

The state's gaming commission granted the first license for riverboat gambling in 1995, paving the way for fierce competition for Kentucky's gambling dollar. And Churchill's monopoly on live racing ended in late 2002 when Indiana Downs in Shelbyville, Ind., opened the state's second pari-mutuel track.

But the maturation of Churchill Downs Inc., came in a string of acquisitions that began in the late 1990s. Starting with Ellis Park in 1998, the company bought Calder Race Course in Miami and Hollywood Park in Inglewood, Calif.

A merger with Arlington Park near Chicago in 2000 ballooned Churchill's portfolio to six racetracks in five states, including three in major U.S. markets.

"It was one of those incredible times in business where you actually invent new ways of doing things on the fly," said John Long, chief operating officer at Churchill Downs Inc., from 1999 to 2003.

Churchill's strategy shifted several years ago, considering acquisitions in places where expanded gambling is likely.

Documents filed this week in a Louisiana bankruptcy court show the company made the highest offer in private talks for the Fair Grounds Race Course in New Orleans.

Churchill still could buy the bankrupt New Orleans track at an upcoming bankruptcy auction, a move that would give it winter racing and a facility soon to install hundreds of slot machines.

Meeker is 60 and his contract will be up for renewal in 2006. He's already made money—his salary this year is \$463,499, he got a \$200,000 bonus last year and his Churchill stock is worth more than \$10 million.

He and his wife have a daughter and two grandchildren. But he jokes when asked when he might retire and shrugs off serious talk of retirement for now.

"I want to make sure that when I leave the company," Meeker said, "that it's left at a time when everything is pointing north."

CONGRATULATING INCLINE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Incline High School on its victory in the Nevada "We the People" competition.

This accomplishment reflects not only a lot of hard work by the individual participants but also the strong commitment to academic excellence of all the students, instructors, and administrators of Incline High School.

I am pleased to be able to recognize the individual members of the team on their achievement: Bradley Allured, Jason Beavers, Nicholas Bohn, Jessica Corpuel, Joseph Driver, Alexander Heilig, McKenna Hollingsworth, Joshua Hub, Ansley Kendzierski, Elisabeth Komito, Ashley Nikkel, Laura Pillsbury, Robert Rappaport, Catherine Serrano, Tira Wickland, and Beate Wolter.

I also note the efforts of their teacher Milton Hyams, their coach Robert Heilig, and their peer tutors: Ashley Hanna, Daniel St. John, and Jonathan Shoop.

I am sure that I speak for the entire Incline High School community in thanking the "We the People" program's district and State coordinators, Dan Wong and Judy Simpson, for their work in helping give the students the opportunity to participate in this great competition.

Created in 1987, "We the People" promotes civic competence and responsibility among our Nation's elementary and secondary students. Its innovative curriculum enhances student understanding of the history, principles, and institutions of American constitutional democracy.

The instructional program culminates in a simulated congressional hearing and a nationwide competitive program for high school students. Attracting the participation of more than 26 million students and 80,000 educators, the "We the People" program has expanded the civic knowledge of our students, cultivated a new generation of leaders, and highlighted the tremendous potential of our Nation's youth.

Please join me in congratulating Incline High School for its commitment to academic excellence, and its victory in the Nevada "We the People" competition.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On August 8, 2003, in Grand Rapids, MI, an 18-year-old bisexual man was discovered unconscious with his wrists bound in a ditch. Authorities believe that he had been the victim of a vicious sexual attack. The victim survived on a life-support for two weeks before dying of pneumonia-like symptoms.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

NATIONAL TIRE SAFETY WEEK

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wanted to take the opportunity today to recognize the importance of tire safety during National Tire Safety Week. The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Competition, Foreign Commerce, and Infrastructure, which I chair, has jurisdiction over the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. As such, I am keenly aware of the devastation caused each year on our Nation's highways due to automobile accidents.

