

Police expert says satanism can't be ignored

SATANISM:

(Continued from Page 1)

from playing with a Ouija Board to the orthodox practice of actually honoring Satan as the God of Earth with bizarre variations in between that include witchcraft, voodoo, self-mutilations, animal or human sacrifices and deeding one's soul to the devil.

Ritualistic sexual abuse is defined by Ken Wooden, Child Lures Inc. for 20/20's special on "Satanism in America" as "bizarre, systematic, continu-

ing abuse, which is mental, physical and sexually abusive of children for the purpose of implanting evil and giving a form of sacrifice to a force or diety."

Dr. Laurence Pazder explained that ritualistic child abuse is "repeated physical, emotional, mental and spiritual assaults combined with a systematic use of symbols, ceremonies and machinations designed and orchestrated to attain malevolent effects, to turn the victim against self,

society and God."

Pazder treated Michelle Smith, the author of "Michelle Remembers" where a wrenching story is told of a young woman sold into Satanism as a toddler.

"Satanism becomes a catch-all," said Pazder who explained that while the diversity of satanic involvement is endless, it isn't accurate to lump all abuse or bizarre behavior into Satan's lap.

The ramifications of acknowledging that either Satanism or abuse are significant problems in Utah County is frightening.

With satanic cults in operation, teen-agers and adults are

in actual mortal danger of being drawn into an occult world where demons and drugs are the rule and the practice.

Victims of ritualistic sexual abuse almost never fully recover.

Local police departments have on record several teenage suicides linked to Satanism.

"The Feast of The Beast" (a satanic ritual occurring every 28 years that includes use of human sacrifices) in 1982 was suspected as the impetus behind a startling increase in child abductions and homicides in Utah and the nation, according to local law enforcement

officials.

People are hurt, families are destroyed, lives and neighborhoods are blasted apart by allegations or proven incidents.

Yet the evidence left behind is maddeningly simple stuff; candles, graffiti, drawings, journals.

Youths today are being increasingly desensitized through rock music lyrics, video productions, movies (such as "Spellbinder") all paint an unrealistic picture of satanic worship. Even comic characters who use spells and potions are depicted as evil, sweetening the image of occult-type figures.

"This will be an increasing

problem for society as these kids grow up," commented Detective Randy Johnson of the West Jordan Police Department.

Johnson currently is one of a select group of "experts" who tour the country educating law officers about occult crime and its impacts.

"It is definitely something of growing concern. Dealing with cult mentality and cult practices is not easy. There aren't any easy answers. The amount of information is overwhelming, endless. I'm called an expert and I'm not even close to being an expert.

"I only know this for sure. We can't ignore it."

Stories by
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Signs of activities abound in valley

County law officers know where Satanists meet and the kinds of signs that verify their existence.

That doesn't mean the practice of satanism can be stopped. The worship of Satan is not illegal.

But the information defined in ritualistic crime reports help officials track the activity and gauge the level of community involvement.

That information shows coven sites:

- Payson Canyon with an old bus used as a platform for coven altar worship.
- Inside a blacksmith's barn at Ironton where a witch and two warlocks were arrested midway through their Satanic sacramental service.
- In the old office building at Ironton where a vault filled with the odor of death prompted the new owners to demolish the structure.
- Old riding stables east of Provo where dead dogs have been found hanging mutilated amid graffiti that blasphemes Christ and advocates Satan as ruler.

In Pleasant Grove where the grave site of a teen-age suicide victim was repeatedly visited by hooded figures who reportedly left blood on the headstone.

In the abandoned Academy Square building in Provo where paraphernalia associated with satanic rituals has been found, including dead birds, burned candles, bloodstains and spray-painted pentagrams.

In secluded parks, canyons, vacant lots.

Reported "satanic" activity:

- Ritual chanting and singing around lighted altars.
- Drug and alcohol abuse and small animals sacrifice.
- Teen-agers experimenting with the occult.
- An unverified report of a child sacrifice.

Physical evidence found linked to satanism:

- Graffiti that includes the star inside a circle or pentagram, a painted naked female torso with a burning altar for the head, the maltese cross, the upside-down cross, the Nazi cross, "Satan rules", "King Diamond # 1, Ozzy #1, Kiss # 1" and assorted 666s and evil faces with distorted features.

