

Callenbach: Secession movement growing

By KEVIN HACKETT
Of the Emerald

Then sometimes life here seems like a throwback to a past I might have known through old photographs. Or a skip ahead in time; these people, who are so American despite their weird social practices, might be what we will become. *Ecotopia*

These people, otherwise known as Ecotopians, packed the EMU Friday to listen to their prophet, Ernest Callenbach, update them on the progress of the Ecotopian movement. His talk was sponsored by SEARCH, CSPA and the Survival Center's Earthweek program.

Callenbach has won cult following in the Pacific Northwest since he published his book *Ecotopia* a little over two years ago. Since

then, 24,000 copies of his book have been sold without any publicity or advertising. *Ecotopia* is the name of a mythical new country formed in 1980 by Northern California, Oregon and Washington after they secede from the United States.

Ecotopia attempts to create a land that works — ecologically, humanly and politically. The book relates the adventures and observations of Will Weston, an investigative reporter for a New York newspaper, who is sent to do a story on life in *Ecotopia* 19 years after its declaration of independence.

What does the prophet consider the current status of his movement to be?

"*Ecotopia* is coming whether America likes it or not," Callenbach claimed.

Callenbach said people are developing an awareness of what they want out of life and what they'll have to do to get it. He sees this awareness spreading to this nation's political leaders.

"The significance of Carter's energy plan is that for the first time we have a President who has a grasp for understanding technology and realizing its limitations."

Callenbach noted Pres. Carter's recent ban on construction of plutonium breeder reactors.

"It's important to realize that up until two years ago breeder reactors were accepted even in the scientific community. People are being sensitized to problems that didn't exist a few years ago."

Callenbach expressed surprise

that the ecology movement that was born in the 1960s has continued to grow and mature in the 1970s.

"We're seeing continuing concern for the environment," he said. "People are hanging in there. I personally didn't expect it."

Callenbach said the nuclear power initiatives that were on several state's ballots last November was a step toward the masses determining what limits are going to be set on progress.

Callenbach pointed out that secession is not merely a dream in many areas of the United States. In Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, citizens have voted to secede because

they are losing their own representatives in the state legislature. He said there are other popular secessionist movements alive in Northern Michigan and Northern California. In 1981, voters in the province of Quebec, Canada, will vote on secession from the country.

Callenbach drew a roar of approval from the audience when he said he believed "there are more secessionists in Oregon than anywhere else."

Any Ecotopian or secessionist movement will need mass popular movement behind it in order for it to become a reality, Callenbach said.

"We have to bite off pieces we can chew, but then we have to keep on chewing."

Seattle guzzles light beer

OLYMPIA — Seattle might be the light beer-drinkingest city in the United States, says a brewery survey of quaffing habits.

Light beers captured 10.4 per cent of the Seattle market, compared to a nationwide average of 4 to 5 per cent, according to research released Monday by Olympia Brewing Co.

"We have not encountered a figure that high anywhere else in the 27 states where we do business," said an Olympia spokesman. "Some other metropolitan areas we know get to about 8 per cent but that's it."

On the west coast, light beers had 7.3 per cent of the market in San Francisco, 6.6 per cent in Los Angeles, and 5.2 per cent in Portland, the spokesman said.

Olympia led last year's light beer sales in Seattle and Portland, the spokesman said. Miller Brewing Co., led light beer sales in Los Angeles and San Francisco, followed by Olympia in second and

third, the spokesman said.

Schlitz and Miller rank second and third, respectively, in total industry sales and Olympia ranks sixth, Olympia said.

Light beer sales in Seattle gained an estimated 72 per cent last year over 1975, the brewery said. The 1977 year-to-date rate "suggests that this year's sales might be even greater than last year," the spokesman said.

Light beers have been on the market a number of years but only recently have they made a dent in regular beer sales, the spokesman said. Today, according to Olympia, they constitute the fastest growing segment in the malt beverage industry.

Some 11 brewers market light beers, but the top three brands account for 92 per cent of the Seattle sales, Olympia said. They are Olympia Gold, with 46 per cent of the Seattle-area light beer market, Miller Lite with 31 per cent and Schlitz Light with 15 per cent.

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