



Up Close & Personal



**Gambling Problem?
Yours? A friend's?
A family member's?**

Call the FCCG
24-hour HelpLine
888-ADMIT-IT
(888-236-4848)

A Friend in Need

My name is Mike and I'm an undergraduate at one of Florida's state universities. It's been well over a year now since my life got turned upside-down by gambling. I'm not talking about my own gambling. What I'm referring to is a friend's compulsive betting that absolutely drove me crazy. It isn't his real name, but let's call my former buddy Jim.

At first, Jim and I were just roommates in off-campus housing. But eventually we became friends. Anyway, after a while, Jim started borrowing money from me. It was \$200 at first. That he paid right back and then quickly borrowed another \$150. But the third time it was \$250 and he seemed quite desperate. People were after him, he said, and he was going to be in big trouble if he couldn't pay. So, I loaned him the money. I mean, that's what you do when you're a good friend, right?

"All I could see was my friend getting kicked out of his apartment and living on the street."

Soon after that, Jim moved into another apartment complex. He didn't pay the \$400 owed but swore he would. Not wanting to damage our relationship, I accepted his promise but almost immediately there was another request for money. This time the figure was \$500 and Jim admitted he lost his rent money in a poker game. If he didn't get the cash immediately, he said he would be homeless. OK, maybe by then I should have seen the handwriting on the wall, but all I could see was my friend getting kicked out of his apartment and living on the street. So, again, I dipped into funds my parents had given me and loaned Jim the money.

Of course, it didn't stop there. Once I even sold blood to help him out. Another time Jim talked me into going on a gambling cruise and I got really seasick. Sure enough, even as sick as I was, he begged me to loan him money to gamble after he had lost his own. As usual, I gave in. Looking back, I can't believe how much I let myself be manipulated. Then again as I count up what Jim now owes me including legal fees, the whole thing becomes only too real. At my age, \$3,100 is a lot of money.

"Once I even sold blood to help him out."

When my parents finally found out what was going on, they were disgusted and strongly pressured me to stop loaning Jim money. That caused a big family argument and I found myself having to choose between supporting my friend and alienating my mom and dad. It was an agonizing decision but finally my parents convinced me that I was being used. When I eventually told Jim that there would be no more loans the relationship abruptly ended.

During the past year I ran into Jim on campus. He apologized for his actions and promised to pay back all that he owed. But after months of receiving no payments, I finally took him to court and won. I figured if I have to repay my parents, he shouldn't get off the hook either. Then again, people like Jim really do need help and I hope he gets it. You know, I don't think it's generally understood how gambling can affect young people my age. Somebody should start spreading the word because I have no doubt that there are more Jims out there.

From Our President and Executive Director



FCCCG Programs Gain Entrance to Public Schools and Juvenile Justice Facilities

by Paul Ashe, President and Pat Fowler, Executive Director



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Want to help? Join FCCCG.

(Contributions are tax deductible)

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Patron	\$500
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Special Gold Corporate	\$10,000
Donation	\$ _____

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal | <input type="checkbox"/> Labor / Mgmt |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | |

Signature _____

Date _____

Make check payable to the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling.

The Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCCG) is proud to announce the implementation of the State's first Youth Problem Gambling Prevention Program in a public school system. Orange County Schools were the first pioneers to utilize the program developed by the FCCCG and funded by the Florida Lottery. This statewide initiative was launched following the approval by the Education Commissioner and Chancellor and pronounced in a joint letter by the Departments of Education, Lottery, Drug Control, Health, Juvenile Justice, and Family and Children Services. (See related story, page 6.)

"Orange County Schools were the first pioneers to utilize the program developed by the FCCCG..."

The completion of this process marks the culmination of an effort by the FCCCG that started many years ago. Since this time the FCCCG advocated and received Lottery funding to conduct statewide prevalence studies among Florida's adult and adolescent populations. In addition to documenting the severity of gambling related difficulties among residents young and older, these FCCCG sponsored studies, conducted by the University of Florida (UF), have also contributed new and significant findings to the gambling field, including revealing the correlation between gambling and speeding among youth and young adults. (See related story, page 7.)

