
**BILD AND THE MICKEY-MOUSE LED RUNOR**

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**WEST GERMANY**


Drogen-Bildchen: Die Dealer räumen in Sportwagen


Düsseldorf. - Drug dealers have become more and more malicious. They lurk in front of schools, selling pictures of Mickey Mouse to girls and boys. Whoever swallows the paper, the dealers promise, will have wonderful dreams. The children do not suspect what is hidden behind these innocent-looking comics—the killer drug LSD. A spokesman from the detective force said: "The pictures are soaked with the drug. It can drive people to madness and suicide." Yesterday customs agents arrested two drug dealers at the Dutch-German border. They had 100 comic pictures with them.

**Drug Pix:** The Dealers came in a sports car

The dealers (both 20), Civilian Service workers (the government's alternative to compulsory military service—"SS") from Koblenz, crossed the border in the Kieve district in their sports car. The drugs were hidden in the glove compartment. The pictures, 3 x 4 cm in size (a little larger than a stamp) are made of blotting-paper which is soaked with LSD. For a trip you tear off a quarter of it. It costs five German marks.

Printed on it were comic figures like Mickey Mouse, Goofy, Batman, Pink Panther and pictures of Kremlin boss Gorbatschow. "The producers in the Netherlands hope to sell them better that way," said Erich Schlautmann, spokesman for the Main Revenue office in Düsseldorf. "Gorbachev and Batman are thought to be chic." Mickey Mouse fascinates children and teenagers.

Recently drug trips in comic form have appeared more frequently. In Bielefeld the police arrested a 29-year-old woman who had several hundred Mickey Mouse and Asterix pictures with LSD in her possession. "She had been seen in front of schools throughout the whole Ruhr Area," a speaker of the detective force said.

In the 60s, LSD was the hippies' drug of choice. It is manufactured chemically from grain. Whoever takes it feels his hands and feet prickling, then sees colorful hallucinations. "These may turn into images of horror. Some people, believing they can fly, throw themselves out of the window," experts say. LSD, like marijuana, belongs to the so-called beginners' drugs. 500,000 young people have already tried drugs here. Many end up using heroin and cocaine. In the USA the number of drug deaths has increased by 23% within 4 years. In 1987 9800 people were killed by drugs. Out of 29,000 eleven-year-old schoolchildren, 233 take cocaine daily or at least once a week, an inquiry discovered.

In Hamburg schools anonymous handbills were even distributed that warned against LSD transfer pictures. Whoever looks at them can get high," it says. [BILD (Sept. 28, 1989): 1, 8. Left of this article is a picture and short report about Mexico's fight against cocaine—68.]

Parents, watch out! KILLER DRUGS in Mickey-Mouse pix!

[Note that Mickey Mouse, in place of an exclamation, looks out at the reader with outstretched hands—68.]
Eltern organisieren sich
DEALER WEG VON SCHULhof


The column ends, "For the fate of the boy and how schools fight drugs, see the back page." There appears several general reports about the fight against drugs under the headline Drogen 2 Kinder sterben, sie waren nicht mal 14 (Drogen kili 2 Children: they were not even 14). To the left on the same page, the magazine Neue illustrierte Revue is advertised: its cover features a bare-breasted woman holding a bag and a headline Drogenhandel auf dem Kinderspielplatz (Drug Dealing on the Playground).

On September 30, BILD's front page featured the headline Wir wissen was nicht länger zusehen, wie unsere Kinder sterben / Drogen: Stars greifen ein (We know we can no longer stand by while our children die! Drugs: Stars step in). The piece was by Staffi Graf bis Thomas Gottschalk und Otto Walke - jetzt kämpfen die beliebtesten deutschen Stars Seite an Seite mit BILD gegen Rauschgiftfönder auf den Schulhofen, gegen die den (With Staffi Graf bis Thomas Gottschalk and Otto Walke - now the most popular German stars fight side by side with BILD against drug dealers on schoolyards, against the dealers who seduce our children.) This was followed by brief statements by 9 stars interviewed, supporting the fight against drugs and especially against dealers who tempt children to take drugs.

