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Religious sect called antihuman, antifemale

BOSTON (AP)—A young woman who says she was a member of the Society for Krishna Consciousness says the religious sect is antihuman and turned women into slaves.

"The society's women members are subordinated at all times to men," Susan Murphy 18 of Weymouth told a legislative committee Tuesday.

"Probably the most important thing I learned about the Hare Krishna Society is that it is antihuman... also chauvinist, sexist and antifemale," she said.

"After years of chanting and indoctrination, of ill health, bad diet, and vermin-infested living conditions, years of brain washing and being forced to beg on the street I finally realized that Krishna had turned me and the other women into slaves."

She told the legislature's Committee on Commerce and Labor that she joined the sect when she was 13 and in the eighth grade and remained a member for 3½ years. Her older sister still belongs.

Miss Murphy said she was not permitted to attend public school when she was in the society "be-

cause Hare Krishna teaches that women are not intelligent enough for schooling."

There was no immediate comment from the Krishna sect.

The committee is considering a bill calling for investigating the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church and other religious sects.

The only opposition to the proposed investigation came from the American Jewish Congress and

the First Church League. Representatives of both groups complained that the language of the bill was too broad and could be used to investigate other religious organizations.

Rep. Richard Demers, chairman of the committee, said he does not expect any decision on the bill before next week because the committee wants to clear up the language problems first.

The divine master of the Boston temple preached that "women are

inferior to men, that the human brain in females weighs 32 ounces whereas the human male brain weighs 64 ounces," she said.

"Each temple has a supervisor of women, who is a man," she said. "The Boston temple fed us women members with the scraps of food remaining from the meals of the men... Hare Krishna women there were fed like dogs, like animals."

"I am very lucky. With the help of my mother, who never stopped

trying to rescue me, I came home and left the society," she said.

"No group of women is in greater need of liberation than my former sisters in the society," she said. "The society will call me a blasphemer for my statements here today."

"Blasphemers can be dealt with harshly. They are encouraged to commit suicide, or told that Krishna, their deity, will harm them. I have no intention of committing suicide."

OKLAHOMA CITY - HK

It's mother, daughter vs. Krishna

By Mary Thornton
Globe Staff

Does a minor have a right to practice his own religion against the wishes of his parents? Does the religion have the obligation to either provide its own education system or require its young followers to attend public schools in compliance with state laws?

These questions are at the heart of a \$2.5 million law suit filed yesterday by Mary Murphy of Weymouth and her 18-year-old daughter Susan against the International Society for Krishna Consciousness for alleged damages to Susan and her family after Susan became a Krishna devotee.

Recent court decisions in New York and California have rejected the theory that Krishna followers are victims of kidnaping by mind control and have held that parents do not have the right to control the religious beliefs of their adult children.

However, in this case, Susan was a minor at the time she belonged to the group, and she charges that she was prevented from



Mrs. Mary Murphy and daughter Susan, 16, seeks \$2.5 million.

★KRISHNA

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attending school during the three years she spent as a follower.

Susan said she joined the group five years ago at the age of 13, and stayed for three years until she voluntarily went home to her mother.

Her sister, Eileen Murphy, 21, became a Krishna follower about three years ago. Late last year, she fled to Toronto, saying she feared her mother would have her kidnaped and deprogrammed to get her away from the Krishna religion. Mrs. Murphy said she does not think Eileen will ever come home.

Mrs. Murphy charged at a press conference yesterday that Susan was "enticed away from home at 13. She was moved around the United States and Canada for months, kept away from me."

Susan says that although she was never held against her will, she was subjected to intense peer group pressure to remain with the group. She said she was promised "divine knowledge" and equality but found out, instead that she was not allowed to receive any real education and was treated as subservient to the men in the group.

In the suit, Susan asks for \$2 million in damages based on charges of false imprisonment, assault and battery, violations of the child labor laws,

breach of contract, and fraud and deceit. Her mother is asking for \$500,000 because of mental distress, destruction of her family and seduction of a minor female child. The Murphys and their lawyer, Frank O'Rourke, refused to explain the specific allegations.

However, a spokesman for the Boston Hare Krishna temple painted a different picture of Susan's involvement with the group.

The spokesman, who asked to remain anonymous, said Susan ran away from home at age 13, spent a couple of months traveling with a male companion, and then settled near the Krishna temple in Los Angeles. There she and her friend participated in some temple events, though they did not live in the temple, the spokesman said.

After two years in Los Angeles, Susan and her companion returned to Boston and moved into an apartment across the street from the Krishna temple, he said. About six months later, Susan moved into the temple, where she spent only four months before returning to her mother, he said.

"There was never any attempt to move her around or hide her from her mother," he said. "We didn't have any control over whether or not she went to school except for the time she was living in the temple, and during that time, she was here with the consent of her mother. She was a minor and her mother could have come and gotten her any time."

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SHE SAYS KRISHNAS ENSLAVE WOMEN

BOSTON (AP) — The Hare Krishna Society is anti-human and has turned women into slaves, a woman who described herself as a member of the sect for 3½ years told a legislative committee.

Susan Murphy, 18, of Weymouth told the state legislature's Committee on Commerce and Labor yesterday that she joined the sect when she was 13 and in the eighth grade. Her older sister still belongs.

"Probably the most important thing I learned about the Hare Krishna Society is that it is anti-human . . . also chauvinist, sexist and anti-female," she said.

The divine master preached that "women are inferior to men, that the human brain in females weighs 32 ounces, whereas the human male brain . . . weighs 64 ounces," she continued.

"The society's women members are subordinated at all times to men. Each temple has a supervisor of women, who is a man. The Boston temple fed us women members with the scraps of food remaining from the meals of the men, literally.

"Hare Krishna women there were fed like dogs, like animals," Miss Murphy asserted.

"After years of chanting and indoctrination, of ill health, bad diet and vermin-infested living conditions, years of brainwashing and being forced to beg on the street, I finally realized that Krishna had turned me and the other women into slaves," she concluded.

The hearing was on a bill calling for the investigation of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church.