New study reveals impact of casino gambling on crime

By Mark Reutter

A county with casino gambling faces an average of $8 per thousand increase in crime rate compared to a county without casinos, a comprehensive study on the impact of casinos on crime concludes.

"Casinos and Crime," a working paper by economists at the UI and the University of Georgia, found that a casino had little impact on most crime until the third year after it was introduced into a community. Then a pattern began to emerge with casinos counties experiencing higher crime per 100,000 population than non-casino counties.

The rising impact of casinos on crime rates is consistent with the argument that it takes awhile for gamblers to exhaust personal resources before resorting to larceny and other crime," said Earl L. Grinols of the UI who is the lead author of the study.

Grinols cited data about "pathological gamblers" and "problem gamblers" who are estimated to make up between 2 and 5 percent of the population in casino locations. Pathological gamblers are identified by the American Psychiatric Association as people unable to resist the urge to gamble and who wind up in desperate financial straits because of gambling debts. They and problem gamblers, who have similar problems but to a lesser degree, have been linked to various illegal acts, including tax delinquency and embezzlement. "We believe the time lag helps explain why previous studies have sometimes failed to identify a link between casinos and increased crime rates," Grinols said. He said the new study's much larger data set played a role in identifying the trend to increased crime after the time lag.

Naval reservist called to full-time duty

By Melissa Mitchell

NATO bombs may have stopped falling over Yugoslavia last week, but peace or no peace, UI staff member Matt Tittle will be reporting for duty at Chicago's Fort Sheridan later this month.

A naval reserve commander, Tittle has been ordered to spend the next six months supporting intelligence operations of the U.S. European Command's Joint Analysis Center. The active-duty personnel normally stationed there have been shifted to crisis operations at the center's European facility in Molesworth, England.

"I'll be doing the same job I do on weekends, but will do it on a full-time basis in view of the current crisis," said Tittle, the Campus Honors Program's assistant director for international affairs. Tittle usually reports to Fort Sheridan for reserve duty one or two weekends a month and a couple of weeks each summer. There, he serves as assistant branch chief for the unit assigned to military order of battle. In civilian terms, Tittle said, that means "keeping track of the military inventories of different countries...for instance, how many ships or tanks they have, their configurations and where they are in a given country."

"Everything builds on that," he said. "You have to know that before you can do anything militarily."

Tittle has been a naval reserve officer since 1994, and has been with the Chicago-based unit since 1997. Before serving in the reserves, he was an active-duty naval officer from 1982-93. His final assignment in that capacity was serving as director of the Strategic Studies Team, Atlantic Intelligence Command, Norfolk, Va. At that time, he came to the UI, where he earned a master’s degree in the teaching of Russian. In addition to his staff position at the Campus Honors Program, which he assumed last January, he's working on his dissertation for a doctorate in education.

Tittle said serving in the reserves while working and studying at the university has allowed him to enjoy the best of both worlds -- military and civilian. "It offers tremendous opportunities to continue doing the things I do well and enjoy doing. I didn't have to end one career while starting another," he said.

And while Serbian and NATO generals recently hammered out terms of a cease-fire and end to the conflict, none of that will affect Tittle's assignment.

In fact, he said, "the peace agreement increases the need for me in Chicago because of several factors. The folks we support in Europe will be even busier with tasks related to verification of compliance with the terms of the agreement, providing security to the peacekeeping forces, and being ready at a moment's notice to resume military action if the agreement is violated."

Given any of these scenarios, Tittle said, "the intelligence equation actually becomes much more complicated." Meanwhile, back at the UI, Campus Honors students' opportunities to learn about what's taking place in Kosovo and the surrounding region should become richer as a result of Tittle's reserve assignment.

"One of the neat things about it is that I can turn this into a real positive for the Campus Honors Program," he said. "Though I will be working full-time [at Fort Sheridan], I will still be a constant presence electronically."

Tittle said he plans to run Web-based discussions for students and will visit campus periodically to lead seminars on Kosovo. E-mail also will enable him to remain an "active part of the staff and be involved in decision-making as well."

"I'm looking forward to the experience," Tittle said. "It's a real honor. Nobody should be indispensable, but it's nice to be in a position where your expertise is needed."

"I'm also looking forward to the benefit I can bring back here to the program."
Concert in the Park is June 26
WILL-FM will celebrate 25 years of community support with a free Concert in the Park on June 26 at Robert Allerton Park in Monticello.

