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enforcers of the moral law of God." He said that Christ enjoined believers to pay taxes "even to unjust authorities." He added that Operation Rescue's use of Proverbs 24 constitutes an illegitimate use of Scripture: "The Proverbs are not meant to be commands, but inductive generalizations about wisdom in this life."

Myers expressed concern that many applaud Operation Rescue because it has brought "foot soldiers" into the

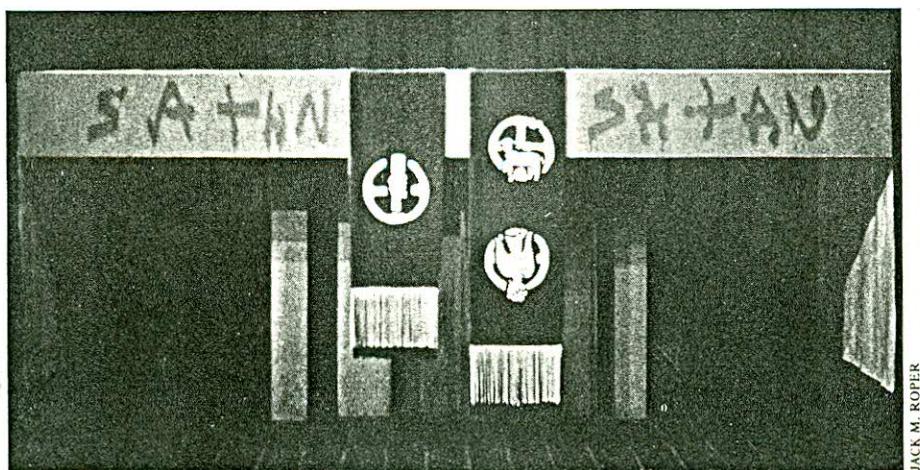
movement. "To move from apathy to breaking a law overnight is not a sign of a morally healthy movement. This should be a process of long prayer and study," he said, adding, "If [rescue] is biblically wrong, it ought not to be sanctioned for having positive effects for the [prolife] movement."

Some advocates of Operation Rescue, however, are bothered by the movement's critics. "It was really easy 20 years ago for white people to be very

concerned that the civil rights movement was breaking the law," said pro-life activist Charles White, who runs a crisis pregnancy center in Jackson, Michigan.

"When the law is benefiting you or when you don't care about the people who are being destroyed by the law," White said, "it's very easy to have great respect for the law."

By Randy Frame.



Desecrated: The altar of this midwestern church was vandalized in 1987.

#### SATANISM

## The Horror and the Hype

*While Satanism has been thrust into the limelight, experts are calling for careful analysis and reaction.*

From Geraldo to James Dobson, Satan worship has captured far-reaching public attention. But how real and how widespread is Satanism in America?

Sensational reports continue to garner headlines, and rumors of satanic cult activities have alarmed whole towns and prompted officials to call communitywide meetings to lay fears to rest. But some experts continue to dismiss many of them as exaggeration and rumor. J. Gordon Melton, director of the Institute for the Study of Religion, said last spring that of the hundreds of cases sent to his institute during the past four years, only 20 have been substantiated as satanic activity.

"The numbers are really small and have always been small," he said. "As far as is known there are only three organized groups in the country that publicly worship Satan," though there may be many small local groups led by troubled individuals, he said. Other cult/occult researchers have also called into question the veracity of testimonies by several well-publicized figures

claiming to be ex-Satanists.

Nevertheless, a growing list of law-enforcement officials, mental-health professionals, and Christian leaders now takes seriously bizarre stories of ritual abuse, animal sacrifice, sexual perversions, cannibalism, and even murder—all in the name of Satan.

Reliable figures are impossible to find, according to cult/occult watchers, due to the secrecy, individuality, and eclectic practices of Satanists. Most experts, however, believe the number of those involved in Satanism is indeed rising. At the same time, they attribute much of the recent media exposure to increased recognition by authorities of the signs of occult-related crime and practice.