In a statewide survey of 60,345 middle and high school students just completed by the Florida Department of Children and Families, the prevalence of gambling

among Florida youth was confirmed with startling clarity – 56.3% of students in grades 6-12 reported having gambled in the last 12 months and 15.7% reported arguing about gambling during that same time period. This was the first time students were questioned about gambling in the State's Youth Substance Abuse Survey, which solidifies the need for the school prevention program.

Simultaneous to the FCCCG developing its prevention program within middle and high schools statewide, the agency sponsored another study, this time among incarcerated youth within Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) facilities. The review, highlighted in the agency's Summer 2003 newsletter, demonstrated the direct correlation between gambling and crime among minors and has now led to the implementation of a comprehensive pilot program for residents within 10 DJJ facilities, including support for inmates upon return to the community. (See related story page 6.)

Like the FCCCG's middle and high school prevention program, the DJJ pilot will be subject to evaluation for overall impact and effectiveness. These programs, in combination with the FCCCG's new youth website (see related story, page 7), demonstrates a planned strategy and a comprehensive approach to addressing the risks and consequences of youth gambling and mitigating such effects in the future. The Council gratefully acknowledges all persons who have aided us in achieving these milestones.

For additional information on these and other FCCCG youth initiatives, review this newsletter in its entirety and visit our website at www.gamblinghelp.org.

What's New

FCCG Awards Student Scholarships



In an effort to promote healthy lifestyles and positive decision making by young people, the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) again this year sponsored scholarships for students to express their talent in support of youth gambling awareness. Interested middle and high school students across the state were given guidelines for the production of essays and posters.

The following recipients were notified about their award before the end of the school year and told that the FCCG will be seeking to work with them in order to actually use the winning essay and poster to promote gambling awareness within schools and throughout the general public:

- \$500 Essay Award: Travis J. Mathis, 10th Grade, Miami Central Senior High School, "Think Twice Before Rolling Those Dice," Miami, FL
- \$500 Poster Award: Cherrish Moore, 6th Grade, Charles R. Drew Middle School, "It's Called Gambling Not Winning," Miami, FL (see graphic)

The FCCG also received a teen video public service announcement that was so impressive those five students, listed below, were awarded an honorable mention.

- \$300 Honorable Mention for Video Teen Gambling PSA (\$60/each): Tommy Gamba, Robert Granat, Alex Litt, Charlie Nuzum, J.P. Stevens, 10th Grade, Stanton College Preparatory School, Jacksonville, FL

Deception – the Video

How do you quickly and effectively alert teens, their families and youth workers that problem gambling among young people is an issue as important as drug and alcohol abuse? Among their many efforts in this regard, the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) recently came up with the idea of producing their own hard-hitting video, titled *Deception*, showing how teenagers can get caught in the grip of what is normally thought of as an adult affliction.



Carefully scripted and full of tension, this story of youth gambling compulsion hooks viewers of all ages. The mostly teenage actors in this vivid 30-minute audio-visual presentation give it a real life feel that will especially hold the attention of young people. Adults will also find the video's parent-child interactions of great interest, perhaps sparking memories of similar confrontations.

Deception is a very versatile instructional tool, appropriate for classroom use, families of teen gamblers and educators who work with young people. A video clip may be viewed on the agency's website under the "Help for Youth" section and is also available for purchase for \$50. **To obtain your personal copy, send a check or money order for \$50 to FCCG, 237 Lookout Place, Maitland, FL 32751.**

Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling, Inc.

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Our Mission:

The Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling, Inc. (FCCG), established in 1988, is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) educational and advocacy corporation under contract with Florida state government. The FCCG's primary mission is to help persons adversely affected by difficulties due to problem and compulsive gambling. The FCCG maintains a neutral stance on the issue of legalized gambling while seeking to assist citizens in need of support.

Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, the FCCG is an affiliate of the National Council on Problem Gambling.

In the Limelight

College Sports Wagering: Dropping the Ball

By Robert Minnix, Associate Athletic Director for Compliance, Florida State University



Robert Minnix

Associate Athletic Director
for Compliance
Florida State University

Fall is in the air and there is a sense of excitement and anticipation with the start of school and the football season. This excitement extends to a campus-wide activity that is illegal, yet involves an unprecedented number of students, boosters, and alumni—sports wagering.

Sports wagering, though illegal in every state except Nevada, is occurring on every

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) college campus, including in the fraternity houses, dormitories, apartment complexes, sports bars, varsity rooms, luxury boxes, and on the Internet. There is no evidence that sports wagering is abating and little evidence that college presidents are taking any affirmative steps to curtail or stop this illegal activity. What is known is that a disproportionate number of young people are engaged in this activity leading in many cases to addiction, financial difficulty and a host of other consequences, including suicide.

If left unchecked, these problems may have negative effects on all aspects of campus life, including intercollegiate athletics. Sports wagering is not a victimless crime, and can be as insidious and destructive as alcohol. Everyone associated with an addicted gambler is affected, causing a destructive chain reaction. For this reason, it is time that campuses declare a war on sports wagering, much the same way it has with alcohol, and provide the necessary programs, personnel, treatment and commitment to combat this addiction and assist the victims.

“Sports wagering is not a victimless crime, and can be as insidious and destructive as alcohol.”

Some have said that sports wagering is an isolated activity with a recent history, but in reality the whispers have always been there. In fact, it is an activity engaged in by students and student-athletes of all walks of life and is so widespread that it threatens the very integrity of college athletics.

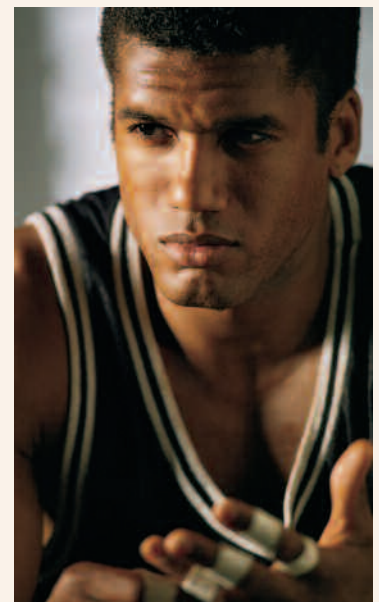
Therefore, any question as to whether the recent wagering scandals occurring on college campuses are isolated occurrences, the answer is: hardly. Sports wagering on intercollegiate contests and among prominent boosters, students and players dates back to at least the 1920’s and has always included the use of bookies, both on and off campus.

College officials have overrated the sanctity of their institution by ignoring the historic association of gambling and college sports. History has shown that college players often gambled, sometimes on their own games. But the extraordinary aspect of sports wagering on campuses is that college presidents have always been aware of the activity, and yet have done little to change the culture.

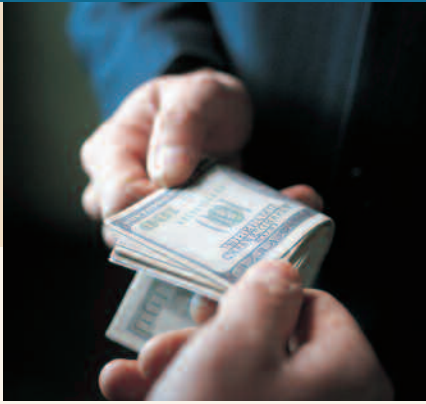
The Carnegie Foundation Report of 1929 recognized the sports wagering problem, but passed the buck and blamed the college faculty for not being more forceful in teaching moral values. In the 1940’s, discussions among college presidents at NCAA meetings alluded to concerns with sports wagering on their campuses, yet, little if anything was done to address the gambling issue.