- Urns and chalices that hold "holy water", (a mixture of cult members' blood and urine), flat stones that bear symbolic drawings, the Goat's Head, cryptic letters, knives tied with ribbons and wrapped in velvet, candles, candle-holders, burnt-edge prayer scrolls, small locked wooden boxes.

- Doodling from teen-age suicide victims that feature the devil's head, the crying eye, flames, skulls.

High activity times:

- Satanic Blood Month, the month of September.
- The month of May, Christian holidays.
- Halloween, the fire festival.
- Dark and stormy nights are prime activity times.
- During the winter months between January and March, the reports of satanic practice almost stop.
- The activity is for the most part completely random.



This pentagram was painted inside a building where satanic ceremonies occur.

Local Satanism hard to link with ritualistic sexual abuse

A Utah County Sheriff's investigator believes Satanism is practiced locally but hasn't seen clear-cut evidence of a tie-in with child abuse — yet.

Detective Dennis Howard has been investigating for the sheriff's department since March 1988.

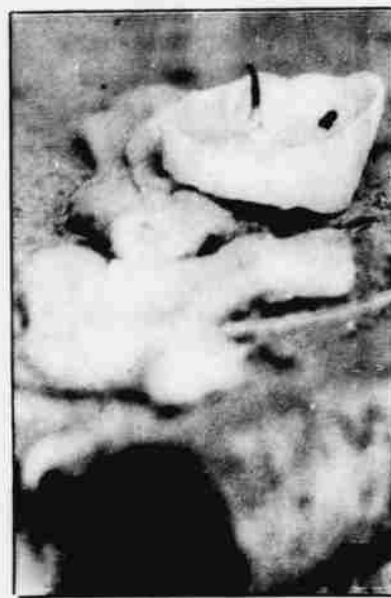
"I see a lot of sexual abuse, a lot of cases where the kids tell us some real nightmares," Howard said. "Verifying the ritualism is the difficult part."

Howard said he recently had four cases cross his desk in the same week that included testimony about the parents taking children to "sex parties, sharing them with their friends, threatening to kill them."

"There's an amount of ritualistic sex going on in Utah County. I don't know how much," he explained. "But I think one case is a significant problem."

Howard said he has examined a lot of scenes where Satanic rituals were evidently practiced. "We've found a dead dog hanging from a tree, little animals mutilated, graffiti. We have a fellow in the jail who tells us he's a Wicken (a practicing Satanist)."

"Satanists believe in gratification so we see a lot of drug and alcohol use involved."



Burned candles left behind after a satanic ritual.

Howard said the department knows several covens practice regularly in isolated areas "both in the north and south ends of the county."

He explained that many of the children he sees talk about being victimized by people in masks — people they don't know.

"One of the problems we have is that with small children there's a certain inability to articulate what happened." Howard said the department

gets a lot of inquiries about Satanism, a lot of "tips" about satanic practice but they're usually placed anonymously and the sheriff's department has trouble verifying the information.

"We need people to report suspicious circumstances so we get the information on file and we would appreciate it if they'd leave a name. We don't have to publicize their names, but we have a better chance of seeing it through."

While Howard explained that Satanists have the right to "worship" as they please, the potential for injury to others concerns the police.

"I think the department takes it aggressively," he commented.

Utah County's detectives are trained to look for the specific clues to Satanism. The rising number of child abuse cases plus the rapid growth rate in Utah County is spurring an interest in a possible link between the child abuse and Satanic practice.

In fact, Howard said the police take Satanism more seriously than most Utah County citizens.

"The biggest problem is apathy. We can't make people believe there is a problem."

Prosecutor says satanic abuse not happening

The Salt Lake County attorney's office debunks the theory that there is a ritualistic sexual abuse problem.

Tom Vyuk, one of a four-member sexual abuse investigation team for the county, said Aug. 10 in a personal interview that he has yet to handle a bonafide sexual abuse case that ties to satanic ritual.

"I haven't had one yet," he declared. "And we would know about it."

Vyuk has been on the team the past four years. He hasn't had special training in recognizing ritual sex abuse, but feels it isn't needed at this point. "A victim will tell you what's going on," he said.

Every case of reported sexual abuse in the three major cities in Salt Lake County and from the 15 police agencies in Salt Lake County eventually comes through Vyuk's office, he explained.

"There's been a lot of talk. We had the allegation of one such case, a boy who claimed he'd been involved in that kind of thing but no one could verify anything he said. We threw it out."

