

# Monologue

## Tactless acts heighten local death threats

By Shelley Ball  
Editor In Chief

Once again, Clackamas Community College's educational cogwheels are off and running for another school year. And after spending all summer nowhere near a typewriter, I anticipated some trouble in coming up with an editorial idea for this first issue of **The Print**. Oregon is, however, the site of a rather unusual political issue, one that is becoming so intense lately that it can scarcely be ignored.

The followers of the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh have been the subject of a previous editorial of mine, in which I compared the emotional responses their past activities have generated to those evoked by the ever-popular television soap opera. Without a doubt, the Bhagwan and his cast of red-clad disciples are currently at the top of the television ratings, at least as far as Oregonians are concerned.

With the general election nearly upon us, the latest Rajneesh activity to make the people of Wasco County (and others) literally see red is the recent influx of homeless "street people" to the ranch, and the threat made by Rajneesh's personal secretary Anand Sheela, that the religious commune plans to sway the election in favor and thereby take control of the county.

So heated has this issue become that the national news has broadcast stories about the incoming homeless people, and not too long ago Sheela and State Representative Wayne Fawbush (whose district includes Rajneeshpuram) appeared on the ABC television program "Nightline."

So much for making the national news. The Rajneeshes have since been receiving death threats and it's been reported that shots have been fired in the commune's direction from the banks of the John Day River. The state has been carefully monitoring the activities at the ranch for security reasons and a decision is still in the works on whether the election in Wasco County will be monitored to protect against possible voter fraud.

There. That's the latest update of the Rajneeshes vs. Oregonians fight. The question is, how have things gotten to the point where the lives of people may be in danger?

It's true the Rajneeshes were not warmly received by most Oregonians when they first settled here. They wear red clothes, the Bhagwan gets to tour about the ranch in numerous Rolls Royces, and as far as anyone can tell, free sex is not on their list of dirty acts. Some Oregonians had trouble accepting this different lifestyle right from the start.

The Rajneeshes also didn't score any positive points with local Oregonians when they recently voted to change the name of the town of Antelope to Rajneesh. With that name change came the erasing of a little bit of Oregon's history, and to the residents of that once sleepy little town this act no doubt felt like a slap in the face, the insinuation being the Rajneeshes have no concern for anyone except themselves.

The fact the Rajneeshes are no longer providing return-ticket guarantees for the incoming people has helped to escalate the tension brought about by the county takeover scare. At this point, the homeless recruits who decide life on Rancho Rajneesh is not for them are being transported back to the nearby town of Madras, where they are being dumped and left to find their own way home. How hospitable does this sound to you?

Sheela hasn't been of much help in calming people's fears, either. She seems to have nothing better to do at this time than run around calling people bigots, and when she appeared on Nightline with Fawbush, anchorman Ted Koppel had to disconnect her microphone because she wouldn't stop calling Fawbush names or using obscene language. Her level of professionalism leaves much to be desired in this matter.

If the Rajneeshes truly want to reside in Oregon peacefully, they haven't done anything recently to warrant that response. This recent upheaval has only served to make Oregonians even more hateful of them. When they first came to Oregon, didn't they say all they wanted to do was live in harmony on the ranch and farm the land? Why has Sheela threatened a county takeover? Do they honestly believe they can control the county, or is it just an idle threat?

There's nothing wrong with letting the Rajneeshes live here, but when they start making threats that are only good for further endangering their and other people's lives, they're being unreasonably obnoxious. True they have been met with hostility ever since they came to Oregon, but their actions of late are no excuse for past feelings.

As for the takeover threat, if it is to be taken seriously, Oregonians can rest assured that state officials are looking into the matter very closely, and are determined to see nothing illegal happens. The main thing Oregonians need to remember is to STAY CALM. There's no doubt that as the election draws near people's emotions will become more intense, but violence is definitely not the answer to this situation.

## 'Better half' contained in presidential ticket

By D. Dietrich  
Arts Editor

I saw a bumper sticker the other day that read, "Ferraro in '85." Not "Mondale/Ferraro" or "Democrats for Ferraro," as I have seen before. The implication is that Fritz is being left by the wayside as Ferraro steals the campaign

show with her political savvy. The bumper sticker might as well have read, "Ferraro for President in '85," because that is the underlying sentiment. Being an avid anti-Reagan Democrat, I was ecstatic when Mondale chose Ferraro as his

running mate. Not only did I enjoy the thought of the historical entrance of a woman into a top elected position, but I was also able to erase those nagging urges to write in my Uncle Louie as my presidential choice. (Uncle Louie's been dead for six years now but I still opted for him over Mondale, and human sacrifice over Reagan.)

The thought of Mondale as president is a rather frightful one. The trade-off would be the influence of Ferraro in the office. Ferraro's footing along the campaign trail has ranged from a sprint to a falter and now at a steady pace. Helping the Mondale/Ferraro campaign is the critical appraisal of Reagan's Central American

policies and the quantum leap the federal deficit has taken since Reagan stepped in. Although the Democratic platform doesn't have all the answers to either issue, at least they aren't claiming to like we heard in Reagan's '80 campaign.

Before I continue, I will admit that I am a female. I now expect a number of readers to

say to themselves, "Of course, no wonder she wants Ferraro in office." In fact, only when I researched her background and discovered her anti-crime

focus and pro-arts interest did I truly accept her as a suitable substitute for my Uncle Louie. One must also admire her stamina when fielding attacks on her and her husband's financial disclosures and her passionate denial that Mr. Zaccaro had any connections with organized crime. I believe both those conflicts pointed to the growing trend in the media's and the public's willingness to accept a guilty before innocent verdict. The American public can certainly not be blamed for this self-protective attitude rising to the call of less than pious politicians everywhere.

Back to the idea of voting for Ferraro simply because she is a woman, I must point out that our whole political system is geared toward that motive for action. I know few avid supporters of Fritz Mondale, the man, but because they're Democrats they'll vote Democrat, by God. Besides having to deal with the leftover of the 'barefoot and pregnant' school of

chauvinism, Ferraro must also woo the support of their wives who think she's not feminine enough. It amazes me actually, that in the same decade that we are witnessing more technological and human rights advancements, a murmured but blatant prejudice against a woman in the White House is circulating. What's the problem here? Do these people (women included) truly think Ferraro might be blurry-eyed and emotional when discussing the strategic arms race with Gromyko if the pressure is on? Or perhaps she'll excuse herself because she ran her nylons?

The 1984 presidential election has a definite spoiler. Mondale takes the polish off the Democratic ticket and enhances Reagan's side-stepping charisma. While trembling at the thought of our social service programs continuing their decay under the Reagan administration, I look to a new management for the domestic attention this country needs.

I'm not voting for Reagan or Mondale in the 1984 presidential election. I'm voting for Ferraro for President. (Sorry Uncle Louie).

Clackamas Community College

### Letters to the editor

The **Print** gladly accepts any letters to the editor. All letters are subject to editing, and should not be libelous, obscene or false.

Letters must be typed and double spaced. It must be signed by author, and accompanied by an address and phone number where he/she can be reached.

THE PRINT, a member of the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, aims to be a fair and impartial journalistic medium covering the campus community as thoroughly as possible. Opinions expressed in THE PRINT do not necessarily reflect those of the College administration, faculty, Associated Student Government or other members of THE PRINT. Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Avenue, Oregon City, Oregon 97045.

