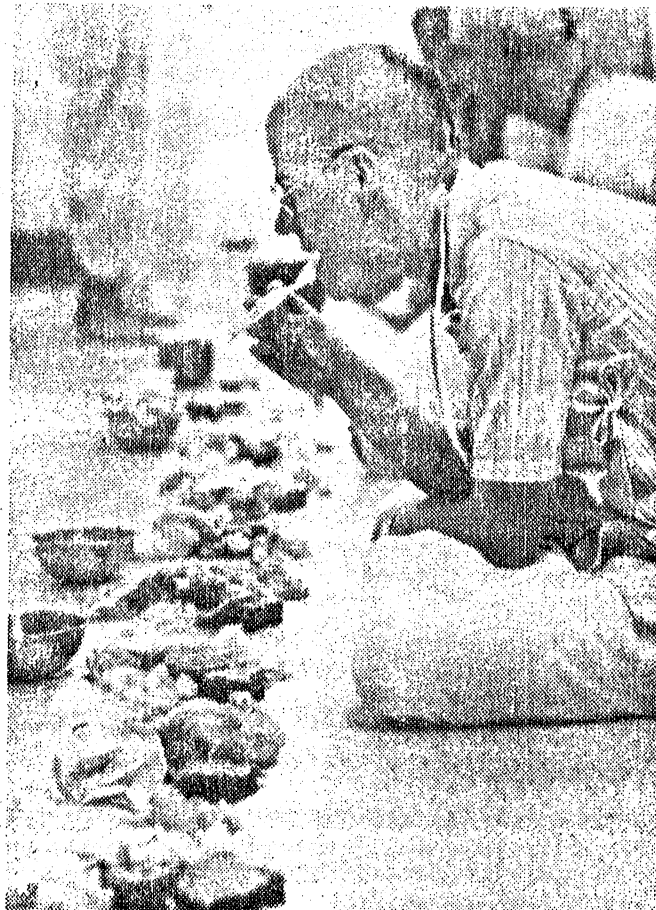


JUL -17-77

# tale of Hare Krishna existence



Members of the Hare Krishna sect line up for lunch break.

Genny. Its main aspect is "trying to get cult members to talk."

The Sankirtan of which Genny was a member included six to eight girls, most of them in their teens and early 20s.

"Women are completely spit upon," Genny said. "Women have half the brain size (of men), they are one step above monkeys. They are completely contaminated and servants of men."

At the same time, however, men and women alike are led to believe they are "exclusive and special" because God has led them to the movement, she said.

"The ideology is sharply defined. People out of the movement are called hogs, dogs, camels and asses. It completely condemns the individual unless he is serving the goal of the movement. It wipes out goals, expressions, thoughts.

"You are trapped by fear and guilt. You begin to fear having a separate opinion."

Money was a constant problem and Genny says she was encouraged to call a bank in Florida to demand money from a trust established in her name. Her mother says a man also called the bank demanding money from the trust.

"WE WERE TOLD THAT SOME TIME in the future that prostitution would be an accepted way of getting money for the group," Genny said. "There is some stealing, shoplifting, but that's not looked up to."

Shoplifting was done on an individual basis, without the knowledge of other cult members, she said. The items were generally sold or pawned. The money supplemented funds from the sale of books and was turned over to the group.

The Krishnas talk of "taking over the world," Genny said.

"They believe there will be a war (between Krishnas and outsiders). They believe there will come a time when you can walk up to a person and say to him, 'Hare Krishna,' and if he doesn't answer you with 'Hare Krishna,' it will be all right to shoot him in the head."

Genny thinks she would like to help in deprogramming other cult members.

"They are caught up in something extreme and fanatical. They're trying to clean up the act. They think by this kind of revolutionary thing they are going to change the world. It doesn't help anything."

United Press International

*International*  
New York City

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS  
DENVER, COLO.  
M-225,000 S-230,000

# Genny Tells of Fears in Krishna Sect

PHOENIX, Ariz. — UPI — For 18 months, Genny Ayers lived outside of society, disillusioned with her way of life but trapped by fears that kept her from doing anything about it.