On page 7 appeared a story with the headline So wundert sich nirgends mehr (No one is surprised anymore), which tells the stories of three teenage drug addicts. Immediately underneath was a column of advice: Daran merken Sie sich (How to tell if your child is an addict.) On the same page was this editorial column by German TV star Thomas Gottschalk:

Sollen sie erst im Koma liegen?

"Let's go to San Francisco." Gut zwanzig Jahre ist das her, und die Haschkalotten über Woodstock haben sich langst verzaubert. Die Blumenkinder sind inzwischen selber Eltern, und ausgerechnet uns soll Rauschgift die Kinder wegnehmen?

Als wir unsere psychodelischen Phantasien und Easy-Rider-Träume ausließen, kamen wir uns unangänglich kugelig vor. Vieles weilt als unsere Kriegsgebeutelten Eltern, "Born to be wild," und im richtigen Moment wurden wir noch normaler werden. Die meisten von uns haben's geschafft...

Aber die Wut auf unseren Schulhofen pfeilt kälter, die Niedertracht in Koma nochenschreibrar bewachen. Dealer, die mit Mikkey-Mouse-Symbolen arbeiten, um Kinder zu Rauschgift zu bringen, sind nicht Erfindungen eines Horror-Mystery-Sellers, sondern drohende Wirklichkeit. Unsere eigene Bildzeit, mit der wir einst die Drogen aus verdammten haben, sollte uns heute noch die Schamrot vor Wut und Gesicht treiben. Wegen Cannabiss ist ja was Naturliches und LSD macht ja nicht scharf und Korn ware ungesünd in all hast. Prügel nachträglich wäre sinnvoller. Was wir über Drogenkriminalität wissen, bestätigt, dass das Tag der TAT des Anfangs von Ende ist und nicht der Umsteiger von welch auf hart. Dagegen die Kinder - aus welchen Gründen auch immer - vielleicht noch was glauben, sollten es ihnen immer wieder sagen: Lasst es beite!... müssen wir erst darauf warten, bis die Kinder unserer Nachbarn in Koma liegen, bevor bei uns was passiert?

Viel zu ruhig
an der Drogenfront

Der Hardrocker Bon Jovi und viele andere aus der USA-Musikszene marschieren im Kreuzzug gegen die Drogen ganz vorne mit. An unserer Drogenfront-Is es noch sehr ruhig. Die Zeit drängt!

Parents Organise: Get Dealers Off the Playground!

Hamburg. - Upset parents called BILD yesterday, demanding: Get drug dealers off the playgrounds! The reason? Unscrupulous dealers near schools are tempting children with LSD-soaked Mickey Mouse pictures to make them addicted to drugs. In Hamburg parents have organized meetings calling for drug dealers, they take their children to school and bring them drugs. Mothers in Frankfurt have rented a 12-seater bus. In Frankfurt, 44% of the 95,000 school kids have already had contact with drugs. In Munich, 12-year-old school principal is under medical care: for a year now the child has been addicted to heroin. (BILD 29 September 1989:1) (Hanover edition.)

Must they lie in a coma first?

"Let's go to San Francisco." Now a good twenty years have passed since that time, and the clouds of marijuana smoke over Woodstock have long since dispersed. In the meantime, the flower children ourselves have become parents. And so we, of all people, let narcotics take away our children? While we were living out our psychedelic fantasies and Easy Rider dreams, we thought we were incredibly clever. Much wiser than our war-victimized parents. "Born to be wild," we'd find the right time to settle down. Most of us have managed to do this...

But the wind blows chill from our playgrounds now, and people's depravity is almost too much to describe. Dealers who use the image of Mickey Mouse to lead kids to drugs are not a horror novelist's invention but a threatening reality.

