

States follow Oregon's lead, propose bottle bill

BOTTLE BILLS SPREADING: While Oregon has nuclear safeguards and land-use planning on the Nov. 2 ballot, other states are just catching up with Oregon's energy saving returnable bottle bill.

Bottle bills, requiring deposits on all beverage containers, will be put to the voters in four states. The

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bills are expected to pass in Maine and Michigan, even though Michigan opponents have over \$3 million to fight the progressive measure. Voters in Massachusetts and Colorado are fairly split on the issue.

The proposals in each state are patterned after the original Oregon law which was later adopted by Vermont. Maine voters are also being asked to ban the plastic ring six-pack holders in which beer cans are often marketed. The ballot issues in all the states except Colorado would ban "flip-top" cans.

Former Gov. Tom McCall flew to Maine last Saturday to promote that state's bottle bill. McCall said total litter in Oregon has been reduced by 41 per cent and the bottle and can litter by 83 per cent since the container law took effect.

Although a national bottle bill was defeated in Congress this summer, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered regulations that require deposits for beverage cans and bottles sold on government installations.

The EPA guidelines for federal lands are expected to have their greatest impact on the Defense Department, which accounts for \$300 million in beverage sales each year, or 95 per cent of the total sales on federal facilities. The guidelines also will affect beverage sales in the national parks and forests.

EPA Administrator Russell Train claims the deposit system "will result in energy savings equivalent to as much as 2,000 barrels of oil per day. Anticipated annual material savings could amount to as much as 6,000 tons of aluminum, 24,000 tons of steel and 80,000 tons of glass."

If the scare tactics of the anti-bottle bill forces are overlooked in Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts and Michigan, we can expect not only a little brighter energy future, but cleaner and brighter roadways in those states, too.

FLUORIDES IN DOG & CAT FOOD: Dogs and cats in your neighborhood may have whiter teeth if they've been eating some types of commercial pet food.

Most manufacturers fail to defluoridate phosphate, which is added as an essential mineral to many brands of cat and dog food, according to a report by the Environmental Education Group (EEG). The EEG is a non-profit, tax-exempt, scientific, research and educational public foundation.

The report cites research done at the University of Montana by Dr. C.G. Gordon and six colleagues. They found that fluoride levels in



pet foods far exceed the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) tolerance levels of fluoride in foods for humans.

After analyzing various brands, they found the fluoride content of dog and cat food ranged from 11 parts per million (ppm) in Alpo Beef to 193 ppm in Ken-L-Ration dog food. Cat food ranged from 26 ppm in 9-Lives Tuna to 83 ppm in Puss-n-Boots. Dried pet foods ranged from 27 ppm to 47 ppm fluoride.

The 1975 Safe Drinking Water Act lists 1.5 ppm as maximum tolerance level for fluoride for marine life in oceans and estuaries, 2 ppm for cattle, and 2.4 ppm for humans.

Gordon did not kill animals for the purpose of the study (entitled Fluoride Analysis of Dog, Cat and Mouse Femurs). Carcasses were

obtained from humane societies and animal pounds, animals presumed to have been fed on commercial pet food.

Analysis of the carcasses revealed fluoride levels in the thigh bones of dogs up to 1535 ppm, and in cats up to 1190 ppm, at six years. Due to the accumulation effect, the older the animals, the higher the fluoride content. In addition, many of the animals were from sections of the country where 1 ppm fluoride is added to the drinking water supply system.

As with pesticides, herbicides, and other chemical wonders, little research is being done on their cause-effect relationships to ecosystems, whether they be fauna, flora, cats and dogs, or you and me. However, the 24th edition of the U.S. Dispensary, which is used by pharmacists as a reference to the nature of various drugs and poisons, does attempt to define possible side-effects of low-level fluoride consumption.

"Fluorides are violent poisons to all living tissue," it states, "because of their precipitation of calcium. They can cause fall of blood pressure; respiratory failure and general paralysis. Continuous ingestion of non-fatal doses causes permanent inhibition of growth."

Calcium loss in humans and other forms of life is harmful. For example, high levels of fluoride have been found in egg shells (composed chiefly of calcium) which may be causing lower birth rates in some birds and chickens.

So, the moral of this story is: If things get so bad that you consider eating Yacht's (my cat's name) food, consider buying only defluoridated phosphate brands.

CALENDAR: The 1977 edition of the Family Energy Watch calendar will be available from the Department of Energy. The calendars go on sale Nov. 1.

Single copies of the energy calendar are \$1.50 each, including shipping. Bulk orders of 50 or more are available from Julia Fink at the DOE Energy Information Center, 528 Cottage St., N.E., Salem, Ore., 97310 or by calling Julia at 378-8327.

Like the 1976 calendar, the 1977 edition is organized to contain information on energy use and conservation possibilities

within a particular consumer activity. It also includes the Oregon Household Energy Game which will allow families to determine their own personal energy use and then to compare their usage to other Oregonians and the national average.

HARDESTY MTN. FOOT- SORES: Since Eugene was fogged in Sunday, I decided to take

the 17-mile Sierra Club hike up Mt. Hardesty near Lookout Point Reservoir. Although personal highlights included sightings of a bald eagle and a goshawk, there was one item missing from the heavily used trail — litter. Oregon hikers appear to be doing better at packing it out, realizing that harmless trash to one hiker is visual pollution to another.

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College financing sparks debate

"I predict that higher education's cut (of state tax revenues) will continually decrease in the years to come," said Ray Hawk, vice-president of administration and finance, Monday night in the EMU Forum.

"The public has never understood or forgiven us for what happened on this campus in the 1960s and early 70s, and we're still trying to recover," he added. Hawk was referring to the period of student activism.

But Richard Fehnel, assistant

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professor of CSPA had another view. "Higher education is in a financial bind because the number of traditional learners is declining," he said.

Fehnel said the number of non-traditional students, those over 25 without access to higher education, is on the rise, and predicted that traditional students will decrease.

cline 25 per cent in number by 1996.

Both addressed students of a SEARCH class called "Student Legislative Issues," taught by Mark Cogan, Jeff Warren and Jim Bernau.

Hawk said budget line items grow every year with the budget. "Bright ideas come from the students that just shine and we say we've got to get funding for them," said Hawk. "But nobody has the guts to chop anything off," he added. "We've got to keep examining whether or not programs can be cut back."

When questioned about cutting back the sports budget, Hawk called intercollegiate athletics a "sacred cow. When I go to Rotary Club meetings, people don't ask 'how's your history department?' They want to know when Don Read is going to get his offense going. If you've got a first-rate athletic program, it's easier to get a first-rate institution," he said.

The emergence of Portland State University has created

tighter competition for state dollars among state schools, said Hawk. He also cited inflation and an increasing tax burden to explain the growing unwillingness of the public to subsidize higher education.

Hawk suggested that social services other than education are beginning to look more attractive to taxpayers and their legislators, which, he said, means less state money for education in coming years.

Fehnel said that "non-traditional learners are the new market higher education needs to keep alive." He also said there is a moral obligation to open higher education to persons with full-time jobs, those with a genuine financial hardship that isn't met by conventional financial aid programs, and those located an inconvenient distance from a college or university.

He said night classes are a possible solution but noted, "you can't get a B.A. at any school in the state by taking evening classes alone."

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