Jack Roper, a researcher with the Milwaukee-based Christian Apologetics Research and Information Service (CARIS), has studied occult practices as a Christian for more than 10 years. As a member of the Midwest Gang Investigators Association, Roper is frequently called in to interpret the

markings of occult-related crime.

Graffiti, animal mutilation, and ritual trappings such as candles and bones were for years unrecognized or ignored by law officers, Roper said. But as the number of cases grew and investigators compared notes, the extent of the problem became more apparent.

"There is still a lot of denial that [satanic practice] exists, but that comes from ignorance, just not being able to recognize it," said Robert Simandl, a youth officer with the Chicago Police Department and a recognized expert in occult-related crime.

#### Diverse beliefs

Christian researchers identify four categories of involvement in Satanism:

- The experimentalist, or dabbler, who may be fascinated with occult books and items, horror movies, fantasy role-playing games, or "heavy metal" rock music with violent or satanic themes. Researchers believe millions of individual Americans dabble in the occult without ever becoming part of a recognized satanic group.

- The self-styled Satanist. As an experimentalist becomes more deeply involved, he or she may borrow many different elements to set up a unique system of belief and practice.

- The religious Satanist. These serious practitioners, such as Anton LeVey, author of *The Satanic Bible*, deny any criminal activity and often seek to present their beliefs as a legitimate religion.

- The intergenerational Satanist. These secretive believers pass the "family religion" from one generation to another, and may even be members of Christian churches.

There is also wide diversity within satanic beliefs, experts say. Some Satanists may believe in a personal source of evil—the Devil—while others may view evil as an extension of man's baser nature. In fact, some satanic groups may downplay the supernatural to avoid scaring potential members away.

Other occult groups, such as witches, prefer to distinguish themselves from Satanists, according to Roper, claiming

to practice only "white magic" for good ends. "But the common denominator is magic," he said, "and the source of the power is the same." In addition, so-called white covens often serve as fronts for satanic groups, used for recruiting and screening new members.

Though teenagers are most often the object of concern, persons of all ages are involved, Roper said. Drawn by a desire for power, drugs, sex, or recognition, they may be loners, viewed as weird outsiders by their peers, or they may be very charismatic individuals, who can manipulate people to their advantage.

### Crime and protection

Law-enforcement officials face some restrictions in their pursuit of occult cases. As a religion, Satanism is protected by the First Amendment, Simandl said. But serious crimes often accompany Satan worship, including vandalism, animal mutilation, child abuse, pornography, prostitution, drug abuse, theft, and arson. Authorities have recently formed alliances such as the Cult Crime Impact Network to share information.

Mental-health professionals are also joining the list of those taking Satanism

## Keeping an Eye on the Cults

An estimated 60 million Americans are involved in cults, and another 60 million dabble in the occult, according to the late Walter Martin, author of *Kingdom of the Cults*, a seminal textbook in the field. Yet, in spite of the growing number of people involved in non-Christian beliefs, ministries that focus their work on understanding and evangelizing cult and occult groups still feel like distant cousins to the evangelical church.

A September gathering in Rockford, Illinois, provided a rare opportunity for cult/occult watchers from across the country to gather face to face, trade information, share strategies, and encourage one another in what they describe as often lonely work. "Taking a stand against doctrinal errors is seldom popular," said Kevin Johnson, president of the Institute for Christian Apologetics, cosponsor of the Rockford Conference on Discernment and Evangelism. Churches and individuals often shun what they see as the confrontational nature of such a ministry, or view it as a specialty for a few, Johnson said.

However, he does see the relationship beginning to improve as more Christians are themselves confronted by other religions. And the number of cult/occult ministries has grown in recent years. The Cult Research Directory, published by Cornerstone Press in Chicago, now lists more than 400 individuals and organizations.

