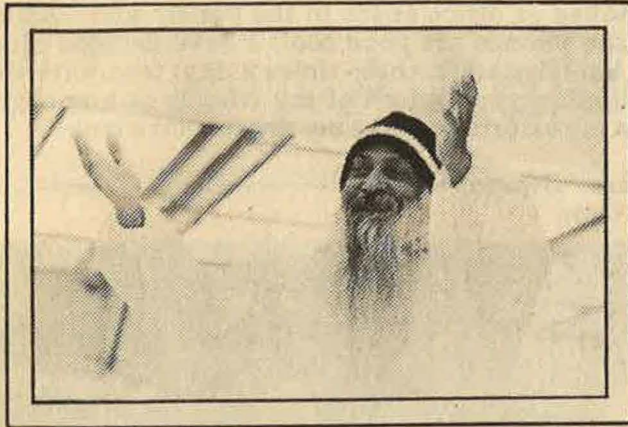


Welcome Home Lovers!

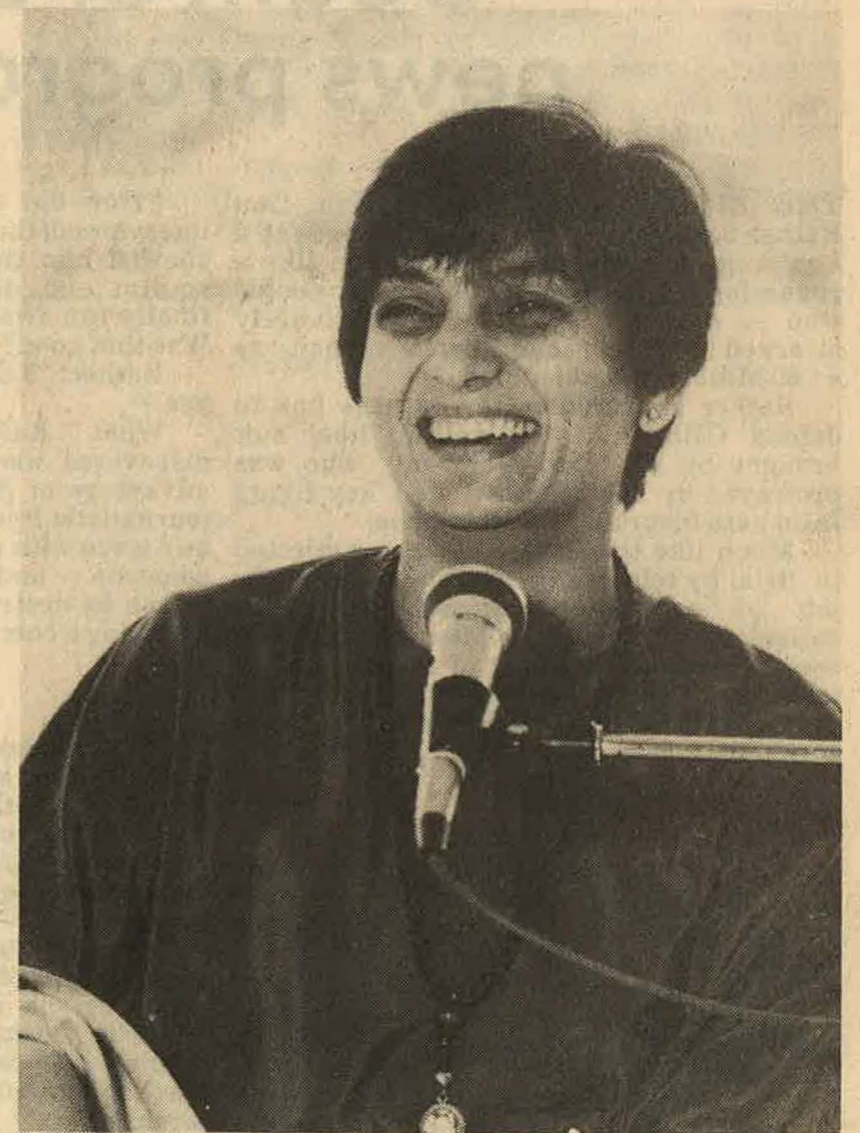


The Rajneesh Times

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SECOND ANNUAL WORLD CELEBRATION Sheela welcomes festival participants



Ma Anand Sheela

ANTELOPE — The School Board has tossed a hot potato to the Rajneesh community by asking voters in the Antelope School District to approve a \$64,000 levy in next Tuesday's election that would keep the near-empty school open for another year.

The Rajneeshes, who form a majority in the district, were told Monday that they risk a public outcry if they vote down the levy, even though they receive no benefit from it and no children from the Rajneesh commune attend the school.

The warning was given by Fred Krauss, Wasco County Education Service District Superintendent, who told Rajneeshpuram's Committee for Citizens Involvement that to vote against the levy would be "incredibly bad PR" for the

commune.

Krauss said he had no personal interest in how Rajneeshes vote next Tuesday and he freely admitted that, left to themselves, the remaining voters in the district might reject the levy anyway.

