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# I have Krishna WORLD

The Newspaper of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Formerly ISKCON World Review)

## Hands that Rock the Cradle Rock ISKCON

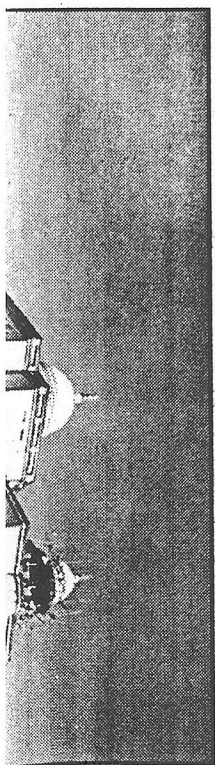
Karalapati dasi



Pranada dasi addresses the past, present, and future of women in ISKCON in a floating conference room.

## Krishna Ecology Presented to Conference at Harvard

HKW News Services  
CAMBRIDGE, MA, USA—The  
fore an immense amount of information



By Pranada dasi  
LOS ANGELES, CA, USA—  
Anticipation was high as attendees and speakers from around the world gathered for the first annual ISKCON Women's Ministry conference held December 5 to 7 in Los Angeles.

The conference attracted 116 people, ranging from as far away as France and London. A group of women in Los Angeles, including second generation devotees Shakuntala dasi and Krsna Devata dasi, organized the event, which was held on a houseboat in Marina Del Rey.

Anuttama dasa, North American director of ISKCON Communications, summed up the enthusiasm: "This conference is the most significant event in ISKCON this year, if not this decade. The level of Krishna consciousness demonstrated here is remarkable. This conference was not what I thought it might be. The visions

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## New Spiritual Care Hospital in Bombay

expressed were intelligent and unifying, not male-bashing, and left me feeling like the changes  
Please see Women, page 15.

"We have to realize now that ISKCON is bigger, it's wiser, it's more mature, and we have to cast off a lot of cultural patterns we adopted when we were young, immature, and ignorant—and that those things are simply suffocating the society."

