

Anatomy of a suicide

Friend says help is available for troubled teens

BROKEN ARROW LEDGER
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
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By MARTHA DOLLAR
Assistant News Editor

Fifteen-year-old Melody Teague was a pretty blonde, who had lots of friends and was full of life.

That is, until Jan. 13 when she decided to take her own life by hanging herself in the garage of her mother's home.

For the past two weeks, family members, friends and counselors have agonized, speculated and theorized about her tragic and needless death. As with any suicide, the community has been buzzing with questions, which remain unanswered.

Although no amount of investigation will bring her back or ease the pain of her survivors, one friend in particular who wishes to be known only as "Chris" has his own theories, which he believes if aired may help prevent similar deaths.

"She (Melody) has been through more than anyone I've known. I don't know of anyone who went through all of that and still wanted to stay sober and is still alive ... By all the laws of nature, she should have been in a padded cell a year ago," said Chris.

What Melody had "been through," he said, included getting drawn into a group of devil worshippers who eventually brainwashed her, getting addicted to drugs, and surviving years of physical, mental and sexual abuse.

Chris, 19, who dated Melody for about two months prior to her death, says her suicide was actually no suicide at all. "It was a suicide only in the sense of the Jonestown deaths ... Someone convinced her that she'd be better off dead," he said.

That "someone" is a man who Melody first viewed as her friend, until she was in so deeply that it was too late to escape his grip of sexual and mental abuse.

Chris said the man once took Melody to a black mass — a Satan worshippers' ritual — where she was raped by all the men there. "The guy's a nut ... She never told me a lot, and I never asked because it hurt her too much," he said.

"I don't know him -- I just want to make sure he pays for what he's done," he said. Chris added

the man found Melody's "weak point," which was Reuben, an old boyfriend who was killed in a scuffle not too long ago. "He brainwashed her into thinking the only way she could get back to Reuben was through Satan. She was young and vulnerable," he said.

Melody's suicide note which police found seemed to confirm that. In the note, she referred to Reuben, how he had loved her and how she wanted to be with him again.

Although Broken Arrow police have little concrete evidence of "devil worship" in the community, detective Sgt. Rick Ross believes it exists. "We're sitting on quite a bit of intelligence on that. We've got about 20 names of people allegedly involved ... It's all hearsay, but it's quite a lot," he said.

Chris added the man he believes held Melody in his mental grip often had her followed. Her

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Suicide ...

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mother had received phone calls threatening Melody's life, which Chris believes came from the same man, either directly or indirectly.

"We saw an older model white Corvette following us around several times. I saw it outside my

house and outside Melody's house. Once it was outside after one of PDAp's (Palmer Drug Abuse Program, where Chris and Melody met) meetings," said Chris.

Chris says Melody got mixed up with another young man, who he calls a Satan worshipper. "His friends used to pay him money to beat her up," said Chris, saying he often saw the evidence of physical abuse on Melody.

"Since she was 5 years old, she's been abused and treated like She didn't know who loved her and who didn't. We thought we were getting to her, but I guess not ... A lot of the time she was depressed, in never-never land," said Chris, saying he had started bringing Melody to see a Tulsa psychiatrist, funded by his earnings as a busboy.

"It got to the point where I was living my life to make her life better — and that's why we split up for awhile. But we were going to get married when she turned 18 ... She wanted to be a doctor," said Chris.

The young man says he hopes others can learn from Melody's brief life and painful death. "I just want these kids to know they can get help without getting in trouble. It's just like sexual abuse — kids think if they say anything, they'll get in trouble ... They des-

troyed her mentally, when they could no longer hurt her physically." Chris urges young people, "If it doesn't feel right, don't do it ...

Whatever it is, it will get better. It may take time, like for Melody it might have taken years of counseling, but if you kill yourself, you won't have another chance."

The key to leading someone out of Satanism is resolving the deeper personal conflicts usually behind it, according to clinical social worker William Goldberg of River Edge.

