

Churches

The Church of Satan lives!

By JOE CZARNECKI

When the new phone directory comes out in June, you may be surprised to find the Church of Satan listed in the Yellow Pages along with the better known Christian denominations.

A local branch of the Church of Satan has been "above ground" in Santa Cruz since 1970 at the home of Jim and Dolores Stowe certified "warlock" and "witch" of the church founded by Anton Szandor LaVey in San Francisco in 1966.

LaVey is author of "The Satanic Bible," and founded the church so that Satanists could practice their religion openly. He gained national attention in a Look Magazine article.

The Church of Satan has not been given what you would call a warm welcome, but neither has it been harassed.

Jim and Dolores Stowe live in a quiet residential area of downtown Santa Cruz and apparently get along quite well with their neighbors.

In Satanic style, their living

room is decorated entirely in red and black, dimly illuminated by the light of red Christmas tree bulbs set in the center of half a dozen fist-sized plastic skulls set around the room.

On the ceiling is a round, flat chandelier containing the Baphomet, a five-pointed star surrounded by Hebrew lettering, which is the symbol of the Church of Satan. Jim and Dolores also wore Baphomet medallions around their necks.

One wall of the room is covered with mirrors, and three black leather armchairs and a couch surround a round black coffee table on which rested a copy of LaVey's Satanic Bible. Several other books stood between two plaster devil bookends.

"What the grotto does is to help the human being better understand what it is to be a natural human being," Jim began.

"Satan is the name that Satanists have given to the natural force which rules the world and which represent man and man's nature," he said.

Jim is employed by the Post Office Department in Santa Cruz. Dolores stays home. They are, respectively, warlock and witch, and leaders of the local "grotto." He was formerly a Catholic, she, a Protestant.

"But the laws and the consequences of the laws were so confining that they stifled my mind," Jim said, "so I asked myself, what if I said 'no!' to the great god."

"Satanism is being what you are," said Dolores. "We are interested in objective reality, not in subjective illusion. We reject the folderol of the right hand religions," she said.

Satanists distinguish between what they call the "Right Hand" religions—those that "walk the way of self denial" and the "Left Hand" religions—those that "follow their own natural predilections."

"We face our own reality, this is where our consciousness abides, in the here and now," Jim said.

The primary beliefs of Satanism are self-preservation and self-indulgence. "With the restrictions and confinements we found in the right hand philosophies, we came to the rude awakening that we were slaves to even our most basic feelings," Jim said.

In a leaflet distributed by the Church of Satan, the practices that have often been associated with Satanists are completely and categorically denied.

"Self-styled Satanists have appeared on the front page of every newspaper in the United States," the leaflet states.

"Copies of the Satanic Bible have been found at the scene of the most horrendous crimes. The Church of Satan is in no way affiliated with these despicable criminals who pretend to be members of the church in order to carry out their foul deeds. The Church of Satan stands firmly for law and order, and is violently opposed to ritual murder, sex orgies, animal sacrifices, etc.," the leaflet states.

Yet Satanism is not opposed to violence per se, and one of the nine "Satanic Statements" says that "Satan represents vengeance, instead of turning the other cheek."

In fact, when a Satanist feels he has been harmed or is about to be harmed by an enemy, he will engage in a "ritual of destruction." This is a rite which takes place in a ritual chamber and is designed to cause the removal or "demise" of the enemy.

The ritual chamber itself is a small black painted room with a black draped altar on which rests the Sword of Power. On the west, the side of Leviathan, the Prince of Water.

Next to the east wall are the ritual implements—a gong, a bell, a brazier, etc. The east wall

symbolizes Lucifer, Prince of Light.

The north wall is where the congregation stands, representing Belial, Prince of Earth. The south wall contains a large skull-decorated throne. This wall represents Satan, Prince of Fire. It is here that high officials of the Church of Satan sit during the rituals.

"Very few people ever see the ritual chamber," Dolores said.

Other rituals are the ritual of lust, and the ritual of compassion. These are invoked when a Satanist is in need of a sexual partner or general help of some kind.

The purpose of these various rituals is to give the Satanist power over his environment.

"Of course, we do not cast spells on the slightest provocation," Dolores said. "But if he is an enemy, we can cause his demise."

"If someone like Charles Manson had ever come into contact with a true magician," Dolores said, "the magician would have eliminated him immediately."

The Satanists are anti-Communist, too. "Communism is like a square peg in a round hole," Jim said. "It excludes competition, and this is one of the most natural laws of all—the law of self-preservation."

Drugs are likewise looked down upon because they serve to "expand one's consciousness and a true Satanist is a realist, who knows that only by working within society, using his own sharpened ego, can he effect the changes that will better his conditions in life," the Satanists believe.

In case you are interested in joining the Church of Satan, the process is quite simple. Call Jim Stowe to arrange an interview. You can get the number by dialing information. Ask for the Church of Satan. You then fill out a questionnaire stating how you feel. You are investigated by the church and upon acceptance you are charged a \$25 membership fee.

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Fall from cliff kills student

Anthony Malle, 27, a Cabrillo College student, was instantly killed Saturday when he fell off a cliff at the foot of Sacramento Ave. in Capitola Saturday afternoon.

The young man's parents live in Linden, N.J., and burial was in New Jersey. He had no known permanent address.

The Santa Cruz County Coroner's office said that he was killed by the 100-foot fall and died instantly. No witnesses saw the accident and foul play is not suspected.

Prior to the accident, Malle had

been with Jackie Ingram, 39, of 103 Oakland Ave. Mrs. Ingram said she had been with Malle most of the day.

She told Capitola Police that they were sitting under a pine tree meditating when he got up to "go help somebody on the beach." Mrs. Ingram said she continued meditating and did not see Malle fall. She reported she was not aware of the accident until she saw a crowd gathered on the beach.

Malle's body was discovered by a couple walking along the beach.

May 25, 26 & 27

**Thursday,
Friday,
Saturday**

