

Bottle bill supporters base hopes on Oregon success

By L. Kent Wolgamott

Using the experience of Oregon as an example, both supporters and opponents of Nebraska's bottle bill say they expect victory in November.

Pat Jerrison of Nebraskans for Returnable Containers, a coalition of 20 groups favoring Proposition 301, said the Oregon bottle bill "proved a tremendous success. Here in Nebraska, we know it will work."

However, Ted McConnell of Nebraskans for Freedom of Choice said the Oregon program has not been very successful in reducing litter, especially when compared with a program used in the state of Washington.

McConnell said the Oregon Program reduced litter by 10.6 percent while the Washington's comprehensive litter program reduced litter 66 percent.

Proposition 301 was placed on the ballot through an initiative drive by Nebraskans for Returnable Containers which gathered about 40,000 signatures in favor of the proposal to place a 5 cent deposit on all cans and bottles.

Both said they were operating campaigns on a local level.

"We're not going to run a buy it (the election) through the media campaign," McConnell said. "We are going to run a people-to-people precinct campaign."

"We're not the corporate big wheels we are painted to be," he said.

"We're a grass-roots organization doing the best we can," Jerrison said.

Her group does not represent a single special interest but is something the majority of the people want, Jerrison said.

Recent polls have shown the bill to be favored by about 65 percent of these inter-

vidwed, Jerrison said, a figure similar to that given by McConnell.

"I really believe those people (the bottle bill opponents) are worried," Jerrison said.

McConnell said the polls were taken before the anti-bottle bill effort had begun in earnest and the figures supporting the bill are high.

He said his group plans to attack the bottle bill because it will not eliminate litter, will increase costs, and will cause unemployment through the elimination of skilled jobs in the bottle and can industry.

He said the proposition would create unskilled jobs to sort the cans and bottles but it would amount to "firing the father to hire the son."

Jerrison said the passage of the initiative would not cause any change, but would mean new jobs for people involved in reclaiming bottles and cans.

He said her group would attempt to overcome misconceptions during the campaign, countering statements by the opponents.

Common misconceptions about the affect of the bill are that the price would go up and the amount of area necessary to store the containers would double, Jerrison said.

But, she said, Oregon's experience shows no price increase and no need for increased storage.

She said her group did not have funds to hire a professional public relations firm to run the campaign but State Sen. Donald Jworak of Columbus has offered to coordinate the campaign.

McConnell said his group plans a media campaign to demonstrate that the supporters have identified the right problem, but this is the wrong solution.

Religious organizations finding students are questioning beliefs

More students are searching, questioning their basic religious beliefs and investigating their relationships with God, according to campus ministers, faculty members and advisers of religious organizations.

This assumption is supported by a growing amount of student involvement in religion and by the number of campus religious organizations.

Of the 229 organizations listed by student activities, 15 are based on religious foundations, a large number when the variety of the other organizations is considered, and these groups report up to a 30 percent increase in membership over the past year.

This search for a religion that will serve as an active part of daily college life is told by Teresa Vos, a junior theater major from Lincoln, who has recently accepted Jesus as her savior.

Vos was born into a Catholic home and practiced that religion until she was "about 14 or until my mother could no longer drag me out of bed."

Catholicism wasn't really fulfilling, she said, and many events in her life clashed with the church.

Friends took Vos to the Indian Hills Community Church last summer and she found the sermons and theories of the church could be applied to her life, she said.

"I feel like I've been born again," Vos said, but finds the evangelistic style of Billy Graham a turn-off.

Becoming Christian was a personal decision for Vos, one she said was not easy to make.

"Things just seem to go better in my daily life now that God is involved," she said.

There has been no dramatic change in Vos's life, and, she said; the daily events which she attributes to God's help could be called coincidental but she does not believe they are.

"I like having God in my life. He doesn't take up much space or eat much food. Sometimes when I don't take care of myself very well, he steps in and does a good job."

