

European vacations cure summer sadness

Editor's note: This is the second in a series on how UNL students spent their summers.

By Joel Strauch
Senior Reporter

Many UNL students spent their summer in class or in the sun, but some managed to get in a little world traveling.

Colleen O'Bryan, a sophomore premedicine and exercise science major, spent her summer visiting family and touring Europe.

"I lived in Germany for 2 1/2 years, and my family still lives there," she said.

"I spent four weeks with them in Germany and also went to Paris, Barcelona and Amsterdam," she said.

Alan Phelps, who graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a journalism degree in August, spent his last semester as an exchange student in the Czech Republic and in Belgium as a part of the Nebraska Semester Abroad program.

"We had opportunities to travel with the group and also on our own," he said.

"We studied in the Czech Republic and in Belgium and we also went to Austria, Germany and Paris," he said.

Kim Janulewicz, a senior dietetics major, also participated in this study abroad program.

"I needed a break from school," she said.

"I thought this would give some time to think, to get away from the everyday routine."

Janulewicz spent a four-day weekend in London and also traveled to

Amsterdam, Krakow, Paris and Auschwitz.

"I enjoyed it very much," she said. "It was pretty much overwhelming. There was more to see than I expected. I had to pick and choose what I wanted to do."

Phelps said cost was an issue that any college student must face in taking a trip to Europe.

"If you travel on your own, you can get by fairly cheap if you're willing to stay in obnoxious places and eat the same food everyday," Phelps said.

"The cost was manageable," Janulewicz said. "It's probably the best deal you can find to spend a whole semester in Europe studying and traveling."

O'Bryan said Americans also have to pay attention to fluctuating exchange rates and strength of the dollar in markets.

"The cost of living is more expensive for Americans, having to deal with the currency exchange," O'Bryan said. "The dollar is really poor compared to European currencies right now."

Phelps, who spent a summer traveling in Europe with a friend two years ago, said package deals provided a different experience from traveling on your own.

"If you're on a planned excursion or over there as an exchange student, you might not travel around as much, but you get to know the places you stay better," he said.

"The first time I didn't know much about it. I just got on an airplane and went," he said. "It turned out all right, but I learned a lot of lessons."

Crime

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Casady said the reason for the expected crime increase comes from an increased number of young people.

"One of the best predictors of crime is the number of people you have age 15 to 30," he said. "You don't have too many 50-year-old violent criminals."

When the number of 15 to 30-year-olds increases, so does the amount of crime, he said. Police have a number of youth programs that try to prevent youth from getting involved in crime.

Programs such as Cruisin' with the Cops, Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education, Gang Resistance Education and Training as well as one that places police officers in high schools have started recently, he said.

But Casady said there was no solid evidence that the programs were working.

He said research on the DARE program, such as following up on participants and comparing them to non-participants, was representative of other programs.

"Essentially it's shown a short-term impact," he said, "but the jury is kind of out as to whether there's a long-term impact."

Those type of questions are abundant in law enforcement, he said, although the answers aren't.

"We seem to spend a lot of money on crime prevention strategies without ... (making sure) all of what sounds good really works," he said.

Lincoln would benefit from the Crime Bill if it passed, Casady said. A version of the bill was approved by the House of Representatives Sunday.

Lincoln shouldn't expect much more money or resources from the bill, however, because Nebraska has a low population and crime rate as a whole, he said.

Even if Lincoln had more money, he said, funds for such things as more policemen would do little to halt crime.

"I don't think just increasing the number of policemen does anything," Casady said. "It's how those people are assigned."

"But most of what the police do has a very subtle and very small influence on what happens."

Espy

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alter the language in the bill, he said. More open markets exist, he said, and there are fewer subsidies to distort prices.

Espy also told the governors, including Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Terry Branstad of Iowa, that the federal crop insurance program would be overhauled.

Farmers have limited incentive to buy the insurance, and the \$900 million-a-year program doesn't work well, Espy said.

Espy said the department had expanded services and had made coverage for farmers "as sure as the next disaster."

Reorganizing the USDA also would save taxpayers \$2.5 billion annually by merging 43 USDA agencies into 29 and cutting 7,500 jobs from the bureaucracy, Espy said.