"People sometimes feel there's no way out. The state of mind control is one of narrowed consciousness and heightened suggestibility. Everything seems to be inexorably pointing in one direction," he said.

Dr. John Hochman, a California psychiatrist involved in the study of cults, said a low-key, "sensible" counseling approach is vital to reach young people. "If you come on like it's Prohibition and you're breaking all the liquor bottles in town, you will turn them off," he said. "But if you give a balanced picture, it could be part of a good educational program."

Authorities seem to agree that adolescents' interest in the occult stems either from curiosity, rebellion, a desire for a special identity or the longing for power and control of lives in flux.

There is less agreement on the extent to which heavy metal music and literature on the occult influence teens. David Halperin, a New York psychiatrist and consultant to the Cult Hotline and Clinic, believes "profoundly depressed" youths view Satanism as a magical cure. Others, he feels, simply use it to rationalize aggressive or anti-social behavior.

Though it's good to watch for tell-tale signs of trouble, the psychiatrist stressed that Sullivan's classmates must not feel guilty. "There are limits to what people can know about other people, and it isn't their fault," Halperin said.

Signs of Satanic involvement can include a preoccupation with demonic symbols, literature or imagery in rock music, and morose behavior, said Cynthia Kisser of the Chicago-based Cult Awareness Network, which receives about 25 inquiries a month on Satanism.

Satanism garnered headlines in 1984 with the murder of a Long Island teen. Authorities believed it was a ritualistic slaying; one suspect hung himself in jail and another was cleared. Hard figures are difficult to come by, but cult observers say Satanism is on the rise.

Police have been slow to catch on, said Philip Abramowitz of the Inter-faith Coalition of Concern About Cults. He said many of the 130 police from the tri-state area who attended a coalition conference on Satanism last year initially were reluctant to connect crimes to occult practices because they seemed so incredible. "It sounds like something out of a movie," he said.

Author Maury Terry has examined satanic elements of the David Berkowitz "Son of Sam" murders in the book, "The Ultimate Evil," and is researching other unsolved killings with occult overtones.

Satanism, he said, is suspected in the recent brutal killings of two Rhode Island boys, the mass murders in Ohio

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LOAN
BURBELL'S

Grieving parents deny their daughter worshipped the devil

NEW HAVEN, Vt. (AP) — If the teen-ager with the face of an angel was fascinated with the devil, Wesley and Jennie Kimball didn't suspect it when she was alive and don't believe it now that she's dead.

"She was just so bubbly, so full of life," said Kimball, who stops pacing now and then to gaze at photos of his curly-haired daughter that line a set of shelves and cover an entire table near the front window.

"I just can't figure out what was going on. I don't believe she was into the devil. She loved everything and everybody."

Michele, a 15-year-old high school sophomore with luminous brown eyes, had a gift for bringing light into others' lives, her parents say, but police believe she had a dark side, a secret side.

On Jan. 6, Michele put a rifle to her head and committed suicide in a pact with her boyfriend.

Randy Steady, 16, at his home. Michele died instantly. Steady suffered only a bruised head. Michele's suicide note said "she believed in the devil and worshiped the devil and that was something her parents wouldn't understand but she wanted them to try to understand," said Lt. Dean George of the Vermont State Police. The note made reference to Steady, now in a psychiatric hospital, but no evidence indicates he was dabbling in the occult, George said. His obsession was Michele.

"Apparently, they were not allowed to be together as much as they wanted to," George said.

The Kimballs, who have an older son, said Steady was a troubled high school dropout who Michele pitied and was trying to help, but he was possessive and phoned her at all hours, threatening to commit suicide if she saw other boys. Her parents didn't want her to see Steady, but he often showed up at school to see her, they said.

Although not allowed to date — her father wanted her to wait until she was 16 — Michele attracted her share of male attention. She was small, like her mother, with delicate features and an open, giving nature, her parents said.

The daughter of a dairy farmer, she loved animals, even though severe allergies and asthma kept her away from them. She bought bags of bread at the local bakery to feed birds and carried a stuffed penguin with her when she traveled.