Each of the four members on Vyuk's team carries a "continuous case load" of 75 sex abuse cases.

"If you want to talk other types of sexual abuse, we have plenty of those," he said. The majority of those cases involve father-daughter incest or live-in-boyfriends who abuse their girlfriend's children.

"Any sex abuse case would come through this office," Vyuk reiterated. "We would know about it."

He acknowledged that there may be cases that are reported to local police agencies that are discovered to be "unfounded" and subsequently thrown out at that level. "Then they would not come to us."

Vyuk denied that fruitless searches have been conducted by Salt Lake County for ritualistic evidence.

"There have been no searches," he said.

"Listen, I've been involved with these kids. I went out and dug up the Bishop kid's (Children murdered by sex offender Arthur Gary Bishop). I had to see them."

"So believe me, if I thought there was that going on, I'd do something about it," Vyuk said.

Signs of Satanism

Heavy metal and punk rock groups are strongly tied into Satanism.

Lyrics promote satanic ideals: depression, suicide, self-hatred, a disregard for social values.

Album covers are symbolic. Many of the hand-signs from satanic ritual practice show up in the rock concerts, among groupies.

"There's definitely a crossover between heavy metal rock groups and Satanism," Utah Attorney General's office representative Robert Parrish said.

"Listen closely to the lyrics sometime."

At a recent Critical Issues Conference in Orem, it was noted that Edward Bennett of Lehi — sentenced to die for the slaying of a convenience store clerk in Las Vegas — cited heavy metal music as

the number one negative influence in his life.

"There's always the same type of music tied to Satanism," said local author Jack Christiansen.

"Music creates mood. Mood creates atmosphere. Atmosphere dictates behavior. Behavior shapes character," he added.

"Every time there's a major change in behavior, there's a major change in music. The common thread through the drugs, the occult, pornography is the type of music that goes along with it."

Parrish noted that while parents cannot assume their children are into Satanism by observing one or two signs, they certainly ought to be alert and question.

self-degrading kinds of things. The whole concept of what is bad and what is evil has escalated since then. It's a very, very progressive type thing."

Warnke said ritualistic child abuse may well be a basic part of Satanic practice today. "I think a lot of people would like to blame child abuse on one segment of society and I'm not sure Satanism can take all the blame. But one of the things we're definitely seeing more and more is involvement of young people in serious crimes related to Satan worship."

The practices of a local cult would depend on what books the cult leader is reading and following, pointed out Warnke.

"It's a do what thy wilt kind



Mike Warnke

of thing. The individual coven sets the agenda."

Warnke warned that youths exposed to the imagery on video and television today can easily "get going, begin to get that power feeling and believe really evil" behavior is warranted.

"The bottom line is it's a spiritual battle," Warnke said. "I got out because I was saved. That's given me strength and the joy I needed."

"But I can never let down my guard."

Warnke continues to get death threats and retaliatory measures against him for leaving Satanism.

In his book, "The Satan Sell-

er," Warnke mentioned that those who join a coven sign their name in their own blood at the time of their spiritual dedication. When they leave or lose "faith" in Satan, their name turns green — thus informing the coven of their disloyalty.

"I believe my name has turned green," said Warnke.

"But Jesus is the answer. Jesus is the Son of God. He proved his love for us, for me, on the cross."

"If Jesus loves me enough considering what I have done to take me back, then I have to do what I can by giving back laughter. I'm serving Jesus."

Former high priest for Satan warns of real dangers

Satanism sucks the laughter out of the soul.

"That's the tragedy," said former high priest for Satan and now road comic gospel preacher Mike Warnke. "I think that laughter is one of the things Satan sucks out of people's hearts."

Satanists are really self-centered and hate-centered, explained Warnke. "Where a Christian believes the best way to deal with others is to love them, turn the other cheek, show a concern for other people, in Satanism you consider yourself before you consider anyone or anything else. If someone turns the other cheek to you, you rip it off."

Warnke speaks from person-

al experience. He lived Satanism for years before he was unceremoniously dumped from his position as coven leader in 1966.

He knows about the dark side of the occult, the drugs, the self-mutilation, the power commanded by practicing cults.

Now he tries to warn others about the seductive cults and rally people to embrace Christ instead.

"Satanism is becoming enough of a problem that police departments are beginning to acknowledge its tie-in to a dramatic rise in serious crime," Warnke said.

"Back when I was involved we practiced self-mutilation,