



NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

GAMING CONTROL BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Agents Seize UNM Student/Employee's March Madness Pool

ALBUQUERQUE – March 22, 2005 – Agents for the New Mexico Gaming Control Board with the assistance of UNM police executed a Search Warrant at the University of New Mexico today. A UNM student/employee had circulated a flyer advertising a March Madness gambling pool. The flyer made its way to the New Mexico Gaming Control Board and an investigation was initiated. As a result of the investigation a Search Warrant was issued and executed at the UNM campus today. Computer equipment, cash and documents were seized as evidence. Once the investigation is completed, reports and evidence will be submitted to the Second Judicial District Attorneys office for evaluation and possible criminal Indictment for violation of New Mexico Criminal Code §30-19-3, a fourth degree felony. All the persons who placed bets in the pool may be subject to citation under New Mexico Criminal Code §30-19-2, a petty misdemeanor.

The University of New Mexico was contacted early on and made aware of the on going investigation, was cooperative and offered help through the UNM police department. The Second Judicial District Attorneys office was consulted and made aware of the forthcoming reports. Betting commonly known as sports book making and pools based on amateur and professional sports is illegal both under State and Federal law. NMGCB and the District Attorneys office are charged under the law with the implementation and enforcement of the New Mexico Gaming Control Act and the criminal code.

The New Mexico Gaming Control Board was established by statute in 1997 and funded during the 1998 legislative session. It began operations in June of 1998. The Board is responsible for regulating legalized gambling at licensed racetracks and qualified veteran's and fraternal organizations of New Mexico. The Board is also responsible for overseeing New Mexico's tribal gaming compacts through the appointment of the state gaming representative. The Board has 60 employees, which include licensing and background specialists, compliance auditors, attorneys, and certified peace officers.

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