In 1951, the low point of intercollegiate athletics was reached when three members of the National Champion Kentucky basketball squad were arrested in the first college point-shaving scandal ever prosecuted. Kentucky shut its program down for one year and 32 players at seven schools were charged with fixing 86 games, making it evident for all to see that college sports wagering had become an unregulated and out-of-control enterprise.

One would think something this devastating would call for immediate dialogue and reform on our college campuses. However, this did not happen. The silence was deafening. In 1961, another point-shaving scandal occurred that included a total of 37



In the Limelight



“ . . . there seems to be denial on the part of colleges that a gambling problem exists on their campuses. . . ”

players from 22 schools who were eventually implicated. Individuals went to jail and schools were put on probation.

Every decade since the Kentucky case has seen its share of point-shaving scandals, including Tulane (1983), Boston College (1996), Arizona State (1997) and Northwestern (1998). Even with the comprehensive surveys on sports wagering conducted by the Universities of Cincinnati and Michigan and the NCAA have done little to move college officials into action. There should be outrage that even one game’s integrity is compromised. Instead, there appears to be denial on the part of colleges that a gambling problem exists on their campuses even though the 2004 NCAA survey clearly showed the pervasiveness of sports wagering across all campuses including:

- **Student athletes who bet on collegiate sports:**
males – 20.8%; females – 5.7%
- **Student athletes who bet on football pools or with a bookie:**
males – 21.5%; females – 6%
- **Athletes who fixed or threw a game:**
male basketball players – 1%; football players – 1.4%

In 1999, then NCAA President Cedric Dempsey called sports wagering an insidious affliction hurting college athletics and urged universities to “turn up the heat” and crack down on gambling. Dempsey encouraged colleges to take the initiative to uncover student bookie operations on campuses. Dempsey also encouraged schools not to “look the other way” when they know boosters are betting on games and students are wagering on campus. Unfortunately, Mr. Dempsey’s pleas have gone largely unheeded even though it is known that:

- **More money is spent by college students on wagering than on alcohol**
- **Most of the illegal sports betting in the U.S. outside of legal sports betting in Nevada takes place on college campuses**
- **Colleges continue to promote “Casino Nights” as fundraisers**

The NCAA has attempted to do their part through providing posters, videos and presentations to various groups including politicians. The NCAA also created and distributed a sports wagering information packet outlining its position on gambling, how NCAA rules address the issue, and specific areas of concern. The effort has been noble but has had minimal effect on college campuses. We can not afford to sit idle any longer. It is time for a call to arms.

What needs to happen is for NCAA President Myles Brand to immediately demand all NCAA colleges to develop a written sports-wagering policy, similar to the recruiting policy he recently mandated for all Division I schools. This approach would put equal responsibility on all parties and make them stakeholders in the process, particularly athletic directors and university presidents. Such a policy should include demands for each member school to:

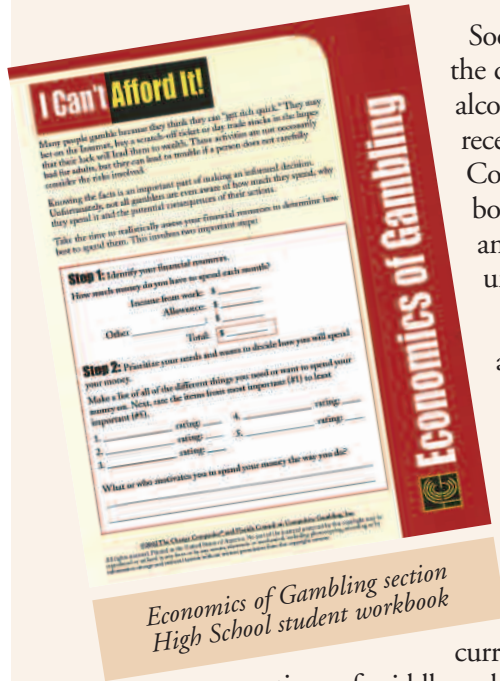
- **Develop a written campus-wide gambling/sports wagering policy**
- **Develop penalties to be assessed if the policy above is not followed**
- **Require review of the policy by the CEO**
- **Require the policy be kept on file at its respective conference offices**
- **Require a campus-wide committee to address the issues of sports and problem gambling**

