

Legislator wants schools to report foreign students who don't attend class

by Becky Bartindale
Knight Ridder Newspapers

A Republican lawmaker said Tuesday he will introduce a bill requiring California colleges and universities to promptly report to the INS on international students who are accepted but do not show up for school.

Assemblyman Russ Bogh, R-Yucapia, said his proposal is an attempt to close a potential loophole for terrorists. His comment followed a hearing by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on student visas at Stanford University.

"We're not trying to stop international students from coming to this country," said Bogh, vice-chairman of the education committee. "We just want to make sure people don't use their visas to commit fraud or do harm to the United

States."

The focus on student visas has intensified since the terrorist attack on America Sept. 11. One of the suspected terrorists, Hani Hanjour, entered the country on a student visa but never showed up for school.

U.S. Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-California, and Edward Kennedy, D-Massachusetts, both have proposed legislation to more tightly regulate student visas as well as reporting on foreign students studying here.

At the hearing, several students said they feared a climate of hostility is developing toward foreign students in the United States and that it could drive the brightest international students to other countries.

Felipe Santos, a student from Portugal who is pursuing a doctorate degree

at Stanford, said most students support a proposed electronic tracking system the Immigration and Naturalization Service is developing to keep up-to-date information on foreign students.

But Santos said it would be going too far if the government began monitoring the individual courses a student takes or what kind of research he is doing. "It means we are under suspicion and seen as a potential terrorist," he said.

At the hearing, speakers from the University of California, California State University and the community college system spoke of the benefits international students bring to California, including the estimated \$750 million they contribute directly to the state's public and private colleges and universities. California is the largest recipient of foreign students in the United States.

Mary Jacob, director of the Office of International Students and Scholars at the University of California-Santa Barbara, said the 9,000 international students make up about 5 percent of the system's enrollment but contribute 17 percent of its revenue by paying higher out-of-state tuition and fees.

Much of the discussion focused on the INS' new electronic tracking system, the Student and Exchange Visitor and Information Program (SEVIS), which would provide information on foreign students to colleges, the State Department and the INS.

The system is supposed to be up and running nationally by January 2003, but many of those who spoke expressed skepticism about the INS' ability to meet that timetable.

Terry Hartle, senior vice president of

the American Council for Education, said the higher education community supports the idea behind the SEVIS system as the best way to weed out those who would abuse the student visa system.

He said the INS must work closely with colleges and universities to develop a system works for all parties. "A poorly designed information system or one that is badly implemented will only create headaches," he said.

Hartle said Bogh's proposal sounds like "a meaningless requirement that won't accomplish much" because it will "produce information the INS doesn't want and is not in a position to use."

USA claims sex bragging rights, survey says

by Corky Siemaszko
New York Daily News

NEW YORK - The United States is a sexual superpower - or so it says.

Americans say they make love more often - and with more partners - than any other nationality, according to a survey by condom manufacturer Durex SSL International. They also claim to start having sex at a younger age - 16 - than lovers in other countries.

But are these simply bedroom boasts or scientific facts?

Durex said 18,500 people in 28 countries filled out a written questionnaire. Respondents in the annual poll ranged in age from 16 to 55, and their answers showed the world was having more sex and starting earlier than ever before, the company said.

The survey - conducted in May and to be published ahead of World AIDS Day on Saturday - showed respondents averaging sex 97 times a year, up from 96 last year. But nobody bested Americans, according to Americans.

The Americans questioned said they averaged sex 124 times a year (down from 132 in 2000), with roughly 14 different partners (up from 12 in 2000).

The Greeks claimed to have had sex the second most frequently - 117 times - followed by Croatians, South Africans and New Zealanders.

Meanwhile, the world's most celebrated lovers - the Italians and French - were in

sixth and seventh place, on par with the less-celebrated Russians and Israelis.

By contrast, the Japanese were at the bottom in terms of frequency, averaging 36 sexual encounters a year. But the Japanese appear to like variety, because they claimed to have 10.2 partners per year.

Americans say they make love more often - and with more partners - than any other nationality...

Respondents from the world's most populous nation ranked at the bottom in terms of average number of partners (2.1). At age 22 (the survey average was 18), the Chinese were the oldest of the groups questioned to lose their virginity. Worldwide, the survey found that 60 percent said they had sex at least once a week and 4 percent claimed to make love daily. One in 10 admitted they were virgins.

Apparent scholarship winner won't get the money

by Todd Harmonson
The Orange County Register

The University of Southern California student who thought he won a \$10,000 scholarship last week at halftime of the Trojans' game against UC Santa Barbara learned Tuesday that he will not get the money.

Adam Burgin, a sophomore broadcast communications major, was told that he didn't qualify for the prize because he was over the line on two of the four shots - a three-pointer and a half-court shot - he had to make in 25 seconds.

Don Brewster, USC's director of event marketing, said the decision was out of the school's hands. He said USC hired a promotions company, SCA Promotions of Georgia, to handle the contest. When company officials reviewed the tape of Burgin's shots, they ruled that he was ineligible, Brewster said.

"I'm sorry to pay him, but the money's not ours to give," Brewster said. Burgin complained to anybody who would talk to him Tuesday, even though he conceded that the shot was over the line on his half-court shot. "I'm in a financial situation where my bank account is zero," said Burgin, who signed an agreement on the rules for the contest before the next court.

Brewster said he understood Burgin's disappointment, but he said Burgin was so far over the line on his half-court shot that he couldn't feel sorry for him.

"It wasn't even close," Brewster said. **THE FUTURE?**

When USC coach Henry Bibby benched his seniors Tuesday he got a glimpse of what life will be like next season when they are gone. He liked what he saw.

