



## Offline but on Target

*Online gaming, especially poker, is still suffering a black eye from high-profile cheating scams. But with all the attention focused on the hard times of hard drives, Richard Marcus explains that cheats are now seeing newfound riches offline.*

**F**or the first time in history, cheating at gambling has passed into the mainstream of the world's media networks. This, of course, is due to the fallout of the recent insider online poker scam at Absolute Poker and the monstrosity of a scam that soon followed at UltimateBet. In the US, the CBS network news magazine *60 Minutes*, which is the most watched news program in the country, dedicated an entire segment

in late November to cheating in online poker, making a household name of 1994 WSOP Main Event champ Russ Hamilton as well as mass-exposing the names and faces of others implicated in or "expertly" talking about the scam. *The Washington Post*, the nation's second most important newspaper behind the *New York Times*, published numerous articles about the scandal and contributed heavily to the *60 Minutes* segment. In the UK and Europe, several

major newspapers and TV stations have issued reports as well. The same is true in Macau and other areas of Asia.

But does all this press hoopla mean that the volume of online gambling cheating (there are other sorts of it going on than just poker) has actually surpassed that of cheating in live brick-and-mortar casinos and poker rooms? Believe it or not, and in spite of all the online poker and casino cheating news you've been hearing and