Other stuffed animals clutter the pink canopy bed in her small, cheery bedroom in the big white house with black shutters. It is just as she left it —photos of friends line her mirror, and posters of rock groups are scattered on the walls.

Stacked on the floor are the contents of her locker: algebra and history books, a volume of Robert Frost's poems, two journals where she recorded her

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Worship

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thoughts.

A box taken from the locker holds a torn, tattered book of Psalms, a small glass dish of potpourri, some razor blades, a dip pen and a wooden crucifix. A horse's skull, a prop from a Halloween party, rests on the floor. A small knife with an intricately carved sheath lies near her stereo, a trinket she picked up in Florida, her father said.

Stereo components in a glass stand dominate one corner, and the tapes in front, the ones easiest to reach, are all heavy metal music: Wasp, AC/DC, Metal Church, Whitesnake, Black Sabbath and Dio. On the wall is a picture of Dio, over it the words "Dream Evil" — the title track from one of their albums.

"Dream evil," the song goes. "The dark that you find in the back of your mind."

"She was a troubled child," George said. "But no matter what you say, her parents will never believe it, and that's understandable." □

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MAR 4 1988

BURGELLES

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MAR 3 1988

BURGELLES

Rumors of satanic activity follow teen shooting death

By Dan Armstrong *(YU)*
Staff reporter

Rumors of satanic activity that have flourished since the shooting death of a New Harmony boy haven't produced any solid information, say police officials who are continuing to investigate. "There's a lot of gossip and rumors flying around New Harmony, and where it got started I have no idea," Posey County Sheriff's Deputy Jimmie Reeves said last night.

Reeves is investigating the shooting death of Jason Graf, 14, who was found with a gunshot wound to his head last Thursday in his family's upstairs apartment at the Shadblow Restaurant at 535 Church St. He was flown to Deaconess Hospital and died on Sunday.

Reeves said no one has provided solid information such as dates, times or places of satanic cult meetings.

He said police are investigating everything that's been said about the alleged satanic activity and the shooting. He said there has been nothing to substantiate a link between a cult and the shooting.

The investigation has not determined whether the shooting was a suicide, an accident or murder, Reeves said. He said a gun found on a bed in the apartment was turned over to the Indiana State Police for analysis.

Vanderburgh County Coroner Charles Althaus said he has ruled the death a suicide. Graf died from a gunshot wound to the head.

Reeves said Graf's mother, Charlene, reportedly found the boy's body in a bedroom of the apartment after she and his step-father, William Graf, returned from picking up another child at school.

When Reeves arrived at the scene, he said, the boy already was gone and on his way for treatment. He said William Graf reported he had picked up the weapon from where it was lying next to his stepson's left side.

Reeves said no suicide note was found.

Graf reportedly was alone in the apartment and had stayed home from Thompson Middle School in Evansville because he didn't feel well and had stomach cramps, Reeves said.

New Harmony Town Marshal Gary Watson, who is also investigating the shooting and the cult rumors, said he didn't think rumors of a satanic cult are true. Watson said the Graf family was in the process of moving at the time of the shooting and has since moved to North Judson in northern Indiana.

Graf had been baptized and joined the First Baptist Church in New Harmony the Sunday before the shooting, the Rev. Stan Wall said.

Parents of gun victim raise question of cult

By CATHERINE EDMAN *(YU)*
Courier staff writer

Parents of a New Harmony, Ind., boy who died Sunday of a gunshot wound seriously question whether their son recently witnessed cult ceremonies, but police say they have found no evidence of such activities.

William Graf said his son, Jason, 14, mentioned a month ago that he had been out late at night and witnessed a burning cross surrounded by people in red robes. He did not recall if Jason said he was with other children at the time.

The Grabs found their son in his bedroom last Thursday afternoon with a gunshot wound to his head. He was flown to an Evansville hospital and died Sunday afternoon.

Although the Posey County Sheriff's Department and the New Harmony town marshal's investigation into the incident is still open, Graf said the family has discussed hiring a private investigator. He said several friends who attended the funeral Wednesday told him they had received threatening phone calls or heard rumors of cult activity around New Harmony.