Freshman guard Erick Craven and sophomore swingman Deamon Farmer led the Trojans with 20 points each, and they were a combined 9 of 12 on three-pointers. Craven (5 of 11) set a career record for most three-pointers without a miss, equaling the mark of Brad Miller.

Forward Sam Clancy, who had 12 points and seven rebounds, said he wasn't impressed with his teammates' performances. "They've been kicking our butts in practice," Clancy said. "That's why they started

Leading a crusade for sobriety

by Michael Vitez
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Catherine Bath's transformation began two years ago, when her son, Raheem, died at Duke University Medical Center.

He was 20, a graduate of Lower Merion High School with SAT scores of 1440, a junior at Duke double-majoring in electrical engineering and economics.

But on Nov. 15, 1999, Raheem got drunk with friends at an off-campus bar, passed out in his bed and vomited. He inhaled his vomit and never even knew it. Infection ravaged his lungs, leading to pneumonia. On Nov. 27, he died.

"I honestly believed God would protect my son, that nothing like this could happen to him," Catherine Bath said recently in her King of Prussia, Pa., office. "But it did."

Since her son's death, she has evolved from a grieving mother into a crusader. She believes the alcohol industry and American culture killed her son.

And she travels the country - she had just returned from a conference in Chicago with high school administrators, counselors, parents and students - preaching that message.

"I consider the alcohol industry to be drug pushers," she said. "It's legal what they're doing. But they're still pushers. My son was raised in a non-drinking home. He wasn't strong enough to push back his peer group."

"The popular culture is sucking these kids in," she said. She opened an issue of Rolling Stone that had Britney Spears on the cover - and, she said, more than a dozen full-page ads inside for alcohol.

"There's a bull's-eye on the backs of 16-year-old boys. I say remove the advertising that subliminally programs our kids to think they're going to get something good from drinking."

Catherine Bath had worked selling information-systems software. But one day at the end of January, a year after Raheem's death, she simply could not make another sales call.

She drove home, sat in her living room and prayed.

"Within 10 seconds," she said, "Connie Clery's face came in front of me."

Constance Clery and her husband, Howard, started a nonprofit organization called Security on Campus 15 years ago after their only daughter, Jeanne, was sexually assaulted and murdered at Lehigh University. Their organization was instrumental in the passage of the federal Campus Security Act, which requires colleges to accurately report crime statistics.

Catherine had met the Clerys after appearing in a documentary about the loss of their children. She bonded with Constance. That morning Catherine picked up the phone and called her.

"I'm grateful for having this platform," Catherine said of the Clerys' group, for which she now works. "It gives me even more credibility than just being a bereaved mother."

At her office last week she was weary and sick. She'd worn herself out over the weekend in Chicago, telling her story to parents and students.

She's spoken publicly only a dozen times. She'd like to do more, but opening up her heart, reliving the loss of Raheem, is so painful.

"But it usually does touch kids," she said. "After my workshops, I usually get hugs. People come up to me and thank me for sharing."

Tom and Catherine Bath met and married while at the University of Illinois. They came of age in the late '60s, and like many of their generation, were disenchanted with American life. They experimented with drugs and alcohol, but not on the level of kids today, Catherine said.

They went on a spiritual journey that led them

to Philadelphia in 1975, to study with Sheikh M.R. Bawa Muhaiyaddeen, a native of Sri Lanka. He was the spiritual leader of an international Muslim fellowship still headquartered at a mosque in Philadelphia's Overbrook section.

"I wanted to know the reality of God," Catherine said, "and I wasn't getting it from the Christian tradition."

They joined the fellowship and Tom, a construction project manager in Philadelphia, sent their three children to public school. At Lower Merion, Raheem ran track, played golf, and organized the senior prom.

Tom and Catherine, both 49, say they have not had a drink of alcohol in 25 years, and they raised their children in a home without alcohol. Even so, Raheem drank some while in high school. When his parents caught him, they reprimanded him but tried to give him some latitude. They never thought he behaved irresponsibly, or drove drunk, or drank excessively.

"I knew he drank," his mother said soon after his death. "I thought it was a phase. I was waiting for him to get through it. Not for a moment, I never thought I would lose my son."

Now she wishes she had been much stricter. Raheem had three close pals at Duke, "the four amigos" they were called, who water-skied and studied and lifted weights and double-dated and just hung out in one another's room, listening to techno music and playing computer games.

Raheem would also go out, like many of his

peers, and drink 15 beers and pass out.

Ironically, said Raheem's closest friends, by the time he died, in November of his junior year, he was well beyond the worst partying stage. He was calming down, drinking less often, studying much harder.

"Raheem was not atypical," insisted Adam Carson, his close friend from high school and college, interviewed shortly after Raheem's death. "He was not anything different than most college students."

"Freshman year, we did party a lot, but, like, a lot of people do."

Tom and Catherine Bath last year moved out of Narberth, Pa. "We just didn't want to be in that house anymore," she said.

They bought a smaller house near the river in Norristown.

Their older daughter, Jahje, is married and lives in Houston. Aleema, their younger daughter, is a sophomore at Duke. Catherine was down there last spring to speak to Raheem's graduating class. Her speech is online at www.campusafety.org.

"I consider it almost as a gift to be able to do something and effect some change," she said last week. "It gives my tragic loss a reason."

"Many days I feel like a salmon swimming up stream," she added. "But you know those salmon. They keep swimming."



PHOTO BY APRIL SAUL/PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Catherine Bath with her son, Raheem, at his high school graduation in 1997. Two years later, Raheem died after getting drunk and passing out. Raheem developed lung infections after inhaling vomit as he slept which led to his death twelve days later.