

Krishna Officials Knew Of Sexual Activity Allegations

By TRACY ROBERTS
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A Hare Krishna spokesman today said officials at the community knew of alleged sexual activity at the now-closed Nandagram Boys School in New Vrindaban and had taken steps to deal with it but said they didn't realize the extent of the problem.

Former Nandagram principal

Larry Gardner, also known as Sri-Galim, and 20-year-old teacher's aide Frederick DiFrancisco, a.k.a. Lalita Madava, have each been charged with sexually molesting a minor male child in the community during the period from 1981 to spring 1986.

DiFrancisco was arrested by Marshall County Sheriff's deputies on Tuesday and later was released after a Krishna official posted \$30,000 bond.

Gardner, however, left the community about six months ago, according to New Vrindaban public relations spokesman Gadadhar Das, and remains at large.

DiFrancisco is charged with two counts of third-degree sexual assault, while Gardner faces one count of first-degree sexual assault, officials said.

"Some of the parents here were concerned that there was talk of homosexual activity, and the two who are now charged (DiFrancisco and Gardner) were called before Swami

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items — including financial records, computers, stickers and sports caps — since the New Vrindaban community is a non-profit organization. Mrigendra said the federal code on trademark violations says the offense must be willful and for commercial use.

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