More than 200 people attended workshops at the three-day conference, which examined such topics as non-Christian religions, Scientology, Mormonism, New Age thinking, channeling, Satanism, astrology, "fringe" churches, and even cult and occult computer networks. Though several sessions were open to the

general public, most conferees were involved in cult/occult ministry, and they welcomed the chance to compare notes.

Bob Passantino, director of Answers in Action in Costa Mesa, California, said one of the greatest needs among such ministries is "integrity in research," both in handling the material of other Christians and in approaching other religions fairly and accurately.

Another need, said Kurt Van Gordon of Jude 3 Missions, is to put research to use in evangelism. "There's a real danger of just accumulating information with no real concern for reaching these people [in non-Christian religions] for Christ," he said.

In spite of the growing list of cult/occult ministries, much more work needs to be done, said R. Gordon Lewis, professor of theology and philosophy at Denver Seminary and president of Evangelical Ministries to New Religions, also a sponsor of the conference. Lewis, who offered one of the first challenges to the religious nature of transcendental meditation in 1975, said the world view of the New Age movement is transforming American culture. In only 20 years, he said, it has moved from the fringes into the mainstream of society.

He pointed with concern to the effects of a non-Christian world view in India, where he taught for a number of years. "In 200 years of modern mission there, only 3 to 4 percent of the population is Christian. Prevention," he said, "is better than cure."

"We need to respond to a [non-Christian] world view wherever it is found—in business, in the media, in education," Lewis said. "Every Christian has a part to play." □

BETTMANN



**"Self-styled" Satanist:** Convicted murderer Richard Ramirez flashes a satanic symbol.

seriously. Earlier this fall, Hartgrove Hospital in Chicago launched a treatment program for teenagers involved in satanic cults, one of the first of its kind in the country. Other hospitals are considering similar programs in response to the serious mental and behavioral problems that often accompany satanic involvement.

During the past few years, as child abuse has risen to public consciousness, so too have stories of ritualistic abuse. The shocking nature of many reports caused therapists to discount them, said Mary Kay Ryan, a psychiatric nurse who specializes in counseling victims of sexual and ritual abuse.

Satanic involvement sometimes emerges in cases of multiple personalities, Ryan said. "The memories of such horrible abuse are extremely frightening," she said. "They don't want those memories retrieved, and it's only after many hours of therapy that they begin to emerge."

Experts agree that those involved in satanic worship need professional help. Because of the diverse nature of satanic practices, individuals must be treated on a case-by-case basis. That requires a tremendous amount of knowledge of the field, Ryan said, and it emphasizes the need for networking and support groups for those who deal with such cases.

Cult/occult watchers believe recent media attention has accomplished a positive first step by raising awareness of the problem. But they also fear that sensationalized coverage and overreaction will mask the true seriousness of satanic practices.

"It's not a fad anymore," Roper said. "It will be a social problem of the '90s. I don't see it going away."

By Ken Sidey

Nov. 17/1989

# SATANISM

## *No figment of the imagination*

■ BY ERLING JORSTAD ■

D ecked out in a Satan costume, featuring heavy leather wristbands, metal studs and a Judas Priest rock band cap, a California high school student explained to police why he had made an animal blood sacrifice:

"I often think of Satan as a cool dude. Since he controls one part of the supernatural, he tends to let you be on your own, to do what you want. God has his own rules on how you're

supposed to live. They're kind of binding. He wants to put you in a jail cell, to control you."

Early in 1989 the notorious "Night Stalker" serial murderer, Richard Rameriz, was captured after years of terrorizing victims with satanic violence. Satan worship and an obsession with rock music with violent, satanic lyrics were closely associated with his attacks.

This spring, the media covered the gruesome murders that seemed to involve satanic,



VALERIE OZAKSUT

## **Indulgence of lust, greed and the desire for revenge is part of the appeal**

ritualistic practices among drug smugglers in Texas and Mexico.

These cases point to a gruesome fact: Satanism in its many forms is growing in popularity. It lures impressionable teens and young adults in growing numbers. It draws its appeal from devotees in certain rock music groups, from bookstores, and from glorification of the devil and evil in some movies, television and videos.

