

Bill could restrict who handles biological agents

By Brittany Adams
Daily Californian (U. California-Berkeley)

BERKELEY, Calif. (U-WIRE) — Lawmakers in Congress are considering a sweeping anti-terrorism bill that would bar all non-U.S. citizens, including international students and faculty, from conducting research with certain biological microbes and chemical toxins.

The proposals have brought criticism from college lobbyist groups, which say restricting all non-U.S. citizens from working with threatening biological or chemical agents would impede scientific research at universities nationwide.

The House passed a version of the bill Tuesday that gives senior federal officials discretion to grant waivers to non-U.S. citizens on a case-by-case basis, said Janet Schumaker, an official with the American Society of Microbiology.

The Senate is expected to consider a similar version of the bill in the next few weeks.

"We assume that there will be a broad list of people who can receive the waivers, but we have no assurance," Schumaker said. "We are concerned, for example, about Canadian lab (workers) who work with these agents."

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson and Attorney General John Ashcroft created the list of restricted biological agents, including smallpox, anthrax and plague.

Currently, 250 to 300 institutions are conducting research programs using such agents.

Background checks on each of the employees working on the projects could cause possible delays in the research. This research is extremely important in light of recent bioterrorist threats, Schumaker said.

College lobbyist groups in Washington say they are working to protect scientific research, but did acknowledge the necessity of anti-terrorist legislation.

"We understand the momentum that has built up in Congress and want more attention paid to select agents in the universities," Schu-

maker said. "We need to balance protection with research."

People who use dangerous biological agents and do not register them are also subject to severe penalties under this legislation.

In a separate, less sweeping bill, the House and Senate passed a measure this week barring any for-

eigner from a nation known to harbor terrorism from handling restricted biological agents.

"If you have an Iraqi researcher by birth (who is not a U.S. citizen), he cannot get access to these restricted substances," said Peter Smith, a spokesman for the Association of American Universities.

fall 2001 CAREER EXPO EVENTS CALENDAR

For more info, call the Career Center at 346-3235

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CROUCHING ECONOMY, HIDDEN CAREER: JOB OUTLOOK IN THE CURRENT ECONOMY
Monday, Oct. 29 • 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. • Gerlinger Lounge
 Worried about finding a job after graduation? Now that the economy is starting to tighten, you may need to be more creative about finding work. A panel of experts will address the state of the economy and where future opportunities may lie. Students, faculty and staff welcome.

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THE GRADUATE SCHOOL QUESTION
Thursday, Nov. 1 • 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. • Ben Linder Room, EMU
 Deciding whether to continue your education once you complete your Bachelor's degree can be agonizing. Timing, career advancement, love of the area of study, and economic pressures all play a part in the decision-making process. Graduate school experts will guide you through that process so you are able to make an informed decision to best suit your circumstances.

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HOW TO WORK THE FAIR
Monday, Nov. 5 • 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. • Alsea Room, EMU
 Get the information straight from the people who do the hiring. Diane Marshall from Target and Larry Smith, Director of the Career Center, will give advice on how to optimize your time at the Career Fair. Topics will include how to approach employers, planning your Career Fair time, researching companies, scheduling interviews, and follow-up techniques.

1

DON ASHER: GRADUATE ADMISSIONS—WHAT WORKS, WHAT DOESN'T AND WHY?
Monday, Nov. 5 • 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. • Gerlinger Lounge
 Come learn how to make your graduate school application more effective. Don Asher, author of *Graduate Admissions Essays: What Works, What Doesn't and Why?*, will speak on how to successfully apply to graduate school. Get the inside scoop on how admissions decisions are made, writing great essays, questions you should ask yourself before applying, and much more! A reception with refreshments will follow.

2

TO PAY OR GET PAID: FINANCING GRADUATE SCHOOL
Tuesday, Nov. 6 • 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. • Alsea Room, EMU
 Interested in graduate studies, but don't know how to pay for it? Come to this workshop for ideas on how to afford continuing your studies. Topics will include fellowships, scholarships, grants and other resources.

3

TRANSITIONING INTO THE WORKPLACE FROM A MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE
Tuesday, Nov. 6 • 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. • Maple Room (Ballroom level), EMU
 Hear firsthand from professionals employed in areas of management, retail, finance, and government. Find out what challenges new graduates face when entering their first full-time professional job. Discover what kinds of experience are the most important, impressive, and necessary for a student to have obtained while in college. Learn how far in advance organizations hire students for internships. This event will be followed by the Multicultural Career Reception in the Gumwood Room. Food and refreshments provided. Door prizes will be given away!

4

CAREER RECEPTION FOR STUDENT ATHLETES
Tuesday, Nov. 6 • 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. • Casanova Center
 This is the opportunity for students to network with potential employers in an informal setting. Come and learn about employment opportunities and internships that these employers have to offer before you attend the Career Fair.

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FALL CAREER FAIR AND GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIR
Wednesday, Nov. 7 • 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. • EMU

Have you injured the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) of your knee?

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