

# Cheekwood

*Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center  
Nashville, Tennessee 37205*

July 19, 1983

To whom it may concern:

My intent in writing to you is to express my concern regarding Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh's residence status in this country and to point out the tremendous contributions and influence his presence has created in the area of corrective land use of depleted and mismanaged land.

The community in Oregon is uniquely equipped, willing and capable of employing and executing innovative corrective farming practices that have already proven successful in a short period of time. There are many expert agronomists, horticulturists and architects directing these experiments and they are in a position to obtain results and data that could be used throughout the rest of the country upon perfecting their best methods. This community has already become a model for discovering new and worthy corrective-enrichment techniques for exhausted lands. I look forward to receiving the extensive research publications that I am told will be available and circulated to the agricultural community in this country. I hope the I.N.S. will also examine the content of these findings as well.

My background consists of a B. S. in Horticulture from Pennsylvania State University with memberships in Phi Kappa Phi

and Gamma Sigma Delta International Agricultural Honor Society. I have developed two horticulture therapy programs teaching disabled adults vocational skills and providing therapy, and I am presently on the horticulture staff at the Tennessee Botanical Gardens and employed in Landscape Consulting contracts in the Nashville Areas. I have always been interested in land conservation and environment improvement programs for this country. My future plans lead me even deeper into this area in that I hope to return to school in landscape architecture with a special emphasis in designing with nature.

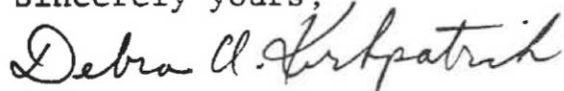
Now more than ever this country needs to thrust its efforts into developing corrective land use programs , as well as sound, far-sighted preservation practices. The community in Oregon under the direction of Rajneesh has already been making important advancements in this area and I hope to see it continue. Since Rajneesh is the main drawing element for the existance and development of this model community, to deny his legal residency in the country would no doubt halt further progress of the important contributions underway.

I have not chosen to be a formal initiate of Rajneesh but I have found his teaching through reading his books and talking to members to be profoundly progressive and beneficial. I suppose some of his methods of therapy sound rather extreme to the general population and the press coverage has painted a distorted picture of what he is all about but this should not be allowed to get out of hand and influence the INS to deny his right to be here and progress in his endeavors that will ultimately benefit millions.

I certainly hope this letter will be read and considered. These are my personal opinions and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this organization. I will be following the news closely concerning the INS decisions and I trust you will do the right thing.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra A. Kirkpatrick". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Debra A. Kirkpatrick  
Horticulturist