The free concert at 5 p.m. in the Sunken Garden features Ian Cook and the UI Summer Festival Orchestra.

This year’s concert opens with a performance by musicians from The Academy of Irish Music in Chicago.

For more information, call 333-0850.

The rain date is June 27: Tune to WILL-AM (580) or WILL-FM (90.9/101.1 in Champaign-Urbana) for weather updates.

This event is co-sponsored by the UI School of Music and Robert Allerton Park.

Ebert festival symptom airs June 18
In a symptom taped at WILL-Channel 12 during his Overlooked Film Festival, film critic Roger Ebert said he’s not sure moviegoers have the patience to listen to dialogue anymore. “They just want to see stuff blowing up real good,” he said.

The discussion program, airing at 8 p.m. June 18, features Ebert and a panel of filmmakers, distributors and actors as well as UI professors David Dessir, cinema studies, and Paula Treichler, communications.

The panel discusses the difficulties in making and distributing independent films; the benefits of seeing films in a theater rather than on TV; whether violence in movies has caused violence in schools; and other topics.

Software summer school offers discount
The Office of Continuing Engineering Education and the department of computer science are co-sponsoring the Illinois Software Summer School. The annual program provides continuing education in software technology and related areas. Eleven short courses, beginning June 28, will be offered with topics ranging from programming in C++ and Java to security issues to database design.

UI employees are eligible for a $100 discount for each course attended. For course descriptions and schedule and registration information, call Lynnea Johnson, 333-3836 or visit the ISSS Web site at www.engineering.uiuc.edu/OCEE/ISSS/.

Call 244-2037 to register.

FY2000 holidays include ‘floater’
The following holidays for fiscal year 2000 will be observed on the Urbana-Champaign campus:

July 4: Independence Day
Sept. 6: Labor Day
Nov. 25: Thanksgiving and designated holiday
Dec. 24: Christmas Day – Designated holiday
Dec. 31: Jan. 3: Designated holidays
Jan. 17: Martin Luther King Day
May 29: Memorial Day

The traditional spring break holiday is being converted to a floating holiday that can be taken anytime during the fiscal year. Requests to take the floating holiday should be made in advance, based on unit procedures. Unused holiday leave will not be forwarded to the next fiscal year.

For questions concerning holiday pay, Civil Service employees should call Labor and Employee Relations, Personnel Services Office, at 333-3105. Academic staff members should call the Office of Academic Human Resources, at 333-6747.

Comments requested for NCA visit
The public is invited to submit comments regarding the UI’s Urbana campus to the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The campus will undergo a comprehensive evaluation when a team representing the commission visits Sept. 27-29.

Comments should be sent to: Public Comment/UIUC, Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs and must be received by Aug. 1. Comments will not be treated as confidential and should include the name, address and telephone number of the sender.

Individuals with a specific dispute or grievance should request the separate Policy on Complaints document from the commission office. The commission cannot settle disputes between institutions and individuals; complaints will not be considered third-party comment.

COE hosts camp for middle-school girls
The College of Engineering will host a camp Aug. 1-7 for girls from 4th-8th grade.

A middle school summer camp, 21st, presented annually by the Women in Engineering Program, will explore careers in math, science and engineering.

Girls also learn how to get to college and written communication and computer technology.

To receive an application for the camp, call 244-3517. Applications also can be submitted by visiting www.engr.uiuc.edu/wi/wi/summer.html.

Registration deadline is June 21. Sixty participants will be accepted for the camp. The $525 cost includes tuition, meals, housing at Illinois Street Residence Hall, classroom and laboratory materials, and recreational activities.

Summer maintenance scheduled
The Division of Campus Parking and Transportation has begun its annual summer maintenance program. This program includes repairs to broken pavement, sewer repairs, surface overlays and paint stripping.

“This summer, most of our facilities will be affected by maintenance activity,” said Pam Voitik, director of the Division of Campus Parking and Transportation. “In many cases the work will be minor with little interruption to the facility, but some will have significant work or repairs. Facilities with major projects planned this summer include:

• Veterinary Medicine Lot F-27 will be repaired and resurfaced.
• South Lincoln Avenue Lot F-30 will be resurfaced.
• The bicycle lot between the Henry Administration and English buildings will be renovated along with reconstruction of the bike path.
• The bicycle lot and service parking area between Lincoln and Gregory halls will be renovated.
• Bicycle and motorcycle lots north of Burlill Hall will be renovated.
• The C-7 (Sixth and John streets) and C-10 (Fifth and Daniels streets) parking structures are currently undergoing repairs with the final phase scheduled for completion in late July.
• IMPSE parking facility is being relocated to the west side of Memorial Stadium.

