

You are wanted
and you are Satan's
and you are the ultimate
and you are the devil's
and you are the ultimate
and you are the devil's

Metro/State

Jurors urge death for 'Night Stalker'

By LINDA DEUTSCH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — A jury recommended Wednesday that convicted "Night Stalker" Richard Ramirez die in the gas chamber, and the devil-worshiping serial killer snarled: "Big deal, death always went with the territory, see you in Disneyland."

Ramirez, convicted of 13 savage murders, rocked in his chair and peered around at courtroom spectators seated behind him as Superior Court Judge Michael A. Tynan read aloud the jury's recommendations, count by count.

Jurors found Ramirez deserved the death penalty on 19 special circumstances attached to felony convictions that included multiple murders, burglary and sex crimes.

State law requires a separate jury finding of special circumstances before the death penalty can be imposed. As of Oct. 2, there were 265 inmates on death row in California.

Tynan will consider the jury's recommendations before he formally sentences Ramirez on Nov. 7. The facts of the case, however, made it unlikely the judge would reduce the sentence to life in prison without the possibility of parole, the only other possible sentence.

Under California law, the death sentence will be automatically appealed.

Ramirez made no comment in the courtroom but uttered his "Disneyland" remark to reporters while being taken back to jail.

He apparently was referring to his lawyer's contention to the jury that life in prison was sufficient. "He will never see Disneyland again," lawyer Ray Clark had said.

The judge thanked the jurors profusely for the year they had spent on the case. "I'm very proud of you," he told them. "I know you had a tough time of it. ... It was a very emotionally charged case. I want to thank you for the public. God bless you."

"I have nightmares all the time about the crimes," said juror Cynthia Haden. "I'll get over it, but I'll never be the same. I'll never look at people the same."

"How are you going to return to a normal life after going through something like this?" asked another juror, Bonita Smith.

The jury's deliberations lasted five days in the death penalty phase of the trial. The jurors did not look at Ramirez as the word "death" was pronounced 19 times by Tynan, but they answered in firm voices, "Yes, your honor," when the judge polled them individually.

Juror Alfredo Carrillo said there was little dissension among jurors over whether to recommend the death penalty. The panel took its time simply because there were so many counts.

"It took a lot of thinking," he said. He added about Ramirez, "I think he's a pretty crazy man."

"He got what he deserved," said Deputy District Attorney P. Philip Halpin, who had

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AP/photo

'NIGHT STALKER' killer Richard Ramirez looks around the courtroom Wednesday in Los Angeles after a jury recommended the death sentence.

NIGHT: LA jury urges gas chamber

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urged the death penalty, describing Ramirez to the jury as "a miserable human being" who killed for self-gratification. Defense attorney Ray Clark had pleaded for mercy.

"I think all human beings are deserving of our sympathy and should not have their lives taken in the streets, in the courts or in the gas chamber," said defense attorney Daniel Hernandez, adding he does not think Ramirez wants to die.

"There's no punishment that could fit this crime," Judi Arnold, daughter of Night Stalker victims Maxon and Lela Kneiding, said tearfully after the verdicts. She said Ramirez should die.

"I have to live the rest of my life seeing my parents (as murder victims) and what Mr. Ramirez did to them."

Jurors ruled Sept. 20 that the 29-year-old native of El Paso, Texas, was the demonic killer who broke into homes through unlocked windows and doors in the summer of 1985.

As the pattern of satanic crimes unfolded, investigators found men murdered in their beds, and women raped and beaten as the assailant demanded money and jewels.

Ramirez was convicted of 13 murders and 30 related felonies ranging from rape and sodomy to burglary. In one murder, a victim's eyes were gouged out. In another, a woman was raped beside the body of her murdered husband.

Satanic symbols were left at some murder scenes and some victims were forced to "swear to Satan" by the killer, who held Southern California in a grip of terror during his rampage.

At a preliminary hearing Ramirez held up a hand inscribed with

Ramirez's rampage

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Here is a chronology of events in the "Night Stalker" case during the five years since the serial murders began:

June 27, 1984 — Jennie Vincow, 79, is murdered in her Glassel Park apartment in a burglary attempt.

March 17, 1985 — Dayle Okazaki, 34, is found shot to death in her Rosemead condominium. Her roommate is wounded but survives. Later that night, Tsai-Lian Yu, 30, of Monterey Park, is pulled from her car and shot repeatedly.

March 27 — Vincent Zazzara, 64, and his wife, Maxine, 44, are found shot to death in Whittier. Mrs. Zazzara's eyes were gouged out.

May 14 — William Doi, 66, is killed in his Monterey Park home. His wife is assaulted but survives.

May 30 — A 41-year-old Burbank woman survives a rape and robbery by the "Night Stalker."

June 1 — Mabel Close Bell, 83, is fatally bludgeoned in her Monrovia home, clinging to life for six weeks before she dies. Her invalid sister, Florence Lang, 80, survives a severe beating.

July 2 — Mary Cannon, 75, is found murdered in her ransacked Arcadia home. She had been beaten and her throat slit.

July 5 — A 16-year-old girl is strangled and beaten as she sleeps but survives. Her father's house is burglarized.

July 7 — The Night Stalker strikes twice in Monterey Park, killing Joyce Lucille Nelson, 60, then raping and robbing a 64-year-old

woman who survives.

July 20 — Maxon Kneiding, 68, and his wife, Lela, 64, are murdered in their Glendale home. A few hours later, Chainarong, Khovananth, 32, is shot in his Sun Valley home. His wife and child survive beatings. The killer flees with \$30,000 in money and jewelry.

Aug. 6 — Christopher Peterson, 38, and his wife, Virginia, 27, are shot at their Northridge home but scare off the attacker and survive.

Aug. 8 — Elias Abowath, 35, is shot to death in his Diamond Bar home. His wife and children survive.

Aug. 17 — Peter Pan, 66, is shot to death in San Francisco. His wife, Barbara, 64, also shot, survives. Ramirez is charged in San Francisco.

Aug. 25 — William Carns, 29, is shot three times in the head at his Mission Viejo home. His fiance is assaulted. Both survive but Carns is disabled for life. Ramirez is charged in Orange County.

Aug. 30 — Police match fingerprints found in a stolen car, linking the slayings to Richard Ramirez, a drifter from El Paso, Texas. His picture is in newspapers and on TV.

Aug. 31 — An angry crowd chases down, beats and holds Ramirez after he tries to steal a woman's car in East Los Angeles. Police arrest him for the "Night Stalker" murders.

Oct. 24 — Ramirez pleads innocent, but shouts "Hail Satan!" and displays a pentagram drawn on the palm of his hand.

a pentagram, a symbol of devil worship, and said, "Hail Satan."

For jurors, the penalty recommendation ended more than a year of jury service during which they endured the murder of one of their own panel members, likely to become a point of appeal.

Juror Phyllis Singletary was found slain at her home Aug. 15 in the midst of jury deliberations on

Ramirez's guilt or innocence. Her live-in boyfriend committed suicide a day later and left a note admitting he had killed her.

Ramirez, sullen through most of the trial, usually hid his eyes behind dark glasses.

At the end of the guilt phase he refused to be present in court and was allowed to listen through a speaker in a nearby cell.

Man convicted as 'Night Stalker'

Haz S-3 9/21/89:4

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Richard Ramirez was convicted of 13 murders and 30 felonies Wednesday by a jury that decided he was the devil-worshiping "Night Stalker" whose nocturnal attacks terrified California in 1985.

In addition, the jurors found 18 special circumstances existed, making Ramirez eligible for the death penalty.

The defendant, convicted on all counts against him, demanded to be absent from court when the 63 separate verdict forms were read by Superior Court Judge Michael Tynan.

The judge granted his request, saying a recent appeals court decision gave him no choice. Ramirez, who left the courtroom with shackles rattling around his ankles, heard the verdicts from a

loudspeaker in a nearby holding cell.

His attorney said later that Ramirez had no reaction while listening to the verdict. As he was taken from the courthouse, Ramirez flashed a two-finger "devil sign" to photographers.

Asked what he thought about the verdicts, the 29-year-old El Paso native said only: "Evil."

The jurors found that Ramirez was the demonic killer who committed crimes of rape, sodomy, oral copulation, burglary and attempted murder in addition to murder.

They found that 12 of the murders were first-degree, but decided the killing of Tsai-Lian Yu was murder in the second-degree. She was dragged from her car and killed as she screamed for help on March 17, 1985.

In the packed courtroom, relatives of three of the victims sat with their heads bowed as the verdicts were read. Tynan said the penalty phase of the trial would begin Sept. 27.

The trial lasted more than a year and it took more than a month for the jury to reach its verdicts after bizarre interruptions — including the murder of a juror — required them to restart their deliberations twice.

"My personal feeling is the jury could no longer be objective after the death of the juror," defense attorney Daniel Hernandez said after the verdicts were delivered.

The jurors spent 22 days in their second set of talks after the slaying.

The verdicts came four years after Southern California's searing summer of terror.

CORTEZ
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VALLEY JOURNAL
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4-Corners Horizons

Satan cited in death

AZTEC — A 17-year-old murder suspect reported his 14-year-old companion spoke incantations to Satan before thrusting a knife into a Fruitland, N.M., girl's body, a deputy sheriff testified at a hearing Tuesday.

Deputy Det. David Whitaker was reporting the content of statements Chad Lee Freeman gave at the Sheriff's office after the youth was detained in the death of Marlene Wilson, 17, whose body was found in Fruitland Sept. 19.

Freeman named Jinmy Santiago Gutierrez Jr. as the killer, but Sheriff's officers believe Freeman wielded the knife, Whitaker said.

Whitaker's testimony came at a hearing to determine if Freeman should be tried as an adult in the case. Gutierrez was already tried as a juvenile and sentenced to two years at the Springer, N.M., reform school, the maximum sentence for a juvenile.

2 accused of seeking curse

N.O. Times Picayune

2/16/89

By The Associated Press

TUPELO, Miss. — Two brothers are charged with conspiracy to commit murder for allegedly paying a voodoo witch doctor to put a death curse on Lee County Circuit Judge Thomas Gardner III.

According to indictments handed down this month by the Lee County grand jury, Leroy Ivy, 33, of Oxford and his younger brother, John Henry Ivy, have been charged with conspiracy to commit the judge's murder on Oct. 14.

In July, Gardner had sentenced John Henry Ivy to 40 years in prison for strong-armed robbery to run concurrently and consec-

utively with other sentences Ivy had received.

Bond was set this week at \$50,000 for both men.

"They tried to kill him with voodoo," Lee County Sheriff Jack Shirley said. "We've talked about it. To me it was kind of a joke."

Shirley said that he was told the Ivys are accused of agreeing to pay \$1,000 to a voodoo witch doctor who was supposed to put a spell on Gardner.

Jerry Butler, an investigator with the Mississippi Highway Patrol, said undercover agents discovered that someone was trying to obtain a photo of Gardner and a lock of his hair to send to Louisiana and to Jamaica to have a hex placed on the judge.

S S R A N S R C H T O S H H T D

Brothers on trial for voodoo

Pair is accused of trying to murder Mississippi judge

TUPELO, Miss. (AP) — Voodoo murder is usually the stuff of paperback novels and B-grade movies, but it's shaping up as the fare of a real-life court battle for two men accused of trying to use a hex to kill a judge.

"They are ridiculous charges," says John Henry Adams, charged along with his half-brother, Leroy Ivy, with conspiracy to commit murder.

Prosecutors arrested Ivy on Oct. 14, minutes after he paid \$100 for a picture of Circuit Judge Thomas Gardner III.

GARDNER HAD sentenced Adams, 25, to 40 years in the Mississippi State Penitentiary on an armed robbery charge, a sentence that Adams was serving at the time of the alleged plot.

Authorities say the brothers intended to send the picture and what was supposed to be a lock of Gardner's hair — both purchased from undercover agents — to a Jamaican voodoo priest who would cast a death curse on the judge.

The brothers, who have the same mother but different fathers, have been jailed in Tupelo awaiting trial on the charges, unable to post \$50,000 bonds. If con-

victed, they could face sentences of up to 20 years in prison and fines of up to \$500,000 each.

