



BY
SYBIL LEEK

Bliss is waiting on your own street corner

For those of you who are engaged in the helter-skelter of earning a living, escaping from muggings, keeping up with the Joneses, or merely trying to balance the family budget, bliss is something you may feel you have dreamed of, looked for, and missed.

Take heart, it is not too late...even if you live in a big city. Head for the corner of the nearest large street and you will hear the tinkle of bells, glimpse shaven-headed young men clad in saffron-colored robes. If they are not dancing and chanting, they are hustling the crowd to buy pamphlets telling one and all how to get turned on to bliss.

The shaven-headed young men and the long-haired girls are the followers of Swami A. C. Bhaktivedanta, who arrived in the United States in 1966 from his native India. He invited all and sundry to follow him along the path of learning called KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS, and he really meant everyone—including hippies, flower children, acid heads, housewives and professional types.

There is bound to be a snag in finding bliss on your own street corner. The Swami insists that his followers must not drink any intoxicants including tea and coffee, and not indulge in meat, eggs, fish, gambling or sex. He also stresses such square virtues at the utmost cleanliness, in both body and mind. By this time you may wonder if bliss is all that is supposed to be, since Webster's Dictionary defines it as "great joy of happiness." Despite so many negatives, the Krishna Consciousness movement is gaining more and more followers all through the continent of North America.

Some say that they find enough ecstasy that they turn off from drugs as they chant: "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna, Hare Hare, Hare Rama, Hare Rama, Rama Rama, Hare Hare." Hare is the name for Vishnu, "a Hindu God, the bringer of delight." Rama is the incarnation of Vishnu, the prince of responsibility and Krishna is the god-narrator of one of the chief Hindu religious books called the *Bhagavad-Gita*. In my younger days, it was considered frightfully avant garde to smuggle this book into Great Britain; now it is a best seller in numerous countries.

If the thought of an Indian god turns you off, the Swami is quick to point out that his society is not a religion seeking converts. My personal experience is in conflict with this, and is based on numerous interviews with devotees of the Swami who have given up their own religion, families and friends for the privilege of understanding the Swami's version of bliss.

Bliss is shaving the head, wearing old cotton robes and going out on the street corners in all weather to beg for money for the local temple. Bliss today seems to breed a special type of arrogance, and a new type of salesmanship accompanies by the monotonous chanting of Hare Krishna, alternating with the tinkling of bells and the clink of money changing hands.

It may depress you to know that bliss is a commodity sold by an efficient corporation known as Krishna Consciousness, Inc. This corporation has cornered the world market on the making and sale of incense, and is one of the largest publishing companies in the world. It is ruled from the top, in the form of the simple Indian Swami, works its way down through a board of directors, and heads of temples and various specialists, and ultimately reaches the thousands of followers who beg at street corners or make contact with the wealthy who, of course, are just as anxious to buy bliss as you or I may be.

Bliss through Krishna Consciousness is exclusive to the United States and all countries other than India, where the sale of its books is forbidden. Somehow I think India could use a little bliss, but instead it must make do with parcels sent by the Red Cross and various other charities for its starving millions. In India it is very difficult to "turn off" and "sing out", and there is a shortage of grains, fruits, fresh vegetables and milk — all of which the Swami advocates for his western devotees.

But then, it is an old cliché to say that no prophet is recognized in his home land. What a challenge, though, to teach Krishna Consciousness in India, which seems to need bliss more than America — but what would the corporation use for money?

New grade system

A proposal for a new grade for students who fail to complete term work was presented to the executive committee of general faculties council Monday.

The grade "T" would be used only when a student has failed to finish required work by the time final grades are due.

The executive asked Dirke Schaeffer, psychology professor who made the proposal, to take it back to the faculty of Arts for further discussion.

In a letter to GFC, Schaeffer said that while the grade 'incomplete' is available, it involves too much bureaucratic tape and is inconvenient for use on student transcripts.

Students, in many cases, are unable to complete term work because of pressure and a lack of

time. Also, some miss final exams for health or personal reasons.

According to the proposal, such students are assigned a temporary grade "T" for completed work. If assignments are completed after final grades are given, during a fixed time period determined by both the professor and the student, the letter "T" is removed and replaced with a supposedly higher final grade.