*Hridayananda dasa Goswami*

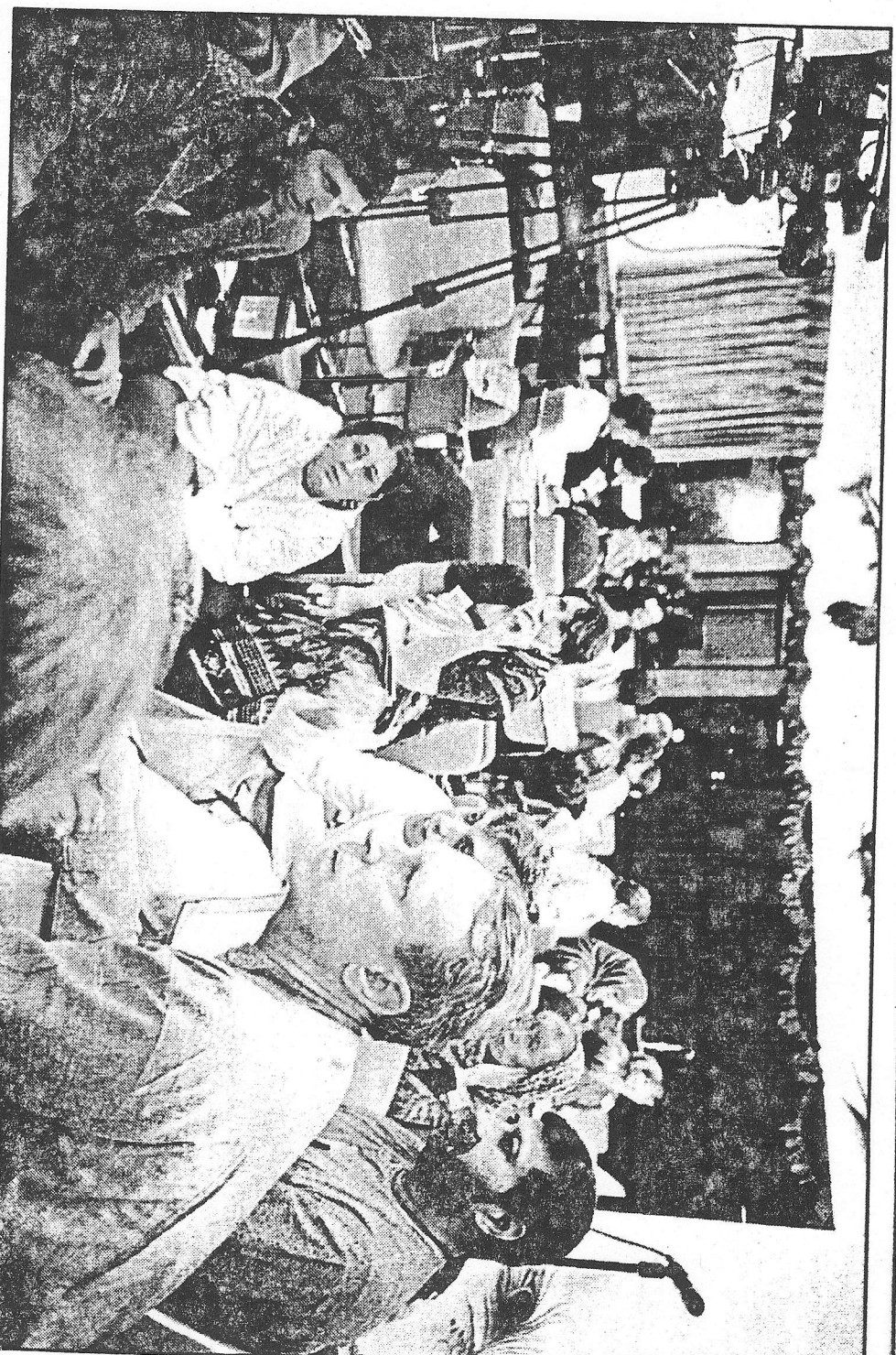
## Women, continued from page 1.

suggested were going to lend great strength in further building the movement."

Topics included Srila Prabhupada's pastimes with his disciples, which demonstrated how he made no distinction between the sexes in services and activities; maturing social relationships and the importance of women's involvement to stabilize ISKCON as a society; standards for women in ISKCON when Prabhupada was still present; investigation of *Bhagavatam* verses about women; a review of protection and other notable qualities in Vedic and contemporary context; and women in Vaishnava history.

A candid look was taken at encouraging women's involvement in all levels of ISKCON structure, and lively panel discussions evoked audience response. There was a healthy balance of presented papers and spontaneous speaking, and presenters, such as Bir K. Das Goswami, Hridayananda dasa Goswami, Mukunda Goswami, Visakha dasi, Jyotirmayi dasi, Radha dasi, Garuda dasa, Titiksha dasi, Bimala dasi, Anirudha dasa, and Malati dasi examined sensitive topics from many angles.

Throughout provocative and intellectually challenging presentations, the audience responded with applause and cheers. The reception of the discourses was so enthusiastic that many attendees said the conference had changed their lives. Bimala dasi said: "I realized that I was seeing our language change before my eyes. When we



Karalapati dasi

Dayananda dasa leans forward in a group discussion. His wife, Nandimukhi dasi, was one of the Women's Ministry conference organizers. Her parallels with international law and ISKCON's approach to women's positions in the movement elicited both laughter and appreciation.

Bimala dasi spoke briefly about single mothers, their need for respect and compassion, and the necessity for ISKCON to encourage men to take responsibility for their children.