Police say there is "not one shred of evidence" to support any of the rumors.

"I don't know why it got started but as far as I'm concerned a cult had nothing to do with it (the shooting)," said Jim Reeves, the Posey County Sheriff's deputy investigating the case.

The town marshal said he also has not found any evidence of cult activity.

"People read it in the newspaper that some (cult activity) was happening in southern Illinois and in my opinion, someone is having a good time calling these people and hearing the reactions to what they say," Town Marshal Gary Watson said.

The rumors of satanic worship and animal sacrifice are similar to those investigated recently in Mount Carmel, Ill., and found to be unsubstantiated, he said.

Graf said the family questions whether the shooting was a suicide, mainly because their son was right-handed and was shot in the left side of the head. He also had been baptized the week before and had not displayed any depressed or erratic emotional behavior.

Mike Ford, Vanderburgh County deputy coroner, said the wound appeared to be self-inflicted and that a right-handed person would be able to shoot himself in the left side of the head.

Because the rumors surrounding the alleged cult activity and Jason's death have stepped up, town officials and several ministers are having a closed meeting tonight to discuss the situation.

The Rev. Stan Wall said he has talked to several children who say they are not aware of any cult activity although at least two people have told him they have received threatening phone calls in the past week.

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EVANSVILLE, IND.

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BURRELLE'S

Police report cult stories only rumors

Authorities believe that the time between the Thursday night shooting of a Posey County teen-ager and his death on Sunday fueled speculation that foul play was involved.

New Harmony Town Marshal Gary Watson repeated Friday that there is no evidence to support rumors that the shooting death of 14-year-old Jason Graf was connected to satanic cult activity or that it was murder.

"The investigation is all but closed," Watson said. "The only thing we lack is writing suicide on the final report."

Watson also said that a test by Indiana State Police confirmed that the handgun found on the bed beside the wounded youth could fire a bullet, despite the fact that the clip was not in the weapon.

"That might indicate that it could have been accidental, even though the boy's father said he had unloaded the gun," Watson said.

Graf was discovered by his parents with a gunshot wound to the head last Thursday in the family's New Harmony apartment at 535 Church St. He was taken to an Evansville hospital where he was placed on life support systems until his death Sunday afternoon.

The Town Board, members of the clergy, school and police officials met Thursday night in a "fact-finding" session to determine if there was any substance to rumored cult activity. Town Board member Don Hatfield said the group left convinced there was no foundation to such rumors.

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Boy cuts wrists, stomach

Youth claims to be a member of Satanic cult

By JANEL COLE

Tribune Staff Writer

A 17-year-old Williston boy was hospitalized in the St. Alexius psychiatric unit Sunday after he allegedly threatened his sister and other people with a butcher knife and told them he was involved in a satanic cult, Bismarck police said.

According to the police report, the boy's sister called police to her mobile home, saying he was threatening her and a Bismarck couple who were visiting at the home. "He was going to slash some body's throat," said Police Lt. Lee Mack.

held because he is a juvenile.

Two other girls who were visiting at the mobile home apparently were not threatened but witnessed the incident, according to the police report.

Mack said the juvenile ran away from the mobile home when police arrived and was apprehended

about a block away.

"The juvenile was totally berserk and attempted stabbing himself in the stomach as Officer (Barry) Mayher restrained him. The juvenile did accomplish cutting of one (of his) wrist(s)," the report said.

The youth also suffered a slight stomach puncture, but it was very minor, Mack said.

"The kid is claiming he's involved in this Satan cult," Mack said. "He said this in front of the girls."

Mack, however, discounted the cult connection.

"He was taken to the hospital.

Case closed," the lieutenant said.

Rock suicide cult terrifies parents

A SUICIDE pact has already claimed three teenage fans of a bizarre rock music cult, and has a number of parents fearing for their children's lives.

Police reportedly are keeping watch on at least 10 other cult members who dress in black and follow the sinister "gothic" pop music which glorifies death and Devil worship.

