

# CON

by Ambrose Fierce

His Divine Grace — just another pretty face. Right, Mrs. Torrance? I refer, of course, to his Divine Grace, A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. I suspect that when you think of him, if you think of him at all, it is as the leader of the Hare Krishna-ites, to you, no doubt, just a pack of heathenishly bedaubed, outrageously garbed, odd-smelling, close-cropped, nose-harping freak/morons.

Nothing, Mrs. Torrance, could be more remote from the truth. The Swami may well be, on the contrary, your last and only hope; the Swami is, so far as my own researches (in my melancholy office of Peripatetic Theologian in Ordinary) have been able to ascertain, the only man is Christendom who is not after your money.

I know this to be true; we have the Swami's own word for it: Before me lies the glossily appealing Krishna Consciousness periodical, *Back to Godhead* (Vol. 11, no. 2), of which I have for years been an avid reader. This more current issue contains an interview with the Swami (pp. 4-7), an interview which sounds a clear warning against the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and his money-motivated Transcendental Meditators, and which proves the purity of his Divine Grace's interest in your spiritual well-being. This interest is, I repeat, totally undefiled by sordid monetary concerns.

Interviewer: Do you think Transcendental Meditation is helping people?

His Divine Grace: They do not know what real meditation is. Their meditation is simply a farce — another cheating process by the so-called Swamis and Yogis. You're asking me if meditation is helping people, but do you know what meditation is?

Interv: A stilling of the mind — trying to sit in the center without swinging either way.

H.D.G.: And what is the center?

Interv: I don't know.

H.D.G.: So everyone is talking very much about meditation, but no one knows what meditation actually is. These bluffers use the word "meditation" but they do not know the proper subject for meditation. They're simply talking bogus propaganda.

Interv: Isn't meditation valuable just to get people thinking right?

H.D.G.: No. Real meditation means to achieve a state in which the mind is saturated with God consciousness. But if you do not know what God is, how can you meditate? ... Unfortunately, in the name of God consciousness or "self-realization," many bluffers are presenting non-standard methods of meditation without referring to the authorized books of vedic knowledge. They are simply practicing another (sic) type of exploitation.

Interv: Do you feel that others may have possibly caught the genuine method of God consciousness?

H.D.G.: Unless I study their teachings in detail, it would be very difficult to say. There are so many bluffers.

Interv: Just doing it for the money.

H.D.G.: That's all.

So you see, Mrs. Torrance, His Divine Grace is *not* after your money;

you may continue to wallow in your great wealth, and you may continue to squander it at the great mercantile houses of this city, as is your custom, in your annual yuletide purchasing orgasm. What's yours is yours. Nobody is trying to pry it away from you. Keep it, spend it on temporal trash, burn it in a big bonfire — who cares? Do as you wish.

But, really Mrs. Torrance, there *are* better things to do with your ill-gotten gains — *though you are under absolutely NO obligation* — and his Divine Grace the Swami, in his wisdom, suggests a few:

Become a Patron Member: Many people want to devote themselves to Krishna consciousness ... therefore we have established our iskcon membership program so everyone can have the opportunity to devote some of their time, energy or money ... (p. 28)

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And so on, and so forth — moderately priced books, magazines, records, tapes, classes, guided tours, pamphlets, vegetarian restaurants. Excellent investments, all of them. Really, Mrs. Torrance, I do not see how you can go wrong. You chose to scoff at my well-intentioned advocacy of Rev. Cebuliak — why, I do not know — but it should by now be obvious even to you that the Swami and his adherents are your salvation.

Why? Blessed are they who have found peace, for Krishna despises microwave ovens and all other hellish Western gadgetry. Blessed are they who enjoy radiant health, for the Swami and his people batten only on rice, fruit, and certain succulent tubers. Blessed are they who are able to atone for a shady past, for the Chosen Ones are almost invariably asexual. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for wealthy converts — *although they are under absolutely NO obligation to do so* — very often choose to put their vast means at the disposal of the Movement. Finally, blessed are they who are able to conquer their drinking problems, for Lord Krishna will have none among his followers but total abstainers. I truly fear that you will not survive the holidays.

So do it, Mrs. Torrance. You cannot take it with you, you know. And I can just picture your liver. Joinup, for your own good. *Now*.

## CINEMA

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

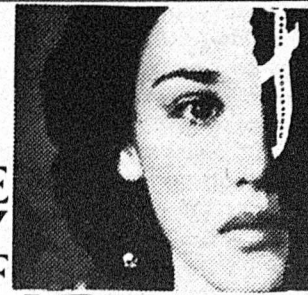
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Mr. Roger J. Mahé  
Coordinator, Second-Language Programs  
1100 Park Square, 10001 Bellamy Hill Road  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 3B6

N.B. Requests for application forms will be accepted up to and including **December 31, 1976**. Completed application forms will be accepted up to and including **January 14, 1977**.

## Beatlemania

DENVER, Colo. (CPS-CUP) Saudi Arabia's King Khalid has sent a memo to the country's airlines warning them about the spreading of the sinful Beatles phenomenon.

According to Capitol Records the king recently cautioned the airlines to be on the lookout for "the growing of long hair, long sideburns, and long fingernails" which he describes as symptoms of the dreaded Beatlemania.

"Those who continue Beatlemania should be subject to punishment," the king wrote.

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