The National Tire Safety Week, created by the Rubber Manufacturers Association, is now in its third year, and one of a number of their public outreach campaigns designed to focus our efforts on a key issue for all of us: tire safety.

Tires are clearly a core component of an automobile and a key aspect to ensuring the safety of the occupant. When you stop to think about it, there is only a small patch of rubber on each tire that meets the road at any given moment. That small patch of rubber is responsible for ensuring the automobile maintains control on the roadway. This function must be maintained no matter what weather conditions exist hot or cold, wet or dry, snowy and icy. Tires are an amazing and highly technical feature of an automobile that is often taken for granted.

Just like changing your oil regularly, tires must also be routinely cared for and inspected in order to maintain their safety. Unfortunately, many drivers unwittingly neglect their tires. That is why National Tire Safety Week provides us all with a crucial reminder to do the simple things to ensure that our tires are safe.

The result of unsafe tires is simply devastating. Tire blowouts and hydroplaning cause a driver to lose control of the vehicle, which careens out of control, often smashing into other vehicles or flipping over. Tragically, just 3 weeks ago in a small farming community in southern Oregon, a family of five ranging in age from 2 years to 60 years old was killed instantly when the rear tire of their van blew out and the van veered into the path of an oncoming pickup truck. The family was on a last minute outing to gather Easter supplies for their church.

We don't yet know why the tire blew out. It could have been underinflated. Or perhaps the tread was wearing low or uneven and it was more easily punctured by a sharp object in the road. The bigger question that we need to address now is, could this accident and tragic loss of life have been avoided? Possibly.

With this in mind, I would like to highlight a small Oregon company, Smart Tread, LLC, who has developed a simple visual tread wear identification system. The Smart Tread proposal advocates for an improved visual identification system that would help consumers better understand when their tires are safe and when they are not. One such approach would use color directly in the tire tread turning yellow and/or red when a tire tread reaches a depth like 2/32 of an inch that is no longer safe and is the legal definition of a bald tire. This system will provide early warnings of a car that is out of alignment or running on overinflated or underinflated tires.

It is my hope that industry and consumers will see the benefit of this tread wear identification system that Smart Tread has developed. We need to continue to improve the safety of tires to prevent unanticipated automobile accidents and deaths. Again, I thank the tire manufacturers for all their efforts and continuing to address this important issue.

ON SUDAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I commend the Foreign Relations Committee for its action today in reporting a resolution urging action by the United States and the international community to respond to the ongoing ethnic violence in Sudan. The Senate should act on this resolution as soon as possible.

It has been 10 years since the Rwanda genocide. A decade ago, 8,000 Rwandans were being killed every day, yet the international community was silent. We did not stop the deaths of 800,000 Tutsis and politically moderate Hutu, in spite of our commitment that genocide must never again darken the annals of human history.

Sadly, we may now be repeating the same mistake in Sudan.

In 1998, President Clinton made a special visit to Kigali, Rwanda's capital, "partly," he said, "in recognition of the fact that we in the United States and the world community did not do as much as we could have and should have done to try to limit what occurred" in Rwanda. His visit and strong words remind us that we must not hesitate to act, when the horror is clear and when so many lives may be lost.

Over the past few weeks, reports of severe ethnic violence have come from Darfur, a region of western Sudan. We have heard accounts of thousands or even tens of thousands of people murdered, of widespread rape, and of people's homes burned to the ground.

The Sudanese Government has refused to allow full access to western Sudan. International monitors and humanitarian workers have been prevented from reaching the area. We need immediate access to gather more information on what is happening and to provide urgent humanitarian relief to the one million people the United Nations reports have been displaced internally in Sudan or across the border to Chad.

Many of us hoped that the humanitarian ceasefire and agreement earlier this month between the Sudanese government and rebel forces in western Sudan would end the many months of violence against entire communities. It has not. The bombing of villages by the Sudanese Air Force continues, and so does the mayhem by the paramilitary forces unleashed by the Government of Sudan.