Schaeffer noted that each term is followed by several weeks or months, sufficient time for students to, make up unfinished assignments.

Professors would have the right to determine whether to use the grading system, Schaeffer emphasized in the letter.

Job prospects

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employers on the value of University of Alberta graduates. Each year, more than 400 firms are contacted about prospective candidates.

"If we can get an employer interested in coming here for an engineering student, they will have a look at the other graduates."

Synchrude, for example, sought graduates in Arts while primarily screening engineering students grades.

Generally, those with a general training, i.e. Arts degrees, have a greater difficulty in getting a job, because industry hasn't learned to use their abilities, he says.

"We're concerned with trying to develop a greater market for these students," Block reveals.

"We try to keep a close liaison with the department or faculty, which are interested in business trends and feedback on how their graduates are doing."

Block explains this apparent waste in the belief by some employers that, with three or four years training, their salary demands will be high.

"In my own experience, the general training has made them sharp, keen and easier to train."

The graduates of community colleges and technical schools are not taking jobs away from university graduates, according to Block.

"I think each institution has its own notch. I don't think the type of training offered conflict with one another."

Barring any sudden changes in the economy, the present job picture will remain bright in the next few years, he predicted.

The office offers a slide presentation on how to find a job.

Included in the presentation is information on such matters as how to prepare for an interview and how to sell your abilities to an employer. The program is available for group showings on request from the manpower office.

The office is trying to secure equipment to make the program more available to interested university groups.

It has seven employees and 17 interview rooms, located on the fourth floor in SUB.

Oil firms face suit

(ENS) - Detroit Attorney Edgar Dietrich—casting himself as the Ralph Nader of the oil industries—has filed the first massive class action suit against the major American oil companies. Dietrich's suit in effect claims all citizens as co-plaintiffs, and asks for a whopping \$270 billion in damages because of the energy crisis. The suit also asks for full public disclosure of all the circumstances of the petroleum shortages.

Dietrich's suit alleges that the American oil companies have violated the Sherman Anti-Trust Act—as well as other laws—in order to contrive a fuel shortage and reap vast, excessive profits. It also charges that the companies bought off high government officials "through large financial gifts in order to insure a shortage of crude oil products and natural gas."

According to Dietrich's attorney, James Tucker, the damage payments—if awarded by the U.S. district Court—would be paid in the form of reduced prices on petroleum products, or else increased corporate taxes.



However, Tucker conceded that the real purpose of the suit is to "make the people aware of the things they aren't being told."

The first hurdle that Dietrich's suit will face will be the December 17th U.S. Supreme Court decision that each plaintiff in a class action suit must meet federal standards for bringing the action, and that no less than \$10,000 must be at stake for each defendant. In effect, that ruling nullifies almost all class action suits of the sort filed by Dietrich.

Submissions from the general public will be warmly welcomed by the U of A Senate Task Force on the Status of Women Employees.

The Task Force was set up to study the status and career patterns of female university employees and is interested in public opinion on any facet of these topics.

Does sex bias exist in the university environment? Does sex effect employment, salary, working conditions, or status mobility?

Any persons interested in communicating their views to the task force should send written submissions to:

Ms. June Sheppard
Chairman, Senate Task Force on the Status of Women Employees

The Senate
University of Alberta
Personal interviews and appointments can be made by contacting the Senate office at 432-1268. Submissions must be in by February 22, 1974.

For more information, phone Liz Clarke at 432-4201.

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1974 STUDENTS' UNION GENERAL ELECTION

Nomination forms are now available at the SU receptionist's desk, 2nd. floor of SUB for the following positions:

The President of The Students' Union

The Executive Vice-President of The Students' Union

The Academic Vice-President of The Students' Union

The Finance and Administration Vice-President of The Students' Union

The Services Vice-President of The Students' Union

The Chairman of the University Athletic Board

& President of Mens Athletics

The Vice-Chairman of the UAB & President of Womens Athletics

The Treasurer of The University Athletic Board

Student Representative on the Board of Govenors

Nomination forms will be accepted in Room 271. SUB. on Tuesday, January 29, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM ONLY

For further information and rules and regulations concerning nominations, contact the SU receptionist in SUB.