RECENT VIOLATIONS

It was news when a gambling ring inside the Boston College football program was broken up, and when two former Arizona State basketball players pleaded

guilty to helping fix four games during the 1994 season. Those may be the most serious recent incidents of college athletes placing bets, but they are hardly alone. A review of NCAA eligibility reports by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution determined that some 50 athletes in 22 investigations have been punished since 1995.

Most often, the guilty parties are not linked publicly to gambling; neither the NCAA nor the schools identify them in the reports. However, some can be pieced together from media reports, such as former Northwestern University basketball starter Dion Lee, who was suspended for six games during the 1994-95 season for betting on football games.

Instead, they are quietly suspended for one or more games, maybe an entire season, for "disciplinary reasons" or "violating team rules." To get back in the NCAA's good graces, they must appeal for restoration of their eligibility.

A glance at the cases, by the year that the NCAA took punitive action:

1997

■ Sport: Football (Division III) ■ Violation: Player bet on pro football games with student bookmaker five times, wagering no more than

- Action: Player suspended four games.
- Sport: Football (Division II) ■ Violation: Players bet on pro games through bookmaker, the wagers ranging from \$25 to \$375.
- Action: Pending ■ Sport: Men's golf, football (Division I) ■ Violation: Golfer placed three \$100 wagers on pro football games; football player bet \$50 on a college
- football game. ■ Action: Golfer suspended three matches; football player suspended three games, required to attend a gambling-counseling program and complete 15 hours of community service.
- Sport: Football (Division I) ■ Violation: Player bet \$600 on pro football game and made as many as nine \$100-\$200 wagers on college football games.
- Action: Player suspended for season, required to attend gambling counseling sessions and perfom 15 hours of community service.
- Sport: Football (Division I) ■ Violation: One player wagered \$450 on pro and college football games; second player bet \$100 on college football games; third player bet \$300 on college and pro football games.
- Action: All players suspended five games, required to attend a gambling counseling program; second player also required to perform 15 hours of community service.
- Sport: Football (Division I) ■ Violation: Player bet on pro football games and served as intermediary for others to place wagers during the 1995-96 and 1996-97 academic years. ■ Action: Player suspended for a season.
- Sport: Men's golf (Division I) ■ Violation: Golfer made about 20 bets on college athletics and wagered on behalf of other athletes with a student bookmaker.
- Action: Golfer suspended for a season; school required golfer to write a paper on gambling and a proposal for an educational program on gambling.
- Sport: Baseball/football (Division I) ■ Violation: Player helped administer an organized gambling operation, enabling 20 students - including 14 athletes — to place bets. Player was paid as much as 20 percent of the gamblers' losses for assisting the bookmaker.
- Action: Player suspended for one football game and the entire baseball season.
- Sport: Women's soccer (Division I) ■ Violation: Players were involved in a "pool" involving college games.
- Action: Players suspended for two games, required to perform 10 hours of community service.
- Sport: Men's basketball (Division I) ■ Violation: Player made two \$25 and two \$100 bets through another student. Action: Player suspended for two exhibition games.
- Sport: Football (Division I) ■ Violation: Player made three \$50 bets over the phone with a friend in California. Action: Player suspended for two games.

1996

- Sport: Baseball (Division III) ■ Violation: Nine players made from one to seven bets on college sporting events.
- Action: Three players suspended for 18 games, one for 14 games, two for nine games, two for seven games, one for four games.
- Sport: Baseball (Division III) ■ Violation: Unidentified number of players assisted teammates in placing bets on college athletics. Action: Player suspended for entire season.
- Sport: Football (Division I) Violation: Player bet \$25 on a college game with a teammate. Action: Player suspended one game.
- Sport: Men's golf (Division I) ■ Violation: Golfer bet on six college football games through a campus bookmaker. Action: Golfer suspended for half of regular season.

- Sport: Football (Division III) Violation: Three players bet on college and pro football games through parlay cards. Action: One player suspended for two games, the others for a game.
- Sport: Football (Division I)
 Violation: Unidentified number of players bet on college football games through parlay cards. Action: Players suspended one game.
- Sport: Football (Division I) Violation: Unidentified number of players bet on college football and basketball games through parlay Action: Players suspended one game.
- Sport: Football (Division I) ■ Violation: Three players bet on college football and basketball games through parlay cards. Action: Players suspended one game.
- Sport: Football (Division I) ■ Violation: Player bet \$200 on college football and basketball games with bookmakers. Action: Player suspended four games.
- Sport: Men's basketball (Division I) ■ Violation: Player bet as many as 12 college football games with a bookmaker. Action: Player suspended for 10 games.
- Sport: Men's basketball (Division I) Violation: Player wagered on college and pro football games with former member of the football team, losing between \$1,500 and \$1,700. Action: Player suspended six games.