Their trial, originally scheduled to begin Friday, has been delayed because it was assigned to Gardner. A new judge is to be appointed.

In the meantime, Adams and Ivy, who spoke during separate prison interviews, said they are growing weary of the wait and sick of the attention their case has drawn.

"I'm tired of this. I want to know what's going on," said the 33-year-old Ivy. "They've already ruined my life with all these allegations."

PROSECUTORS WILL say little about the case.

"I can't comment on the evidence or our trial plans," said Assistant District Attorney Rowland Geddie Jr.

Prosecutors are expected to argue that it makes no difference if the intended murder weapon was supernatural so long as the brothers intended to kill Gardner.

The defense is expected to argue that the judge's life was never in danger.

At the center of the case is the brothers' alleged belief in voodoo,

which Ivy flatly denies and Adams will not directly discuss.

"Voodoo is a religion, and I shouldn't comment on other people's beliefs," Adams said. "A lot of people have made a joke out of this. You shouldn't make a joke out of something you don't know anything about."

The brothers say they haven't seen each other while they've been in the Lee County jail.

Ivy said he didn't do anything wrong when he purchased the picture of Gardner from one of the judge's employees. Adams takes the same position.

What, then, did Adams intend to do with the photo?

Pressed on the subject, he finally said he planned to put the picture on a punching bag he used for boxing at the prison. "That was all I could do with it," he said.

Ivy said he and his brother are being railroaded because they are black.

"I'm glad this case is going to trial," he said. "Maybe the public will get a chance to see how the justice system is really run in Lee County."

Tanning booth, drugs blamed in burn death

CHICAGO (AP) — A 45-year-old woman who had taken medicine that made her skin more sensitive to light died of burns she received in a tanning booth, according to a published report yesterday.

Patsy Campbell of Portage, Ind., died Wednesday at the University of Chicago Medical Center. Burns covered 70 percent of her body, said Christopher Morris, spokesman for the Cook County medical examiner.

Campbell had undergone a 25-minute tanning session at a beauty salon on May 13, he said.

The Chicago Sun-Times yesterday quoted unidentified sources as saying that she had been taking psoralen, a drug that increases the skin's sensitivity

to light. The drug is most often used in conjunction with ultraviolet lamps to treat psoriasis, a skin disease, the newspaper said.

Dr. Alan Dimick, a burn expert from the University of Alabama, said he believes this is the first case of a death caused by burns from a tanning booth.

Taking photosensitizing drugs, including certain antibiotics and oral anti-diabetic drugs, "would set her up for the burn," Dimick said.

Soon after Campbell went to the tanning parlor, she started to itch all over her body, and blisters formed two days later, Morris said. She was admitted to an Indiana hospital and later transferred to the burn unit at the University of Chicago.

'Satan Cult' Death, Drugs Jolt Peaceful Vineland, N.J.

By EDWARD C. BURKS
Special to The New York Times



Patrick Michael Newell, who was found drowned.



Richard Williams, above, and Wayne Sweikert have been accused of murder.



VINELAND, N.J.—On a summer's evening, spacious well-tended Landis Park is filled with the comforting traditional sounds of small-town America. The crack of a bat sets off a burst of cheers at one of three teenage baseball games, and there are excited cries from children riding a neon-lighted Ferris wheel at a carnival.

There are also other, newer sounds in the park—sounds that reflect the growing drug problem in this South Jersey industrial city, which was recently shaken by a bizarre killing described by police sources as a drug-connected "Satan cult" murder.

At a "rap session" conducted from the park bandstand by the Rev. Harry Snook, pastor of the Chestnut Assembly of God, teenagers who formerly used drugs, including some who claim to know young Satan worshipers, tell how Jesus has saved them.

Body Is Found

Is it really possible that this pleasant town of 48,000 people—a town with a spick-and-span main street, shady avenues and immense residential yards—could harbor Satan cults?

The question would have been ludicrous until about two weeks ago, when Patrick Michael (Mike) Newell, a 20-year-old Vineland glass-factory worker, was found drowned in a sand-pit pond in nearby Millville. His hands and feet had been bound with adhesive tape.

Two close friends of the dead youth, Richard Williams, 18, and Wayne Sweikert, 17, June graduates of

the Vineland High School and both former cross-country stars, are being held without bail, charged with murder.

Philip Lipman, attorney for the Williams youth, speaks of Mr. Newell's death as "a suicide with assistance."

'Leagues of Demons'

At a preliminary hearing, Police Chief Charles Pangburn of Millville testified that young Williams, after being advised of his constitutional rights, had told this story: The Newell youth belonged to a "Satan worshipers sect" and felt he had to die violently in order to be put in charge of "40 leagues of demons." He urged the two friends to bind him, which they did, performed a "Satanic ritual" and then had them push him into the pond.

Since the bizarre incident the police have disclosed that young Newell had a considerable amount of literature on Satanic cults and witchcraft that he previously had attempted suicide, that he "sacrificed" hamsters by shaking them up in a wooden box into which sharp nails had been driven and that hard drugs were involved in a "party" prior to the killing.

Described as 'Eerie'

Acquaintances at Vineland High School, from which young Newell was graduated a year ago, recall that he had an inordinate interest in spells and Oriental mysticism. Some of the girls described him as "eerie" because he talked of "sadistic things." In his high school annual last year he was described as one who "likes to collect ancient spells."

But does one man make a



On Landis Avenue, the main thoroughfare in Vineland

cult? Mayor Henry A. Garton of Vineland, who was formerly Director of Public Safety, said that "I've never heard of any Satanic cults here." Nor have the city police or the principal of Vineland High School.

But Mr. Snook, who works with troubled youngsters who seem to take to his fervent pentecostal style of "old-time religion," estimates that 60 to 70 people of high school and college age here have been involved as spectators

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Champion

By JERRY M. FLINT

Special to The New York Times

COPPER HARBOR, Mich.—July 5—There's a parade a queen, and the crowd cheer on their heroes, but international Frisbee championship, held here on the shores of Lake Superior on the Independence Day weekend, is not any Tournament of Roses or World Series. may be more fun, half serious sport and half spoof the over-organized, commercialized world of sports an antisport.

"Back in California, Frisbee is really the sport of you people, the alienated you, the long-haired sport; it's no establishment ties," says Dr. Stancil Johnson, a 25-year-old psychiatrist from Sacramento, Calif., who is Frisbee master.

"This is the first space sport," said Paul Richards, an Eastern Airlines pilot from Marengo, Ill.

"Balls are ballistic missiles they travel in a parabola curve, while the Frisbee is an airfoil and actually flies

'Guts Frisbee'

"When we say we're going to the Frisbee tournament people say, 'Oh, come on,' complained John Conne, captain of the Highland Aces of Wilmette, the new world Frisbee champions. "But when they get in front of us when we think it, they don't say come on more."

Championship Frisbee, "Guts Frisbee" as it is called, can be fiercely competitive.



At a park bandstand in Vineland, the Rev. Harry Snook, pastor of the Chestnut Assembly of God, conducts a session at which teen-agers tell of having been saved by Jesus. Some of the youths say they know about Satan worshipers.

The New York Times

'Satan Cult' Death, Drugs Jolt Quiet Vineland, N.J.

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or participants in Satanic worship rites.

He gets his information from former and maybe-former drug users who come to his handsome year-old brick church building and to the Landis Park "rap sessions." He said that he had talked with a half dozen or more young people who confessed to having taken part in devil worship rites but that none had any connection with the Newell youth.

The Rev. Joseph Donchez of the First Presbyterian Church, another who has worked with young people with drug habits, not only agrees with Mr. Snook but estimates the number of young devil worshippers here at between "80 and 90."

Some independent investigators here claim to have found the site of some previous Satanic rites near the high school and to have dug up animal bones.

In recent years there has been a rapidly spreading interest in this country in the occult, mysticism, "black magic," witchcraft and the worship of "the Satanic majority."

Witches All Over

With California taking the lead, the interest, or obsession has spread to colleges, hippie gathering places and even to suburban housewives.

Close to three centuries after the hanging of the witches at Salem, witches seem to be turning up all over—in Brooklyn, in Nassau County, N.Y., and here in Vineland.

A housewife here, the

mother of five children, including Little Leaguers, tells of meeting regularly every week with eight other middle-class Vinelanders to attempt witchcraft. But theirs, she insists, is "white magic"—magic with good intent.

Mayor Garton points out that Vineland has changed drastically, from a village of 8,000 in 1950, to a sprawling industrial city of nearly 70 square miles, the largest city in area in New Jersey and, in fact, bigger than Staten Island.

Its big industries are glass-making, clothing manufacturing and food processing.

Vineland was planned, founded and developed by Charles K. Landis, who settled here in 1861, to unite agriculture and industry. Today, according to its Mayor, it has most of the problems of the big city in miniature.

"We are a growing, changing town," he says, "a microcosm of today's very liberal sophisticated thinking. And we are not isolated. We are in the midst of the East Coast megalopolis, close to Philadelphia and Atlantic City."

In May, reacting to the growing wave of drug use, including "hard drugs," on the part of high school students and other young people, the Cumberland County police ordered a sweep through Vineland and the rest of the county, making some 60 arrests, according to the Mayor.

Mr. Snook, who had young Sweikert in his congregation, sees nothing startling in the apparently growing interest on the part of youths in black magic and "worshiping the devil."

"These kids are looking for something, they're so empty," he said. The minister added that Satan worship was just "the next step beyond the drug fad" or, more correctly, something to go along with drug-taking.

Many of the youths, he said, started out by reading about Oriental religions and spiritism, then moved on to ritual sacrifice of small animals.

If it was just the fad of a few conceived in boredom and fanned by drug-taking, it has suddenly become something very harsh and real to all Vinelanders because of young Newell's strange death.

At Mr. Snook's "rap sessions" in Landis Park, which are conducted in both English and Spanish, for there is also a Puerto Rican minister of the Assembly of God on hand, there is much hand-clapping, rhythmic music akin to the Caribbean merrueque and shouts of "Hallelujah" and "Jesus."

Skepticism Expressed

Sixteen-year-old girls with obvious middle-class backgrounds—girls like "Sunshine Sue," a redhead in cut-off blue jeans—jump up on the bandstand to take the microphone to tell how they broke the drug habit and how they have been saved because they accepted Jesus.

This kind of simplistic approach leaves some Vineland officials muttering, "Yeah, and what happens when the kids get bored with being Jesus People?"

Nevertheless, Mr. Snook has close to 200 young people—black, white and Puerto

Rican—on hand in the park on pleasant warm nights.

Vineland's main street, Landis Avenue, a broad, tree-lined concrete thoroughfare with angle parking, handsome, clean store buildings and the old streetcar track down its center, is still the big nighttime hangout for scores and hundreds of youths these summer nights.

The police, like old-time Western marshals, walk up and down the center of the street keeping a watchful eye on traffic and the youngsters.

There seems to be absolutely nothing for the young people to do on that street. A soda shop that was once a noisy hangout is now closed at night, so the youths gather on the sidewalk outside.

Dolls Found on Trees

Judge George Shunk, in neighboring Franklin Township, across the line in Gloucester County, tells of a strange find in his area some months ago: a dozen or more dolls wrapped in black cloth and stuck voodoo style with pins in the arms, head and body, were found tied to trees.

The Criminal Investigation Section of the New Jersey state police was called in to investigate the possible existence of a voodoo cult.

According to Detective Robert Miller, "written on the feet of the dolls were the names of different girls, but we never found out anything."

"I'm not surprised to hear about any kind of strange doings in south Jersey. All kinds of stuff goes on. Man, when the moon's out they really go!" he said.

**Franklin
Savings
Bank**

murder

Satanism takes gruesome toll across America

"Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the Devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time . . . Let him who hath understanding count the number of the beast for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six-hundred threescore and six." — Revelation

By EVAN MOORE
Houston Chronicle

They danced out of the graveyard that night, Aug. 6, 1985. Five teenagers, three with arms linked and voices joined in a sing-song supplica-

tion to a demon:

"Six . . . Six, Six
The Number of the Beast.
Hell and fire,
Were born to be released."

