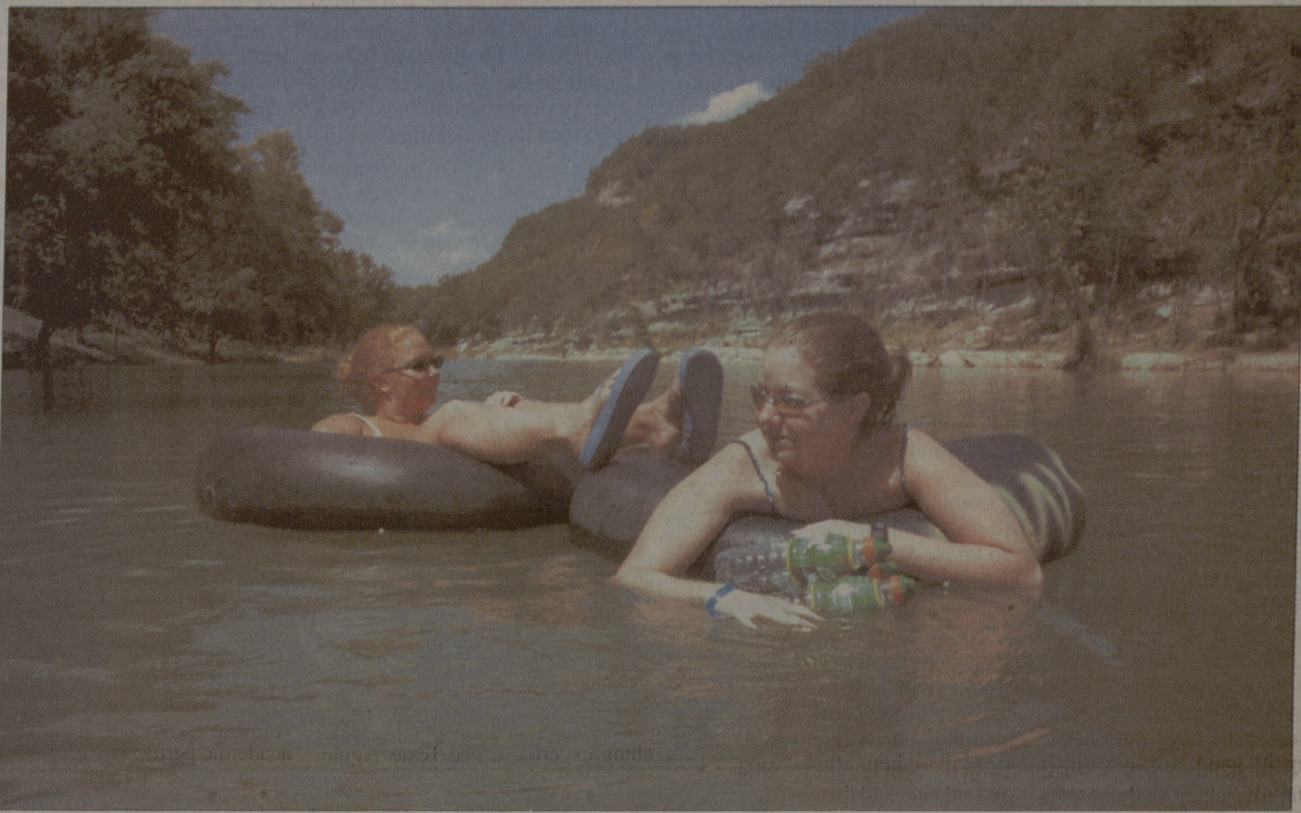
Sometimes, a parent's passion for gambling is passed on to an adolescent. That happened in the case of Sarah, now a 31-year-old executive in New York

City who accompanied her parents to Atlantic City casinos as a teenager, became hooked, and now attends regular sessions of Gamblers Anonymous to shake an addiction that plunged her into a six-figure debt.

"From the first time I actually sat down at a blackjack table and played, when I was 18 or 19, it was pretty obvious I wasn't normal," said Sarah, who asked that her last name be withheld. "I wouldn't want to get up even to go to the bathroom. I was a little crazy. It was all I wanted to do."

Sarah predicted that gambling will spread among young people because of the omnipresence of betting options and the availability of credit cards.

