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news OF THE NATION



Devil worship fad worries parents, teachers in El Paso

Parents, educators, police and counselors in El Paso, Texas, say they are alarmed by indications of the growing fad in devil worship and the popularity of satanic occult symbols in the city. Two junior high schools recently amended their dress code, forbidding the wearing of upside-down crosses, swastikas, heavy metal rock T-shirts with satanic art and such occult trademarks as the "666" pentagrams.

Some students who have worn upside-down crosses on large chains around their necks have been using the crosses in fights, an El Paso assistant principal said. Recently a teenage girl spent eight hours in the hospital as a result of being beaten by other teens when she refused to join their satanic group, she said.

Many teens have called an El Paso hot line expressing fear that the devil is out to kill them and have entertained thoughts of suicide or murder, the director of the hot line, Florence Luke, told the El Paso Times. Sue Joyner, a member of the WATCH network, a group that believes satanism harms adolescents and that teens are mainly attracted to it by heavy metal music that glorifies the occult, estimates there are 150 active covens with 2,000 satanists of all ages in El Paso—a city of 450,000.

Patricia Lefevere

Nun's killer granted stay as order asks clemency

Cornelius Singleton, convicted of murdering a nun, received a court-ordered stay of execution Feb. 21 as members of the nun's order, including her provincial, appealed to Alabama Governor George Wallace for clemency.

Singleton was convicted for the 1977 murder of Sister Ann Hogan, a member of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. Five members of the order wrote an open letter asking clemency because Christ had "set the standard for us when he said, from the depth of his heart, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

The study, which looks at the role of Catholic schools in the church's mission to the poor, found that the average family income of students is not a strong determining factor in Catholic schools. Michael Guerra, project director, said that poor students succeed because academic standards "aren't watered down for one group of kids."

CUA bans NOW head

Nearly a month after Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, was banned from the Catholic University of America (CUA) campus (NCR, Jan. 31), she waived her \$1,500 fee and spoke Feb. 25 to nearly 300 CUA students at a downtown Washington hotel.



"I feel the university is making a tragic error. SMEAL

No wall is high enough to bar ideas. We are everywhere," Smeal said of feminist supporters. "We are in huge numbers within the Catholic population." Some students' concerns about her support for the freedom of choice on abortion and the failure of the sponsors to follow school guidelines for planning a program were cited as reasons when the school canceled her speech in January.

—Marguerite Mullaney

Court closes off door number two

In deciding that an antiabortion group had no constitutional right to picket inside the corridors of an office building, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court late last month upheld the eviction of *Problem Pregnancy* from a Worcester, Mass., building. The ruling was the latest action in a two-year dispute between Planned Parenthood and Problem Pregnancy, an antiabortion group that rented