

Guru's actions similar to Jones'

United Press International
DENVER — The Guru Maharaj Ji, contrary to his religious teachings, uses drugs, drinks liquor, smokes and has sexually and physically abused his devotees in an atmosphere markedly similar to that of Jim Jones in the aftermath of the Guyana massacre, two former top aides said Saturday.

Less than 24 hours after denouncing the Divine Light Mission's 20-year-old spiritual leader, former top aide Robert Mishler and John Hand Jr. also said they fear violent reprisals for the statements.

"But we had to say something publicly and deal with the repercussions the best way we can," said Hand, 30, the sect's former vice president. "We were essentially responsible for Maharaj Ji's toehold in America and we feel a degree of guilt for contributing to turning him into a cult leader in this country."

Hand and Mishler, the 33-year-old former mission president, said they have agonized over publicly denouncing the guru for several years, but thought religious cults were losing their widespread appeal among youths.

However, they said they felt compelled to take action as the death count increased daily in Jonestown, Guyana, where the Rev. Jim Jones' People's Temple settled.

Jones' sex conduct disclosed as violent

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Jim Jones bragged for hours about his sexual adventures and aides say he frequently ordered faithful female followers — male — to submit to his violent sexual advances.

"Everyone had to say they were a homosexual or a lesbian," said Mike Cartmell, a former Peoples Temple associated minister, who married one of Jones' adopted daughters.

"Jones realized the power of sex in destroying stable family relationships," Cartmell said in an interview published Friday by the Los Angeles Times.

"In some cults you have communal living. In Peoples Temple, Jones, like Father Divine, made himself the only legitimate object of sexual desire."

Cartmell said Jones once tried to approach him, but "the phone rang and I fled the room."

At weekly meetings of his 100 or so most faithful followers, which often lasted until dawn, Jones boasted in intimate detail of his sexual prowess. But he complained to others the sex drained his "supernatural" powers.

Later, Cartmell asked Jones why the sex business? "You have to," Jones told Cartmell. "It focuses their interest on you."

Couples who thought of themselves as good Christians, after having engaged in adulterous and homosexual conduct, found themselves liable to blackmail by Jones and subject to their own guilt, Mills said.

Asked if it ever occurred to him after listening to Jones rave for hours about sex that Jones was mad, Mills said: "Yeah, but only for a moment because every moment you spent thinking about it was one less moment you could sleep."

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