D 1971, Bernard Scan-20 year old christian, rell to his girlfriend of nd left Adelaide, city of for a catholic seminary

val there Bernard came froup of rather gaunt ded people wearing ffron robes and chantbeat of the Mrdunga ng of kartels.

old him they were worheir God – a cowherd ad lived 5000 years ago. red more than 16,000 produced ten sons by , and had even found lay flute. They seemed y and Bernard left im-

but decided the priestt the street chanters. On eve of 1971 Bernard e hare krishna temple at celibate student. It was ing of a two year associh the movement in Adelaide, Sydney, Meld Brisbane.

this year he returned bane to Adelaide, his , he decided not to local temple and took a

sined contact with the in visits to the temple grew more infrequent cided to sever all ties a hs ago. He took a job nis hair. He left, he says. blown out by what he is the "enslavement and of the devotees by the s hierarchy".

ow a "christian", and ying footy — a frivolous the movement — for a

The joys of transcendental motivation

BRIAN JOHNSTONE

pline of temple life fairly readily when he joined the Glebe temple. He rose at 4.30 each morning and started the day with a cold shower summer or winter. Following nt on to the catholic the shower the morning devotion to God began. This was later not for him. He decided followed by chanting on the beads to free one from material entanglements. (Bernard says he wasnt entangled materially when he joined the Glebe temple but two fellows unentangled themselves of separate donations totalling \$10.000.)

Hare Krishna is chanted for 1½ to 2 hours and a lecture on the teachings of the spiritual master, Bahaktivedanta, follows, taking one up to breakfast. This all serves to ready the devotee for the rigorous day's chanting in the

After a spell in Sydney, Bernard, with another three temple dwellers, was sent to Adelaide to get things moving. They opened up a temple at Kurralta Park and were soon on the streets.

At about this time, a roving team of six Krishna followers arrived in Adelaide. Bernard said they were known as the Super Sales Squad. These fellows each collect up to a \$100 a day selling

and his friends here were earning only \$20 a day on the street and instructed them on several ploys to make more money.

One was told to hold out a piece of incense and when someone stopped to take it the Krishna devotee asked for a donation to help the children of Bangladesh or India. When the "customers" went to take out the money a sales figure of about \$25,000. book was handed to them. Inmore sizeable donation.

not cover the cost of the book, the Krishna devotee was instructwith a cheap magazine. This was around Australia.

It's all part of what the move-Krishna branches throughout the to meet their quota. world detailing sales figures of

Competition in the divine comstructions were to push it under petition was extremely keen as the arm of the customer if need anyone selling well was glorified be. The customer was then told by the movement. A lot of presthe book was free in the hope that sure was placed on those not this would obligate them to a selling well. They were told they lacked faith and that increased However, if the donation did chanting and devotion would result in higher sales.

Bernard says that when "transed to take it back and replace it cendental competition" was at its peak the hierarchy placed a quota one of a number of tricks the on each individual who was then roving team taught devotees pressured into selling so many books a day.

A ridiculous situation arose ment hierarchy in Sydney called when some temple dwellers were "transcendental competition". A on the streets from seven in the monthly bulletin is distributed in morning to seven at night trying

Bernard says the movebooks, magazines and incense. ment's latest move in the streets is Challenges are issued from branch for devotees to wear wigs and don to branch on the number of sales ordinary street clothes. The move-

movement was selling more than one thousand bucks worth of oils and clothes to Adelaide shops every week. The devious Krishna John (exploits revealed Daylights 13) sold \$2000 worth of oils to one Adelaide shop in a sole hit one afternoon.

Bernard says that apart from the obvious commercial ripoff the movement is riddled with internal spiritual conflict. Most of the temple presidents in each state have differing views on how the teachings of Bahaktivedanta should be interpreted.

One president had a free and easy style of life under his interpretation; a move to another state would find one entrenched in a rigid authoritarian code.

Bernard says that the perpetual chanting and six hours sleep per night plus the hassling on the streets make the devotee too tired



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THE BE ORINGE-







THEYSER W BLUTZ

noon, the customer walks in the store and hy charge and They talked for

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HARE KRISHMA

Dear Editor: JL Your interesting cartoon. The Big Orange" in the L.A. Weekly of September 26 to October 2 may be a crowd-pleaser but unfortunately it doesn't have any reality. The idea of Hare Krishna devotees chanting in public is not some show for your mundane pleasure, obviously, nor are they out in public to partake of the same frivolous activities as everyday people. When devotees chant the Mahamantra ("The great chant for deliverance") - namely "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Krishna Krishna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare" - they are asking everyone to wake up from their sleeping, deathlike condition of being the servants of illusion. In this temporary material world, people have forgotten their relationship with God and are wasting their lives in the pursuit of fleeting sense pleasure. Actually, the conditioned souls are rotting here like prisoners for want of knowledge of the

Absolute Truth, that everyone is a servant of God and our real home is with Him in the spiritual world, where liberated souls enjoy eternal life, complete happiness, and full knowledge. According to the ancient Vedic scriptures of India, the key to becoming free of our material contamination is in the chanting of Hare Krishna. This chanting is therein said to be "the prime benediction for humanity at large."

So, the devotees of Krishna (a name of God meaning "all-attractive") are simply trying to give people the highest knowledge: how to return to our true identity, pure spirit, and our original home, in the association of the Supreme Lord. The Mahamantra actually is a prayer: "Dear Lord, energy of the Lord, please engage me in your service."

Your servant,

—Uddhava dasa Department of Public Affairs ISKCON