Deadly chain

The youths worship such British bands as Sisters of Mercy, Jesus and Mary Chain, The Cult and Gay Bikers on Acid.

The deadly chain of events began with a 16-year-old shooting himself

in the head with his father's rifle.

Then 18-year-old student Marc Hitchcock died in an exhaust-filled car while listening to cult band Johnny and the Fourskins.

Several days later,

Marc's friend Jason Capner was also found dead in a fume-filled vehicle.

Chilling

Police say the latest victim placed a death notice for his friend in the local paper before taking his life. The ad read: "You

should have stayed around longer. Catch up with you soon." Catch up

Jason's girlfriend placed a similar notice after his death, and the girl

has since been under close

scrutiny by relatives.

"It is very disturbing," notes a police spokesman from Auckland, New Zealand,

"We're shocked but we can hardly be held responsible for the deaths," a band spokesman says.

Government buys dead

FOLKS WHO want to earn a little extra cash will be running around the Philippines looking for flies.

Mounds of garbage

Police officials in Manila are offering money for the little pests. For every 1,000 dead flies you turn in, you get 100 pesos,

or \$4.75. Flies have become a big problem on the mounds of garbage in the city, and authorities fear it will spread disease.

"If we cannot do away with this garbage, I think it is better to eliminate these creatures that bring sickness," declares police commander Romeo Mag-

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THE NEWS
FREDERICK, MD
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Police say girls' deaths were double suicide

By RUTH W. ELLIS
Montgomery Bureau Chief

ROCKVILLE — Police now believe that a formerly reported homicide-suicide involving two girls, ages 12 and 13, on Election Day actually was a double suicide.

The bodies of Marsha Urevich, 13, of 12200 Braxfield Court, Rockville, and Nicole Eisel, 12, of 3904 Kincaid Terrace, Kensington, were found in Rock Creek Park near Viers Mill Road Wednesday morning.

Police said Thursday that there was a history of drug use in the girls' background.

They had been reported as runaways the night before their deaths.

"This tragedy points up how young they become involved with drugs," said

Montgomery County Police Chief Donald Brooks.

Police said it looked like the younger girl, sitting facing her companion, shot herself in the mouth with a .32-caliber handgun.

Next, police said, Marsha Urevich, a student at Mark Twain school for emotionally disturbed children, apparently took the gun, placed it in her mouth and pulled the trigger.

Park Police Officer Timothy Boyle, who lectures and teaches about ritualistic crime, said one of the girls had red writing on her wrist which might indicate some involvement with devil worship.

Asked about the necklaces with padlocks worn by both girls, he said he had heard about a Pennsylvania case

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say is' deaths

(Continued from Page A-1)

involving a key hole believed to "open the door to the dark side, or satanism."

Officer Boyle explained that some children believe there is a better life with Satan. "They don't really fear death . . . it's not that bad a thing."

Marsha Urevich's parents reported that she was interested in satanism.

"Most kids who commit serious crimes have started by getting involved with fantasy games or supernatural witchcraft," said Officer Boyle.

Police said the two girls, who were described as "loners," were distanced from "mainstream society." The 13-year-old had been treated for depression and had been seeing a psychiatrist, according to investigators.

The daughter of Russian immigrants, Marsha Urevich took the gun from her parents' home, police said, without their knowledge. The autopsy revealed Thursday that both girls died of gunshot wounds, but only the death of the older girl was listed as a suicide.

She was found by police with the gun still in her hand and her finger still on the trigger, police said.

No official ruling has been made by the state medical examiner regarding the death of Nicole Eisel, a student at Sligo Middle School who lived with her father. Her parents are divorced, police said.

Investigators did not question the parents of the victims at great length on the day the girls' bodies were found. "They were too distraught," remarked one officer.

The killings were discovered in a picnic area by a man walking near the park.

Teens killed selves to meet Satan!

Two 13-year-old girls who dabbled in the occult told friends that Satan was their father and they wanted to meet him — then they carried out a shocking suicide pact!

