

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.casinocitytimes.com>. The page features a navigation bar with 'Gaming Gurus', 'Gaming News', and 'Weekly Issues'. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area displays the 'GAMING NEWS' header, followed by 'Issue 329', 'January 1 - January 7, 2007', and 'Volume 7'. The featured article is titled 'Bill Frist named Casino City "Person of the Year"' by the Casino City Editorial Staff. The article text discusses the impact of the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act and lists other notable figures from 2006.

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GAMING NEWS

Issue 329 January 1 - January 7, 2007 Volume 7

Bill Frist named Casino City "Person of the Year"
by Casino City Editorial Staff

No, "You" are not the Casino City Person of the Year. We don't sell out like that; we actually make decisions. And yes, we're even ballsy enough to make decisions that won't be very popular.

Which is why Bill Frist is the 2006 Casino City Person of the Year.

Bill Frist - Former Senate Majority Leader
No one had a bigger impact on Internet gambling than Bill Frist in 2006. As the Senate Majority Leader, Frist attached the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act to a must-pass Safe Ports Bill. The bill, which forces U.S. banks and financial institutions to block electronic transactions to Internet gambling businesses, passed both houses of Congress easily at the end of the last session before the mid-term election recess. President Bush signed it just a few weeks later.

After the law became official, PartyGaming, 888.com and other publicly held companies stopped accepting U.S. players. Several reports indicate Frist was using the legislation to get in the good graces of Rep. Jim Leach (R-Iowa), who had been pursuing an Internet gambling ban for years. Leach could have been a powerful ally in a presidential bid in the early Iowa caucuses. But Frist, who did not run for reelection, decided not to pursue the presidency after heavy Republican losses in the mid-term elections.

While most legal experts believe the legislation itself doesn't do much to change the legality of online gambling, there's no doubt that the law has changed the landscape of the industry. And without Bill Frist, the UIGEA never would have made it through the 109th Congress.

The rest of the top-10
Frist wasn't the only person to have an impact on the gambling world in 2006. Here are the rest of Casino City's Top-10 People of the Year.

2. David Carruthers - Former CEO of BetOnSports.com
Carruthers' arrest in the Dallas-Fort Worth International airport signaled the end of safe passage for Internet gambling executives through the United States. Carruthers, who was relieved of his duties at BetOnSports soon after his arrest, is still awaiting trial on charges of racketeering, conspiracy and fraud. An outspoken critic of U.S. attempts to prohibit Internet gambling, Carruthers debated Leach in The Wall Street Journal prior to his arrest.

3. Jeffrey Pollack - World Series of Poker Commissioner
The World Series of Poker took a big step forward when it decided to hire its first commissioner. Pollack, who helped build NASCAR's brand, has done the same for the WSOP, creating corporate relationships and solidifying the tournament series' relationship with ESPN. The WSOP improved its format as well, adding a series of circuit events at Harrah's properties across the country and building interest with the \$50,000 H.O.R.S.E. championship. Now if he can just make sure his tournament staff colors up chips correctly next year ...

4. Lou White - CEO of PokerTek
While you may not have heard of White, you've likely heard of his PokerPro tables. White invented the concept of the electronic poker table and built the first one in his basement. PokerTek tables have started creeping onto casino floors, and you can even find them on Carnival Cruise ships. While others are starting to enter the market, PokerTek is staying ahead by adding Omaha to the mix and even building a Heads-Up Table. The question for White in the coming years is whether PokerTek can compete with established industry veterans like Shuffle Master.

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The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Casino City Times website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.casinocitytimes.com>. The website's header features the "CASINO CITY TIMES" logo with the tagline "Your Guide to Gaming Excitement" and navigation links for "Gaming Gurus", "Gaming News", and "Weekly Issues". A "SUBSCRIPTION SIGNUP" sidebar on the left contains a form for an email address and a "SIGN UP" button. The main content area is titled "GAMING NEWS" and features a search bar labeled "SEARCH NEWS:" with a "go" button. Below the search bar, a list of ten gaming news items is displayed, each with a numbered title and a short paragraph of text.

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GAMING NEWS

- 5. Mitch Garber - CEO of PartyGaming**
While Bill Frist clearly had the biggest impact on Internet gambling in 2006, PartyGaming's decision to abandon the U.S. market may have had the second-largest impact on the industry. As the market leader, PartyGaming's decision likely influenced the decisions made by both publicly traded and privately held Internet gambling firms that also opted to block U.S. players.
- 6. Steve Wynn - Owner, Wynn Las Vegas, Wynn Macau**
Our top-10 is admittedly very Internet and poker heavy, but Wynn's impact on the gaming world is undeniable. Wynn's entry into Macau signaled a new major market for gaming, and the decision to pool dealer tips with management in his Las Vegas casino is still generating headlines.
- 7. Daniel Negreanu - Professional Poker Player**
While Negreanu had an impressive year, pulling in nearly \$2 million in tournament winnings, he makes Casino City's list for his influence over the poker world. Negreanu was one of the few playing professionals to publicly criticize the UIGEA. And he championed Full Contact Poker's decision to switch software providers in the wake of the UIGEA so it could still accept U.S. players. He also believes in promoting innovations within the game, advocating the addition of the \$50,000 H.O.R.S.E. tournament at the WSOP and captaining a team in the new Professional Poker League.
- 8. Jim Leach - Former Congressman, R-Iowa**
The author of the UIGEA, Leach had been trying to push an Internet gambling prohibition through Congress for years. While he was finally successful late in the 109th Congress, the session also turned out to be his last. The 15-term Congressman was one of several Republicans to lose re-election bids this November. And while the lagging popularity of President Bush and the ongoing war in Iraq were cited as the major reasons the Republicans lost control of Congress, a Poker Players Alliance study concluded that Leach's involvement with the UIGEA led to his downfall.
- 9. Crispin Leyser - Suing Jamie Gold for \$6 million**
Even Jamie Gold admits that he couldn't have won the WSOP without Crispin Leyser. Bodog entered Gold into the event in exchange for procuring celebrities to wear Bodog clothing in the tournament. Gold's lawyers have conceded that Leyser helped procure those celebrities. They have even admitted that Gold agreed to split half of any winnings from the WSOP seat he obtained from Bodog with Leyser, though they argue that amounted to a gift and not a contract. If Gold had offered up the \$6 million freely, he would be on our list as an honorable man. But instead, it's Leyser who makes the list for trying to keep poker honest.
- 10. Pamela Anderson - Endorsed PamelaPoker.com**
The blond bombshell endorsed the short-lived PamelaPoker.com, which debuted just months before the UIGEA passed. Anderson pulled her endorsement soon after the law passed and the site now automatically redirects to Doyle's Room. Okay, there were plenty of people who deserved to be in our top-10 list ahead of Anderson this year, but how could you have a top-10 WITHOUT Pam Anderson. Plus it aids in our search engine optimization: Internet no limit Texas Hold'em poker players play no limit Texas Hold'em tournaments online for real money. Poker.