

# Guru's commune keeps Albany factory running

**ALBANY (AP)** — Followers of an Indian guru living near Antelope, Oregon have helped keep an Albany factory operating through the recession with their orders for mobile homes, a factory official says.

Disciples of the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh have paid \$1.5 million — in cash — for 53 units manufactured at Albany's Golden West Mobile Homes, says Bob Bauer, the company's sales manager in Santa Ana, Calif.

"Yes, they are different," says Bauer, who has visited the Rajneesh ranch near Antelope. "Many people suspect their intentions. But the bottom line is the economic impact this group is making in Oregon."

The orders equal five months of production at the plant in the past 10 months and another seven units have just been ordered, he says. Almost all of the homes are double-wides. The guru's is a triple-wide.

Without the business, many of the remaining 40 workers at one of Golden West's two plants on Pacific Boulevard likely would have been laid off,

Bauer says. Heavier orders from the Rajneesh Foundation in the last half of 1981 kept 35-40 of the 80 employees then working at the plant on the payroll much longer.

The foundation's orders have amounted to a \$375,000 payroll in the Albany area and prevented state unemployment insurance payments of \$175,000, Bauer says.

Followers of the Bhagwan want to create a city on a small portion of the 64,000-acre Big Muddy Ranch. The Rajneesh Foundation bought the ranch last summer for \$6 million.

The Bhagwan and nearly all of his 200 disciples at the ranch live in mobile homes manufactured at Golden West's Albany plant, Bauer says. He does not expect orders to let up.

None of the homes has been purchased on a long-term contract, Bauer says. Full payment — a check — always is mailed to Golden West's Santa Ana headquarters within 10 days of delivery.

"We have yet to have just one problem with any of the orders or payments," he says. "They are as good or are better than our best customers."

# Longtime battle over beaches might be decided at hearings

A longtime beach battle between dune buggy enthusiasts and environmentalists could be decided tonight and Wednesday night at public hearings in Eugene and Reedsport.

Off-road vehicles could be barred from three more stretches of beach between the mouth of the Siuslaw River near Florence and Tenmile Creek south of the Umpqua River if environmentalists have their way.

Two public hearings — one at 7:30 tonight in the Eugene City Council Chambers and the other Wednesday night at 7:30 in Reedsport High School — are being held by state park officials to help them decide the heated issue.

Wendell Wood, of the Flor-

ence-based Citizens for "Untreaded" Beaches, says his group will present more than 1,600 signatures on a petition requesting the parks and recreation division of the state transportation department close three more beaches on the Oregon coast. Citizen support of the CUB position at the public hearings is vital because once the issue is decided, state park officials will not consider it again for several years, he says.

CUB leaders says only two of the 42 miles of beaches in the National Recreation Area between Florence and North Bend are closed to ORVs year-round. Fairness to "non-vehicle beach recreationists" would require about half of NRA beaches closed all year to ORVs, they say.

But the ORV drivers' attitude is, "we have the right to drive on the

whole beach," Wood says.

Wally Fields, president of the Eugene Sandbugs, says Oregon ORV groups have already lost access to too many beaches.

"We've lost and we've lost and we've lost," he says. Of the 360-plus miles of Oregon beaches, more than half have already been closed to ORVs, Fields adds.

"If they want 50 percent, they've got 50 percent. There's plenty of room for everybody," he said.

Pete Bond, beach coordinator for the state parks department, says public comment on the controversy is welcome until May 16. The issue will be reviewed by the State Parks Advisory Committee in June and the state transportation department is expected to make a decision in July, Bond says.

## Corrections

In Monday's story, "Weaver, panelists back nuke freeze," the *Emerald* erroneously reported that Steve Johnson is a member of Students for a Nuclear Free Future. Johnson is not a member of SNuFF, but is a graduate student in Sociology.

Also in Monday's paper, students Holly McLean and Marc Tanzer's names were misspelled.

The *Emerald* regrets the errors.

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