

Rajneesh tour nixed by official

SALEM — Citing concerns about safety and public reaction, a Salem school official has

vetoed plans by two South Salem High School teachers to study the religious sect of Indian guru Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

Teachers Mike Stortz and John Turman had hoped to spend two days at Rajneeshpuram gathering information for classroom presentations.

Stortz said he and Turman had planned to videotape interviews with Rajneeshes and record other activities at the central Oregon commune-city.

"We had some super questions the kids wrote up," Stortz said. "We were wanting to use it for a classroom experience."

The proposed trip was given tentative approval by Salem Salem principal Dan Johnson, but later was rejected by Jim Tacchini, associate superintendent for secondary operations.

Tacchini said he turned down the teachers' trip in large part because of the volatile situation in Wasco County, where busloads of urban transients

have been imported to Rajneeshpuram.

"It was a judgment call," he said. "I just didn't want to take the risk of putting those guys in jeopardy, even remotely."

Tacchini said the possibility of adverse public reaction to the teachers' trip also was a factor in his decision to call it off.

Some Salem residents complained last year when two Rajneeshes were invited to speak to a privately sponsored teachers organization as part of a program for teachers at Sprague High School.

Caldicott backs Ruth McFarland

From the Associated Press

A leader of a national nuclear disarmament organization endorsed Democratic congressional candidate Ruth McFarland at a Tuesday news conference in Salem.

Dr. Helen Caldicott told a

news conference that McFarland's opponent, Republican Rep. Denny Smith, votes for new weapons and backs the policies of President Reagan.

"We're in very dangerous hands," said Caldicott, founder of Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament.

McFarland, a state senator, is facing Smith in the Nov. 6 election in the 5th District. She narrowly lost to Smith in 1982.

Meanwhile, the pro-defense American Security Council announced in Washington Tuesday that ratings of Oregon lawmakers ranged from 100 percent for Smith to zero for Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Portland, and Rep. James Weaver, D-Eugene.

Town turns out for 'book pass'

OAKLAND — As part of this Douglas County city's 106th birthday celebration, parents, teachers, and schoolchildren

formed a book brigade four blocks long to transfer materials from the old Oakland Library to the new one in the historic Washington School.

Vern Bittner, school superintendent in the city of 870 people north of Roseburg, rang the old bell in Washington School on Monday to signal students four blocks away to begin passing the books. When they were finished about 1,000 volumes were passed hand-to-hand into the new library.

Led by a chant of, "Pass those books," the students handed, tossed, and slid the books along to each other. Some used fancy behind-the-back passes.

The human chain began with high school students and ended with kindergarteners. It was the idea of Barbara Downs Bond, a former library aide with the elementary school.

U.S. Rep. Jim Weaver, Douglas County Commissioners Doug Robertson and Bill Vian, and city officials took turns in the book brigade.

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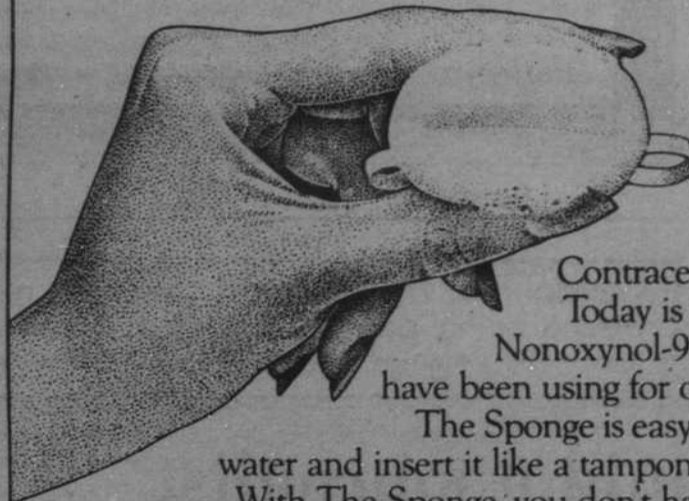
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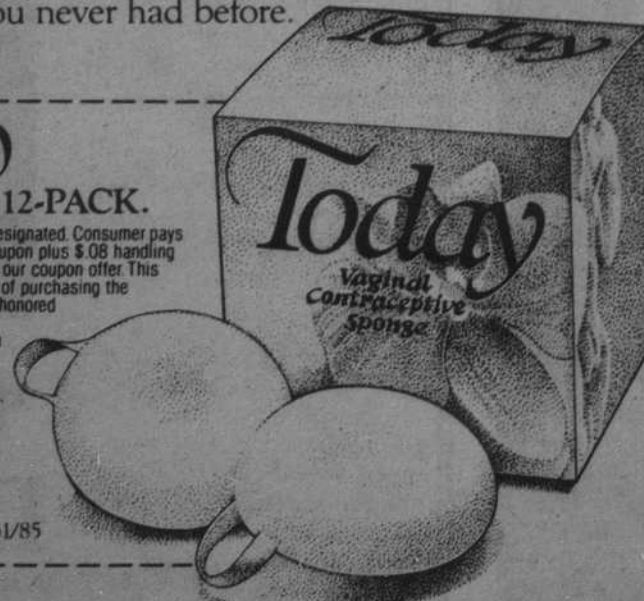
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