



J.W.J.

Satanism: And where were you?

By J.W. JOHNSON

While walking the other day, a good friend of mine tells me she discovered numerous symbols of what has become popularly known as "Satanism." She described the pentagram used by Satan's devotees, as well as other writings. She also notes that young people are wearing Satanic symbols "right downtown."

"And this is happening more and more in this area," she explained.

To be sure, public displays of Satanic worship are receiving much more publicity (thanks to Geraldo Rivera and his ilk), but to say that Christendom is going to be overrun next week by Satanic worshipping hordes is, to say the least, overreacting. And to suggest that Satanic worship is something new is not to have studied history, and have forgotten what it's like to be a teenager.

Satanism only becomes an issue when discussed against the backdrop of Christianity or other major faiths. Likewise, the vast majority of those examining Satanism today are young people.

Underlying the entire discussion is the subject of values, sought by young people while they at the same time strive to achieve identity and individuality within a group which affords peer protection but offers individual power.

Satanism is the latest such group. But why Satanism?

When I was growing up in the 1960's, the in-thing was following (pick one) Indian guru. And parents then, speaking from a Judaeo-Christian background, offered the same warnings we are hearing now about Satanism. Admittedly, the worship of Satan strikes more fear in the heart of Christians, although the same anti-Christian message was offered by the guru's and many other cults throughout history.

So why are young people turning away from Christianity to worshipping the symbols, liturgy and trappings of Satanism, the

antithesis of all they have been taught?

Simplistically put, it's because Satanism is the latest fad adopted by young people who want to rebel against authority. All young people rebel. And some parents react negatively.

Put another way, how would you as a parent have felt 300-400 years ago in South America when, primarily Catholics, came to say that your faith was heathen worship, only to see your children embrace Catholicism with its...that's right, symbols, liturgy and trappings.

You would have tried to stop their practice of Catholicism. Many did, which is why those so-called heathen religions still survive, along with Catholicism.

Parents—at least those worthy of the term beyond the mere biological fact—teach values. And values are those things in which we believe and act accordingly.

Positive values, those which celebrate life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are those values enshrined in our Constitution.

Other positive values such as the 10 commandments, charity and hope are those values enshrined in Christianity.

What values are put forth by Satanism?

—The worship of a power greater than its practitioner.

—The worth of death in sacrifice to that power.

—The belief in symbols, and acts using those symbols, to guide our life.

Sounds almost like Christianity, doesn't it. The difference, of course, is in who or what is being worshipped, and in the different promises either faith holds out for its believers.

Christianity holds forth the promise of life everlasting, a concept only too easily embraced by those who've accepted their own mortality, a fact one realizes with aging.

Satanism holds forth the promise of power over one's enemies

right now, a concept more readily embraced by the young as it is the young which both believes they will live forever, and which, in an increasingly more confusing world, believe themselves to be powerless.

No, I'm not surprised that Satanism is on the rise again; nor that Christianity is taking a dogmatic view of this phenomena.

But for those of us who view Christianity as the right and appropriate way to conduct ourselves, denying the value of Satanism to someone not capable of hearing you is spitting in the wind.

A wise man once said that in order to destroy greatness, one doesn't need to attack it, one simply needs to elevate mediocrity. As Christians we must elevate our position, not take the negative approach by trying to tear down those who have different points of view.

As an example, I've often heard complaints from persons, self-identified as religious-about Sunday morning feature films appearing on television. Most are G rated; others are not.

"Such things should not be shown on Sunday," the complaints go.

Whether or not this argument is made because the films themselves are abominations, or because showing the films on Sunday keeps people away from church, is often left unsaid.

And while I'll leave the former to the pulpit where it properly belongs, I would point out that any complaint about the films affecting church attendance begs the question.

Because the real question then becomes: Are the faith(s) so unattractive they cannot hold sway against 100 minutes of celluloid. If so, that speaks more of the faith(s) than it does the films.

In the same vein, it would asked: Are the faith(s) so unattractive that Satanism becomes preferable for our young people?

I hope not.

Recycling Committee 'adopts' Route 29

The Lake Township Recycling Committee has extended its activities by joining PennDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program. The group has contracted to clean up the two miles of Route 29 south from the Township Building to Mooretown Road. The initial pick up netted 50 bags of trash, 10 bags of recyclables. In addition, there were many too large to be bagged, such as tires.

The Recycling Committee is one of over 130 groups who are picking up litter along more than 300 miles of state roads. In the last 10 years, Pennsylvania has spent more than \$30 million to pick up litter on state highways. It is hoped that the Adopt-A-Highway program will not only keep roadsides more attractive, but raise consciousness of citizens to reduce litter. Signs are posted along adopted roadways

recognizing the volunteer groups.

Recycling scheduled for March 14

Lake Township Recycling will be accepting glass, bimetal cans, aluminum, all plastics with the exception of motor oil containers on Saturday, March 14, from 10 to noon at the Lake Township Building on Route 29.

Girl Scout cookies to be available at stores

Girl Scout Cookies are a once-a-year treat with a very short season. Did you place an order with a Girl Scout or were you out when the girls came to your house? If you missed the chance to order cookies from your neighborhood Girl Scouts, look for their Cookie Booths at your local bank, super market or shopping center. The girls will have cookies for sale, and you won't have to wait to enjoy them.

There will be booth sales at the following locations, on these dates:

K-Mart #309, Wilkes-Barre, March 13, 4 p.m. to closing; March 14, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Gould's IGA, Conyngham, March 14, 15, 21, 28 and 29.

West Side Mall, Edwardsville, March 14, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

IGA Market, Plains, March 15, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

IGA Market and Ames Store,

Tunkhannock, March 14 and April 4.

West Side Mall, Edwardsville, March 21.