"No more employees paid \$50,000 to measure the flow rate of ketchup ... or the length of pickle stems," he said.

The secretary's speech before more than 200 people was filled with facts and figures from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Espy said agriculture was important to the entire country, not just the Midwest. The food and fiber system in

the United States generates about \$950 billion a year in economic activity equaling 16 percent of the gross domestic product, Espy said. He said agriculture employed one in seven Americans and that food and fiber exports provided an \$18 billion net trade surplus.

Espy said open markets were making it possible for Japanese families to eat American rice and for Chinese families to eat American apples. That, he said, led to a huge export boom reported by the Commerce Department.

Nebraska's agriculture exports were leading the nation, Espy said, with a 429.3 percent growth from 1987 to 1993.

Every \$1 billion of farm exports creates 22,000 more jobs for Americans, Espy said.

Ethanol expansion was a priority of the Clinton Administration, Espy said. The United States produces more than one billion gallons annually — the equivalent of 400 million bushels of corn, he said. Because of ethanol, Espy said 14,000 new jobs could be created by 1996.

"All along there have been farmers who told politicians in Washington there was more profit in selling corn by the gallon than by the bushel," Espy said.

Farm Bill

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was concerned that farmers and others have felt anxious about its future.

The Farm Bill also may face speed bumps getting through Congress, Kerrey said.

Kerrey said two organizations may oppose the bill — the Congressional Budget Office and the Environmental Protection Agency.

"The CBO believes that if you increase the demand for corn, this will increase taxpayer exposure (to keep prices low). And the EPA would like to write the Farm Bill of 1995. If this happens, there will be a war," he said.

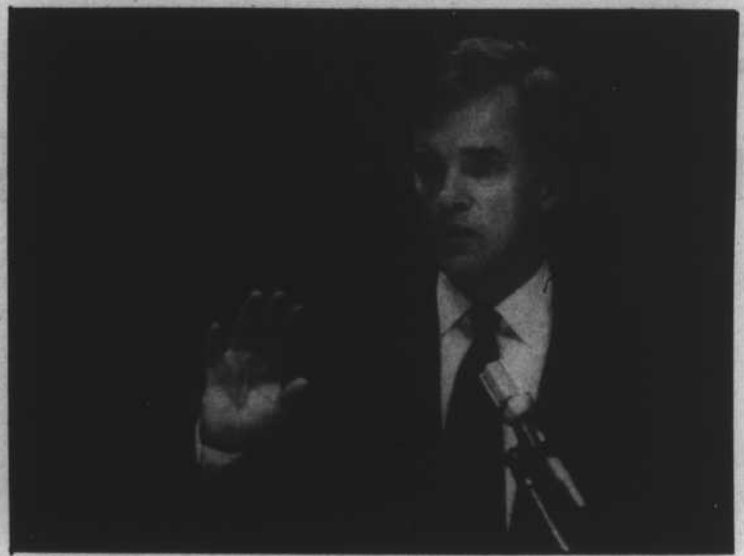
Kerrey also said the new bill would provide farmers new opportunities to get a larger share of the consumer dollar.

"We need to provide flexibility for the development of alternative crops which will lead to new market opportunities," he said.

Kerrey said he hoped that new coalitions would be formed as a result of the farm bill.

"We need to bring in new organizations that are genuinely interested in conservation, genuinely interested in promoting our resources and genuinely interested in improving our farms," he said.

"We need to decide who to be in the bag with."



Damon Lee/DN

Senator Bob Kerrey addresses the 1995 Farm Bill before governors and officials from 13 states Monday at the Midwestern Governors' Conference. Earlier in the day, Kerrey addressed the crime bill, which is now before the Senate, with law enforcement officials via a video teleconference.

Crime Bill

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In keeping with the tone of the discussion, Col. Ron Tussing, Nebraska State Patrol superintendent, said increasing law enforcement was a short-term solution to crime.

Prevention is a long-term solu-

tion, he said. In the meantime, however, violent criminals must be kept off the streets.

He compared the problems with crime to a terminally ill patient.

"You have a seriously ill patient," Tussing said, "and while you're searching for a cure, you have to keep the patient on life support."

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