Genny had become a member of the Hare Krishna sect. She had entered what she now describes as a world of "good and evil," of countless days of little sleep, of total subservience, commitment and reliance. The slender brunette says she thought about leaving "every day."

Everybody wants to leave, but you're very controlled," she said. "Guilt, shame and fear, they are the controlling factors. The fear is that everything outside is evil and if you leave, you turn your back on God and you have a chance to become a dog or a worm in your next life."

"YOU COME to depend on the cult for everything material and spiritual. Everything is regimented and controlled. You can't just leave."

She remained a cult member until her mother, Genevieve Ayers of Jacksonville, Fla., contacted deprogrammers. With their help and the help of the courts, Genny is resuming the life she once left.

Her brush with Hare Krishna began after dropping out of Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff, dissatisfied with the school.

She stayed in Flagstaff a couple of months, working in a res-

taurant and a day care center. But she feared she "was vegetating." Reading about Hare Krishna and meeting cult members on the street, she drifted to San Diego, Calif., and joined the sect.

"THE FIRST part of it was exciting," said Genny, now 22, who wore jeans and a red shirt during an interview in the office of an attorney here. "It was a whole new experience. There were rituals, chanting and dancing. It was a new environment."

Genny was assigned to a "sankirtan," a fund-raising function that primarily sold books and pamphlets.

"I would get up at 2 o'clock after four to five hours sleep," she said. "Most of the day was spent running around towns, raising donations — selling books."

In her 18 months with the Krishnas, Genny travelled across the country, from Los Angeles to Miami, to Portland, Ore., to Salt Lake City. The sect discouraged contact with her family and she wrote to her mother only two or three times.

"THERE WERE many, many months between letters that I didn't know where she was and when I called places where I thought she might be, I was told there was no such person there," her mother said.

Because the sect didn't want outside influence, Genny said, "letter writing was kept down to once every six months."

"Everything outside of the movement is evil," she said. "Your perspective is narrowed in one direction so the whole world is divided into good and evil."

Mrs. Ayers saw her daughter twice while Genny was a member of the sect. The first time was in May 1976, after Genny called her from Los Angeles and invited her to a special feast.

"I SPENT a whole day trying to find her," Mrs. Ayers said. "I went from apartment to apartment in the area where they lived." No one knew of Genny Ayers and no one would admit knowing a young woman

answering Genny's description. The second day, Mrs. Ayers found Genny in a Krishna temple.

"Other people were there and they wanted to do all the talking," Mrs. Ayers said. "They wouldn't allow us to leave. They wouldn't even let me walk around the block with her."

She and Genny were permitted to go to the visitors' room, which Mrs. Ayers believes was "bugged."

Last February, Genny called her mother from Salt Lake City and Mrs. Ayers left immediately for Utah. The second meeting was much like the first.

"I FELT WE were not left

alone a minute," Mrs. Ayers said. "They would not let us go out into the yard. They would say, 'no, no, no,' to all my requests. Finally, a man came out and said someone wanted to talk with me on the telephone. The call was from Los Angeles. I believe. He wanted to know why I was there, how long I was going to stay. I just hung up."

"The entire time, Genny was sitting on the floor, reading. I told her, 'Genny, I'm your mother, you called me. Please get up and follow me.' I kept telling her, 'I feel you are a slave in this house.' She wasn't allowed to answer me."

Mrs. Ayers believed her daughter "was under complete mind control." After reading articles on cults and talking with other parents and former cult members, she contacted a deprogramming group which put her in touch with attorney Ben Martin of Phoenix.

WHILE SELLING cult books at Salt Lake International Airport last May 4, Genny was approached by a sheriff's deputy. The deputy told her he had a complaint about her solicitation permit and asked her to accompany him outside.

What the deputy had was a court order issued by Dist. Judge Jay Banks, granting Mrs. Ayers temporary custody of her daughter. Genny was taken to a deprogramming center. Martin declines to give the center's location.