The demon should have been pleased with their offering. Behind them, in a wooded field just beyond the tombstones, they'd left Dennis Keith Medler lying beaten, burned and choking to death on the broken shards of his own teeth.

"Six . . . Six, Six
The Number of the Beast

Sac — rifice
Is going on tonight!"

They'd borrowed the song from Iron Maiden, a heavy metal group named after a medieval torture device.

They'd taken their direction from Harold Glenn "Jack" Smith, "The Wizard," a tormented 17-year-old who believed he'd sold his soul to the devil, and they'd derived their giddy elation from a combination of drugs and the adrenalin that flows from mindless violence.

They'd lured Medler to the cemetery with tales of strange, hallucinogenic mushrooms growing near the graves. Once there, they'd fallen on him, stabbed him, beat him with a pipe, shoved the pipe into one of his eyes, strangled him with a bandanna and set fire to his hair.

Police called the death a "thrill killing" and prosecutor Jim Peacock won fairly easy convictions on that basis. Smith's obsession with satanism played a small part in his trial, but it wasn't needed to prove his

guilt.

The others either pleaded guilty or were tried and convicted and, today, Smith, 21; Martin Wayne Tosh, 20; Shannon Rivera, 20; Michael Gene Cravey, 23; and Michael Eddie Trimmer, 21, are all in jail.

Since the night they killed Keith Medler, however, their crime has taken on a tone more ominous than that of a senseless, drug-induced murder.

It was the first and only Houston killing known to have been moti-

vated solely by satanic beliefs.

Smith, a school dropout who often wore a high-crowned "wizard's cap" and scrawled occult slogans on buildings, had been obsessed with the devil for more than a year. He'd recruited his friends from a Greenpoint video game room, preached his litany to them and told them they could gain favor with Satan through murder.

"I'd still say it wasn't a ritual killing, but the Satan worship certainly did play a part," said Peacock, now in private practice. "I didn't play up the devil worship in the trial

CONTINUED

because I didn't want it to be a circus in front of the jury, but it was a motive — at the least a collateral motive.

"It gave them the proper excuse they wanted to kill."

After the Medler trials, Peacock's case seemed to include more satanic elements: a graveyard desecration, several murders in which satanic materials were found in the homes of the killers, a bludgeoning death in which the defendant was a man who had introduced Jack Smith to devil worship . . .

"I don't know if it was coincidence or because I'd had the Smith case," he said. "But there were more of them."

Long before the Smith case — for almost 100 years — men like Aleister Crowley, Michael Aquino and a carnival organ player named Anton LaVey had been promoting devil worship for their own, separate profits.

Crowley, an Englishman who often visited America, did not call himself a satanist but was the world's best-known dabbler in "magic." One of his cohorts, L. Ron Hubbard, went on to found scientology, which is often referred to as a cult.

Aquino, a reserve Army officer, is founder of the Temple of Set in California and is said to combine a form of Nazism with satanic beliefs.

LaVey, probably the best known of the three, is founder of the Church of Satan, and author of the Satanic Bible. Before founding his satanic church, LaVey was a calliope player with a circus, an organ player in a striptease club and a photographer for the San Francisco Police Department.

He had always been interested in the occult, however, and, in the early 1950s, he bought what had been a rambling San Francisco bawdy house, purchased a black panther as a pet, shaved his head, began wearing a black cape and declared himself the emissary of Satan.

Many have called him a con man, but LaVey's church managed to attract a number of wealthy persons, including several movie stars.

Whatever influence these men have had, during the past decade satanic and cult-related crimes have seemed to escalate throughout the country, or, at least the reports of

them have — prompting a wave of apprehension and revulsion among parents, teachers and police.

In the Houston area and elsewhere, anti-cult groups have sprung up. Legislation outlawing ritual abuse of humans and animals has been proposed in both Texas and Louisiana. Hospitals, schools and churches are sponsoring workshops on cults and their effect on teen-agers. High schools have adopted dress codes banning occult jewelry and symbols. Law enforcement agencies throughout the state are sending representatives to seminars on occult crimes.

Houston police have assigned an intelligence officer to compile a report on the subject although he refuses to speak to the media.

And behind this are a number of seemingly unrelated but exceedingly repugnant crimes.

Perhaps the most gruesome of those discovered recently was Adolfo de Jesus Constanzo's murderous drug-smuggling cult in Matamoros. Before they were found in April, Constanzo's group killed and buried 15 persons near the border town, performing rituals in the deaths of several while practicing a bastardized combination of occult beliefs formed by Constanzo.

Others include:

■ 1981 — A headless, unidentified man with part of a chicken's body shoved into his chest was discovered in a San Francisco park. Forty-two days later, in keeping with an occult ritual, the man's head was returned to the park. No arrests were ever made.

■ 1984 — A 17-year-old boy was slain in an apparent satanic ritual in Riverhead, N.Y. His killer later committed suicide in prison.

■ 1985 — Clifford St. Joseph, a self-described satanist, was convicted of the murder of an unidentified vagrant in San Francisco. The man had been chained, his blood had been drained, and his testicles had been removed. A pentagram (a geometric sign used to conjure demons) was carved in his chest.

■ 1987 — Again in San Francisco, a man carrying a dead woman in the back of a van decorated with satanic symbols kidnapped and raped another woman. The second woman escaped and contacted police, but the rapist was not apprehended.

■ 1987 — An Oklahoma teen-ager, Sean Sellers, 17, became obsessed with satanism, killed a convenience store clerk to gain favor with the devil and later murdered his parents, apparently for the same reason. Sellers, now on death row in Oklahoma, kept a diary and recorded his

progress into the occult.

■ March 1989 — A teen-ager in Newton, Texas, was arrested in the killing of his mother. Police found evidence the youth was practicing satanism and that other youths in the town were involved.

■ June 21 — The bodies of two New York teen-agers were found in garbage bags with a dead chicken and a coconut nearby. Police had previously found slain animals in the area and suspected a cult.

■ June 26 — Police in Fort Worth revealed that they have been searching for weeks for a 7-year-old Arlington girl who is missing along with her father, an avowed satanist who kept a cache of knives and charts detailing how to dismember human bodies. In searching for the girl, officers said they uncovered a cult of more than 20 persons, none of whom will cooperate in finding the child.

Added to those are the "day care" cases, a phenomenon that has been recurring since the McMartin Preschool cases in Manhattan Beach, Calif., in 1983. In that case, 100 children were said to have been sexually abused in bizarre rituals, forced to watch animal sacrifices and to participate in strange rites.

Seven adults originally were charged although charges against five were eventually dropped. The marathon trial of the remaining two, Raymond Buckey, 30, and his mother, Peggy McMartin Buckey, 62, is stretching into its third year.

But the McMartin case was only the first of many to come. Others involving supposed satanic rites and sexual abuse in child care centers followed in Arizona, Nevada, Tennessee, New York, Ohio, Massachusetts, Indiana, Los Angeles County, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Washington.

There were alarming similarities in all the stories. In almost all the cases, children told of trips to graveyards, adults in hooded robes, animal sacrifices, drinking blood and urine.

CONTINUED

And they told of murders. In many of the cases, youngsters said they had watched other children being killed or had participated in the killings themselves.

And there was one other: Not one of the allegations of satanic rituals has been proved. There's been no physical evidence of murder. No evidence of disinterred bodies or robed figures or any of the mysterious rites the children described has ever been brought before a jury.

In fact, almost all those cases fell through. In those mentioned, only three convictions were obtained and, of those, one was against a father for incest with a teen-age daughter and the other two were against adults who pleaded guilty to child abuse charges.

Despite those facts and the fact that all the satanic killings are seemingly unrelated, there are those both in and out of law enforcement who insist that systematic, ritual killings are occurring in this country.

"The organized satanists leave absolutely no evidence," Police Sgt. Alan Alves of Freetown, Mass., recently told a crowd at a regional seminar on satanism and crime. "They're killing. That's what they believe in. They have to make sacrifices. They're killing babies."

Others, such as Robert D. Hicks, a criminal justice analyst for the state of Virginia, and a former police officer, and Kenneth V. Lanning, an FBI specialist in child abuse and the occult, disagree.

"If there's satanic crime, then what do we call the hundreds of crimes committed by people who say God told them to do it?" asked Lanning.

Lanning and others question the unsubstantiated allegations made at some police seminars that satanic cults are engaged in the widespread ritual abuse of children, that women are being "bred" to produce babies who are sacrificed in satanic rituals and that cultists are encouraged,

even driven, to murder.

"Some cops, who are usually cynical and skeptical and have to have everything proved to them, go to these conferences and buy this stuff, hook, line and sinker," he said.

Most officers, however, seem to fall into the category of Tarrant County Constable Jim Palmer.

Palmer has been searching for 7-year-old Guinevere Garrett Burke since she was last seen May 13 with her father, Fred Kenneth Burke Jr., 31, of Arlington. Burke apparently left with the child to avoid a May 15 court hearing to determine his parental fitness.

In the search, the constable has uncovered a cache of strange weapons, including swords and a blowgun, and a chart for dismembering bodies in the man's home, learned that his mother — with whom the father and daughter lived — considers herself a witch and uncovered a cult of about 20 persons.

"I don't pretend to be an expert on the occult, and I'm not sure anyone else is," said Palmer. "Every time I find a so-called 'expert' it turns out they've had experience with maybe one or two cases and that's it."

"The mother (Coylene Weaver) will readily tell you she's a witch and they were raising the little girl in that, but that's not illegal. The people in this cult are a little strange, but that's not illegal either, and neither is calling yourself a witch or a satanist."

"I don't have any evidence or indication that these people have killed anybody and, frankly, I've done just about everything I can so far as investigating them. If I go any further, they'll cry harassment, and they'll be right."

And, though there seem to be no absolute "experts" on cults, there are those who are aware of the damage they can do and among them are the psychiatrists who treat their victims.

One of those is Dr. Thomas

Blocher, a Houston psychiatrist.

"There are all sorts of cults, from the more benign ones like the Moonies to the satanists," said Blocher, "but they all exist for one main purpose — to victimize people."

"They break down their self-esteem, their personal identity, then they use them and, once somebody has been through one of these groups, normal methods of psychotherapy don't seem to work on them."

"You have to use more intense methods."

Blocher said he has treated one victim of a satanic cult, a 14-year-old boy who was sexually abused by an older woman in the group.

"After more than a year of treatment, he still had severe problems," said Blocher.

"I don't know exactly how many of these groups are out there or how many people are in them, but I don't think it's overreaction to be horrified at them, and I don't think you can take them too seriously."

"I'm horrified at them, and I've seen a lot of strange things."

"Of course, I get kids who are simply wearing peace symbols (said to also signify 'Nero's Cross,' a satanic mark) and don't really understand what they signify. Whenever I do, I show them the stories about Matamoros and try to get them to realize that that's the sort of thing they're signifying."

"Lots of times they'll argue and say 'No, I'm not for that kind of thing.' I just tell them, whether they mean to be or not, if they get into that sort of symbolism, they're promoting satanism."

"That may be pretty intense for a kid who's just listening to certain kinds of music or wearing jewelry, but, the way I look at it, I've got a 5-year-old daughter, and we live on a dead-end street with almost no traffic that's probably one of the safest streets in the city."

"But I still don't let her ride her tricycle in the street."

Prosecutors to seek death in devil-worship killings

By Eric Zorn

Du Page County prosecutors will seek the death penalty in a series of murder trials beginning Tuesday of men who allegedly belonged to a gang of devil worshipers who raped, mutilated and killed young women in 1981 and 1982.

Edward Spreitzer, 25, will be the first to stand trial in the murder of Linda Sutton, 26, a Chicago woman whose body was found in a grassy area near a Villa Park motel in June, 1981. Spreitzer has confessed to participating in eight murders connected with the so-called "latter-day Jack the Ripper" killings, including the Sutton slaying, but his defense attorneys are expected to argue that the confessions were obtained under duress.