NCAA Bylaw 10.3 (Gambling Activities)

Staff members of the athletics department of a member institution and student-athletes shall not knowingly:

Provide information to individuals involved in organized gambling activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition;

Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team;



Accept a bet on any team representing the institution; or

Participate in any gambling activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any method employed by mile organized gambling.

By Mike Fish STAFF WRITER

decade ago, Michael Franzese, a former captain in the Colombo organized-crime family, was part of a plan with sports agents to sign up football players before their college eligibility had expired.

"Our goal was to get as many players as we could [sign] and get them to influence the outcome of a game," Franzese freely admits.

In other words, fix games. Franzese, 46, pocketed a fee to show up at the NCAA Convention in Atlanta in January and share his experiences with a ballroom-full of college presidents and athletics directors.

The former "Yuppie Don," who was the money and muscle behind exsports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, claims not to know if any players did the unthinkable, although he suspects the government cracked the case before the scheme burst into full bloom.

Franzese says he "quit" the mob in the late 1980s while in prison on racketeering charges. Now he is one of several repentant former mob types who can be found teaching pro sports leagues and college athletes about the evils of gambling, schooling them on how to protect against a fix going down.

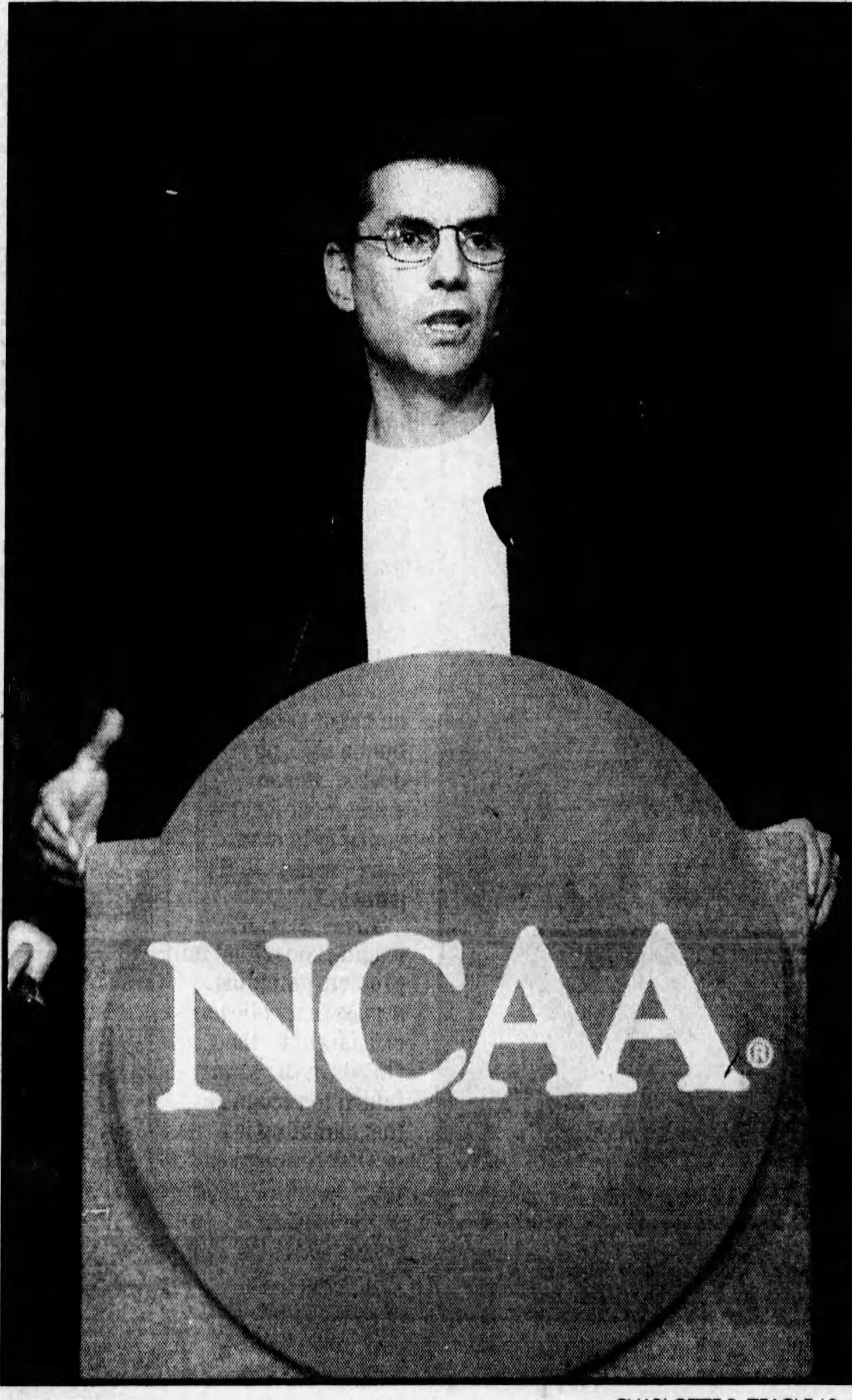
Bill Jahoda, who once ran a \$20million-a-year sports-betting operation for Chicago crime boss Ernest Rocco Infelice, says he also knows of a handful of attempts to fix games, mostly basketball. He claims firsthand knowledge of game officials and college players betting, some this past football season.