The burning of homes and crops of desperately poor villagers has left in its ashes a humanitarian disaster. Without immediate relief, experts predict deaths in the hundreds of thousands. The cruelty of the Government of Sudan and its paramilitary allies against other ethnic groups raises the very real specter of genocide.

The United States and the international community need to act now, to stop this brutality, to save lives.

President Bush should make a strong public statement alerting the world to the violence in Darfur. He should call the international community to ac-

tion, and increase pressure on the Sudanese Government. Doing so would send a strong signal that the international community will not accept these continuing atrocities. Sudan has been seeking better relations with the United States. It must be told that our nation will have no relations with a genocidal government.

The United States should propose a resolution in the United Nations Security Council to condemn the violations of international law being committed in Darfur, particularly the indiscriminate targeting of civilians and the obstruction of humanitarian aid by the government. The U.N. should demand immediate international access to the region to assess the full scale of the need for assistance. The U.N. should also insist on adequate support for international human rights monitors and for monitors of the ceasefire agreement reached last week.

The international community must demand that Sudan stop the violence now, and give full humanitarian access to Darfur without question or qualification.

To minimize the suffering of those affected by the violence, we should immediately identify funds and food aid to meet at least the traditional U.S. share of the \$110 million appeal from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to support urgently needed assistance for internally displaced persons and refugees. These internally displaced persons and refugees must also be allowed by the Sudanese Government and militias to return safely to their homes, to rebuild their lives and communities, as soon as possible.

The European Community, African countries and the rest of the international community should use their considerable influence to pressure Sudan to end the violence in Darfur, and end it now.

If the international community fails to act—and to act now—the consequences will be dire.

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan was eloquent in his statement at the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Rwanda genocide. He said that he would not permit Darfur to become the first genocide of the 21st century.

There will be discussion in Washington and around the world about whether the ethnic violence in Darfur is, in fact, genocide, but we cannot allow the debate over definitions obstruct our ability to act as soon as possible.

It is a matter of the highest moral responsibility for each of us individually, for Congress, for the United States, and for the global community to do all we can to stop the violence against innocents in Darfur. We must act, because thousands of people's lives will be lost if we don't.

STAND WITH OUR NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week mayors and police chiefs from across the country will join with the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence to urge President Bush and Congress to renew the federal Assault Weapons Ban.

The 1994 law banned a list of 19 specific weapons, as well as a number of other weapons incorporating certain design characteristics such as pistol grips, folding stocks, bayonet mounts, and flash suppressors. The assault weapons ban also prohibited the manufacture of semiautomatic weapons that incorporate at least two of these military features and which accept a detachable magazine. This law is scheduled to expire on September 13, 2004.

I support the efforts of the law enforcement community and local leaders who are calling for legislation extending the law. In 1994, I voted for the assault weapons ban and, last month, I joined a bipartisan majority of the Senate in voting to extend the assault weapons ban for 10 years.

Law enforcement support for the assault weapons ban is broad. It includes the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Police Foundation, the Police Executive Research Forum, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Fraternal Order of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, and the National Black Police Association.

In addition, mayors and police chiefs from Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Seattle, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. have joined over 200 other local leaders in sending a letter urging Congress to immediately pass a 10-year extension of the assault weapons ban.

Despite broad support for this law, the National Rifle Association fought against passage of the assault weapons ban in 1994 and continues to oppose it to this day.

While President Bush has indicated that he supports reauthorizing the assault weapons ban, and a bipartisan majority in the Senate is on the record supporting reauthorization, the President has failed to urge Congress to act on this important legislation before it expires on September 13th. The ban is a major public safety measure that protects citizens and police officers and I urge the President and the Congress to act immediately to reauthorize the law.

OUTSOURCING AND CLOW VALVE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, after 2½ years of a largely jobless recovery, the current administration is on track to be the first in over six decades actually