Thomas Kokoraleis, 25, and his brother, Andrew Kokoraleis, 22, also are charged with murder in the Sutton case and will be tried separately at the conclusion of the Spreitzer trial. All three men are serving life sentences with no chance of parole for other killings.

Spreitzer appeared in front of Judge Edward Kowal in a Wheaton courtroom Monday afternoon. He waived his right to a trial by jury, and Kowal scheduled opening arguments for 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

In an earlier effort to avoid the death penalty, Spreitzer pleaded guilty in April, 1984, in Cook County Criminal Court to four murders, including the May, 1982, killing of a 30-year-old Lombard woman.

Thomas Kokoraleis was con-

victed in Du Page County in September, 1984, for his role in the May, 1982, murder of a 21-year-old Elmhurst woman. Andrew Kokoraleis was convicted in Cook County in February, 1985, for his role in the slaying of a 30-year-old Broadview woman. Prosecutors sought the death penalty in both cases but were denied.

Linda Sutton is thought by investigators to be one of the first victims in a grisly, 18-month series of mutilations and murders allegedly committed by the Kokoraleis brothers, Spreitzer and Robin Gecht, 32, whom investigators believe was the leader of the gang.

Police apprehended Gecht and Spreitzer in October, 1982, after a prostitute identified Gecht as the man who picked her up on the North Side, handcuffed her, raped her, cut off one of her breasts and left her for dead in an alley. At the time of his arrest, Spreitzer was driving Gecht's red, 1975 Chevrolet van, in which many of the crimes allegedly occurred.

Spreitzer confessed his role in numerous slayings to Cook County state's attorneys and implicated the Kokoraleis brothers, who subsequently were arrested. Spreitzer was not charged in the incident involving the prostitute.

Investigators piecing together stories told by the three men said that Gecht, a self-employed carpenter and electrician, led Satanic rites in the attic of his house at 2163 N. McVicker Ave. Spreitzer lived for a time with Gecht and his wife; the Kokoraleis brothers, who

lived in Villa Park, worked for Gecht.

Police said the men allegedly would abduct young women and sexually abuse and mutilate them before using parts of their bodies in Satanic rituals.

Gecht is the only one of the four who has never confessed to any killings. He was convicted in September, 1983, of the rape and mutilation of the prostitute who identified him as her assailant, and is serving a 120-year prison sentence. He was not charged in the Sutton case.

Prosecutor Brian Telander, chief of the criminal division for the Du Page County state's attorney's office, said he expects to call fewer than 10 witnesses in the Spreitzer trial and to establish that the confession statements contained details that only the murderers could have known.

Public defender Carol Anfinson, Spreitzer's attorney, said in court Monday that her client is reserving the right to have a jury decide his sentence at the conclusion of the trial.

Officials in Du Page and Cook Counties have said that the four men may be responsible for up to 18 unsolved murders and disappearances in 1981 and 1982, including the disappearance of Carole Pappas, 42, the wife of former Chicago Cubs pitcher Milt Pappas.

No other charges, except for the charges against Spreitzer and the two brothers in the Sutton case, are pending against the men.

Satanism

By Warren Bates
Review-Journal

In the early 1980s, Las Vegas teen-agers Dale Flanagan and Randy Moore sold their souls to the devil, friends said.

The pair murdered Flanagan's grandparents in 1984 in an attempt to obtain inheritance money.

Their reward: seats on death row.

The investigation into the

youths' background was one of the first signals to Las Vegas police that the Plutonian world served as a backdrop for serious crimes.

Four years later, Joseph Beeson, 18, and Edward Bennett, 19, sought Satan in Utah Valley south of Salt Lake City, police sources said.

They are now charged in the Feb. 9 shooting death of Stop 'N Go clerk Michelle Moore. If con-

victed, they too could reap the same bitter reward as Moore and Flanagan.

A startling display of satanic handiwork was discovered last year inside condemned buildings that once housed Brigham Young University in Provo. Beeson and Bennett are thought to have taken in part in rituals there.

The basements and classrooms are scarred with the spray-painted slogans: "Devil's boiler room,"

"Satan lives," and symbols police have identified with Satanism, such as 666 and inverted pentagrams.

Obscene slogans about death, violent sex and homosexuality appear on the walls, along with black and red hand prints and lyrics to "black metal" rock 'n' roll songs. Hardened feces of attack dogs that used to guard the buildings cover the floors.

The pair's anti-social activities

went unnoticed by their parents and virtually unchecked by law enforcement authorities.

Bennett's parents refuse to believe their son participated in the black arts. Beeson's parents will not comment.

Unfortunately, experts on the phenomenon agree, the pattern is common. Attention is only drawn after the violent crime.

"Once the act is committed, we

look back and see all these other factors coming into play and realize they were never taken seriously enough beforehand," said Sandi Gallant, a San Francisco police intelligence officer who began studying the crime-cult relationship eight years ago. "Most of the time, you're looking at highly intelligent underachievers in school who are not fitting in with their peers. They have very little home life and feel they don't have a place in society."

Obsessive behavior by teens such as self-mutilation or the turning in of satanic influenced essays at school should tip off parents and school officials, Gallant said.

However, said Henry Beltran, an expert on juvenile cult activities with the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Department, parents are usually the last to detect the involvement.

"They don't realize what it is," Beltran said. "There's a real hesitation to deal with it. They cannot believe their son or daughter could identify with devil worship."

In his senior year of high school, Beeson would stride down corridors whispering fascist slogans while giving Sieg Heil salutes. Classmates who saw Beeson took him to be a white supremacist.

His apparently divided devotions between that movement and Satanism are perplexing to Gallant because the two groups rely on opposing theologies. White supremacists usually justify their actions on a belief in God.

Las Vegas skinheads take issue with Beeson's claimed affiliation with the loosely knit international skinhead movement.

"Those guys were Satanists and we're totally against that," said 18-year-old Johnny Bangs, the unofficial spokesman of a Las Vegas skinhead faction.

Beeson may have played the part well. But the Utah skinheads were apolitical in marked contrast to Las Vegas skinheads, who claim to fervently believe in racial separatism.

"It could be all things appealed to him (Beeson) in various ways," Gallant said, adding the teen-ager's apparent inconsistencies should not be mistaken for naivete.

"I think the kids are more astute spray-painted markings were than we give them credit for," Gallant said. "I've spoken to fifth-graders who have been able to ask me explicit questions about the relationship Charles Manson had with his followers 20 years ago."

Satanists fall into three basic categories: adults who practice the orthodoxy religion, self-styled members who combine various tenets found in literature and then form a bastardized version of the official doctrine and juveniles who dabble in the outward trappings.

The latter two groups are responsible for nearly all satanic criminal activities.

Satanism is on the increase in Utah Valley where Bennett and Beeson grew up.

Police in Las Vegas say there has been a recent lull in satanic crimes.

"The past year and a half they've really gone underground," said Detective Bob Luke with the juvenile section. "I don't know if we got too close to them or scared them. But in the past few months, all we've been getting is information type calls from parents — nothing definite."

After Flanagan and Moore were arrested, Las Vegas juvenile officers dug deeper into spiritualism's dark side and were able to pinpoint several instances in which satanic overtones were found in juvenile crimes.

Upside-down crosses and other

found around the city. Firepits were discovered at Sunrise Mountain and in Red Rock Canyon. Dead animals were inspected for mutilation instead of being routinely turned over to animal control officials.

Luke said he received a recent report from a hiker in Red Rock Canyon of a dead cat that had been impaled on a wooden stake.

In March, patrol officers also came across a dead horse with its tail and genitals cut off.

Still, said juvenile section Sgt. Ralph Hemington, activity is decreasing.

Perhaps a new cycle of activity will begin when a new group of kids discovers Satanism, he said.

Until then, Hemington said, police are "monitoring the scene, but there's no real ongoing investigation."

That approach, Gallant said, is the best a department can usually hope for.

"Otherwise you start infringing on First Amendment rights, which can get a department into a lot of trouble," he said.

Beltran is more critical of overall police awareness.

Law enforcement agencies are "sticking their heads in the sand and ignoring the problem," he said.

"If it's a purely satanic crime, it should be exposed, so society can look at it. That's the way to expose the cancerous sore."

5 alleged devil worshipers accused in death

By JACK DOUGLAS
Post Reporter

Five alleged devil worshippers — including a boy and girl, both 16 — beat, choked and stabbed a man behind a cemetery last month "just to watch somebody die," Harris County investigators said Tuesday.

Each suspect took turns slashing Dennis Keith Medler's throat, sheriff's detectives said. Each assailant also is accused of choking the 19-year-old man with a scarf, stabbing him with a pipe and a knife, and beating him with the pipe and their fists.

Medler's badly decomposed

body was found Aug. 14 behind the Resthaven Memorial Gardens cemetery in the 13100 block of the North Freeway.

Charged Tuesday with murder in Medler's death were John-Michael Alexander Trimmer, 17, of the 17400 block of Imperial Valley; Michael Gene Cravey, 19, of the 300 block of Benmar; and Harold Glenn Smith, 17, of the 500 block of Greens Road.

All three men were in custody Tuesday, with Cravey being arrested about noon near New Orleans, investigators said.

A 16-year-old boy, accused of participating in the grisly attack, was in the Harris County

Juvenile Detention Center late Tuesday.

Authorities Tuesday night were searching for a girl, also 16, who allegedly helped kill Medler and set the victim's hair on fire with a cigarette lighter, said Harris County sheriff's Sgt. Bill Olive.

Authorities were told the suspects were members of a satanic cult, but that the killing of Medler was thought to have been more the result of a "gang type" plan, Olive said.

All of the suspects in custody have admitted killing Medler, detectives said. "They killed him

rope and killed, one of the assailants bent over his body and said: "Hey, Keith, it was nothing personal but we just wanted to see somebody die," according to one suspect's statements.

Olive said the killing was premeditated, with the group initially planning the slaying at a game room at or near the Greenspoint Mall. The plans were finalized at Trimmer's apartment, he said.

Medler was acquainted with the suspects but had had a "little dispute" with them and "they decided to kill him," Olive said. "It's unbelievable how some people think nowadays. I can't believe they do this sort of stuff. It's just a sad affair; it's unbelievable."

The night of the killing, the suspects lured Medler to the grassy field behind the cemetery under the "pretense of gathering some mushrooms so they could all get high," said sheriff's Detective Mike Parinello.

Parinello said Trimmer and the boy told him they were "devil worshippers." He said investigators were also told Smith, Cravey and the girl were members of a satanic group.

But, he said, the suspects apparently did not participate as a group in cult activities.

Parinello said Smith voluntarily surrendered to the sheriff's department about 6 p.m.

Monday and the boy was taken into custody at a friend's house about four hours later. He said Cravey would likely be brought back to Houston from Louisiana Wednesday.

In an unrelated case, Cravey was charged Monday night with murder in the stabbing death of Ronald Monahan, 25, whose body was found Saturday morning inside his apartment in the 16900 block of Northchase.

In another case, Trimmer was arrested and charged Sunday with attempted capital murder in the attack of Donald Dull, 25, who was slashed in the throat and cut on the arm. Dull was treated and released at a Houston hospital.

Social Relations

Providence (R.I.) Journal, March 5, 1981

Prosecutor depicts Fall River man as satanic cult leader

By HAROLD E. BARKER
Journal-Bulletin Staff Writer

FITCHBURG, Mass. — State prosecutor David Waxler told a Worcester County jury yesterday that Carl H. Drew was the leader of a satanic cult among Fall River pimps and prostitutes, and killed Karen Marsden, 20, out of fear that she would go to police with information that Drew killed Doreen Levesque in October, 1979.

Waxler said Drew, 26, who is charged with first-degree murder, "lost control of Miss Marsden." She didn't act or speak the way he wanted her to, "there was a necessity to get rid of her."

Three key witnesses will retell the story of what happened on Feb. 8, 1980, Waxler said. Two of them, Robin Marie Murphy and Carol Fletcher, were at the scene in the dense Westport woods the night of the killing, he said. A third, Leah Johnson, another prostitute and girlfriend of the defendant, will recount the tale as Drew told it to her, about how he would "make the girl (Miss Marsden) suffer," Waxler said.