Driftin' away



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Amy Stancoven, a senior community health major and Crystal Littrell, Class of 2001, take advantage of the weekend's clear skies on the Guadalupe River near New Braunfels. Temperatures in the mid-90s made river activities ideal over the weekend.

Fox continues losing support in Mexico

By Morgan Lee
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's former ruling party won its fourth of the country's six state gubernatorial elections, according to preliminary results released Sunday, generating more momentum for its efforts to regain power from President Vicente Fox.

The outcome of the Campeche state gubernatorial election was released as federal authorities were set to confirm that Fox's conservative National Action Party, or PAN, lost ground in the July 6 midterm congressional elections. The former ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, and the leftist opposition gained seats.

Since he took office in 2000, Fox has struggled with an often

hostile Congress, and his party was hoping for a majority in the last three years of his term. However, the results — in which no party gained a majority — set the stage for three more years of legislative inaction.

"The legislation that the PAN was looking for is not going to happen," political analyst Ana Maria Salazar said. "The president's going to have to find a way to renegotiate. He's going to have to give up something."

Voters have been frustrated with Fox's inability to deliver on promises of reform, economic

growth and a migration accord with the United States.

PRI lost the presidency to Fox in 2000 after 71 years of rule. But it staged a national comeback in the July 6 elections, including winning four governor's races.

That includes Campeche state, in which the PRI was given the official lead Sunday. PRI candidate Jorge Carlos Hurtado

received about 4,000 more votes than the PAN's Juan Carlos del Rio, although the results were not certified and likely will be contested, state election official Luis Maury said.

In the Pacific coast state of Sonora, the PRI's Eduardo Bours won the gubernatorial race by a margin of 1 percent, according to final results released Saturday. The PAN also was expected to contest that election.

In the races for the 500 seats in the lower house of Congress, federal officials already have announced the 300 winners directly elected by voters. On Sunday, authorities will assign the rest of the 200 seats to at-large candidates, based on each party's percentage of the total vote.

So far, the PRI and its ally, the Green Party, have 163 of the 300 directly elected seats in the lower house, showing that its political machinery remains in good working order.

"It reflects that fact that the party still has a very disciplined voter base," Salazar said.

"The president is going to have to find a way to renegotiate. He's going to have to give up something."

— Ana Maria Salazar
political analyst

NAACP director praises affirmative action, rips Bush

By Coralie Carlson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. — NAACP executive director Julian Bond urged states that have abandoned affirmative action policies for higher education to "come back into the Union" Sunday while criticizing President Bush and his brother, Gov. Jeb Bush, for challenging race-conscious admissions.

Speaking at the 94th annual convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Bond praised the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that upheld the use of race as a factor in university admissions policies. The Bush administration filed one of the briefs opposing the policy.

The court, however, ruled against the use of a point-based system for enrollment decisions, which was used at the University of Michigan.

"The court struck down the points but upheld the principle," Bond said. "Since the opponents kept telling us that this was all about principle, I'd say we won!"

Bond said the decision "gave legal sanction to what we knew to be morally, socially, and educationally correct."

But he said he knows affirmative action policies will be challenged. "The average KKK member may be stupid, but the well-financed forces of the radical right are not," Bond said.

He also vowed the civil rights group would be watching states, including Florida, that no longer use affirmative action policies to monitor their commitment to achieving diversity.

Bond criticized the Florida governor for his One Florida program, under which state universities can no longer consider race or gender in admissions decisions. High school students

are instead guaranteed admission if they are in the top 20 percent of their graduating class.

"First Governor Jeb Bush became the only governor to carry out a pre-emptive strike on affirmative action," Bond said. "And then President George Bush carried out a pre-emptive strike on Iraq, the only President in our nation's history to attack a country which did not threaten or attack us first. Both strikes were unnecessary and unwise."

Jacob DiPietro, a spokesman for the governor, said minority enrollment and student achievement are rising under the One Florida program.

"The results speak for themselves," DiPietro said. "Under the governor's leadership, One Florida, minority students in colleges and universities are far outpacing their counterparts in other states."

Bond also voiced his disappointment that neither President Bush nor his brother attended the 2002 conference in Texas at the 2002 meeting in Florida.

White House spokesman Scott Stanzel said Saturday the president's busy schedule prevents him from accepting all the invitations he receives. The governor was unable to attend because of a legislative session in Tallahassee, DiPietro said.

