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Kary will harry Krishnas no more

Miami Beach (AP)—Leaders of the Hare Krishna sect have expelled one of their founding fathers for what they called "bizarre, aberrant behavior" after he developed a "fascination" with weapons and filed for bankruptcy protection.

The 21 members of the cult's Governing Body Commission came to their Miami Beach headquarters from around the world Saturday to excommunicate Hans Kary, one of 16 Americans who joined the original Krishna movement in 1966.

Spokesman Michael Grant said Kary was excommunicated because of "bizarre, aberrant behavior."

"He no longer respected our governing body," Grant said.

AT ONE TIME, Kary headed one division of the worldwide sect—whose members shave their heads and wear saffron robes—and controlled the members who live in the West Coast, Southeast Asia, southern India and Ceylon. By 1978, he had founded temples in Boston; Berkeley, Calif.; Vancouver, British Columbia; West Germany and some Soviet-bloc nations.

His troubles with the Krishna leadership began in 1980, when he was arrested three times on weapons charges in northern California. Once, Lake County police reportedly confiscated 300,000 bullets and gunpowder. Another time, they said they seized an arsenal including a Browning 9-mm.

automatic pistol, two foreign-made military assault rifles, a manual for an Ingram submachine gun and a loaded 30-shot clip.

Kary reportedly said he had the weapons for "self-defense."

In November 1982, he announced his followers would build a 100,000-square-foot temple in the mountains north of San Francisco. He had been renting space in Berkeley from the First Church of Divine Life, a source of mail-order divinity degrees, officials said.

BUT HIS VISIONS of a mountain-top temple evaporated when the church pressed him for back rent, and

he filed for protection from creditors under Chapter 11 of federal bankruptcy laws.

Grant said it was Kary's spiritual deviance "that really tipped the scales" against him.

Kary's whereabouts were unknown, but his secretary, Paramahansa Swami, said he believed Kary was expelled because Krishna leaders deemed him "too spiritual, too mystical."

"It's a character assassination and it all comes down to money," Swami said. "Our leader (Kary) no longer wants to go to the airports anymore (to collect money). He said that turns people off to our movement."