Gambling and American Culture: A Discussion

Steven Andrew Light, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

University of North Dakota Dep't of Political Science & Public Administration

Co-Director

Institute for the Study of Tribal Gaming Law and Policy Indian Gaming Today at indiangamingtoday.com

> Gambling and the American Moral Landscape Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life October 26, 2007



Observation 1

Gambling is a fundamental part of American culture, American public life, and the American moral landscape



Legalized Gambling is Ubiquitous









Observation 2

Indian gaming is the most intensely scrutinized, and criticized, form of gambling in American culture



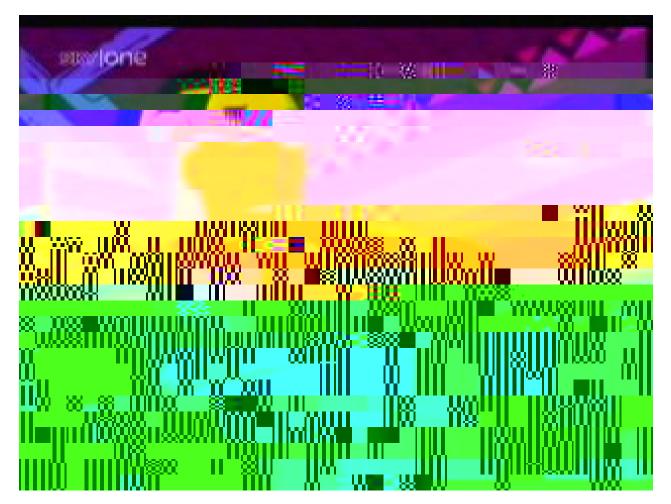


The Simpsons





The Simpsons





South Park





The Family Guy





Observation 3

We still don't know enough about gambling and its socioeconomic impacts—and, about Indian gaming, even less—to produce well-informed public discourse and sound public policy



National Gambling Impact Study Commission (1999)

- "On examination, much of what Americans think they know about gambling turns out to be exaggerated or taken out of context. And much of the information in circulation is inaccurate or even false, although loudly voiced by adherents" (p. 1–6).
- "What is very clear is that there is still a dearth of impartial, objective research" (p. 8–1).



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