Renters of a facility will be notified in advance of the expected dates of the disruption of the service and of alternate parking. For more information, customers may go to the DCPT Web site at www.parking.uiuc.edu. Daily updates are planned to keep the customers informed of the status of their lot.

DGR Golf Classic is July 21
The 27th Annual Division of Campus Recreation Faculty/ Staff Summer Golf Classic will begin at 8:30 a.m. July 21. Priority registration for faculty/staff teams runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays June 28 through July 2 in 172 IMPSe Building. Entry fee is $140 per four-person team. Entry fee includes golf carts, green fees, lunch, souvenirs and refreshments. For more information, call 333-3510.
When visitors attend the Illinois State Fair Aug. 12–21 in Springfield, they’ll likely see a booth for the College of Veterinary Medicine among the UI exhibits. One of the people who will have worked to create the booth is Beth Erwin, staff secretary for Vet Med’s development office. In addition to her secretarial duties, she also gets involved in the public affairs and events of the college, giving her an opportunity to do a variety of jobs. The development office publishes a quarterly newsletter for alumni, and just recently, the college celebrated its 50th anniversary. Erwin does what she can to help with all those challenges and projects.

Do you like what you do?

I love my job. It’s very diverse. Some days it’s typing and filing, and some days we’re doing alumni events so I get to go and meet the alumni. We handle reunions too, so those are the kinds of things we do that are fun and make it so diverse.

And I love the College of Vet Med. I love animals. This is my 13th year here.

Are you married?

Yes, for nine years. In October, my husband, Mike, and I just bought a house this past year in Tolono and we have a dog. We’ve had him since he was 8 weeks old.

You are two dancers, right?

We enjoy country-western dancing. We’ve danced about 10 years. We met out at the Old Lariat dance club in Champaign. She’s a dancer, and asked me if I wanted to take dance lessons, and we both went. We started dating then, and we started dating from then on.

Now you both have an interest in rodeo?

I always kind of had an interest in rodeo, but when I met Mike he was very much a rodeo fan. It’s evolved to now that we try to go to Las Vegas every year for the Professional Bull Riders Finals. We’ve been going the last couple years and we’re already planning for 2000. You get out there and the cowboys are so willing to talk with you and tell you their strategies for the bulls. It’s such a fun event that we really enjoy going. Last time we were able to get all their autographs.

What else do you do?

Mike is building a hot rod or drag car out in our back garage, so that keeps him kind of busy. He hopes to race it down in Charleston. We’ll see. I think it’ll be a while down the road, looking at what’s in the garage. [She laughed.] But that’s ultimately what he wants to do. And that’s something he can work on. When he’s had a tough day he can go out there and work on that car and he’s tickled.

He’s also a pretty good NASCAR fan. I’m just kind of getting into it, but have just about to go to my very first NASCAR race.

I’m more rodeo still, he’s more NASCAR. But we’re meeting in the middle.

And this year because we have a house for the first time we have worked in our garden a lot. We didn’t think we’d enjoy that, but we’re having so much fun out there keeping it up and making sure it’s watered, and when you get that first little radish, it’s quite a deal.

So between rodeos, NASCAR, and the house, it’s been a busy year for us.

B e c k y  M a b r y
Students had hoped to get a full week off at Thanksgiving this coming fall semester, but the UI provost says there just isn’t enough time to get the break into this fall’s academic calendar.

The fall break, approved by a majority of the Urbana-Champaign campus faculty—student Senate in May, was to begin this November if the provost was able to determine it could be implemented without too much hardship. Provost Richard Herman agreed to the Senate’s charge, but warned that it was so late into the planning already made for the coming academic year that the break might not be feasible for this November.

After some study and talking with faculty members, Herman decided against the fall break, approved by a majority of the Urbana-Champaign campus faculty—student Senate in May. Herman decided against the break, approved by a majority of the Urbana-Champaign campus faculty—student Senate in May, was to begin this November if the provost was able to determine it could be implemented without too much hardship. Provost Richard Herman agreed to the Senate’s charge, but warned that it was so late into the planning already made for the coming academic year that the break might not be feasible for this November.

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