The sect complained that Genny was a victim of "judicial kidnapping" and claimed that she was being subjected to brainwashing. Genny, however, wrote Banks and thanked him for what he had done, saying she no longer identified with the Krishna sect.

"DEPROGRAMMING is just discussion and confrontation," says Genny. Its main aspect is "trying to get cult members to talk."

The sankirtan of which Genny was a member included six to eight girls, most of them in their teens and early 20s.

"Women are completely split upon," Genny said. "Women have half the brain size of

men), they are one step above monkeys. They are completely contaminated and servants of men."

At the same time, however, men and women alike are led to believe they are "exclusive and special" because God has led them to the movement, she said.

"The ideology is sharply defined. People out of the movement are called hogs, dogs, camels and asses. It completely condemns the individual unless he is serving the goal of the movement. It wipes out goals, expressions, thoughts."

"YOU ARE trapped by fear and guilt. You begin to fear having a separate opinion."

Money was a constant problem and Genny says she was encouraged to call a bank in Florida to demand money from a trust established in her name. Her mother says a man also called the bank demanding money from the trust.

"We were told that sometime in the future that prostitution would be an accepted way of getting money for the group," Genny said. "There is some stealing, shoplifting, but that's not looked up to."

Shoplifting was done on an individual basis, without the knowledge of other cult members, she said. The items were generally sold or pawned. The money supplemented funds from the sale of books and was turned over to the group.

THE KRISHNAS talk of "taking over the world," Genny said.

"They believe there will be a war (between Krishnas and outsiders). They believe there will come a time when you can walk up to a person and say to him, 'Hare Krishna,' and if he doesn't answer you with 'Hare Krishna,' it will be all right to shoot him in the head."

Genny thinks she would like to help in deprogramming other cult members.

"They are caught up in something extreme and fanatical. They're trying to clean up the act. They think by this kind of revolutionary thing they are going to change the world. It doesn't help anything."

*International*  
New York City

GLOBE-DEMOCRAT  
ST. LOUIS, MO.  
M-285,000  
SAT-280,000

JUL-18-77



Genny Ayres now helps deprogram other Hare Krishna devotees.  
—AP Wirephoto

## Ex-sect member tells of fear

By Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. (AP) — Fear and guilt prevent many young people from running away from religious sects, says a young woman who was taken away from the Hare Krishna cult by court order and deprogrammed.

Genny Ayers, 22, of Jacksonville, said that, as a young person dissatisfied with life, she was "ripe fruit" for the Krishna doctrine and found it pleasant for a while.

But she said she was afraid to go when she decided she wanted to get away.

"ONE GIRL LEFT twice, but she came back," Miss Ayers said. "She was still feeling guilty because she hadn't been deprogrammed. We all wanted to leave, but there was so much fear and guilt."

She was unhappy at Northern Arizona University at Flagstaff and was laid off from a job there.

"I wanted an excuse to get away from Flagstaff. I was attracted to far-out people. I wanted a completely different life-style," she recalled.

She went to San Diego to see friends and paid what she thought would be a temporary visit to a Krishna temple. She stayed.

"THEY ARE VERY LOVING and sincere people," Miss Ayers said. "The

first few months are the best. I liked the chanting and singing. The rituals are colorful and exciting."

She hated to go out in public and solicit contributions, but said she was required to do so.

"We were told that soliciting was the highest surrender to God," she said.

Discipline was tight, she remembered, and women were treated like servants.

Miss Ayers said she believes mind control made her feel guilty for any individual thoughts.

"WE CAN'T ACCEPT ourselves or understand ourselves," she said. "There's a complete polarization of the self between good and evil. Everything's black and white."

She said many of the women in her group appeared to be from well-off families. She said she volunteered that she had a sizable inheritance, but was told the group's attempt to get the money was blocked by her mother, Genevieve S. Ayers of Jacksonville.

Mrs. Ayers went to Salt Lake City, got a court order to take her daughter from the sect and put her in the hands of deprogrammers.

Genny said she has been working to help deprogram others and hopes to continue after a long vacation.