Miss Murphy, 18, who has already pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the Marsden case, was the victim's "friend and lover," Waxler said, leaning on the rail in front of the jury box.

She will tell of participating in satanic ritual meetings in the Fall River area which they called "devil worship," Waxler said.

"One of the participants in the meetings, the leader, the person who was to use the so-called cult to terrify and mold the others into acting and speaking in a

certain way, was the defendant, Carl Drew."

* * *

DREW, who was indicted for the murder of Miss Levesque by a Bristol County Grand Jury on Tuesday, showed no emotion during Waxler's statement. Dressed in a blue pin-striped suit, he sat with a clipboard on his lap, held with his left hand, which had "H-A-T-E" tattooed on the front of his fingers between the first and second knuckles.

Waxler said Drew and William Smith killed Miss Levesque and left her body under the bleachers at Diman Regional Vocational High School, Fall River, on Oct. 13, 1979. The slaying was witnessed by Miss Murphy and Miss Marsden, and "there were satanic chantings and ritualistic offering up of this young girl by Carl Drew," he said.

Miss Levesque was killed because she wouldn't work for Drew as a prostitute, Waxler said. She wanted to be independent, he said.

Smith, 39, of Newport, was indicted for the murder of Miss Levesque last month. He has pleaded innocent.

Drew is not on trial here for the Levesque killing, Waxler said. "But Karen Marsden's presence at that murder was the motive for her death."

* * *

ON THE NIGHT of Feb. 8, Drew, Miss Murphy, Carl Davis and Miss Fletcher drove to the wooded area in Westport and killed her, the prosecutor said.

They dragged Miss Marsden out of the car, disrobed her and Drew told her that "her time had come," Waxler said.

Drew wanted some rings and other jewelry that Miss Marsden was wearing. "You won't be needing these any more," Waxler said the defendant told her.

When the defendant couldn't remove a ring on the girl's finger, he cut off her hand, removed the ring and threw the hand in the woods; then, on Drew's orders, Miss Murphy sliced her throat, the prosecutor said.

According to Waxler, Drew then snapped Miss Marsden's neck and separated the head from the rest of the body.

"One thing for sure, they will never find the body," Drew told the others, according to Waxler.

Davis was also indicted for the Marsden slaying, and he is awaiting trial at the New Bedford House of Correction.

* * *

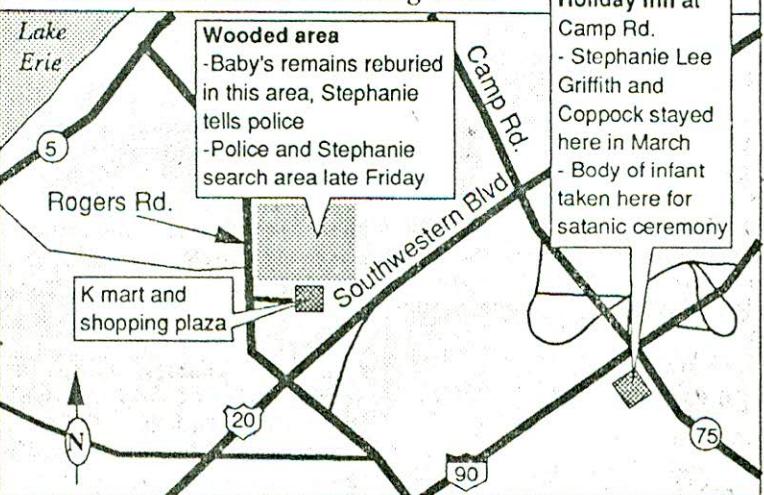
MISS MARSDEN'S skull was found on April 13, 1980, by a man clearing his land off Robert Road in Westport. The rest of the body has never been found.

Several witnesses told the court yesterday about the skull and finding Miss Marsden's clothing, plus several pieces of jewelry, during an intense search of the area.

Massachusetts State Police Cpl. Paul Fitzgerald identified the clothing, jewelry and clumps of the victim's hair mixed among old leaves that local police had turned over to him during the investigation. Fitzgerald said he had seen Miss Marsden wearing some of the clothes before in interviews he had with her and Miss Murphy while working on other slayings of Fall River prostitutes.

GRIM SEARCH FOR BABY'S BODY

Police hunt leads to Hamburg area



Holiday Inn at
Camp Rd.
- Stephanie Lee
Griffith and
Coppock stayed
here in March
- Body of infant
taken here for
satanic ceremony

Girl claims she aided in digging up body *Also admits to participating in boyfriend's satanic rituals*

By JIMMY THOMPSON
News Niagara Correspondent

NIAGARA FALLS — A 12-year-old Mississippi girl told police Saturday that she helped her boyfriend dig up the body of a stillborn baby and later joined him in satanic rituals aimed at bringing the corpse back from the dead.

Police used bloodhounds in a futile search for the baby's body Friday night in Hamburg and Cheektowaga. They also continued to question Stephanie Lee Griffith about the grave robbery March 21 and ensuing events.

Frustrated investigators said the girl led them "on a wild goose chase with 50 different stories" that has left them uncertain what to believe happened to the infant's remains. Nevertheless, authorities slowly are piecing together the grisly story that began a month ago when grave robbers stole the body from St. Joseph's Cemetery and left behind satanic symbols.

The girl originally told po-

lice Friday that her 25-year-old boyfriend, James N. Coppock, stole the body while she remained at the Holiday Inn on Camp Road in Hamburg and that the two of them later reburied the corpse at an unknown site in the Buffalo area.

The girl changed part of her story Saturday, police said, claiming she accompanied her boyfriend to the cemetery the night of the body snatching.

"She was definitely in the cemetery and they climbed over the fence to enter," Detective Frank Coney said. He estimated the pair were in the cemetery about 30 minutes.

The girl said they returned with the body to their hotel room and performed satanic rituals there and later in a wooded area near the K mart store on Southwestern Boulevard, not far from the hotel, police said.

The girl claimed the rituals involved candles and didn't end until about 4 a.m. She had earlier told police that Coppock

Release of 2

Beirut television reports one

By MOHAMMED SALAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — State-run Beirut television reported Saturday that pro-Iranian kidnappers will free a U.S. hostage today and he will be turned over to the U.S. ambassador in Syria.

As hopes increased for the imminent release of a U.S. hostage, speculation also grew that Lebanese kidnappers may free not one but two American hostages in the next few days.

"Negotiations are almost completed. ... The American hostage will be freed very soon, possibly on Sunday. ... This could be followed by another release," said a Lebanese Muslim

source, an off comments fol earlier in the

The English tin quoted an saying the hos on Sunday, pi lamic Jihad fo

"The hostag Foreign Minist Ambassador E tion, which is did not elabor

Its sister st later broadcast not be indepen



See Baby Page A11

PRINTING

mid tightening embargo

the promised release, Alann Steen of Boston, one of three American educators held by the group, prepared to mark his fourth birthday in captivity. He turns 51 today.

The captors said Wednesday they would free an American within 48 hours, and they demanded Kelly go to Damascus to finalize arrangements.

But the following day the group

Also missing in Lebanon are five other Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Italian and an Irishman.

The longest-held captive is Terry Anderson, 42, formerly of Batavia, N.Y., chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press. He was kidnapped March 16, 1985, and is held by another Iranian-backed Shiite faction, Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War.

Baby: Couple is linked to mugging of woman

Continued from Page 1

is consumed by the Dungeons and Dragons game, which some contend has satanic overtones.

A police hunt until late Friday night failed to locate the baby's remains near the K mart or at several other locations. Police suspended their search Saturday and said they didn't expect to have anything further to say on the case until Monday. The girl is expected to return to Mississippi today or Monday.

Although Stephanie has told police many conflicting stories, some of what she has said apparently adds up. Police said the girl's actions and statements at the cemetery Friday indicate she had been there before. Burned candles and receipts from purchases made with a stolen credit card were found in the hotel room rented by the couple.

The robbery and rituals were the culmination of what authorities are portraying as a two-week crime spree by the young couple. Police said it began when the girl joined Coppock, a senior airman who worked as a communications and computer systems operator, after he went AWOL from the Air Force in Spain in late February.

Authorities say the couple kidnapped Brittany Collins, the girl's 4-year-old niece, March 8 from the girl's home in Gulfport, Miss. Police speculate that Brittany might have been kidnapped for ransom or to sacrifice in a satanic ritual, but the girl was found unharmed March 14 in a Williamsburg, Va., hotel that the couple had registered in two days earlier.

Police say the couple is suspected of stealing several cars after fleeing Virginia, first in Cheektowaga, then Niagara Falls and finally Charleston, W. Va., the day before the grave robbery. Police said the pair also has been linked to the March 18 mugging of a woman in Niagara Falls. The couple is suspected of using the victim's credit cards to pay for their hotel room and a shopping spree at Walden Galleria Mall while in this area.

The couple was captured in McEwen, Tenn., two days after the body snatching here. Authorities charged Coppock with kidnapping and took the girl into custody as a juvenile.

Coppock's lawyer on Friday disputed the girl's story, terming it "the biggest roll of bologna I ever saw." The attorney said his client was in South Carolina the day of the grave robbery.

NEWS CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS

CALLERS IN LATHER OVER LATHE

For Jim Wornick of Buffalo, a classified ad in The News brought many phone calls from people interested in buying a metal lathe from him. "Mv



CAN'T MAKE IT IN? WE'LL COME

the
Carpet
Shoppe

1060

CAI

10

Oreille's



CHEF
JENN
SAYS



SA

On Selected Grill R

Enjoy Outdoor Grilling Indo

\$50 INSTANT REBATE

NEW



1990 MODEL S136
WITH
SELF-CLEANING
OVEN

- Fully convertible cooktop with barbecue grill
- Whisper quiet downdraft ventilation system - over \$300 value
- Accepts all Jenn-Air accessories in-

cluding griddle/
rotisserie, french
fryer/cooker and
wok.

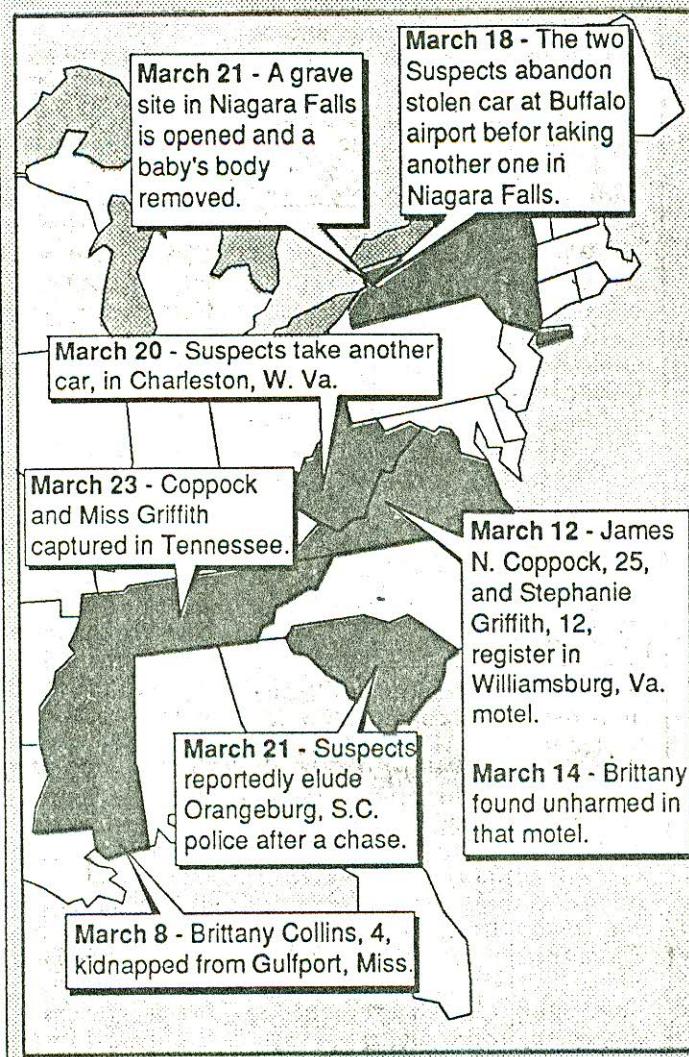
INSTANT REBATES —
FACTORY REBATE PAY-OFF!