Best friends Marsha Urevich and Nicole Eisel, who lived in the Maryland suburbs near Washington, D.C., shared a fascination with the devil, officials said.

Lt. Harry Harner, chief homicide detective for Montgomery County, said the girls told classmates that "they wanted to meet Satan, that they considered Satan to be their father."

On the day they died the

two teens went to Marsha's house, where they found her father's .32-caliber pistol in a safe.

They took the gun to a nearby park and sat on the ground facing each other. Marsha apparently shot Nicole before turning the gun on herself.

Their teachers described the teens as extremely bright but



Nicole

troubled students who became totally preoccupied with the occult.

Principal Dorothy Jackson said some students were so concerned about Nicole's talk of death and the supernatural that they spoke to her guidance counselor.

"They stated they were worried about Nicole, that she was talking about witches," the principal said.

When confronted by the counselor, Nicole denied there was anything to the rumors circulating about her.

Marsha had recently become "preoccupied with this Ouija board and supernatural forces and hard rock, anti-Christ music," according to her mother, Emily Urevich.

WWN 17 Jan 89

School copes with youth's suicide

**By Lynn Zerschling
and Harvey M. Sanford**

Journal staff writers

Educators in Moville, Iowa, brought in counselors and a deputy sheriff to talk to students who were concerned that a fellow teen's interest in Satanic cults brought about his death last month.

Keith Michael Heinse, 17, died Jan. 27 from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, the Woodbury County Medical Examiner's office said. He was found in the rural Moville home he shared with his father, Keith Heinse. "Some of the kids were actually worried that the cult had killed Keith," said Thomas Cooper, superintendent of the Woodbury Central School District.

Although school officials and others who knew young Heinse said they doubted he had connections to a Satanic cult, law enforcement officers said their investigation reveals that Heinse knew a great deal about Satan worship.

Heinse may have been a member of such a cult in Woodbury County or may have attended Satanic ceremonies, Woodbury County Deputy Sheriff David Kjos asserted.

Kjos said he based his conclusions on a term paper Heinse wrote. Satanic symbols found on school notebooks, jewelry that the youth wore, a wall hanging in his bedroom and his fondness for several heavy metal rock bands that have been linked to Satanism.

Just what caused Heinse to take his own life may never be known, those interviewed said. Several of his teachers and friends said they were shocked by his death — that they had seen no clues that he may have been having emotional problems.

Authorities said Heinse may have been playing "Russian roulette" with the gun when he died, something he supposedly had done in the past.

Because Heinse died on a Friday, a number of rumors started to circulate over that weekend about possible cult involvement in his

"Some of the kids were actually worried that the cult had killed Keith."

Cooper said high school classes were canceled Jan. 30, the day of Heinse's funeral in Anthon, so that classmates could attend. Also, Cooper said, classes were called off because the death of a student was a shock and upsetting to both students and staff at Woodbury Central High School, which has an enrollment of 155.

On Jan. 31, Cooper brought in four counselors.

Two were from Marian Health Center in Sioux City, one was from the Vermillion, S.D., school district and another from the Lawton-Bronson school district.

"They were here most of the morning and half the afternoon working with students. We had a group session and individual sessions. We had about 25 who attended," said Cooper. "We have a Crisis Team we activated here at the school. It's something we started with our staff, mainly teachers, who look for students who may be having problems. We met before school to identify students and then try to work with them during the day, and then the team met again after school to see if the students we felt needed help attended those meetings," Cooper said.

"Through the meetings Tuesday, this cult situation came out. Some of the kids were really upset about that, so I called the sheriff's office and on Wednesday, David Drew from the sheriff's office came out to talk to the kids about cult activity.

"We had in the neighborhood of 50 kids attending those sessions," or about a third of the student body, Kjos said.

Cooper said, "It was very informative and educational. When some of the kids said they were worried that the cult had killed Keith, he put a lot of kids a little more at ease."

The school district plans to do follow-up counseling Feb. 21, when the two therapists from Marian Health Center return to the high school.