But if the Rajneeshes vote against the levy, public reaction will be "very dramatic," Krauss said. It would be a stumbling block in an "extremely smooth operation" in which local ranchers are voluntarily leaving the Antelope School District and joining others nearby, he added.

In one year the operation will be complete, leaving Antelope School District in the hands of the Rajneeshes, Krauss said.

While expressing their gratitude to the superintendent for

his concern, members of the Committee for Citizens Involvement were unimpressed by the prospect of bad publicity.

Swami Deva Wadud, the committee's advisor, pointed out that the school board is proposing to spend a total of \$118,000 which will keep the Antelope school open for 12 younger children while continuing the board's policy of sending high school students to Madras.

"It would make more sense, and save between \$40-50,000, to send all the children to Madras, where they would receive at least as good an education," he commented.

"Moreover, the Antelope School District already has assets amounting to about \$50,000, so they would not have

to raise nearly as much money to send the children to Madras."

Wadud also pointed out that the Rajneeshes had offered to leave the Antelope School District altogether, forming their own district on Rancho Rajneesh, but local ranchers had decided to abandon the Antelope district, provoking a situation that has become soured by bias and prejudice.

Ma Anand Sheela, speaking as a resident of Rajneeshpuram, reminded the committee that when the Rajneeshes first arrived in Central Oregon they were asked by Margaret Hill, Mayor of Antelope, and Herschel Read, Jefferson

(Continued on back page)

Governor finally accepts Sheela's invitation to visit Rajneeshpuram

PORTLAND — Gov. Vic Atiyeh told Ma Anand Sheela Thursday that he will visit Rajneeshpuram. The Governor accepted Sheela's invitation to come and see the new city when the two met at the annual appreciation breakfast of the Greater Portland Convention and Visitors Association.

In his speech to the association, the Governor had stressed the importance of tourism to Oregon's economy, and afterwards Sheela explained to him how the Rajneesh commune in Central Oregon is drawing visitors from all over America and the world.

Sheela told Gov. Atiyeh: "I would like to invite you and show you the good work we are doing." She said it was a sincere invitation, and Atiyeh replied: "I know you're sincere and I accept your invitation sincerely."

The Governor said that one of his aides, Gerry Thompson, had told him of her recent meeting with Sheela, and that he is aware of the Rajneesh community's activities.

Smiling, Sheela told the Governor that he had nice people working for him, mentioning Bob Montgomery, Bob



Governor Atiyeh greets Ma Anand Sheela

Celebration in Rajneeshpuram Wednesday.

"Bhagwan is happy to see all of you coming in," Sheela told a mass audience in Buddha Hall. "He's been waiting since last year's festival to welcome you back again."

"Everybody in the commune has worked hard to make this a beautiful festival for you," she added. "All the work that is happening here is incredible team work, not just here but around the world"

Sheela said that at any normal family reunion, relatives usually squabble, but that does not happen in Bhagwan's family. "Let's show Him our smiling faces," she said. "Bhagwan is alive and well, and we cannot ask for anything more than that."

"It is through His love, His inspiration, that so many incredible communities are springing up all over the world," she added.

Sheela told the participants that a new book will be published before the end of the festival called "Rajneeshism — An Introduction to Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh and His Religion."

"This is the first time that an Enlightened Master has put His religion into book form. It is the first time that it has happened while the Master is still alive," Sheela explained.

"Bhagwan wanted to do it so that the people who come after us can still receive His religion in its purest form," she continued.

The book is short, 72 pages, and at the end of it is a note stating that the next edition could be totally different, because it is a living religion,

not a dead one, and the master is still here among us.

The book also includes a statement that there is no official biography of Bhagwan, because Bhagwan has said that "my disciples are my biography," Sheela told the audience.

"So remember that your actions are going to reflect on Bhagwan," she added.

Construction and decoration activity continued in Buddha Hall while the meeting was going on, reflecting the tremendous pace of preparation that is happening throughout the city.

Sheela jokingly admitted to the participants that she had been asked to speak for one-and-a-half hours so that road-surfacing crews could complete a section of tar-and-gravel outside the hall without hundreds of people walking over it.

Meanwhile, at Zarathustra Cafeteria, huge signs saying "Welcome home lovers!" have been posted on the walls of the dining area, and a new dining section is being added to meet the steady increase in arrivals.

Noah's Ark Rajneesh Boutique has opened its doors at a new site in Jesus Grove, and a bookstore will be opening next to it in a few days.

A giant shopping mall, also in Jesus Grove, is nearing completion, and throughout the city the sound of heavy equipment can be heard as scrapers, road rollers, dump trucks and tar-trucks race to get all the main roads surfaced and sealed before the festival reaches its peak.

More festival news inside.

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VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR
1979-1987

4/21/11

THIS IS HER VERSION OF ^{WHAT} SHE THOUGHT
I SAID. I NEVER DID VISIT THE PLANT
OR NEGOTIATED WITH HER.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Victor Atiyeh", with a large horizontal stroke above it and a wavy line below it.