JENN-AIR EUROSTYLE LOWEST

KIDNAPPING ODYSSEY

Up and down the Eastern Seaboard

Buffalo News, Saturday April 21, 1990



James N. Coppock is led away by Mississippi troopers after his recapture



Brittany Lynn Collins
...kidnapped, but released.



Stephanie Lee Griffith
...assisting police now.

Girl, 12, facing kidnap charges, says boyfriend took baby's body in Falls

By GENE WARNER
and JIMMY THOMPSON
News Staff Reporters

A 12-year-old Mississippi girl told police Friday that her boyfriend stole the body of a stillborn baby from a Niagara Falls cemetery last month and reburied it somewhere in the Buffalo area.

But she was unable to lead them to the missing body. "We are going to have to question her further and then begin a tour of certain areas of Western New York," Capt. Louis Curcione, head of the Niagara Falls Homicide

Unit, said after spending the day questioning her and looking for the body.

"She was only here once and is not familiar with the area."

But her boyfriend's attorney said earlier Friday that the girl and his client, who face charges in Mississippi of kidnapping a 4-year-old girl, reportedly were in South Carolina the day the body was stolen after having been in Niagara Falls three days earlier.

Conflicting reports, however, had them in Niagara Falls around the time of the grave robbing.

Curcione said investigators spent Friday with Stephanie Griffith, visiting

St. Joseph's Cemetery at 3806 Pine Ave., where the body was stolen March 21, then traveling to several areas outside the city in an unsuccessful effort to find it.

Curcione said the girl denied taking part in snatching the body from the cemetery and "was back at the motel when the incident occurred."

She told police the body was reburied in a wooded area and took police on a trip that included Hamburg and West Seneca in the Milestrip Road area.

See Kidnapped Page A3

Kidnapped: Stolen credit card gives lead to Navy investigators

Continued from Page 1

The girl, described by one officer as "a 12-year-old going on 24," admitted traveling throughout the eastern United States with her boyfriend, Airman James Coppock, 25, who police said was a member of the Dungeons and Dragons satanic group.

Stephanie was brought here Friday morning by federal naval intelligence representatives who developed a lead in the case.

"We have been working with them for three weeks after a stolen credit card was recovered," Curcione said.

He said Stephanie allegedly stole the card from a Niagara Falls woman last month at McDonald's restaurant on Pine Avenue.

Stephanie has been accused of helping her boyfriend kidnap her 4-year-old niece from Gulfport, Miss., before leading lawmen on a six-state manhunt that led to Western New York last month.

Authorities also are checking reports that the 4-year-old girl was kidnapped to be a sacrificial victim.

The satanic connection drew a sarcastic denial from Coppock's attorney from his office in Gulfport, Miss.

"That's the biggest roll of bologna I ever saw in my whole life," he said.

The baffling twist in the grave-robbing case led Niagara Falls police to begin investigating a six-week series of events, stretching from Spain to Mississippi to Western New York, where the fugitives dumped their stolen car at the Buffalo airport, then stole another car in Niagara Falls.

The odyssey involved these three individuals:

✓ Brittany L. Collins, 4, kidnapped from a Gulfport, Miss., day-care center March 8 and re-

covered unharmed in a Virginia motel room six days later.

✓ Her aunt, Stephanie Griffith, 12, accused of helping her 25-year-old boyfriend kidnap Brittany.

✓ Coppock, the boyfriend who went absent without leave from the Air Force in Spain in late February. After being captured with Stephanie in Tennessee on March 23, Coppock escaped from Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., Tuesday night and was recaptured Wednesday following a car chase, police said.

Stephanie, who remains in custody as a juvenile in connection with the March 8 kidnapping, came to Niagara Falls early Friday to help detectives look for the body of the North Tonawanda baby boy. Police believe that if Coppock were involved in the grave robbing, Stephanie might know something about it.

On the morning of March 21, a cemetery caretaker noticed that the body had been taken. Police called the incident "satanic in nature," after finding nearby muddy footprints with the impression "666," as well as smashed statues and crosses pounded into the ground upside down.

On Friday, the Biloxi (Miss.) Sun-Herald reported that Coppock was wanted for questioning in the Niagara Falls grave-robbing incident.

Authorities and family members in Mississippi said they knew little about the satanic connection until they read that story.

"It was nothing I was aware of until it came out in the newspaper here," Brittany's mother, Angela Collins, said by telephone Friday afternoon. She is Stephanie's sister.

The possible satanic connection became the third theory about the motive in the kidnapping of Brittany, said Eric Geiss, an attorney acting as a spokesman for the Col-

lins-Griffith family.

The other previously mentioned motives were that Stephanie wanted a child and that Coppock wanted ransom money for the little girl, the attorney said.

"The opinion of the family is that Stephanie herself was very much a victim," Geiss said.

Coppock remains the mystery man in this confusing story, a man described as extremely intelligent, with no previous police record and no marks on his military record.

"He was a senior airman, and his record had to be good for him even to be in the Air Force," said Staff Sgt. Gary Leitz of the Keesler Air Force Base.

But Geiss, the attorney for the Collins-Griffith family, added, "We consider him to be dangerous."

Coppock met Stephanie in Spain while he was assigned there and her father was stationed with the Navy.

The couple's trail, reconstructed by the Biloxi paper from police accounts, led them from Mississippi to Virginia, Cheektowaga, Niagara Falls, West Virginia, South Carolina and Tennessee.

According to the newspaper's account, Coppock and his girlfriend were in Niagara Falls on March 18, three days before the baby's body was discovered missing.

But Holder, who has represented Coppock and may remain his attorney, scoffed at the reports that his client could have been involved in the grave robbing. On March 21, according to the published itinerary, Coppock and Stephanie eluded police after a chase in Orangeburg, S.C.

"If I have the dates correct, he must have started digging in South Carolina and dug the body up in New York," Holder said. "That must be some kind of tunnel."

Slaying theories disputed

Examiner calls it ritual killing; police disagree

By Tom Greenwood
and Liz Twardon
Detroit News Staff Writers

The grisly slaying and dismemberment of a 15-year-old girl in Warren was a satanic ritual killing, a nationally known pathologist said Thursday night.

That theory, put forth by Macomb County Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Werner Spitz, is disputed by Warren police officials, who charge that a 21-year-old Saginaw man, Jaime Rodriguez Jr., killed Stephanie Dubay of Clinton Township because he didn't like her.

"There is no indication that this had anything to do with satanism," said Warren Deputy Police Chief Carl Muschong. "We believe it was simply a disagreement between individuals. Rodriguez didn't want her there and decided to kill her. The skull

was kept as a souvenir."

However, Spitz said after completing an autopsy on the teen-ager's body parts that he believed the slaying of Stephanie, a runaway, was a ritual killing.

Spitz said the number 666, which is noted in the Bible as the sign of "The Beast" (Satan,) was tattooed on the victim's chest along with a ritualistic satanic sign.

"The number 666 is consistent with satanic rituals," Spitz said. "She also had one finger cut off, plus her tongue was cut out and the skull was stripped of its flesh and skin was stripped from the face."

Spitz also said Stephanie was killed by 10 stab wounds in the back and side with a kitchen knife.

"Her joints were cut, not sawn through, like the person doing the dismembering knew what he was doing," Spitz said.

Spitz said Stephanie never had a chance to defend herself.

Spitz was Wayne County's medical examiner from 1972-88 and has consulted on numerous prominent cases. He said the decapitation, mutilation and dismemberment of Stephanie was the worst case of ritualized killing he had ever seen.

Wednesday afternoon, Warren police arrested Rodriguez in the killing. Police also arrested Rodriguez's 15-year-old cousin at the home in the 27000 block of Jean, near 11 Mile and Hoover, where both suspects were living.

Rodriguez was arraigned Thursday by 37th District Court Judge George Montgomery on charges of first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit first-degree murder and mutilation of a body.

Police said Rodriguez said in a statement to officers Wednesday that he killed Stephanie and implicated his cousin in the slaying.

An innocent plea was entered for Rodriguez at his arraignment. Montgomery ordered Rodriguez held in the Macomb County Jail pending a preliminary examination July 24.

First-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder are punishable by life in prison without parole. Mutilation of a body is punishable by up to 10 years' imprisonment.

Rodriguez's cousin remains in the Macomb County Youth Home while authorities decide whether to charge him as an adult, said Macomb County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney William Darty.

Police learned about the case Wednesday after two teen-age girls carried Stephanie's head into the police station. They told police they were visiting at the Jean Street home when one of the suspects showed them the head in the freezer.

The panic-stricken teens took the head in a plastic bag to the Warren Police Department. Police said, Rodriguez and his cousin were unaware the pair had left with the head.

The girls told officers that Rodriguez and his cousin had bragged of killing Stephanie as part of a satanic ritual scheduled for Aug. 1, police said.

Police searched the home and found four garbage bags containing

remains buried in a hole in the back yard. A fifth bag with remains was found on the front seat of a car parked in the garage.

Muschong said the victim was killed about noon Wednesday and police believe her body was dismembered in the basement.

"We found a set of knives in the home that we believe were used," he said. "There also were traces of blood in the basement."

Muschong said the victim was reported missing from her Clinton Township home last month and recently had moved into the Jean Street house, which was being rented by Betty Stasiak, mother of the 15-year-old suspect. Stasiak, who is

CONTINUED

estranged from the teen suspect's stepfather, was out of town at the time of the slaying, police said.

The suspects were storing the head in the freezer, Muschong said. "As weird and grisly as it seems, we were told that he intended to keep the skull as a conversation piece," he said.

Thursday afternoon, Warren police discounted reports linking the girl's murder to satanism. After Spitz' announcement Thursday night, Warren Police Commissioner Paul R. Pash stood by his department's earlier statement that the killing was not satanic in nature.

"We don't see any conflict between Dr. Spitz's conclusions and with what we released earlier," Pash said. "We still do not specifically link the murder to a ritualistic killing, although it was committed by someone who followed those beliefs."

Police said Thursday that Rodriguez was a follower of the occult and he had a large pentagram encircling a goat's head tattooed on his chest. Police also said they did not know where or when Stephanie received her tattoo.

Authorities said there were satanic articles in the home, but no signs of recent ritualistic activity. Pash said the search also failed to turn up any drugs or signs of recent drug use.

Pash said discussions with others familiar with rituals had shown "nothing in that type of literature that dictates or requires either mutilation or human sacrifice. There are no directives for skinning, or cutting off fingers or tongues."

Removal of the corpse's skin and tongue were all part of an effort by the suspects to preserve the skull, Pash said.

"It was done strictly to get a skull," he said. "We also have other information that we cannot release that causes us to be less concerned about satanic connections."

Police said the crime shocked rookies and veterans when the nearly hysterical teen-agers burst into the Warren Police Department with the skull and shoved it in front of an officer on the front desk.

"He's a new guy in the department, and his system almost shut down when he saw what was in the bag," Muschong said.

Wally Dutz, a neighbor of the 15-year-old suspect and former schoolmate at Center Line High School, saw the girls rush from the murder scene with the head.

"I was on my grandmother's front porch and saw them come flying out of the house with a bag and jump into a gray Oldsmobile and roar out of here," Dutz said. "Then, about 15 minutes later, the cops showed up."

Dutz said the 15-year-old suspect, his mother and a younger sister moved into the quiet, well-maintained neighborhood about five years ago.

"The problems began about two years ago," said Dutz, 17. "The house became a hangout for teen-agers. Lots of parties, loud music and fights. Kids were coming and going constantly. Neighbors called the cops all the time, but they never really did anything about it."

Dutz said his neighbor had attended Center Line High School, but had been expelled for fighting. The teen reportedly moved to Saginaw for the 1989-90 school year and returned to Warren at the beginning of June.

Pash said his department had received eight calls about the home

since January 1989. The department watched the home for 17 days in September 1989 for possible drug sales but ended the surveillance for lack of evidence, he said.