Satanism has flourished for years largely on the local level. Now, authorities discover, it is being organized by several interstate groups. These groups are dedicated to devil worship and have headquarters for training ministers in at least New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles.

This trend is very elusive, differing widely from place to place. It is also hard to pin down because teens, the real target of devil worshipers, have very mixed feelings about sharing their experiences with adults.

National sheriffs' associations estimate that 1.4 million teens and adults are involved in satanic worship in one way or another. The growing number of Christian churches vandalized, cemeteries desecrated, graves robbed and animals mutilated has clearly caught the attention of law enforcement officials.

### **What is it?**

At its root, Satanism is not crime, mental illness or severe social deviance. It is the worship of the devil, who is not the product of human minds but identified in Scripture as "the evil one," "ruler of this world."

Devil worship is a totally self-centered, self-gratifying perversion of religion. A California law enforcement specialist wrote, "The focus of Satanism is a fallen creature, the enemy of God, whose entire being is given over to evil. Satan's goal is to defeat God's plan of grace and to establish his kingdom of evil. His purposes are to destroy the good in the spirit of mankind. Satan's followers must be predisposed to doing evil, enticed by their own lusts."

Satan is often portrayed as the figment of human imagination, a comic strip figure in a red jump suit with a pitchfork, horns and evil face. But Scripture urges believers to make no mistake—Satanism is the expression of real forces, "powers and principalities" active in the world.

### **Why now?**

Reports of satanic child molestation, murder, animal sacrifice, sexual perversions and orgiastic rituals raise the questions: "What is Satanism's appeal?" and "Why now?"

■ Satanism appeals to the young because it taps into many of the deepest forces in their inner selves. They are ripe for irrational involvement because they are going through the physical and

sexual transitions of maturation. Satanism rewards their strong self-centeredness.

■ Devil worship offers a way of rebellion where there are no laws, rules or "cannot." It offers instant gratification and total sexual license. As that high-schooler said, "God wants you in jail, Satan wants you to be free." Anton Szander LaVey, founder of the "Church of Satan," said, "Instead of commanding members to repress their natural urges, we teach that they should follow them. This includes physical lust, the desires for revenge, the drive for possessions."

■ Youth are also repulsed by what they see as the adult world's moral hypocrisy and its constant numbing of their zeal for direct, powerful experience, for thrills.

■ Satanism promises power over others and the forces that hold back indulgence of one's desires for cruelty, revenge and sexual fantasy.

■ Teenagers have an all-consuming need to belong to a group, a need that can be met by groups with secretive, well-defined rituals.

■ Satanism taps into the mysterious secrets of the nether world. It takes youth into a spiritual realm where only the daring will tread.

### **That kind of music**

As for its current appeal, it is not, as some claim, simply that we have more complete information than ever before so we merely think Satanism is flourishing today.

Satanism is flourishing first and foremost because its message is blasted into the spirits and bodies of youth through often vicious, destructive heavy-metal rock bands who openly glorify the satanic. Before, these groups didn't have the power they now command.

The beat and aura of rebellion that fills this music has a powerful appeal to some youth. But in the lyrics and illustrations on the album covers, Satanism comes through in devastatingly clear and appealing ways. Album art includes the full range of satanic symbols—the inverted pentagram, a goat's head, the numeral 666. Lyrics glorify death, suicide, violence, sadomasochism, torture and deceit. Some of these groups sell millions of albums.

Mind-altering drugs are also far more available to teens than ever before. The direct connections between satanic behavior and drugs is overwhelmingly documented by scores of law enforcement officials.

Mail-order catalogs, underground publishing houses and the growing number of occult bookstores also make satanic beliefs and practices more available. Perhaps the most influential item is LaVey's *The Satanic Bible*.

Finally, law enforcement officials nationwide find that recruiters, usually middle-age adults, lure teenagers with promises of drugs, parties and access into the occult. Often adults force the children into compromising sexual behavior which is filmed.