It is my belief that with the support of the above NCAA legislation *can* result in measurable progress and ultimately foster change within the sports wagering culture. It’s better late than never. We owe it to our youth.



Special Focus

Gambling Prevention Takes Center Stage in Florida Schools



Soon, middle and high school students across the Sunshine State will be learning about the dangers of gambling just as they are now being educated about the pitfalls of drug, alcohol and tobacco use. The Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) very recently forwarded a joint letter, signed by the State Departments of Education, Drug Control, Lottery, Children and Families, Health and Juvenile Justice, encouraging school board members, superintendents and school administrators to implement the Middle and High School Problem Gambling Prevention Program developed by the FCCG under agreement with the Florida Lottery.

In addition, the Florida Department of Education alerted public school districts to anticipate receipt of the prevention materials. Superintendents, building principals and key district level supervisors/coordinators were all sent a memorandum with such a notification, including information on how the FCCG program can be implemented.

The purpose of the **Prevention Program**, which consists of instructor and counselor guides, and student workbooks, is to bridge the gap in awareness and education of problem gambling among youth and to provide knowledge of the risks, consequences and impacts associated with the activity of gambling. Consistent with Florida's Sunshine State Standards for schools, this program may be taught in specific

curriculum areas, Life Management Skills classes or in the personal/social development portions of middle and high school guidance programs.

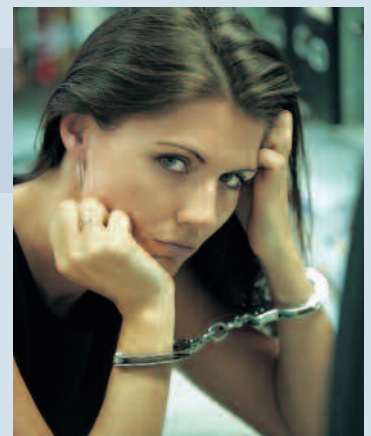
Juvenile Offender Program Being Crafted

When a research study clearly showed how pervasive gambling and problem gambling is among Florida's juvenile offenders age 11-20, the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) and the state's Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) immediately started talking about how to address this area of major concern. As a direct result of that collaboration, a pilot gambling education, prevention and intervention effort for certain residents of Florida's DJJ detention centers will soon begin.

After extensive training by the FCCG, DJJ staff members will facilitate the implementation of this program for juvenile offenders at ten DJJ facilities across the state. DJJ residents will be screened for gambling problems and if identified as at-risk or experiencing difficulties with gambling will:

- Participate in a ten-hour problem gambling education course
- Receive gambling treatment if needed
- Obtain access to resources and services upon their return to the community

Titled, "Are You Gambling With Your Life?" the ten-hour course is designed to help those identified residents make positive and lasting behavioral changes, including resistance to gambling involvement. DJJ instructors will lead participants in learning how behavior can be altered, focusing on family, friends, life circumstances, stress, and anger management. This FCCG developed instruction is intended to enable juvenile offenders to learn better decision-making skills and even become positive leaders in a variety of social contexts. While a huge undertaking, it is indeed one well worth the effort.



Special Focus

Teen Speeding and Gambling Go Hand-In-Hand

In a first of its kind study, researchers at the University of Florida have clearly established a link between speeding and teen gambling. Presented by its authors at the Society for Neuroscience’s 33rd annual meeting in New Orleans, N. Shapira, K. Frost-Pineda, M. Lazowitz, D. Husted, M. Ferguson, M. Yang and M. Gold titled their groundbreaking work, “Is Speeding a Form of Gambling Behavior?”

