

# Krishna School Workers Charged with Sex Offenses

Whs. News-  
Register  
Feb. 17, 1987

Pg. 1

By JIM COCHRAN  
and MICHAEL CLARK  
News-Register Staff Writers

One Hare Krishna devotee was arrested on a two-count charge of sexually molesting a minor male child and a warrant was issued for another devotee on the same charges by the Marshall County Sheriff's Department late this morning.

Frederick deFrancisco, also known as Lalita, was arrested this morning and taken before a Marshall County magistrate while a warrant was issued for Larry Gardner, also known as Sri-Galim.

Marshall County Sheriff Donald Bordenkircher said the whereabouts of Gardner are not known. He stated

that he may be at the New Vrindaban Community or he possibly could be in India.

Bordenkircher said the alleged assaults took place during the time when the youth was between the ages of 7-12; the last such assault allegedly taking place in spring 1986.

The sheriff said that both men were associated with the now-closed Nandagram Boys School at New Vrindaban. He stated that Gardner was the headmaster until recently, and that deFrancisco was a teacher and also a moderator at night at the boys' dormitory.

The arrest and warrant came on the same day in which Krishna officials confirmed that someone from the West Virginia Civil Liber-

ties Union, based in Charleston, will meet with officials from the New Vrindaban Hare Krishna Community near Moundsville Saturday to discuss an investigation into the Jan. 5 federal raid and seizure of property

(Please Turn to Page 5)