Our own stupidity, which led us once to divide up drugs among ourselves, now ought to put a blash of shame on our war. We call marijuana "just something natural and LSD isn't make you die... and boasts is worse for you than hashish..." But additional threats could come to light. What we learned about a drug habit confirmed that the day you started was the beginning of the end, not the day you moved from weak to harder drugs.

But if kids can still take our opinions seriously--for whatever reason--we should warn them, however we can. Please--leave them alone! We do have to wait until our neighbor's children are lying in a coma, before we can get something done?

For too quiet
on the drug front

Hard-rocker Bon Jovi and many others from the US music scene are already marching in the forefront of the crusade against drugs. On our own drug front, it's still terribly quiet. The time is urgent! (Trans. BE.)
The quotations show best the character of the German boulevard press and its emotional approach to readers.illi is Germany’s most popular and influential boulevard paper. The legend of the LSD-soaked Mickey-Mouse pictures fits well into its program and serves as a hook to introduce the topic of drugs, day after day. The topic of drugs alone could not have appealed to the mass audience to such an extent because it would have been too abstract for most of them. Butilli knows how to keep each reader scared that “this could also happen to the children you know.” In addition, the political red line of the paper (very conservative) is supported by having the people interviewed demand stronger laws in the fight against drugs.

Detailed analysis yields additional information. Why were the dealers identified as conscientious objectors who did not want to serve in the army? Are they many people, especially in the older generation, who are rather suspicious of these young men. Of course, they (who like the drafted soldiers get a minimum of pay) want to have the most expensive cars (which we ourselves who do our job well cannot afford)! There are also contradictions in the description of the pictures. Are they made of blotting-paper which have to be swallowed or are they “transfer-pictures” which have to be moistened? Adults who have no close contact with little children—the majority of population—do not know what is in vogue among the kids practically. Thus for them anything might be possible—and true.

ILLI never cites the source of their information. Interestingly, we learn from the Hazlet Standard-Speaker, which on Sept. 28 (the same dateilli introduced the topic) gave a short report on the LSD-soaked pictures discovered by the customs agents at the Dutch-German border. It was the American press service Associated Press:

LSD smuggled in Gorbachev stamps

DUSSELDORF, West Germany (AP) -- Customs agents arrested two West Germans trying to smuggle in LSD soaked into stickers bearing the image of Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, authorities said.

Agents at the Elten-Emerich border crossing near Holland found 130 sheets of LSD-treated paper with Gorbachev’s image stamped on to look like decals, according to the regional customs office.

Two West German workers with the Civilian Service, the government’s alternative to compulsory military service, were taken into custody after a search of their car turned up the contraband.

The Gorbachev stamps are similar to previous drug-smuggling attempts in which pictures of Batman, Goofy and E.T. have been used to disguise LSD doses.

Of particular merit would be to analyze the AP news release and the style ofilli and see how the many motifs of this legend had been interwoven with reality. By the way, in the edition of Sept. 28, back page,illi quotes TRUD, the Russian trade union paper, extensively, according to “which Yeli raided tomato field in the exchange-trip, and at the end of today’s edition (Tuesday, Oct. 10) is devoted to the UFO sighting in Russia. One should readILLI daily! (Also the Hazlet Standard-Speaker -- 8B.)

Horror Trip with Gorbii

Gerd Eichfeldt and Wolfgang Metzner

Warnschreiben über angebliche LSD-Aufkleber für Kinder

Die Polizei spricht von Panikmasche.

Eine Phantom-Drogenschmuggler machen ihren Weg durch Europa: der "Blue Star". Flugblätter, die nicht nur in der Bundesrepublik gefunden wurden, waren vor einer "großen Gefahr für unsere Kinder". "Viel blauer Sterne auf weißen Papieren als eine Art Aufkleber im Umlauf." Sie hatten die Bedenken des Oppositions-Kabinetts, von den meisten nicht mehr genannt. Abgeschrieben in Umlauf waren sie angeblich auf einem kürzlich erschienenen Heft, das „LSD-Spannung von Panikmasche.“


Dutch-German border. It was the American press service Associated Press:
In Wirklichkeit hatte der 1971 an der deutsch-
holändischen Grenze LSD-Trips mit dem aufgedruckten
Porträt Gorbatschow entdeckt. Das Rauschmittel
in einer Art Lochtuch enthalten, das von niederländi-
Schen Laboratorien seit Jahren als Träger der Droge
verwendet wird.