Jahoda, 54, spent the early 1990s in the government's Witness Protection Program after testifying against Infelice and mob enforcer Robert Salerno. Now, he's a representative for Americans Against Organized Gambling. And he's a regular on the campus speakers circuit, where he has witnessed the proliferation of sports betting.

"I know of [college] football players who bet on football," Jahoda said in an interview. "[But] it's much more prevalent in basketball in certain parts of the country, primarily the Northeast. One reason is a lot of basketball recruits come from inner cities, and they have ties back in the community. And a lot of dope dealers become amateur bookmakers.

"If fixes are going to take place, it's so much simpler to fix a college game because of the limited number of people on the roster. If you look at every college fix, from [the] '50s to the Boston College basketball scandal [in 1978-79], it's basically basketball. I don't think there have been any football fixes. It's too hard."

The crucial commodity for bookmakers is information, they said. That means players, their roommates, Take it from some former insiders: Organized crime loves gambling for the most insidious reasons



CHARLOTTE B. TEAGLE / Staff

Speaking from experience: Michael Franzese, speaking at a forum on gambling in January at the NCAA Convention in Atlanta, says he left the mob a decade ago while in prison on racketeering charges.

"I told the players, 'Listen, I'll take care of the debt for you, but here's what I want to know. I want to know who's sick on the team. I want to know who has a problem. I want to know coaching habits. I want everything there is to know from that locker room. And if we tell you the game is on the line, you make sure you don't catch that ball."

MICHAEL FRANZESE

Former captain in the Colombo organized-crime family

fraternity brothers and university employees are recruited to unearth inside knowledge.

Organized-crime figures often establish compromising relationships with unsuspecting players, Franzese

said, noting that he met professional athletes at New York nightclubs when he was in the mob.

"We don't all wear black shirts, white ties and pinstriped suits," Franzese said, attired in a blue blazer and

knit crew shirt at the NCAA conventy

Franzese tells of befriending members of the New York Jets and Mets in the early 1980s. He and a partner, 100 Tom O'Donnell, offered them car loaners from their Chevrolet dealerM ship on Long Island. Franzese keptish tabs on the players through the booke makers he controlled. And when a lov few of them took on more gamblingar debt than they could handle, Franzese knew they had fallen in his trap.

As Franzese laid it out for his NCAA audience: "I told the players, m 'Listen, I'll take care of the debt fored you, but here's what I want to knows want to know who's sick on the teamid I want to know who has a problem. Ly want to know coaching habits. I want: everything there is to know from that locker room. And if we tell you the IT game is on the line, you make sure soq you don't catch that ball.'

"I'm not proud of this, but I really took part in destroying some of these people's careers."

Franzese did not identify the pro players and stopped short of acknowledging whether any games were fixed. But he admitted the obvious: 100 The underworld has deep ties to sports gambling.

Organized crime families finance: some of the larger college bookies, he said. If there's a problem collecting money from the losers, they also can'll be helpful that way.

For about 10 years, Lex Varria ran a campus bookmaking ring in New 100 England for a local crime family — "I" setting up bookies on campuses from Harvard to MIT to Brown. There were no problems, no arrests. It was a license to make money, he said.