Hridayananda Maharaja had the audience laughing as he examined the phenomena of men becoming ungentlemanly after becoming devotees, as if unkindness and

Prabhupada's vision of the man and woman's preaching as "redoubled" strength. Her comprehensive paper detailed these changes, why they were made, and how to right them. Visakha dasi gave a scholarly explanation about protection, chastity, and humility with little-known examples from the *Mahabharata* and *Srimad-Bhagavatam*. Her paper challenged many current belief systems in ISKCON.

Workshops generated suggested policies for GBC (Governing Body Commission) con-

clude an international quarterly newsletter and preparing educational materials for women's issues, such as domestic violence, solidifying a network in the United States and Europe, preparing GBC policy, writing a women's position paper for ISKCON, and preparing for two other conferences in the United States and Europe.

Conference proceedings are being published in a book and will be available later in 1998. Hare Krishna World will now



and women at the conference realized the time has come—we're each being called—to accept that we are the leaders. When we say 'leader' we're talking about ourselves, and you could hear from the presentations that we have solutions to our society's problems. We need to restore what Srila Prabhupada has given us. The conference created a sense of belonging that I've never before experienced as a devotee."

A Harvard law graduate, Radha dasi, received a standing ovation for her examination of international human rights law models and their application to ISKCON.

## Hospital, continued from page 1.

ards the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the patient. Leading industrialists, financiers, businessmen, and philanthropists attended the inauguration.

Twenty Hare Krishna doctors, led by Dr. Sankhe (Madhvananda dasa), the director of the hospital and a practicing pediatrician, were inspired by their spiritual master, Radhanath Swami, to build a hospital for the people that is patient-friendly, modern, and spiritually-oriented. It is a spiritual where the staff serve in devotion God for the physical, mental, and spiritual benefit of the people of Mumbai and the Hare Krishna community at large.

Bhaktiviedanta Hospital provides its in-patients with allopathic, alternative medicine, treatment, and complementary therapies, such as Ayurveda, homeopathy, naturally, and acupuncture. A spiritual care counseling program, based on the teachings of Srila Prabhupada, complements the therapies, as does the strictly vegetarian kitchen.

The two million dollar project incorporates modern architectural features combined with a classic Vedic facade, and is situated in various shades of saffron. It uses 130 beds and state-of-the-art diagnostic and medical equipment.

A life-size figure of Srila Prabhupada faces the entrance to the hospital and devotional music is available for in-patients' ears. A prayer room provides solace.

The hospital is located in the north of Mumbai in one of the city's fastest growing

business and freedom from sex desire. "We have to realize now that ISKCON is bigger, it's wiser, it's more mature, and we have to cast off a lot of cultural patterns we adopted when we were young, immature, and ignorant—and that those things are simply suffocating the society."

Jyotirmayi dasi, who joined the movement in 1969, systematically laid out the historical sequences of ISKCON law as it changed in the mid 70s to exclude women from temple functions, such as giving *Bhagavatam* classes, doing *puja*, and other devotional facilities available to men in the movement. She spoke eloquently of Srila

townships, with a population of more than one million people. It is built on an 80,000-sq-ft lot donated by the Dalmia Group of Companies. Opposite the hospital a few hundred yards down the road is ISKCON's Sri-Sri Radha-Giridhari temple.

Bhaktiviedanta Hospital will be expanding its present medical and nursing facilities to include the introduction of palliative care for the symptoms and pain control of terminally ill patients.

Future development also will include a special center for mentally and physically handicapped children, as well as an international doctor and nurse exchange training program with leading hospitals in the United Kingdom, Dr. Sankhe said.

The hospital opening received coverage in 39 news publications and on two TV stations.

The Sri Caitanya Seva Trust was founded in August 1986 to facilitate the talents of ISKCON doctors and nurses to provide holistic care to all patients, regardless of their background, sex, race, or religious affiliation.

presented to the GBC. The audience emphatically demanded a minimal change of at least two or three voting seats on the GBC be given to women. Bir Krishna Swami, a supporter of the Women's Ministry, assured the audience of his full support in addressing all these issues to the GBC. "Urgent changes need to be made in the consciousness of all the devotees. Impersonalism is a problem. We generally perceive other people as objects that are meant to please us."