Obviously not all teens plunge directly into

the most violent and lawless forms of Satanism. Involvement takes several different levels. There have always been some youth who dabble in magic, "white" or "peaceable" witchcraft, sometimes called "wicca," which seeks power for good from nature. They read up on psychics, spiritualists and the like. Whatever else may be said about them, these practices are not connected with Satanism.

There are public Satanists who hold services, distribute a large amount of occult literature (at high prices), but are not criminally involved. The best example is LaVey's church. These groups sometimes serve, however unwillingly, as the first step into hardcore Satanism.

Then there are the youth gang Satanists. Mostly young White males, they are not otherwise criminally involved. Some come from stable families. But specialists agree that they tend to be totally addicted to heavy-metal rock music and involved with drugs. They rarely indulge in actual violence but enjoy improvising their own rituals when the music and drugs are in control.

Beyond those are the fringe group Satanists. These consciously have chosen a life of deviant, criminal behavior, such as child abuse, group sex, sado-masochism, blood sacrifice and whatever it takes to buy drugs. Experts say that satanic

liturgy is their alibi for doing what they would do anyway, but they are a threat to social order.

Finally, there are the individual Satanists. Afraid or incapable of going public, they secretly dress up and conduct their own rituals. They often go public once away from parents.

Many participants move, often rapidly, from dabbling into destructive activities. Much of their anger comes out in their rituals, which are often deliberate mockeries and perversions of Christian worship. The Black Mass, sacrifices, ceremonial orgies, use of ecclesiastical garb for their rituals show their need to express rage.

Rituals include wearing carefully prepared costumes. Jewelry, robes, candles, bells, goblets, alcoholic beverages, swords, gongs and parchments are typically used. Usually the "sacrifice" is a small animal on an altar, often with the participants drinking the blood. Often vows are made to reject everything about Christ and to follow Satan.

Alongside these is the popularity and danger of occult games appealing to teenagers, such as "Dungeons and Dragons." The full range of witchcraft, violence, deceit and betrayal of humane values in this game has been documented. One mother whose son committed suicide after becoming involved in the game has created "Bothered About Dungeons and Dragons," a voluntary, non-profit educational enterprise aimed at teaching youth and parents about the game's potential disasters.

## Most influential in Satanism's growth is music laced with satanic themes

### Help is available

■ 1. Information on cults and Satanism: Cult Awareness Network, 2421 W. Pratt Blvd., Suite 1173, Chicago, IL 60645; Spiritual Counterfeits Project, P.O. Box 4308, Berkeley, CA 94704; Christian Research Institute, P.O. Box 500, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693.

2. Information on satanic music: Parents Music Resource Center, 1500 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209, (703) 527-9466; Jeff Ling, *Let's Talk Rock: A Primer for Parents*. Christian popular music alternatives: *Teen Vision*, a bimonthly newspaper, P.O. Box 4505, Pittsburgh, PA 15205.

3. A brief summary and bibliography from a law enforcement specialist: Dale W. Griffis, Box 309, Tiffin, OH 44883.

4. "Dungeons and Dragons" and related issues: B.A.D.D., P.O. Box 5513, Richmond, VA 23220.

5. Helpful background: Back in Control Center, 1234 W. Chapman, Suite 203, Orange, CA 92668, (714) 538-2563; W.A.T.C.H. Network, P.O. Box 12638, El Paso, TX 79913; Child Lures, P.O. Box 4345, Shelburne, VT 05482.

6. Further reading: David W. Hoover, *How to Respond to the Occult*, Augsburg; Bruce G. Frederickson, *How to Respond to Satanism*, Concordia; and Tipper Gore, *How to Raise PG Kids in an X-Rated Society*, Abingdon. Numerous reference works by J. Gordon Melton contain much helpful background and are available in many libraries. □

### A profile

No foolproof systems exist to tell concerned parents when dabbling is becoming dangerous. But certain behaviors call for careful monitoring.