The origin of this study stems from a cooperative venture between the University of Florida and the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) where adolescents were surveyed primarily about their gambling habits (*Gambling and Problem Gambling Prevalence Among Adolescents in Florida: A Report to the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling*, February 2003). But, believing that a connection between teen gambling and speeding might well exist, researchers and the FCCG made certain that specific questions were included that addressed driving habits as well.

The basis for the belief that there is a relationship between teen gambling and speeding was founded in other research and clinical data that showed:

- Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 cause of death in the United States for 13-19 year olds with speed being a major contributor
- A relationship exists between speeding, substance use and age
- Adolescence is a period of great impulsivity and sensation seeking
- Impulsivity and sensation seeking are key factors to risk taking and are largely due to incomplete nerve and brain development

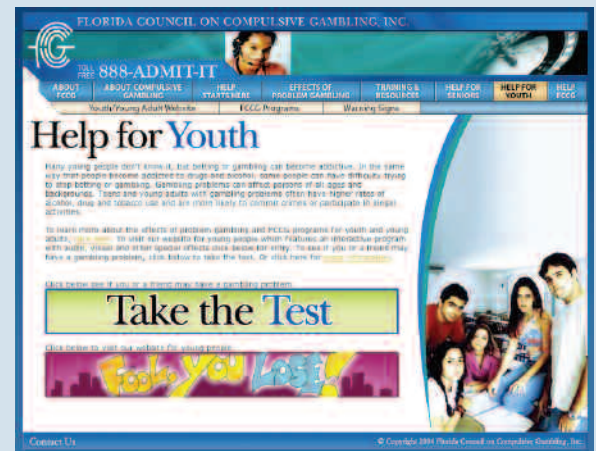
Out of the 1051 teens surveyed, 572 were drivers 15-17 years of age. If a teen driver bet more than \$5 on an activity it was classified as gambling. If a teen driver exceeded the speed limit by 10 mph, the action was classified as high-risk speeding. The results clearly showed that:

- There is a definite relationship between speeding and adolescent gambling behavior
- Speeding greatly increases as teen gambling increases
- Speeding itself may well be a form of gambling behavior
- The study also revealed that gambling is more popular among youth than cigarette smoking, drug use or alcohol consumption

Because the results of this survey were so significant, the University of Florida researchers called for further investigation and strongly suggested that future studies be expanded to include adults.



New Website Features Youth Section



In a concerted effort to provide easily accessible and up-to-date information on problem gambling to all Floridians, the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) has thoroughly revamped its entire website. Check it out on the Internet at www.gamblinghelp.org and see the wealth of information that is available.

One entire section of the site not only focuses on gambling and young people but is also very youth friendly. By clicking on the “Help for Youth” section, interested teens and young adults can actually take a problem gambling test that will guide them in determining whether they or someone they know may be experiencing a gambling problem. Upon entering the youth website, young people will also have the opportunity to learn about gambling through the Council’s “Fool You Lose” game, an interactive program that teaches kids about gambling through hip audio and visual presentations



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Youth Warning Signs – Teenage Problem Gambling



Do you or someone you know:

- Bet to fit in or impress friends?
- Believe gambling is a fast and easy way to make money?
- Gamble with money set aside for something else?
- Take on extra work to have gambling money?
- Skip school or work to gamble?
- Gamble to escape from problems, worries or difficulties?
- Experience a drop in grades because of gambling?
- Lose track of time and bet more than planned when gambling?
- Borrow or steal money to place bets or pay gambling debts?
- Argue with family or friends about gambling?

Answering yes to any of these questions may indicate a gambling problem. For confidential help with a gambling problem, call the FCCG toll-free 24-Hour HelpLine at 888-ADMIT-IT (888-236-4848)