These students, through Bible studies fellowship groups and traditional churches are expanding the search for God.

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Photo by Mark Billingsly

This house near 19th and J streets may have been the work of people searching for new beliefs or a reaffirmation of their faith in God. The house is now deserted.

UNL professor returns from instability, violence of Italy

By Barb Richardson

"The education system in Italy is very unstable. There is a feeling among certain segments of the society that a change must be made in the system. This group points to the high unemployment rate of Italy as proof that the system is not preparing students for the modern world," according to Ed Bailey, UNL associate professor of journalism.

Bailey spent two years, 1976-78, teaching full-time at the Florence Bible School, a higher education school in Florence, Italy.

"Some people believe that in order to change the education system, in Italy they must destroy the present one first," Bailey said.

The educational process and politics interrelate in Italy.

"Italy is a very political country. Professors are many times identified by party affiliation," he said. "If a professor is a Christian Democrat, and he supports his party's views during a class lecture, all the communist students may walk out of the class."

Activists demands

"Some students spend their entire college careers as political activists. In order to make sure that the activists will pass a class at the end of the semester, they sometimes demand that the whole class be given an oral examination with a minimum grade," Bailey said.

"If the professor refuses the demands, the activists will occupy the building and

refuse all exams to occur.

"Violence is used by the activists. Faculty members have been hospitalized and in some cases killed," he said. "Often the entire school will close because the activists occupy buildings for an indefinite period."

At the Florence Bible School, the architecture school was the most radical. The students caused physical damage to the building during occupation, Bailey said. He added that it took one particular student, who wasn't an activist, two or three years extra to get his degree from the school of architecture because of the occupation.

Not involved

Bailey said that he personally was not involved in any political problems.

As a professor and administrative assistant, he taught biblical studies, speech communications, christian apologetics, and other courses.

After a change in personnel at the school about 2½ years ago, Bailey said he was offered a job by the new administration. He was granted one year of absence from UNL and later was given an extension allowing him to stay in Italy two years.

The Florence Bible School has approximately 40 to 70 students a year. Depending on the year, there are about 10 to 20 full-time students staying in a dorm-like situation.

The other students are of the working class and they receive instruction through a type of traveling school, he said. Professors from the school commute on a weekly or

biweekly basis to different towns and cities to teach students over 20.

Church support

"The Florence Bible School is equivalent to a bible chair, a center for biblical studies supported by a specific group. The Florence Bible School is supported by Churches of Christ in the United States and Italy," Bailey said.

The School has students from the Middle East, Africa, and Canada, but all the classes are taught in Italian.

"The students do not have a hard time adjusting to the language, even if they've never spoken it before. When you live around the language, you easily pick it up," Bailey said.

While in Italy, Bailey also taught night courses at the University of Maryland in Pisa and the John Cabot International College in Rome.

The University of Maryland is a United States military school. The John Cabot International College, incorporated in Washington, D.C., offers American degrees to Italian elites.

"Between all three schools, I was teaching Italians, Americans, Mid-easterners and Africans," Bailey said.

Lifestyle changes

On his trip to Italy, Bailey was accompanied by his wife and two daughters.

The first few months the girls did not know Italian so adjusting to the new life was difficult. But some people, such as teachers, were helpful to the girls.

Previously living ten years in Italy,

Bailey and his wife had no difficulty adjusting to the Italian lifestyle, he said.

"The daily schedule is longer. Lunch is between 1 and 1:30 p.m. and dinner is between 7:30 and 8 p.m."

"The housewife's life is more difficult Italy. Often times the whole morning is spent shopping and standing in lines at neighborhood shops. Conveniences that American housewives have are limited in Italy," he said.

To commute to the different schools, Bailey said he used a small car that got 40 miles to the gallon.

"Gas for the car was \$2.30 a gallon," he said.

When asked if he'd like to return to Italy, Bailey said, "Yes, I hope to return but not for a long period of time. If I return, it'll only be for a short period to do research."

He said he may return next summer.

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