Die Papierstreifen, die gestanzt sind, lassen sich in
Portraits zerreißen. Sie werden geschluckt oder
in Wassertropfen aufgelöst, der bezahlte Drogen-
zug oder ein Gag sein: Wenn da Goofy zu sehen ist oder der
rote Panther, ist dies eine Information für den
Kunden. Die Lionwurfer, die den Skil自来水nen Stoff
in Holland herstellen, verwenden die Bilder wie Marken-
zeigen. Wer sich auskennt, liest daraus etwa die
Starke des 'Trip'. Auch ein Mickey-Maus-Motiv ist schon
einmal von den Zollfahndern beschlagnahmt worden.
Das ist allerdings Jahre her. Die Aufdrucke wechseln wie die
Mode: Mal ist es Batman, mal der Kino-Aufseher
E.T., für Experten ist auch klar, daß mit Comic-
Aufdruckt nicht Kinder angelockt werden sollen. Die
Bilder sind einfach ein 'Gutesiegel' - wie jetzt 'Gorbi'.
Für verantwortungslose Panikmacher hält es der
Chef des Lochtuch-Labors in Burlington, Reinhard Chedor,
welchen durch angeblich aufgetauchte Kinderleiber
angeschlagen werden. Chedor: 'Solche Sensations-
berichte sind sehr viel Arbeit.' Denn in der
gewöhnlichen Woche meldeten sich zahlreiche aufge-
schneuerte Eltern bei der Polizei. Dadurch werden
Drogenfahnder und die an anderer Stelle dringender
benötigt werden. Rauschgiftprobleme bei Jugendlichen
nehmen zu. Nicht nur der 'Joint in der Pause' ist bei
vielen Schulern tabu und gefährlicher, das Rauchen von
Heroin - ohne die verpönte und gefürchtete Spritze - greift
immer mehr um sich. Und Dealer setzen teilweise schon
zwölfjährige Kinder als Heroin-Drogeriemarkt ein.

In Bremen will die 'Bild'-Zeitung einen besonders
brutalen Fall von Drogen-Kriminalität entdeckt haben.
Kurdische Dealer hatten einem zwölf- und einem
Jugendlichen mit Gewalt Heroin gespritzt, um sie
zuchtig zu machen. Auch wieder Holter: 'Weder Tater
noch Opfer, weder Tatort noch Tatbestand sind
Bremens krimi-Chef Peter Möller, der dem Vorfall
angängig bestätigt hatte, kann ihn nur von
Noreenagen. Der Herren Drogenfahnder Reinhard Chedor
stank schon nach der Mickey-Maus-Panik: 'Das Thema ist zu
ernst, um damit so unzugänglich.'

[Editor's Note: For previous mentions of this rumor, see
Jan Harold Brunvand, The Choking Doberman (New York:
15:6. Veronique Campon-Vincent has kindly forwarded me
with Jean-Bruno Renard's unpublished essay "Les
tatouages pour enlumine au LSD: un cas limite de rumour
de contamination" (LSD Tattoos for Children: A Case
Study of a Contamination Rumor). Renard observes that
the flyer and 'contamination rumors' circulated throughout
all parts of France between late July and December
1988. Surveying information from North America and Europe, he
notes that the flyer apparently resurfaced in the
Northeastern US in 1987, then showed up in French
translations in a memo circulated to ALCAN (Aluminum
Company of Canada) employees on 18 November
1987. By April 1989 a flyer clearly derived from this memo
was being distributed in Nice, France, apparently
brought over by a delegation attending a congress in
Montreal. Derivative flyers later crossed over to
Belgium (September, October, and to Germany and Luxembourg
(January 1989). Renard's fine
study, which also discusses the rumor's social and
Mythological implications, deserves to be translated and
published more widely.

