

# Monologue

## Idle Hands

By J. Dana Haynes

The invasion has already begun, rumor has it. Even as you read this, the enemy forces have occupied a section of Oregon and are "holing up" for the duration.

The "enemy" is the Rajneesh, and their encampment is the Big Muddy Ranch and the town of Antelope. Or so people say.

Since the red-clad followers of the Bagwan Shree Rajneesh first set up camp in Central Oregon, rumors have spread like wild fire. And since they cemented their position in the City Council of Antelope, the fear of invasion has dramatically increased. People in the streets talk about the Rajneesh and how they want to take over the whole state. One radio commentator even went so far as to say they won't be happy until Salem and Portland itself are under their command.

What utter nonsense. These people who seem to fear the red tide of Rajneesh Puram always fail to answer a few fairly important questions.

Like, for instance, why would anyone want to take over Oregon? What would one do if one owned Oregon? Secede from the union? Invade Idaho? String barbed wire across the borders and demand entrance and exit visas?

One friend of mine recently voiced his fears on the subject, saying he was glad the Bagwan wasn't allowed to stay in the states, and that the government ought to kick the rest of 'em out of the country as well.

When I asked him what he most disliked about the religious leader, my friend thought about it for a moment and finally decided it was Bagwan's 18 or so Rolls Royces that most bugged him.

In fact, I have to agree. No one really needs 18 Rolls Royces. Not even Frank Sinatra. But is that reason enough to extradite the guy (the Bagwan, not Sinatra)? Should his followers and believers be kicked out of the country because the man has weird taste in automobiles?

We seem to forget that the United States was founded as a haven of religious freedom. It was here, during the last two centuries, that people could come to escape persecution.

And it is here that the Rajneesh have come. Only now it's not some shapeless, faceless blob of humanity, mixing into the melting pot metaphor of life. It's a self-segregated cadre of people who have different names than ours, who dress exotically (dyed Levis are considered exotic in some places) and who even have different dietary habits.

Perhaps this is what has scared us. Unlike the influx of Irish and Jews around the turn of the century, the Rajneesh have made no attempt to emulate the lifestyle of the average American citizen. Even the recent escapees of Viet Nam and Cambodia try to blend in. Not the Rajneesh. They're proud of who they are, and actively strive to be different.

The original inhabitants of Antelope, Oregon have mostly fled that small community. However, it's important to remember they were not driven out. They left because the "neighborhood" had changed and the felt they didn't belong.

The chances of a *coup d'etat* to overthrow the government of Oregon seem pretty slight. (Of course, there are those of us who feel if the Rajneesh want the state legislature, they're welcome to it).

The best way to defend against the "threat" of a Rajneesh invasion is to ignore it. Either that, or welcome them in the tradition of American freedom of religion.

## Lack of parking irritating

By Duane Hiersche

Have you ever had one of those days when it is pouring down rain, you are late for class and the nearest "legal" parking space is in the Orchard parking lot? A walk which would take even the stoutest of all walkers five minutes.

Well you have several options. You can park in that distant space and walk to the point of exhaustion to your class, park in a nearby handicapped zone and risk getting a ticket or better yet, you can drive around the campus looking for a vacant space. And last but not least, you can not show up at all for class and go home.

To solve the problem of parking, one could start riding Tri-met, an experience in itself. Or you could wake up before the sunrise and get here before the early birds and study your homework, like all good students.

Do you think the designers who planned the campus had any idea of the need for closer parking? I'll bet their office is only a short walk away from their car. For Christmas, they probably even let their spouses do the shopping so that they don't have to walk so far to the stores.

Within the last several months, a great opportunity to enlarge a nearby lot has arisen.

Located near Randall Hall, by the trailers, is a large area of open land previously occupied by four unused trailers.

By simply paving that lot, the campus would create more room for cars to be parked. Since trailer E has also been scheduled to be removed, they could easily blacktop the unoccupied space.

But will the College go for that? No, they will not. Lee Fawcett, chairperson of the College's traffic regulatory committee, said they plan to plant grass seed instead of paving the space.

Personally I feel that if they do turn it green rather than black, they may as well put five holes into the turf and place flags in them. I mean it's not every college that has their own private golf course on campus grounds. What an honor it would be. The golf team would no longer be required to commute several miles to a local golf course for practices.

That is a worthwhile idea, but not as necessary as more parking. Just think of all the money the students would save on gas.

Now don't get me wrong, I am not one who prefers pavement to grass. But when the need for closer parking spaces is so great, that asphalt would look better than the grass.



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Office: Trailer B; telephone: 657-8400, ext. 309, 310  
 Editor in Chief: J. Dana Haynes  
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