Pash said officers had been to the home the night before the killing on a disorderly conduct call. No arrests were made, and Pash could not say if Stephanie was present at the time.

Berta LaPointe, Dutz's grandmother and a neighbor, said Rodriguez had been in the neighborhood for a short time.

"He rode around on a bicycle," LaPointe said. "I think he used to go out and collect bottles and cans. He waved and smiled at me once, but I didn't wave back, because I didn't want to have anything to do with anyone from that house."

Dutz and LaPointe said they had seen a girl named Stephanie living at the home.

"She was about 15, blond, heavy-set and quiet," Dutz said. "The last time I saw her was the day before the body was discovered. She was riding a bike."

Dan Yarbrough, 20, said he was the best friend of the 15-year-old murder suspect. He said he was at the Warren home Tuesday night.

"Jimbo was giving me a tattoo," Yarbrough said. "My friend was there, so was Jimbo, Stephanie, me and my girlfriend. Jimbo hid when the cops showed up. Jimbo was quiet, but scary."

CONTINUED

Yarbrough said Stephanie was "quiet and friendly" and there didn't seem to be any friction between her and Rodriguez. He described the 15-year-old suspect as "quiet" and said he listened to heavy metal music.

"He was also into his crystals," Yarbrough said, referring to New Age mineral crystals reported to have healing or mystic properties. "He used to hold them and stroke them. If he was into magic, it was white power, not black power. Never anything satanic."

Richard Dubay, Stephanie's uncle, said his niece was a "friendly, well-liked girl" who shuttled between her parents' homes since their divorce.

"She lived with her mother, Mary, in Clinton Township, then she'd live with her father, Robert, in St. Clair," Dubay said. "She didn't take school very seriously."

Dubay said Thursday that Stephanie's father was driving back from a trip to Florida and hadn't been reached about his daughter's death.

The Dubays said they saw no indications Stephanie was involved in anything of a satanic nature.

LAW (Cont.)

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All newspaper articles
are the best copy available

'I love you, Agustin'

Sobbing relatives believe suspect didn't kill girl

By Tom Greenwood
Detroit News Staff Writer

A 15-year-old Warren youth wept as he was charged with first-degree murder Monday in the slaying and ritualistic dismemberment of a runaway teen-age girl, a crime prosecutors called "The Atrocity on Jean Street."

The youth's mother also cried in Warren's 37th District Court as prosecutors described how Agustin Todd Pena allegedly stabbed Stephanie Dubay, 15, of Clinton Township, then helped cut up her body and remove the head.

Curious teens, reporters and relatives packed the courtroom.

"I love you, Agustin," shouted a woman, who identified herself only as a relative of Pena, as the teen-ager was led away in handcuffs.

A MAN SEATED nearby shouted, "What about Stephanie?"

The woman replied: "I love her, too. What do you want me to say? There's nothing I can do about this." She ran from the courtroom, pursued by reporters and TV cameras.

"Leave me alone, I don't know what happened," she said. "All I know is, Agustin couldn't have done this. He's a nice boy. I can tell from the look in his eyes that he didn't do this."

Dubay was killed July 11 in a home in the 27000 block of Jean, which was rented by Pena's mother, Betty Stasiak. Police said Stasiak was visiting friends in Saginaw when Dubay was killed.

Pena and his cousin, Jaime "Jimbo" Rodriguez, 21, face charges of first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder and mutilation of a human body. Pena will be tried as an adult. If convicted, both face life in prison.

Stasiak covered her face and wept as a Warren police detective described the crime. Pena's fingerprints were on a bloody hammer found at the home. The hammer was used in the dismemberment of Dubay's body, the detective said.

CONTINUED

Satanism
distorts
pagan
holiday

Lammas honors life

By Liz Twardon
Detroit News Staff Writer

Satanists have stolen and perverted Lammas Day, an ancient pagan holiday that celebrates nature's beauty and bountiful harvests, said Henry "Tree" Petrucci, a local nature-worshipper.

Jaime Rodriguez, a 21-year-old avowed satanist who was charged with beheading and dismembering a 15-year-old runaway earlier this month, alluded to using the crime as a preparation to celebrate Lammas Day, which falls on Aug. 1, his birthday.

"Harming even a toad, let alone maiming and killing a human being, is the antithesis of all that Lammas stands for," said Petrucci, 39, a Detroit composer, artist and environmentalist, who belongs to The Family of the Earth.

THE PAGAN group worships a "benevolent Earth Mother" and focuses "on taking positive action toward global awareness and planetary healing," he said.

"It is appalling that human beings are capable of such hideous crimes, and more tragic that their insanity

and aberrant behavior could be connected in any way to such an abhorrent perversion of Lammas, a sacred and beautiful rite," he said.

Like thousands of people in the past few decades, Petrucci said, he has adopted the ancient traditions that worship "the beauty, fertility and power of the goddess embodied in nature."

Many of the pagan traditions, which date back more than 30,000 years to the earliest recorded forms of worship, he said, have been adopted by younger religions. Popular Christian holidays such as Christmas, St. Patrick's Day and Easter, all stem from pagan holidays, he said.

ON THE pagan wheel of the year, Lammas Day, symbolized by a five-pointed star, falls between the spring solstice and the autumn equinox, Petrucci said.

"The star represents the magic and power in the head and four limbs of every human being," he said. "Lammas Day is a festival of light, of life, of magic.

"It is a day of thanksgiving for the harvest and every other manifestation of good fortune in our lives," he said. "It's a day of making wishes and tapping into nature's primordial power — the inner power that is our birthright and courses through our own spines — to make our dreams come true."

Like many sacred symbols including that of the Christian crucifix — Lammas Day and its five-pointed star, "have been twisted by satanists," Petrucci said.

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Brian Dale Cargill, 19, Donald Connor Jr., 18, and Melinda Settles, 18, were arraigned Monday night on charges of cruelty to animals and conspiracy. They were put in the Allegheny County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bond each.

The three were arrested at a house on the city's North Side.

Police said Settles told them she and Connor watched as Cargill took in

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a black cat, the 12-year-old pet of a neighbor, killed it and then cut it up. They then went into Cargill's room, where they conducted a satanic ritual, Settles told police.

The blood was spattered on some walls of the house and satanic symbols were etched on the walls with animal blood, police said. Cargill had the cat's tail pinned to his jacket, police said.

The three face a preliminary hearing Feb. 28 in City Court.

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?d 0445046/5

Display 0445046/5

0445046

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: satanism

DATELINE: TAMPA, Fla. (UPI) November 03, 1988

TIME: 15:13ps CYCLE: bc

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0537

A former high school honors student charged with slaying his mother told police he read numerous books on devil worship and had watched a Geraldo Rivera talk show about satanism days before the killing, it was reported Thursday.

Jonathan Cantero, 19, was arrested Oct. 25 for the Oct. 12 slaying of Patricia Ann Cantero, 38, and was indicted by a grand jury Wednesday on first-degree murder. No trial date has been set.

Police reported from the outset of the case that the killing had satanic undertones and that Cantero was involved in devil worship.

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Thursday, The Tampa Tribune quoted unidentified authorities as saying Cantero told police investigators he went to the public library and pored over books on satanism and sacrifices, and bought other books dealing with ritual killings.

He also told investigators he had watched a segment of "Geraldo," a syndicated hourlong talk show, dealing with satanism and youth gangs, The Tribune reported.

Six days later, at about 11:30 a.m., Cantero drove to his estranged

other's apartment, according to the sources, knowing she would be home from her nighttime job waiting tables.

In his statement to police, the newspaper said, Cantero told his mother he only wanted to say hello and when she let him in, he stabbed her repeatedly and slit her throat, then left, locking the door behind him.

The medical examiner said the woman was stabbed 40 times.

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Investigators originally believed that Cantero had seen promotions for a prime-time special produced by Rivera on devil worship, which aired the night of his arrest, but realized later those promotions began running after the murder.

The Tribune said investigators later learned of the afternoon "Geraldo" program on satanism that had been broadcast earlier.

A spokesman at Rivera's New York office Wednesday told The Tribune he declined to comment on the advice of his attorney.

The sources told The Tribune that Cantero said he killed his mother because he hated her, and friends said he had battled with her over his satanic beliefs.

According to police reports, the mother had tried to kill herself two years ago after learning of his devil worship.

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Cantero was an honors student, computer whiz and wrestler in high school before venturing into the occult. At the time of the slaying, he was attending community college.

Acquaintances said church counseling sessions failed and Cantero delved deeper into satanism. He owned a satanic bible, wrote letters of allegiance to the devil and scrawled satanic markings on his body. Jail records show he stated he had no religion when he was booked.

Family friends said by contrast, his mother was fervent in her religious beliefs, writing poems about God and church and signing her writing with the name "The Purple Rose."

"That was her favorite color," said friend Fran Pettyjohn. "She always wore purple."

- end of display -

?d 0444575/5

Display 0444575/5

0444575

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: satanic

DATELINE: BURLINGAME, Calif. (UPI) October 31, 1988

TIME: 11:57ps CYCLE: bc

PRIORITY: Regular WORD COUNT: 0252

NBC personality Geraldo Rivera's TV show on devil worship last week was sharply criticized Monday by a group of researchers.

The Oct. 25 NBC special, "Devil Worship, Exposing Satan's Underground," was "poorly researched," "sensational," and "highly irresponsible," said the Committee for Scientific Examination of Religion.

The scientists and scholars said that their two-year investigation determined that satanic crime was vastly exaggerated.

"A person is more likely to be struck by lightning than to be the

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Display 0444575/5

victim of satanic crime," said Shawn Carlson, a physicist at Lawrence Berkeley Labs and the report's principal author.

The group, headquartered in Buffalo, N.Y., said it had planned to issue its report next April but moved up the release date because of the Rivera program.

"The Rivera report was misleading, much of the information presented was inaccurate and key facts were omitted," the report said.

The group said in the past five years there have been over 1 million violent crimes committed in the United States but only about 60 listed by police as involving satanism.

"The worship of satan does not appear to be a significant source of crime," said report co-author Gerald Larue, emeritus professor of religion at the University of Southern California.

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?d 0418061/5

Display 0418061/5

0418061

SECTION: General news

STORY TAG: satanic

DATELINE: OXFORD, N.C (UPI) April 27, 1988

TIME: 06:08pd CYCLE: bc

PRIORITY: Deferred WORD COUNT: 0480

Investigators searching for the body of a young man murdered more than a year ago have discovered a satanic ritual site in a remote area of Catawba County,

State Bureau of Investigation agents were tipped that the body of Robert Mayse, 19, missing since November 1986, had been taken to the site for use in satanic rituals, agent Dave Campbell said.

Investigators did not find a body, but instead discovered a circle of stones, an altar and a fire pit. Under the stones, they found a suspicious mold.

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Display 0418061/5

Man arrested, charged in beheading

*No evidence
of occult ritual,
authorities say*

BY STEPHEN JONES
Free Press Staff Writer

A 21-year-old Saginaw tattoo artist arrested in the grisly beheading of a teenage girl has confessed to the killing but there is no evidence to connect the slaying with Satanic ritual, Warren police said Thursday.

Jaime Rodriguez Jr. put the head, stripped of its skin, in a freezer to be preserved, said Warren Deputy Police Chief Carl Muschong.

"As near as we can tell, they were going to save it and try to preserve it as a memento or a conversation piece," Muschong said.

Detectives are "90 percent certain" the victim was Stephanie Dubay, a 15-year-old Clinton Township girl reported missing June 26, Muschong said. He said he expected to confirm the victim's identity today after her remains are compared with the missing girl's dental records.

Rodriguez, who was on probation in a 1989 arson case and was wanted in a June 17 kidnapping and auto theft in Saginaw, was arraigned in the slaying Thursday afternoon in 37th District Court. He was held without bond pending a July 24 preliminary examination on charges of first degree murder, conspiracy to commit first degree murder and mutilation of a human body.

Known as Jimbo, Rodriguez stared impassively while a detective told 37th District Judge George Montgomery he had admitted the killing.