"It all goes back to organized crime," Varria, now a beautician in Portland, Ore., said in an interview.

Typically, Varria said, the campus bookmakers would accept bets from fraternity houses and other student hangouts and would call in those bets! to the mob-operated bookies.

"It's the same now as it was 20 years ago," he said. "The only differ-" ence is they got the cell phones now so they can be mobile and they got the computers instead of a legal pad and a pen."

Now fervently anti-gambling, Varria visited campuses in New England and the Midwest this past football season and came away surprised by the proliferation of campus

"It's large," he said. "I talked to one kid who said when he first started he was selling drugs and then decided to get into the booking because it was more profitable. This was at Providence College.

"One kid that was 'booking' told me he was staying another year, a sixthyear senior. He didn't want to get out of school. He wanted to prolong it because of the amount of money he was making. You're talking \$1,000, maybe as much as \$2,000 a week."

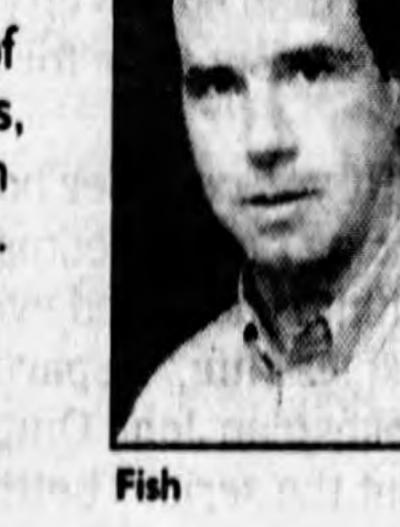
COLLEGE BASKETBALL BETTING SCANDALS

- 1947-50: Thirty-two players from seven schools — including City College of New York, winner of the NIT and NCAA titles in 1950, and Kentucky, which won the national title in 1951 - were implicated in a plot to fix 86 games. All-America player Sherman White of Long Island University spent eight months in jail for conspiring to commit bribery, while Kentucky stars Ralph Beard and Alex Groza, who admitted taking bribes, received suspended sentences and were banned by the NBA.
- 1959-61: Legendary New York playground figure Connie Hawkins, then at Iowa, was among 37 players from 22 schools implicated in a point-shaving scandal. Columbia star Jack Molinas served five years for acting as "master fixer."
- 1978-79: Organized crime figure Henry Hill and New York gambler Richard "The Fixer" Perry orchestrated a scheme to fix nine Boston College games with players Ernie Cobb, Rick Kuhn and Jim Sweeney. Kuhn, the only player convicted, served 21/2 years for conspiracy to commit sports bribery and interstate gambling.
- 1984-85: Tulane shut down its program until the 1989-90 season after five players - including John "Hot Rod" Williams, now of the Phoenix Suns — were accused of shaving points in two games. Players Clyde Eads and Jon Johnson testified under a grant of immunity that teammates had shaved points in exchange for cash and cocaine. Williams was acquitted, and nobody served jail time.
- 1997-98: Former Arizona State players Stevin "Hedake" Smith and Isaac Burton entered guilty pleas to conspiracy to commit sports bribery as part of an agreement that requires them to testify this month against four co-conspirators in a scheme to shave points in four 1994 games. Smith, the Sun Devils' No. 2 all-time leading scorer, agreed to fix the games for \$20,000 each, in part to erase a reported \$10,000 gambling debt to Benny Silman, a fellow student, authorities allege. Burton was paid \$4,300 for helping to fix two games. Silman and three other alleged conspirators placed at least 61 bets totaling \$506,000 on the games.

ABOUT THE SERIES

Voices from the NCAA have joined the chorus of concern saying that gambling is a growing menace in sports. Staff writer Mike Fish is writing an occasional series of stories that examine why athletics officials, some law enforcement agencies and even Congress are wrestling with the problem.

■ Today: Experts say no other group of sports gamblers in American society is expanding at a greater pace than college students. And student-athletes are not immune to the temptation, thus increasing the risk of games being fixed by gamblers.



- Dec. 7: Sports "tout" services, which charge a fee to give gamblers so-called insider advice, often mislead customers about whether the former coaches and players appearing in their ads are involved. Some services also use "bait-andswitch" sales tactics.
- Dec. 28: The latest craze is off-shore betting services, where customers open an account and wager on games via telephone or the Internet. We visited Antigua, the hottest location with about two-dozen businesses taking bets from the United States.