

Big Gaps Found in College Students' Grasp of Current Affairs

PHILADELPHIA, April 17 (AP) — Half the students at Ivy League colleges cannot name their home-state Senators and more than a third do not know that John Major is the Prime Minister of Britain, a new survey has found.

A group of University of Pennsylvania students surveyed 3,119 undergraduates at their campus and at the seven other Ivy League colleges and found these gaps in the students' knowledge of current affairs and history:

¶Forty-four percent do not know that Thomas S. Foley is the Speaker of the House.

¶Thirty-five percent do not know that Alan Greenspan is the chairman of

the Federal Reserve Board.

¶Twenty-three percent do not know that the Supreme Court has nine Justices, and 18 percent could not name a single Justice.

¶Eleven percent do not know that Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.

Two-thirds of the students said they read a daily newspaper; fewer than half said they watched any television news.

The poll was originally published in U.S. News & World Report, which called it the most comprehensive such survey ever conducted. It was a project of an independent study group led by Frank Luntz, an adjunct assistant pro-

fessor of American civilization who was a poll taker in the Presidential campaigns of Ross Perot and Patrick J. Buchanan.

The 12 students conducted face-to-face interviews between Nov. 13 and 20. The survey's margin of sampling error was plus or minus three percentage points.

The 200-question survey also asked about such topics as sexual habits, drug and alcohol abuse, religion, sexual harassment, and social and political action.

Two-thirds of the respondents said they believed in God. Asked about their religious background, 24 percent said Roman Catholic, 25 percent said Protestant and 27 percent said Jewish.

Sixty percent of freshman Ivy League students said they had never had sexual intercourse; only 12 percent of seniors had not.

Thirty-seven percent of the students said they had had more than one sexual partner. Twenty-four percent of the males saying they had had four or more partners, and 14 percent of the female students said they had had four or more partners.

Four percent said they were homosexual or bisexual.

The students were asked to rank the Ivy League universities. Harvard was ranked first, followed by Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Cornell, Columbia Brown and Penn.