

# emerald

## Financial aid outlook slightly better

By Ann Portal  
Of the Emerald

Following the U.S. Senate and House rejections of Pres. Ronald Reagan's proposed financial aid cuts two weeks ago, the University already has received notice of tentative financial aid allocations for the 1982-83 academic year.

The allocations are "very" tentative, stresses Ed Vignoul, financial aid director, but he says — with some relief — that the situation looks better for University students.

"I believe the level of funding will be somewhat comparable to what it was for 1981-82, with some reductions, but certainly not as drastic as they would have been had Reagan's proposals been accepted," Vignoul says.

On March 31, Reagan signed a Joint Continuing Resolution that extends

financial aid levels approved last December through Sept. 30, 1982. However, although Reagan's proposed financial aid cuts were virtually ignored by Congress, his proposals do not officially expire until April 22.

The Office of Management and Budget, headed by David Stockman, is using that expiration date to hold up \$44 million in work study funds that Reagan wanted cut. That means the University's estimate of \$1.2 million in work study funds probably will increase, and should come close to this year's level of \$1.4 million, Vignoul says.

In other types of aid, the University should receive an estimated \$567,705 in new federal money for National Direct Student Loans, compared to \$548,859 this year. In addition to the new funds, the University recycles money from repaid loans. Collections have reached a

plateau, but remain strong, according to Vignoul.

The University's Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant allocation was cut nearly 25 percent, from \$942,797 awarded this year to \$703,920. The big decrease in SEOG funds is probably because SEOG is not a pay-back program, Vignoul says.

The Pell Grant allocation — the largest single form of financial aid — is not yet known, because there has been no decision on the amount the student's family will be expected to contribute.

By law, the contribution schedules should have been sent to Congress by April 1, but the document is being held by Stockman's office, along with several other financial aid-related recommendations.

"That's what going to hold us up — if anything does — in notification," Vignoul

says. The June 1 notification deadline for University students still seems realistic, he says, and students will know if the financial aid office is unable to make that deadline.

Even if aid is awarded by June, there will be no aid dispersed during summer term until July 1. Just like last summer, financial aid will not have enough money left over to give summer students their aid when they register. Vignoul warns those students to plan ahead for the delay.

Meanwhile, none of Reagan's proposed financial aid cuts for 1983-84 have yet been rescinded, and Congress will be considering those cuts this spring and summer.

"For 1983-84, the battle is just beginning, so keep the cards and letters coming," Vignoul says. "There's only danger if people become apathetic."



Photo courtesy of the Eugene Register-Guard

A Rolls-Royce sits idly in a shed — an incongruity much like the struggles of Antelope, Oregon, with the Rajneesh.

## Antelope

## An historical Oregon town under seige by Indian guru

By Kevan Howser  
Of the Emerald

Oregon's hamlet of Antelope is facing the same question as William Shakespeare's Hamlet — to be or not to be. Five television networks, countless press reporters, and "60 Minutes" are all waiting to report the answer.

In Antelope — population 40 — an election Thursday will determine whether or not to disincorporate the city.

Although it may not seem like a story with international interest, the disincorporation election set for Thursday is attracting an impressive assemblage of media to Antelope.

The British Broadcasting Corp. and a Canadian television network are expected to cover the election along with the three U.S. networks. Also expected at the balloting are the Associated Press, United Press International and Portland television stations.

Why all the fuss over a tiny

central Oregon town?

For Antelope, the story began last July when followers of 49-year-old Indian guru, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, purchased the 67,000 acre Muddy Ranch near the city for \$6 million. Some 280 red-garbed followers soon moved onto the ranch, and applied to incorporate 2,000 acres into a city to be called Rajneesh-

puram.

Last November, the Wasco County Court approved the Rajneesh request to hold a May 18 election to incorporate their new city. But ranchers and the land watchdog group 1000 Friends of Oregon pointed out Muddy Ranch is zoned for agricultural use, and cities and farming don't go together.

The issue now is tangled in

legal appeals — and Rajneeshpuram may never become a city.

In talking about the issue, Antelope mayor Margaret Hill is well-rehearsed after months of media interviews. "I guess you get used to it."

According to Hill, the press has tended to present only the obvious aspects of the religious group: their smiles,

their industriousness, their religious beliefs, their red clothing. There may be more to this group than what is first noticed, Hill says.

The Bhagwan, as he is called by his disciples, teaches that nearly all Eastern and Western religions have some value. He became controversial in India for his promotion of sex without restraint or obligation and became known in the European press as the "free-sex guru."

"We wanted three things," says John Shelfer, one of the group's leaders. "We wanted cheap land. We wanted to be able to grow enough to feed ourselves and we wanted to be far away from people who might not like us."

Although Rajneesh is the spiritual leader, the legal leader is Sheela Silverman, Shelfer's wife, who is president of the non-profit Rajneesh International Foundation, which owns the ranch.

Continued on page 3

### Citizens plan party for city's demise

ANTELOPE, Ore. (AP) — Old-time residents who want to vote this town off the Oregon map rather than be taken over by followers of an Indian guru are preparing for a big going-out-of-business party.

Up to 500 reporters, photographers and other outsiders are expected for the special vote on Thursday, including Secretary of State Norma Paulus, Oregon's top election official, said Wasco County Clerk Sue Profit.

"I'm working on an angel food cake right now," Antelope resident Margaret Mobley said Tuesday. "I hope everybody acts like angels

that day."

She said volunteers from the surrounding ranches were helping out with sandwiches, maple bars, cookies and other goodies for the occasion.

"Food for election day is not an old-time tradition," she said. "In earlier days, voters ate at the Antelope Store and Cafe. That was when the store was neutral."

Now the store is named "Zorba the Buddha" and is owned by the Rajneesh who serves only vegetarian food, along with package sales of beer and wine and tracts of the guru's messages.