Meanwhile, NAACP president Kweisi Mfume criticized some of the Democratic candidates for president who are not expected to appear at a Monday forum.

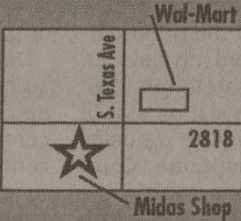
As of late Saturday, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina and Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut and Reps. Richard Gephardt of Missouri and Dennis Kucinich of Ohio were not expected to attend. Sen. Bob Graham of Florida and John Kerry of Massachusetts were set to appear, along with former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, former Illinois Sen. Carol Moseley Braun and the Rev. Al Sharpton.

COLLEGE STATION POLICE DEPARTMENT

- 7/9/03 12:50 p.m. Warrant arrest, 4000 Finfeather.
- 7/9/03 1:18 p.m. Warrant arrest, 4000 Finfeather.
- 7/9/03 1:30 p.m. Major accident, 607 Texas. Airbag burns.
- 7/9/03 5:29 p.m. Unauthorized use of motor vehicle, 410 Texas.
- 7/9/03 5:54 p.m. Major accident, Harvey/Earl Rudder Frwy. Complaint of pain.
- 7/9/03 8:20 p.m. Burglary of a habitation, 601 Luther. Taken: PlayStation2, games, DVDs.
- 7/9/03 10:58 p.m. Warrant arrest, 300 Dominik.
- 7/10/03 12:15 a.m. Driving while license suspended, 4090 SH 6 S. One arrest.
- 7/10/03 3:01 a.m. Warrant arrest, 1101 Luther.
- 7/11/03 8:25 a.m. Warrant arrest, 2611 Texas.
- 7/11/03 9:26 a.m. Warrant arrest, 2611 Texas.
- 7/11/03 11:27 a.m. Major accident, Louise/Wellborn. Complaint of pain.
- 7/11/03 12:16 p.m. Warrant arrest, 1116 Taurus Ave. Charge: aggravated sexual assault of child.
- 7/11/03 12:23 p.m. Burglary of a habitation, 723 Royal Adelaide. Taken: TV, VCR, DVD player, DVDs, coins and clothing.
- 7/11/03 1:52 p.m. Major accident, 411 Texas. Complaint of pain.
- 7/11/03 1:58 p.m. Sexual assault, 2611 Texas.
- 7/11/03 4:38 p.m. Warrant arrest, 1540 SH 6.
- 7/11/03 5:21 p.m. Major accident, Texas/Lincoln. Complaint of back pain.
- 7/11/03 6:07 p.m. Burglary of a habitation, 1516 Hawk Tree. Taken: bracelet.
- 7/11/03 10:24 p.m. Possession of drug paraphernalia and minor in possession, 2701 Longmire. One arrest.
- 7/12/03 1:05 a.m. Warrant arrest, 313 S. College.
- 7/12/03 2:22 a.m. Burglary of a vehicle, 134 Luther. Taken: wallet and coins.
- 7/12/03 8:27 a.m. Burglary of vehicle, 801 University. Taken: digital camera taken.
- 7/12/03 10:58 a.m. Major accident, Southwest Pkwy/Texas. Complaint of neck pain.
- 7/12/03 11:09 a.m. Major accident, Holleman/Texas. Complaint of pain.
- 7/12/03 4:49 p.m. Theft, 1500 Harvey. One arrest.
- 7/12/03 5:50 p.m. Runaway, 2611 Texas.
- 7/12/03 9:19 p.m. Failure to identify, 1011 Wellborn. One arrest.
- 7/12/03 10:48 p.m. Driving while license invalid, 586/Southwest Pkwy. One arrest.
- 7/12/03 11:17 p.m. Liquor law violation, 313 S. College. One arrest.
- 7/13/03 12:59 a.m. Warrant arrest, 3110 Rock Prairie.
- 7/13/03 1:31 a.m. Warrant arrest, 2701 Longmire.
- 7/13/03 3:45 a.m. Burglary of a vehicle, 2301 Eastmark. Taken: face plate for stereo.
- 7/13/03 1:52 a.m. Burglary of a habitation, 4000 University. Taken: guns, money, personal check, jewelry. Also: victim injured with cut to right forearm and upper lip.

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