While those interviewed said they didn't think Heinse had an unusual interest in cults, Deputy Kjos said he based his conclusions on the follow-

ing:

- A term paper Heinse wrote for a social studies class in December described Satanic cults and their rituals in detail, claiming such a cult existed in Woodbury County and that its members ranged in age from 11 to 20. Cult members supposedly included both so-called "street people" and children of the wealthy.
- The covers of notebooks found in Heinse's school locker, and some of the inside pages contained numerous drawings of Satanic symbols. Those included pentagrams, an upside down crucifix, goats heads, crucifixes with numbers, 666 or letters FFF and Satan spelled backwards.
- Heinse wore a crucifix suspended upside down on a silver chain.
- A ceramic cross with an entwined serpent was found in his room at home.
- Ribbons hanging on the wall above his bed were arranged in a pentagram form.

Friends of Heinse interviewed by Kjos claimed the high school senior had played "Russian roulette" with a revolver, was involved with drugs and was troubled by his relationship with girls, Kjos said.

Heinse was at home by himself

when he took his own life. Officers

said they found no Satanic symbols in the room where he died. They said they could not tell if he had been playing "Russian roulette."

"Satan worship is heavily involved

with symbols, with rituals involving

animal mutilation and with opposites

of the worship of Christ," said Kjos

revealed Heinse was a "loner."

who has become an expert in the field.

"There is no law against worship of Satan, but there are laws against animal mutilation, drug possession and distribution and terrorism."

Terrorism is practiced against those who would leave the cult or talk about its activities to outsiders, Kjos stated.

Heinse's term paper on cults exhibited a far greater knowledge of Satanism than it did of spelling and sentence structure, Kjos said. Heinse earned an average grade, a "C," on the paper.

Also in the school paper, Heinse described the ritual killing of a dog by cult members, who disembowelled the animal and passed around body parts to eat and blood to drink.

Kjos said he has found evidence of that type of ritual taking place at a secluded spot in the Sioux City area, which, he said, makes him believe Heinse was a member of a Sioux City-based cult.

Kjos declined to identify the location or name others who might be involved in such a cult because of an ongoing investigation.

The last sentence of Heinse's term paper apparently carries an admonition about Satan worship: "We have to get rid of it."

Apparently the term paper did not raise any concerns with his teacher, or other students have written on cults in the past, Cooper said.

One of Heinse's teachers, Shelley Molland, said he did not write any papers on cults in her English class or talk about Satanism either in class or in casual conversation.

"He wrote some essays on success. We did job interviews, that type of thing," she said.

Molland, who spoke at his funeral,

described Heinse as "very pleasant,

very witty and well liked by other people."

Although a member of the high school track team, Heinse was not involved in other extra-curricular activities. He was interested in art, Molland said.

Kjos said his investigation has

reached for comment.

Heinse's parents could not be reached for comment.

Dixon added, "No matter what I say, it'll get twisted and turned around."

Cooper said the community still is trying to come to terms with the youth's death.

"I do feel comfortable in the fact

that I don't think any of our students

here are involved in a cult. If Keith

was — although I didn't think he was

— then I believed it was an isolated

thing," Cooper stated.

Deputy Kjos urged parents to

become more familiar with Satanism

and its symbols "so they will know

what their kids are getting into."

Sentinel
LeMars, IA 51031

FEB 15 1989

Possible link between Moville teen's death and cult

Keith Michael Heinse wrote a term paper last month on "a social problem" in Woodbury County.

The topic was cults.

A few weeks later, Heinse, a senior at Woodbury Central High School in Moville, put a revolver to his head and killed himself. Police investigators believe the paper, found in the teenagers school locker after his death Jan. 27, may have been a cry for help.

A quiet person who "kept his problems to himself," Heinse may have been involved in bizarre, ritualistic cult activity, an investigation being conducted by the Woodbury County Sheriff's Department suggests.

