

college students who say they drink to get drunk is rising. It is almost one-half. Underage drinking costs the United States \$53 billion annually. There are roughly 3 million teenage alcoholics in our country. Despite these grim statistics concerning underage drinking, alcohol advertising accounts for more than one-half of college sports advertising revenue. The 2002 NCAA basketball tournament had more alcohol ads than the Super Bowl, World Series, college bowl games, and Monday Night Football combined. The basketball tournament has more than 16 times the rate of alcohol advertising as normal programming.

A spokesperson from the NCAA recently said such advertising is "not inconsistent with our mission." I guess I would beg to differ with that statement. The NCAA statement of purpose indicates that part of its mission is to prepare student athletes for lifetime leadership. The NCAA handbook states that NCAA policies should exclude advertisements that do not seem to be in the best interests of higher education.

In view of the fact that nearly one-half of college students are binge drinkers; 1,400 college students die annually from alcohol-related incidents, which is the leading cause of death on the college campus; more than 70,000 students are victims of alcohol-related sexual assaults; 500,000 students are injured each year while drunk; recent recruiting scandals at NCAA schools were often alcohol-related, I would have to say that there is great inconsistency in linking college athletics with the alcohol industry. The 12-, 13-, 14- and 15-year-olds watching the tournament this weekend will witness great athletes display their skills. These young people will identify with those athletes, and they want to be like them. Sandwiched into the telecasts will be many ads promoting alcohol; and most of the ads will contain attractive young people, celebrations and sometimes adolescent humor. The connection between players on the court and the alcohol advertising will be subtle, but it will be very real.

Dean Smith, my friend, the former North Carolina basketball coach, said this: "If aspirin were the leading cause of death on college campuses, do you think chancellors, presidents and trustees would allow aspirin commercials on basketball and football telecasts? They wouldn't, not for a minute."

I spoke today with John Wooden, in my time maybe the greatest coach of all time. He won 10 NCAA basketball championships in 12 years. John said that he wholeheartedly endorses taking alcohol advertising out of college sports. Andy Geiger, the Ohio State athletic director, opposes alcohol advertising. Eighty-four percent of Americans think advertising beer on college games is not in the best interest of higher education. Seventy-one percent of Americans support a total ban of alcohol ads on college games. Seventy-

seven percent of parents say it is wrong for colleges to profit from alcohol advertising while trying to combat alcohol abuse on their campuses.

The alcohol industry will counter by indicating how much money they spend to curb underage drinking. However, in 2001 the alcohol industry spent a total of \$811 million on product promotion and only 1 percent of the ads promoted responsibility. The placement of their ads and the content of their ads cater to a youthful market. Young people always represent future customers.

I do not advocate Congress legislating NCAA matters. The NCAA is a voluntary organization and such legislation should be left to the schools. And I do not believe that eliminating alcohol ads on college sports will end underage drinking. However, I do urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 575, expressing the sense of the House that the NCAA should affirm its commitment to a policy of discouraging alcohol use among underage students by ending all alcohol advertising during radio and television broadcasts of collegiate sporting events.

Hopefully, this resolution will help college administrators see the untenable position they now occupy and move to end current alcohol advertising.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, next week the House goes into recess. Yet the House has failed to address the expiration of the assault weapons ban. We in Congress should be looking at this again. September 13 is when it expires. We have 168 days to take care of this. The good news for terrorists, cop killers, and drug dealers is that they will be back on the streets with the assault weapons of their choice.

□ 1930

Since I took the floor last week, over 400 Americans have died from gun violence in this country. By the time the House comes back, we will have lost another 800 Americans in this country. But instead of doing the commonsense thing, instead of having a sense of urgency, the House has stood idly by.

Some seem content to let the assault weapons ban expire on September 13. I am not. The ban has kept us safer for the past 10 years. There is no reason why we should let assault weapons back on the streets. It has also respected the rights of gun owners, protecting the hunters, law-abiding citizens buying the guns that they want. But again do we need assault weapons back on the streets? Only criminals have been kept from their gun of choice. This explains why 66 percent of American gun owners support renewing the ban. The American people support it by even more overwhelming margins.

Once again, our Nation's law enforcement officers are leading the fight to keep the ban in place. The gun industry continues to evade the ban with copycat weapons like these. These are the ones that were banned. These are the ones that are out there on the streets now. They still do the same deadly thing. They take down as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time. This also has to stop.

I came to Congress to reduce gun violence in this country. I fought for commonsense, effective gun measures. That is why I have introduced H.R. 2038, which would renew the ban but also close the loopholes so that these guns cannot be back out on the streets either. We cannot let special interests control this Congress. We have 168 days left to renew it.

Let me say one other thing. Gun violence in this country costs the health care system over \$1 billion a year, \$1 billion. That is not counting the pain and the suffering that goes to the communities and to the families, those that might never walk again, those that end up never being able to go back to work. And, by the way, the American people pay half of those costs because insurance runs out for those that did have insurance, but, because rehab is so long, they run out of insurance.

Why do we tolerate this? Why are the American people not fighting? Here in Congress many a vote or many a rule, many a measure is won or lost by one vote. The American people have to understand they have a voice in this House. This is the people's House.

I am asking the American people to get involved in this issue. Do they actually want assault weapons back on the street? I think there is enough fear in this country now with the war on terrorism. Do they honestly want possibly the terrorists that are in this country in cells to be able to go to a gun show and pick up an assault weapon? Remember, in D.C., we had two people with a Bushmaster that paralyzed this whole area, cost millions of dollars. By the way, the Bushmaster was supposed to be a banned gun. The deaths that came from that incident can be multiplied throughout our cities and throughout our country. Is that what the American people want?

Common sense. Assault weapons, we see them on TV every single night in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan, Israel. Is that what we want in this country? Open warfare between our police officers, drug dealers, gangs? Wake up, America. We need America's help in the House. They have the right to call their Senators and their congressmen. We can do this, but we only have 168 days left. Please get involved.

VACCINATIONS CONTAINING MERCURY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.