At the Saturday night banquet attendees raised \$10,000 to fund the Women's Ministry activities this year, which will in-

to join the internet conference on women in ISKCON, contact Madhusudhani Radha dasi at [iwc@com.bdt.se](mailto:iwc@com.bdt.se).

Readers may contact Krishna devuta dasi about audio cassettes at 3765 Walseka Avenue, #16, Los Angeles, CA 90034, USA; 310-842-8568. For video cassettes, contacting Siddhanta dasa, ITV, P.O. Box 1015, Culver City, CA 90232 (800) 310-VIDEO.

Information about conference proceedings, copies of the papers presented, or ISKCON Women's Ministry work can be obtained by contacting ISKCON Women's Ministry, P.O. Box 2038, Alachua, FL 32616, USA. Enclose \$2 per paper for copies of presented papers.

## Harvard, continued from page 1.

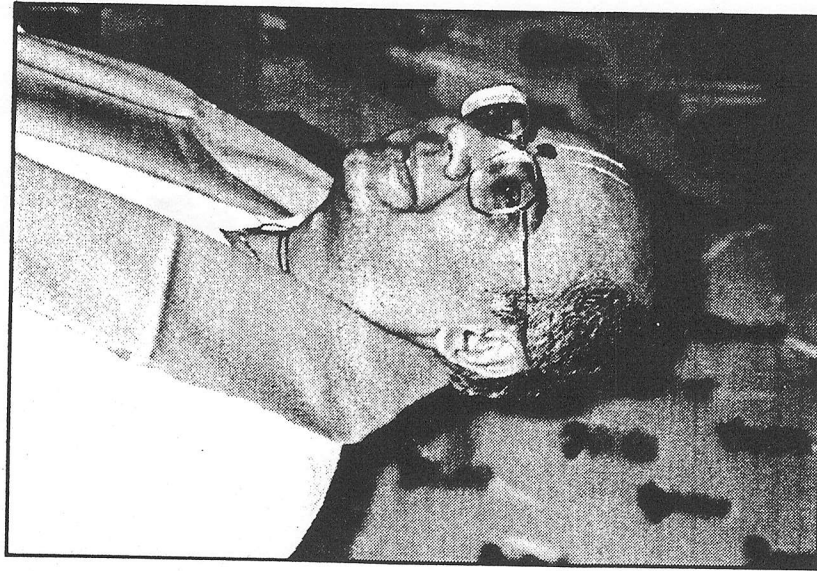
ship between ISKCON and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and developed to involve the community of Vrindavana, as well as communities of Hindus abroad, especially in Leicester, England, where the charity, Friends of Vrindavana, began in 1992. Ranchor also recommended that all conference participants read *Divine Nature*, by Drutakarna dasa and Mukunda Goswami.

Friends of Vrindavana is bringing together a coalition of agencies in India, named Vraj Seva Mandal, dedicated to restoring and protecting Vraj, the cultural region around Vrindavana, which has long been a center of pilgrimage and religious inspiration for the people of India but has now fallen victim to severe environmental pressures.

Ranchor: "It is essential that Vraj be protected as an example of environmental care based on the traditional values of the Vaishnava religion. Krishna upheld environmental values by choosing to live in the midst of nature and caring for the cows and for the forest. Yet His sacred forests are no longer cared for and, judging by the state of Vrindavana, care for nature is no longer part of Krishna spirituality."

The Vrindavana Conservation Project and Friends of Vrindavana are supported by ABC, the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, which Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, launched in 1995 as a follow-up to WWF's Network of Conservation and Religion.

Interested readers can contact Friends of Vrindavana at 10 Grafton Mews, London W1P 5LE, England; [ranchor@casynet.co.uk](mailto:ranchor@casynet.co.uk)



Mr. Arvind Matlatal, a businessman with spiritual vision.