"It's difficult to crack into these cult cases because they are so secretive, but there is a real heavy subculture here in the Sioux City area," Deputy David Kjos, who is leading the investigation into Heinse's death, said Wednesday. "We are still gathering intelligence, but we cannot rule it out."

Police in Des Moines and Ankeny have linked the suicides of two young men last summer to a loosely organized, cult-like group known as the Progressive Community. Kjos said he

does not know whether the group is operating in the Sioux City area.

But he said officers in Woodbury County have found evidence of cult activity in the past year, including several instances of animal sacrifice and elaborate carvings and paintings of satanic symbols.

Heinse's mother, Jackie Heinse of Le Mars, and his maternal grandmother, Leone Dixon of Moville, said they do not believe that the boy was dabbling in the occult. But his mother said she did not know what drove her son to suicide.

School officials described the teenager as friendly, easygoing and fairly well-adjusted. He had been living with his father, also named Keith, in rural Moville.

The sheriff's department investigation has uncovered some troubling evidence, however, Kjos said.

Besides the paper, he said, deputies found scribblings of satanic symbols, including pentagrams and demon's heads, inside the teenager's locker. He said Heinse, a 17-year-old member of the track team, had been wearing a

chain with an upside-down crucifix in recent months.

"They are satanic symbols: all pretty typical stuff," the deputy said.

Friends told investigators that Heinse had talked recently about watching the sacrifice of a dog whose heart was cut out and blood was sipped in a group ceremony, Kjos said. The teenagers also said their friend was involved with drugs, was troubled by his relationships with girls and had "played Russian roulette with a revolver before."

Heinse's term paper, written in the third person, talked about groups that engage in satanism in the Sioux City area, Kjos said. It did not name a particular cult or identify any of its members, but described them as "a combination of both street people and wealthy kids" between the ages of 11 and 20.

Kjos said the last line of the paper, for which Heinse earned a C, was: "We have to get rid of it."

"His friends told me he may have said a little too much and was getting pressure from others in the group," he said.

Doug Deming, the teenager's guidance counselor, said Heinse's term paper probably should have raised a red flag.

But he said he did not blame the teacher for failing to alert authorities. Heinse's appearance and demeanor gave teachers and others no reason to suspect he was involved with the occult, nor that he was contemplating suicide, Deming said.

He said he has heard rumors from students, however, that cults have a following in the Sioux City area.

After Heinse's death, Woodbury Central invited police officers to the school to discuss the signs, signals and dangers of such activities, school officials said.

"It's a flourishing problem nationwide," Kjos said. "People just do not want to believe it's going on."

gym

SCIENCE WATCH

Study Cites a Vulnerability to Suicide

WHILE media accounts of teen-age suicides alone are unlikely to prompt more suicides, emotionally disturbed teen-agers who have previously been exposed to violence may be more vulnerable to sensational or romanticized representations, a new study has concluded.

Teen-agers who have experienced the death of a friend or relative, or who have injured themselves or

threatened suicide may identify more strongly with suicide victims, said the study, published in the current issue

of The Journal of the American Medical Association. Such identification may lead the teen-agers to try to take their own lives, the researchers said.

The study examined two "suicide clusters" in Texas in 1983 and 1984. In

one community, eight teen-agers

committed suicide over 15 months. In

the other, six teen-agers took their

lives in two months, the last four in an eight-day span.

The researchers interviewed parents, comparing responses from parents of the victims with those from parents of teen-agers of the same age, race, sex and school who did not

attempt suicide.

"We cannot say media exposure to the violence alone contributed to these deaths, because everyone in the community was universally ex-

posed," said an author of the report, Dr. Lucy E. Davidson of the Federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. But victims "may have been more vulnerable to that exposure," she said. "It may be something that just pushes them over the edge."

Disruptions in family or social life, such as divorce, arrests, hospitalization for substance abuse or losing a boyfriend or girlfriend, put teenagers at greater risk of imitating suicides, the report said.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people 15 to 24 years old, accounting for more than 6,000 deaths each year in the United States.

The report recommended that "exposures in public exposure to suicide" be curtailed.