

16 Hare Krishnas arrested in chant

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They complied, they said, because they thought police were controlling traffic to enable them to cross the street.

When they arrived at Riverfront Park, they said, they were ushered into paddywagons and taken to City Hall.

Police originally intended to charge them with parading without a license, they said, but changed the charge to disorderly conduct after a spokesman insisted the gathering was not a parade.

"Singing, dancing, chanting and glorifying God is not disorderly conduct," one Krishna follower said. "Only the worst demon in the world would consider worshipping the lord disorderly conduct."

"This is still America. As long as it is the land of the free, singing and chanting are not disorderly conduct."

"I don't think it was wise of them to arrest us without even a warning," said another of those charged yesterday.

Police said they warned the marchers not to stop at street corners and block pedestrian traffic, but they continued to stop.

They originally had intended to allow the group to "do their thing" at Riverfront Park, police said, but, because they did not comply with orders to keep moving, they were picked up.

The persons arrested yesterday are part of a group that recently established a book distribution center and temple of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness in a former Nazarene Church and bookbindery at 5431 Jonetown Rd.

Dhrstadyumna Swami Mahara-ja, nee James McDonough Jr., supervisor of the local group, said they plan similar activities each Wednesday.

Movement followers generally wear light orange-colored robes and the men have shaved heads.

The book distribution center has been established in Harrisburg because of the city's size, location and proximity to the group's 500-acre farm and model community at Port Royal, about an hour's drive away in Juniata County, McDonough said.

Paul B. Wert, landlord of the home and church building the Krishna followers are leasing, said neighbors have had no complaints about the group.

Books that are handled at the warehouse are a 27-volume hard-back "spiritual encyclopedia" detailing articles of belief for Krishna followers, as well as various eastern holy books and question-and-answer books about the Krishna cult.

The books are sold through referrals, according to James Champion, the only married member of the local group, who also is private-

ly employed as an appliance salesman.

The rest of the eight or so single males working at the center are supported by book sales, according to McDonough.

Female followers of Krishna generally marry, raise children and care for the men, he said. "Women need to be protected."

Such a philosophy may not appeal to many American women, he admitted, but "I don't see American women as being very happy."

Champion said the local group will be on the streets talking to people about Krishna, but "we're not so much staying in one spot because people get tired of us. We want to do as much as we can without stepping on people's toes."

McDonough, overseer of the local center, studied art and philosophy at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., then spent time at a Trappist monastery before joining the Krishna followers seven years ago.

He insists that Krishna worshippers, are not cult followers, but adherents of ancient Indian traditions. They believe in reincarnation, as well as abstaining from meat, alcoholic beverages and gambling and refraining from sex outside of marriage, he said.

Nevertheless, the Krishna devotees have been subject to the same controversy over "brainwashing" and "deprogramming" that has prompted kidnapping and court action by disciples of various faiths and their parents across the country.

Courts in Vermont and New York have upheld the rights of cult followers to practice the religion of their choice, but a California court granted custody of adult children to their parents, basically for purposes of deprogramming.

About 35 Hare Krishna followers have been abducted, according to McDonough, and most returned to the sect. Those who did not, he maintains, were novices who had not gone through the year-and-a-half training program at a Krishna temple.

"There are no bars on our windows," he said, standing in the book warehouse, with its unopened boxes and altar of statues and pictures arranged against an oriental carpet.

"No one is going to give up sex, meat, intoxication and gambling without experiencing something better. There is no question of forcing someone."

McDonough said his own parents "like that I'm in the Hare Krishna movement" and come to visit him. The Port Royal farm also holds an annual Parents' Day, he said.

Some parents oppose their children's involvement, he said, and, in that case, "why should they want to be with their parents?"

9 arrested in raids on city drug sources

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nificant dent" in drug trafficking here.

Lewis noted the drug problem in Harrisburg wouldn't be "cleared up" because of the raid, but pushers will go "underground temporarily" and drugs "will not flow as freely as they have in the past."

Those arrested were taken to City Hall to be booked, processed and arraigned before District Jus-

Directly assisting the Bureau of Drug Control, headquartered at Middletown, in today's action were Harrisburg police under Chief Paul D. King; Sgt. Norvil C. Ulrich, of the Harrisburg police vice squad; Dauphin County Dist. Atty. LeRoy S. Zimmerman, Lewis and Assistant Dist. Atty. Peter J. Anderson, who will prosecute the defendants.

Those arrested, their reported addresses, charges listed on the arrest sheet and bail set by Hardy

Crime rate drops by 9%

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central states to 3 per cent in the West.

In Pennsylvania, crime declined in the first three months of this year compared with the same period in 1976, the FBI statistics showed.

Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allentown and Scranton showed decreases during the first three months of 1977, but Erie reported an increase.

Philadelphia had 16,254 reported incidents in the first quarter, compared to 18,427 last year; in Pittsburgh it was, 6,093-7,430; Allentown, 1,179-1,286; Scranton, 684-920, and Erie, 1,106-1,350.

FBI Director Clarence Kelley, while encouraged by the statistics, said the harsh winter in the northeast could have been a major factor in the declining number of reported crimes.

Erie reported one more murder than in 1976 and 22 more aggravated assaults, but there were two less robberies.

Scranton's only minus for the period were two additional forcible rapes.

In Allentown rapes, burglaries and larceny-thefts declined, but automobile thefts and other crimes were up, or remained about the same.

Pittsburgh had two fewer murders, and decreases in robberies, burglaries, larceny-thefts, and motor vehicle theft, but reported more rapes and aggravated assaults.

Philadelphia had 83 murders both years, but crime in all other categories dropped.

Ambassador to France is wounded

PARIS (AP) — A gunman shot the Mauritanian ambassador to France today, but officials in the American Hospital said he was out of danger. He was the third ambassador shot in Paris in the last two years.

The attempt on Ambassador Ahmed Ghanahalla, 36, apparently was the work of the Polisario Front, which is fighting a guerrilla war in north-west Africa for the independence of the former Spanish Sahara from Mauritania and Morocco.

A woman telephoned Agence France Presse, the French news agency, and said the Mohamed el Wali Sayed International Brigade was responsible for the attack. Mohamed el Wali Sayed was the secretary-general of the Polisario Front who was killed in an attack on the capital of Mauritania in 1976.

Ghanahalla was shot this morning just after he had gotten into his car near his home. Witnesses said two men approached the parked car from behind and one of them fired six shots through a window.

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