Wyoming Valley Mall, Wilkes-Barre, March 12, 13, 14, 15 and March 20, 21, 22.

Laurel Mall, Hazleton, March 22, noon to 3 p.m.

BonTon, West Side Mall, and Triangle Mall, March 28.

Maple syrup

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Route 309 ran at that time along Toby's Creek alongside DAMA's present location; parts of the old highway became the authority's driveway and service road. A bar and a gas station, which later was converted to a sporting goods store, stood alongside the highway.

Harvey recalled that the "rock cuts" hadn't been blasted through yet, so he had to drive down Main Street in Luzerne to Wyoming Ave. His motorcycle ran into the side of the drugstore on the corner of Main Street and Wyoming Ave.

Luckily, the only injury was to his pride.

A 1935 graduate of Dallas High School, Harvey also served 25 years in the Air Force, retiring as a senior master sergeant, and worked 17 years at the Dallas Post Office.

Making maple syrup

While his son, Wayne, was still in high school, Harvey decided to return to an interesting pastime from his youth, which he still practices today. He makes homemade maple syrup.

He taught young Wayne how to hollow out special spigots (spiles) from elderberry branches and insert them into holes bored into sugar maple trees. The father and son team hooked cans onto each spile, checked the sap dripping into cans hooked onto the spiles and emptied them daily.

"We boil the sap down on a propane stove outdoors, so that it won't steam up the house and ruin everything," Harvey continued.

"When all the water has boiled out, we bring the pot inside and slowly cook the sap down on a wood-burning cookstove until it gets thick. I usually start with roughly 20 gallons of sap and end up with one gallon of syrup."

Like every good cook, Harvey doesn't need a thermometer or gauges to know when the syrup is done. It just looks and tastes right.

Harvey's syrup is a bit thinner than commercial maple syrup, but his four grandchildren don't seem to mind. Their enjoyment of Grandpa's special treat has kept Harvey busy for more than 20 years.

How to make maple syrup

Making maple syrup hasn't changed much since the Native Americans first taught the European settlers how to collect sugar maple sap and process it into a popular dietary staple. The basic technique is simple but time-consuming.

- Locate a stand of sugar maples and wait until mid-February, when warm, sunny days cause the sap to rise in the trees. Don't collect sap after buds have formed on the trees.
- Make spiles by using a piece of heated wire coat hanger to hollow out a six-inch long section of elderberry branch. (Or purchase metal spiles at the hardware store—easier, but not as much fun.)
- Bore two holes into each tree, insert a spile into each one and hang a can or plastic milk jug on the end. The sap will slowly drip into the jugs.
- Check and empty the collecting jugs daily, straining out any impurities in the sap through a coffee filter.
- Cook the sap over a high flame until all water has boiled out, then reduce the heat and cook it slowly until it becomes thick and honey-colored. Be careful not to burn it.
- When it tastes sweet enough, it's done. Store in sterile canning jars.

Library news

Book Club to hold its first meeting March 15

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Book Club of the Back Mountain Memorial Library will hold its first meeting of 1992 at 1:30, Monday, March 16, in the reference room of the library. A special program will be presented by our children's librarian, Marilyn Rudolph titled, "The Wonders of Thailand". She was fortunate to have made a recent trip to Thailand in conjunction with the Williams College Museum of Art and Academic Travel. Her program will include an informative lecture with video film and photographs; and will allow for questions following the program. Members of the Book Club, friends, guests and interested members of the community are invited to attend this exciting afternoon program. Refreshments will be served.

The 1992 Library Auction committee will meet in the reference room at the library on Wednesday, March 18 at 7:30. All members of the committee are urged to attend and any community member who would like to become involved with the 46th annual auction is invited to attend and bring new ideas for discussion and planning. Connie Scott is general chairman. Ernest Ashbridge will be antique chairman and the Dallas Rotary Club members will once again be in charge of the refreshment stand.

The Dallas Area Federated Woman's Club will be having a booth featuring the famous library auction homemade fudge; which was at one time a much anticipated feature, every year. Auction dates are July 9, 10, 11 and 12.

New books at the library: "Acts of Faith" by Erich Segal is a moving and ambitious work; a spellbinding story of three extraordinary people whose lives are forever changed when sacred and secular worlds collide. Main characters include: Timothy Hogan, abandoned at birth; Daniel Luria, the only son of Rabbi Moses Luria; Deborah Luria, his sister. These three lives will be inextricably woven into a fabric of love, loss and redemption, and for each of them will come the moment that de-

mands an act of defiance - or an act of faith.

"Keeper of the Light" by Diane Chamberlain is a penetrating novel filled with emotional twists and turns, that explores what happens to three people-tied together by death and betrayal-when their innermost secrets are revealed. It is a Christmas night and a rare snowfall is slowly blanketing North Carolina's Outer Banks when a gunshot victim is brought into the emergency room where Dr. Olivia Simon is on duty. Midway through surgery, Olivia learns that the person whose heart she literally holds in her hands is Annie O'Neill, the woman with whom Olivia's husband, Paul, is in love. A story of love, passion and deception.

Embroiderers' Guild will meet March 18

The Wyoming Valley Chapter of The Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc. will hold its regular meeting on Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Wilkes-Barre. This meeting's special feature will be a demonstration of Brazilian embroidery techniques by Guild member Pam Lamb. The Embroiderers' Guild of America is a national non-profit organization dedicated to furthering education in needle arts and is open to anyone interested in embroidery, whether novice or advanced. Guests are welcome to attend the Wednesday meeting, please come by and see what the Chapter has to offer. For more information about this and other Chapter activities please call: Vicki Kapral, 825-6097; Chris Polmar, 477-2486; Helen Rhode, 256-3595.



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