Rodriguez and a 15-year-old cousin, whose name was withheld, were arrested Wednesday afternoon at a house in the 27000 block of Jean Street near I-696 and Hoover Road in Warren. Assistant Macomb County Prosecutor William Dardy said au-

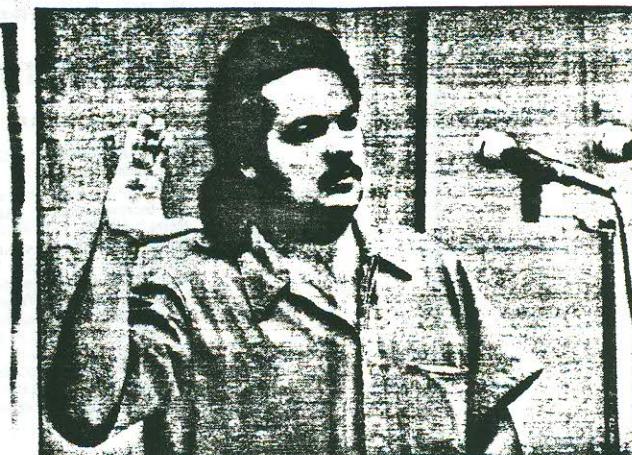
See KILLING, Page 10A



DAYMON J. HARTLEY/Detroit Free Press

Police and technicians remove evidence Thursday from the Warren house where, police believe, a teenage girl was killed. They said the victim may have been a 15-year-old Clinton Township girl.

*An example of the
"oult come" reporting
I'd like to see more of —*



DAYMON J. HARTLEY/Detroit Free Press

Jaime Rodriguez Jr., 21, of Saginaw is placed under oath in 37th District Court on Thursday as he is arraigned on a charge of murder.

'I love you, Agustin'

Sobbing relatives believe suspect didn't kill girl

By Tom Greenwood
Detroit News Staff Writer

A 15-year-old Warren youth wept as he was charged with first-degree murder Monday in the slaying and ritualistic dismemberment of a runaway teen-age girl, a crime prosecutors called "The Atrocity on Jean Street."

The youth's mother also cried in Warren's 37th District Court as prosecutors described how Agustin Todd Pena allegedly stabbed Stephanie Dubay, 15, of Clinton Township, then helped cut up her body and remove the head.

Curious teens, reporters and relatives packed the courtroom.

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A MAN SEATED nearby shouted, "What about Stephanie?"

The woman replied: "I love her, too. What do you want me to say? There's nothing I can do about this." She ran from the courtroom, pursued by reporters and TV cameras.

"Leave me alone, I don't know what happened," she said. "All I know is, Agustin couldn't have done this. He's a nice boy. I can tell from the look in his eyes that he didn't do this."

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Pena and his cousin, Jaime "Jimbo" Rodriguez, 21, face charges of first-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder and mutilation of a human body. Pena will be tried as an adult. If convicted, both face life in prison.

Stasiak covered her face and wept as a Warren police detective described the crime. Pena's fingerprints were on a bloody hammer found at the home. The hammer was used in the dismemberment of Dubay's body, the detective said.

CONTINUED

PENA GLARED AT Macomb County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney William Dardy when the attorney asked that bond be withheld, citing the teen-ager's "transitory and anti-social" lifestyle.

Pena pointed out his parents in the courtroom after Dardy told Judge Thomas E. Kennedy: "There are no witnesses here to vouch for him and not even his mother is here."

Pena asked Kennedy to allow his parents to speak for him. But after consulting with their son's attorney, Michael Rogensues, the couple declined to make a statement. They later left the courtroom. Rogensues declined to comment on why they left.

Kennedy entered an innocent plea on Pena's behalf and ordered him held without bond. He was returned to the Macomb County Jail. Pena and Rodriguez, a self-professed satanist, face a joint preliminary examination July 24.

At a press conference Monday, Dubay's family called "truly unfair" earlier reports that she was involved in satanism and had been mistreated by her family.

"Stephanie was not, nor ever has been neglected, abused or unwanted by her family," said Bill Minor, a family spokesman. "Any such reports by the media and others involved are appalling and truly unfair to Stephanie and her family."

"She was not involved in anything satanic," he said. "She was a kind, sweet girl."

DUBAY'S MOTHER, Mary, manages the Clinton Township mobile home park where Stephanie lived before running away at the end of June. She did not run away because they fought, he said.

"She was just very independent and wanted to be on her own," Minor said.

Her father, Robert, of St. Clair, learned of her slaying from a radio news report while driving home from a Florida vacation Friday.

Minor said Dubay met Pena through a church friend.

Pena and Rodriguez allegedly decapitated Dubay and skinned her head with the intention of keeping the skull as a "conversation piece."

Warren Deputy Chief Carl Muschong said Pena hasn't admitted any

role in the crime. Rodriguez admitted to police and during an exclusive interview with The Detroit News that the two killed and mutilated Dubay on a "whim."

Rodriguez, who has a satanic symbol of a pentagram and a goat's head tattooed on his chest, said the homicide was not part of any ritual.

"THE INTERVIEW Rodriguez gave to The Detroit News is almost exactly what he said to us," Muschong said. "We haven't talked to Pena, because his attorney won't let us. But we do believe the killing was Pena's idea."

Police were called to the Jean Street home after two teen-age girls, who were friends of Dubay's and Pena's, discovered the head in the freezer.

Four garbage bags filled with Dubay's dismembered body were found buried in the back yard.

Pathologist Dr. Werner Spitz said Dubay was killed by 10 stab wounds to the back and right side.

Last Wednesday wasn't the first time police were called to the Warren address.

REPORTS SHOW that neighbors complained eight times about loud parties, drinking and fights there since September 1989.

In May, Pena was charged with carrying a concealed weapon and a controlled substance after Sterling Heights police found a knife and marijuana in his possession.

Pena also was charged in June with assaulting a young woman with a knife in a Warren park. Those charges are pending in juvenile court.

In addition, Pena was expelled last year from Center Line High School for fighting. He attended a school in Saginaw until June, when he returned to Warren.

But his former schoolmates insisted on Monday that the "Augie" Pena they knew may have rebelled against authority figures but was "sweet" and "really caring" to his friends.

"I just still can't believe he could do anything like this," said Tina Nagar, 14, of Warren. She said they met while attending Wolfe Middle School in Center Line.

CONTINUED

She added: "Augie never got mad at me and if any guys bothered me, he'd always stick up for me and say, 'I won't let anyone hurt you."

Another friend, Carolyne Robbins, 15, now of Hazel Park, said Pena's arrest shocked her. She said he was popular among students but perpetually in trouble with school authorities.

"He was always getting kicked out of school for stupid little things — mouthing off to teachers, fights, drugs," said Robbins.

"He just didn't like to be told what to do. He liked to be his own boss."

Satanism not a threat but a fear, experts say

BY DAVID CRUMM
Free Press Religion Writer

One day after initial reports linked devil worship with a gruesome murder of a teenage girl in Warren, several experts said the only growing threat from Satanism is the growing number of people profiting from the fear of it.

"The real threat is the hysteria about Satanism," said the Rev. J. Gordon Melton, director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion in Santa Barbara, Calif.

"Some people have this false idea that there is some massive rebirth of

Satanism and that it's an international secret conspiracy, killing people, stealing babies, committing ritual abuse," said Melton. "That's harmful, because the conspiracy they are imagining does not exist."

What does exist, experts say, is a small but growing number of deeply disturbed young people with a desire to shock the world and dominate other people. Sometimes they adopt Satanic symbols from the growing number of TV shows, movies, songs and books about Satanism. Occasion-

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No evidence of ritual in beheading, police say

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authorities will decide by Monday whether to charge the youth, who is being held at the Macomb County Youth Home.

The youth had been expelled from Center Line High School in January after "persistent disobedience," said Schools Superintendent Terry Follbaum. He was in the ninth grade.

Muschong said the motive for the killing was not clear.

He said the girl apparently was killed in the basement of the Jean Street house between noon and 1 p.m. Wednesday with kitchen knives. "For some reason they had a personality conflict and Jaime decided to kill her," Muschong said.

Rodriguez knew something about Satanism and had a pentagram, a Satanic symbol, tattooed on his chest but the killing appears to be unrelated to Satanism, Muschong said.

"There were no altars found, no paraphernalia, nothing to indicate it was a ritual murder," Muschong said.

He said the victim's body was dismembered to aid in disposal.

Police descended on the house after two hysterical young women brought the head in a plastic bag to

police headquarters Wednesday afternoon. Muschong said four trash bags containing body parts were found buried in the backyard and another bag with human remains was found in the front seat of a car in the garage.

A second car, a black Pontiac Fiero, found in the garage had been reported stolen in Saginaw and was connected to the kidnapping of a 16-year-old girl for which Rodriguez was wanted, Muschong said. Saginaw police said the girl was released after she drove Rodriguez and a companion to Warren.

Muschong said Rodriguez apparently bragged about the killing to one of the women, who was shocked when she saw the victim's head in the freezer. She called the second woman for help and the two fled the house with the head while Rodriguez was in another room, Muschong said.

Muschong said the women who found the head apparently were acquainted with the suspects and were among numerous young people that had been "hanging around the house."

"The house appears to be a haven for teenagers in the area, typically a hangout," said Muschong. He said the homeowner was out of town and apparently gave her child "free rein of the house."



DAYMON J. HARTLEY/Detroit Free Press

Dan Yarbrough of Center Line is distraught after a court hearing Thursday on the Warren killing. Yarbrough is a friend of the youth who lives in the home where the body was found.

Dan Yarbrough, 20, of Center Line said he had known Rodriguez's cousin for two years and had been at the house the night before the slaying.

"I was shocked about it," Yarbrough said as he watched police search the house. "I can't imagine (his friend) doing something like that. He must have been on some kind of big time drugs or been pressured into it."

Later, after observing Rodriguez's arraignment, Yarbrough said he had seen Dubay at the house the night before her death and had offered her a ride home. He said she declined because she had been arguing with her

parents.

Michael Quitter, 19, of Center Line was with Yarbrough outside the Jean Street house and at the arraignment.

I stayed here for a month," Quitter said. "I never even think something would happen with these people like this."

Warren police Commissioner Paul Pash said police investigated all of the complaints and kept the house under surveillance for 17 days in 1989 but failed to find evidence of drug activity.

Free Press Staff Writers Frank Bruni and Cecil Angel contributed to this report.

Satanism spawns hysteria and profits, experts say

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ally in their search for excitement, they commit crimes.

"People use Satanism as an excuse, but Satanism doesn't cause these things," said Dr. Paul William Schubert, executive director of a statewide psychological counseling network funded by Protestant denominations.

Crimes such as the Warren slaying are committed by sociopaths, people who feel no concern for the pain they are causing, Schubert said. "Some of what causes them to be sociopaths may be genetic, but a good deal of it has to do with the breakdown of the family

and with family ties."

Sociopaths who do adopt Satanic elements often get them from the same TV shows and books that claim to be combatting it, said several experts.

The tendency to link such gore with Satanism hit a popular peak in 1988 with an October nationwide TV special by Geraldo Rivera.

Rivera toured the country promoting his program, "Devil Worship: Exposing Satan's Underground."

That autumn, State Police received a horrifying series of telephone calls from a man who claimed to be a gynecologist involved in a Satanic cult that kidnapped and mutilated girls.

Later, detectives discovered the caller was an elderly plumber from Canada who had done nothing more than read books and watch TV shows about Satanism.

"As far as I can see, the big public fascination with Satanism derives almost entirely from those people working on the anti-Satanism circuit setting this up as a big enemy," said Robert Hicks, a law enforcement expert employed by the State of Virginia to help police departments.

Some of the worst perpetrators of the myth are former police officers who tour the country presenting shows

on Satanism for civic groups, said both Hicks and Melton.

One practical danger, Hicks said, is that a fascination with the subject by police can weaken court cases.

"There's no question there are people who commit really serious crimes and then say: Satan made me do it," Hicks said. "But as a police officer, emphasizing all of this Satanism stuff does nothing to benefit your case. What it does is benefit the defense attorney so he can argue that his client has a diminished mental capacity."

Free Press staff writer Joe Swickar contributed to this report.