

Woman speaks against abortion

By Suzanne Teten
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

Nancy Berger was 27, married and the mother of two. When she became pregnant again, she and her husband decided they could not afford another child at that time. After discussing the situation, the couple decided to abort the baby.

When Berger went to a California hospital for the abortion, she said the counseling she received "consisted of how much my husband made and how far along (in the pregnancy) I was." The doctor explained the abortion procedure, she said, saying it was "all quick, all safe, all easy."

"It was none of those," Nancy told a meeting of the Lincoln Right To Life last week, 10 years after her abortion.

Berger said she had a suction abortion, during which doctors use a vacuum 24 times stronger than a household vacuum cleaner to remove the baby. She said she would not have had the abortion if she had been completely informed about what was going to

happen.

During a suction abortion, that force is so strong that the baby literally is pulled apart. Afterward, she said, a nurse must put the pieces back together to make sure that everything was removed.

Berger said she left the hospital feeling "relieved, but empty." "After an abortion, the baby's life is over," she said, "but, for the mother, it is just the beginning."

"I couldn't cope with life because I hurt so bad," Berger said. Berger said her life "totally slid." She began looking for something to cover up her guilt. She said she started drinking heavily and taking pills. Her relationship with her husband also suffered.

It took many months to let go of her guilt, Berger said. But, she said, "God took a bad situation and made it something good," by using her life to speak out against abortion.

As the newly elected president of the Omaha chapter of Women Exploited By Abortion (WEBA), Berger has spoken to several groups about her anti-abortion

stand. WEBA is made up of women who have had abortions and who now regret that decision, she said.

WEBA's main purpose is to educate women about abortion and to counsel women who have had or are thinking of having abortions, Berger said. The pro-life, pro-healing Christian organization does not approve of abortion under any circumstances, including incest and rape, she said.

"Babies should not be punished because of what their fathers have done," Berger said.

Berger described abortion as a "silent holocaust." More than 16 million unborn babies have been killed in the United States since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973.

Berger said the federal government has used aborted babies to test bacteria it has developed for use in chemical warfare.

Berger and the other members of WEBA have taken the responsibility for telling women the true realities of abortion and counseling women who have had abortions.

Wire Report

National and international news
from the Reuter News Report

Soviet's radar system may violate ABM treaty

WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union's construction of a new radar system violates the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty with the United States, Secretary of State George Shultz said Sunday. The Soviets are constructing a radar that the White House believes is a violation, if it is put into being, of the ABM treaty, Shultz said in an interview on NBC's "Meet the Press." Shultz said the United States had raised the matter with the Soviet Union in the appropriate setting, an apparent reference to the standing consultative committee set up by both countries to monitor arms control issues. Under the ABM treaty, each country cannot develop radar to give early warning of strategic ballistic missile attack except along the periphery of its national territory. In light of charges that President Reagan's strategic defense initiative — using lasers and other high-technology in outer space to knock out attacking Soviet Nuclear missiles — may violate the ABM treaty, Shultz was asked whether the United States may have to scrap or renegotiate the document. "That remains to be seen whether we will come to that time," he said. Shultz defended U.S. efforts to seek new arms control agreements with the Soviet Union. "We can have better provisions for verification. As far as cheating is concerned, I think verification is the kind of answer we have to look to," he said.

Ortega: Guerrilla war expanding

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Nicaraguan junta coordinator Daniel Ortega was quoted Sunday as saying government troops fought 122 battles against U.S.-backed, right-wing rebels last month in an expanding guerrilla war. He told the official Baricada newspaper that 143 rebels and 17 troops were killed. On the government side 72 were wounded, but rebel wounded could not be counted because they were carried back to bases in Honduras, he said. Ortega said most of the fighting took place in the remote mountains and jungles of northern Nicaragua close to the Honduran border. The Defense Ministry said in a communique Sunday a rebel camp 190 miles east of Managua had been overrun and that 18 rebels and five soldiers had been killed in other fighting during the last three days. Washington, which accuses Managua of trying to export revolution to other countries in Central America, has helped raise a force of about 14,000 rebels to fight the leftist Sandinist government in Nicaragua.

Pope starts 12-day Canadian tour

QUEBEC CITY, Canada — Pope John Paul II arrived in Canada Sunday on one of his longest-ever journeys to a single country and said he brought a message of faith and hope to meet the challenge of modern civilization. The much-traveled pontiff chose predominantly Roman Catholic and French-speaking Quebec to begin his 12-day visit, in which he will go from the Atlantic to the Pacific and meet various communities including aboriginal Indians and Eskimos. In a speech delivered partly in French and partly in English, the pope referred to some of the themes he would be raising during his visit. Vatican sources said the pope was likely to reaffirm the Vatican's traditional teaching against artificial birth control, abortion and divorce. Nearly half of Canada's 25 million people are Catholic but church attendance and religious vocations have dropped sharply in recent years and abortion and divorce laws have been eased. The Pontiff, who opposes the ordination of women, dodged a question on the feminist movement in the Canadian Catholic Church. He said the Church of Rome "has always been feminist, because it began with the annunciation to Mary."

President Reagan warns Poles

DOYLESTOWN, Penn. — President Reagan Sunday warned the government of Poland, and indirectly the Soviet Union, that the "oppressor's boot" would never defeat the Polish people. In a strongly worded speech aimed at the estimated 12 million Polish American voters, Reagan said: "Those who believe they have crushed the Polish spirit with guns and brute force are wrong." Reagan hailed the banned Solidarity union movement as a force for freedom and said no matter how the government of Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski tried to suppress it, the spirit of solidarity would live. He praised the movement's leader, Lech Walesa, and called Polish-born Pope John Paul II a brave son of Poland who "inspires all of mankind."

Graham to preach to Soviets

MOSCOW — Evangelist Billy Graham, arriving in Moscow Sunday for a preaching tour of the Soviet Union, said he was aware of the difficulties facing Russian Christians. Graham told reporters that he would preach 23 times during a 12-day trip taking him to Moscow, Leningrad, the Estonian capital of Tallinn and Novosibirsk in Siberia. Graham was strongly criticized after a visit to Moscow in 1982 when he was quoted as saying that there was full religious freedom in the Soviet Union. He said today that he had been "woefully misinterpreted," but added: "I have more of an understanding now than I did last time." Graham, once known for his fierce anti-Communist rhetoric, said a second reason for his visit was to try to increase trust between the United States and the Soviet Union and help pave the way for nuclear disarmament. He told reporters he did not share views expressed by President Reagan that the Soviet Union was a focus of evil, saying: "The source of all evil is the devil, not any particular country."

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