Suspicious signs run a wide range and include: preoccupation with occult books, games, posters and graffiti on books; sudden onset of wide mood swings and anti-social behavior toward everyone; and unusual, unexpected changes in behavior, spending and health. Other behavioral signs include extreme secrecy, obsession with death and suicide and use of incense—often to mask drug odors.

Specialists encourage parents who are concerned that their child might be involved to search their child's room for animal bones, small red pillows, whips, ceremonial robes with detachable hoods, swords or knives with symbols on the hilts or blades and demon masks.

Since Satanism is of the devil, proper response emerges from our faith that God through Christ has already triumphed over the devil. No worldly power, not even that of Satan, can prevail over the love God has for us.

But we must recognize that our identity is shaped by those forces we allow into our lives. To carry out our baptismal promise to "renounce all the forces of evil, the devil and all his empty promises" we must, as Paul said, equip ourselves with the whole armor of God—truth, righteousness, gospel, faith and salvation. □

TECH  
**LOCAL  
WITH STATE**

# Consultant discusses fight against satanism



■ Satanic cult consultant likens interest in the occult to drug addiction.

By Michael Kashgarian  
Staff Writer

When Greg Reid was 6 years old, he was drugged, molested and subjected to watching a 13-year-old boy who was ritually maimed and had his heart cut out by satanists.

This is the story Reid, a satanic cult consultant, told a group of about 125 people Tuesday afternoon at Region 18 Education Service Center adjacent to Midland International Airport. The group included members of the clergy,

Department of Public Safety agents, nurses, counselors and those in the education field who came to learn about satanism in a presentation sponsored by the Texas Agriculture Extension Ser-

vise, which is involved with 4-H Clubs and other educational groups.

Reid, 38, who works out of El Paso helping kids escape the grip of satanism, said that, although there is a lot of nonsense about the occult going around, it is serious business.

And not just in large metropolitan cities but everywhere — in

cluding Midland and Odessa.

"It's just as much an addiction as drugs," Reid said. He illustrated his point with slides and stories of rituals involving murder, child abuse, suicide and animal killings.

"Satanism imitates and mocks

everything Christianity stands

for," Reid said.

He warned that those most likely to be its victims are youngsters,

and the idea that satanism is just

kids "dabbling" is a myth. "A dab-

ler today can be a murderer to-

morrow," he said.

The most common way of luring

kids into satanism is through sa-

tanic rock music, Reid said. Exam-

ples given by Reid include King Diamond, a musician who set the devil's oath to music; and lyrics and album covers that depict satanic activity by heavy metal rock groups like Deliverance, Iron Maiden, Slayer, Motley Crue and Ozzie Osbourne.

"Messages that kids are getting

is saying that this is OK," Reid

said.

Subliminal as well as outright

seduction of teen-agers also comes

in the form of cartoons, comic

books, movies and artists; adult sa-

tanists may recruit youngsters

through youth and church groups.

Reid's own experience as a child

was through a church group.

Once a child is brainwashed into

a satanic cult, the only way out,

according to Reid, is through

Christianity.

"We have never seen a kid fully

get out of satanism unless they

fully commit their life to Chris-

tianity — both psychologically and

spiritually," he said.

And youngsters who don't get

restricted to children sought for

rituals and recruitment of teens

into a cult. And those responsible

are adult satanists.

Adult satanists, Reid said, are

wealthy, highly secretive, often

very intelligent, and can be influ-

ential and respected individuals in

society.

"Adult satanists look like you

and I," Reid said.

Adult satanists are usually

wealthy because of dealings in

drugs, gunrunning, child pornog-

rphy and "snuff flicks," movies

that involve actual murders and

sell for up to \$50,000, Reid said.

Reid said satanism may sound

unbelievable or exaggerated to

many, and frequently the public

Please see SATAN/2B

## SATAN: Reid helps youngsters escape

and satanic cults since 1987, working with more than 100 young-

sters.

Ben Kennedy, chief probation officer in Andrews County, also spoke to the group about satanism.