Still, the Mickey Mouse LSD rumor is not new to West
Germany. Captain Richard Arthur of Penn State's
Hazleton's Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corp.)
told me that he had encountered the rumor while serving
as a US Army Commander in Germany. "While attending the
commander's course in Vaille in Spring 1984," he
recalled, "those of us who were designated to become
commanders in the near future were given a briefing
on some problems that could affect our unit's
discipline or our soldiers' welfare. Among the items
presented to us was a group of pictures showing sheets of
LSD-tainted candy bearing the likenesses of Mickey
Mouse, Goofy, and other Disney characters.

Later I saw two news items on American Armed Forces
Television relaying the same caution. Apparently
the American Embassy in West Germany had expressed concern
over the matter and had asked AFN (Armed Forces Network)
to publicize the matter. When during my tour (from
1983 to 1986) I did personally hear of anyone who had
actually encountered these "Disney drugs," although I
was shown photographs of allegedly authentic samples.
In the same office, Sergeant Paul Ramirez also
recalled being stationed in Kitzingen, West Germany, in
late 1981, where he heard that it was common among
drug dealers to buy postage stamps (both American and
German) and soak them in LSD. In fact, he knew of one
individual who had posed as a bartender and actually been caught
with 15-20 sheets of LSD-laced American postage stamps.
Perhaps this practice lies behind the frequent referral
to "Mickey Mouse and Goofy tattoos" in this rumor
circle? In any case, the process of diffusion
described by Renard and the step article reflects only
the latest manifestations of this urban legend, which
seems to have been present (if latent) in West Germany
since 1981 at least.

Interestingly, this year the Americans for Democratic
Action Consumer Affairs Committee made up a list of 13
potentially dangerous Christmas gifts. These include
dinosaurs, guns, toys that make loud explosions, and crib
toys that could strangle infants. But the publicity
photo released with the story shows the committee's
Chairwoman burning a flammable pillow with a smiling
Mickey Mouse on the front. "Party Time Mickey" and
a "Disney Babies" crib toy also made the ADA's "Dirty
Dozen" list of lethal toys. -- EB]
NEEDLING WHITEY:
The New York City Pin-Prick Incidents as Ostension

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Shortly before Halloween this year, an outbreak of violent crime took place in the heart of New York City's Lower East Side. The attacks were carried out by black teenagers, mostly girls, who moved through the streets of the city, jabbing pedestrians with needles or pins. Some of these needles were used to inject heroin, while others were used to inject syringes containing AIDS-tainted blood. Local reports suggested that the gang was using a syringe containing a drug mixture called "heroin-laced blood." The victims, mostly white and of various age groups, were randomly chosen and targeted for their racial and sexual identity. In all, 41 women reported being pricked by the gang, who sometimes giggled or laughed loudly—"joker style"—when their victims turned around.

Additional anxiety was created by television coverage that repeatedly suggested that the gang was using a syringe containing AIDS-tainted blood. Local experts discounted the fears, noting that it would be impossible for AIDS to be communicated in this way, even if the syringes had been recently used by an infected drug addict. Nevertheless, residents in the area reported that they were afraid to leave home; one noted, "I'm not a coward, but I'm scared. I don't know what's in the needle." (McKinley 1989:83). Others went out wearing thick leather jackets and cautioning others to do so as well.

A New York Times reporter commented, "In a city where finding a needle while walking home is routine, incidents such as these help to create a climate of fear." (McKinley 1989:83).

New York City Mayor Edward I. Koch offered a $10,000 reward to anyone offering information to help arrest the gang responsible. On Halloween night more than 70 officers, both undercover and uniformed, patrolled the area, hoping to catch the gang in the act. Later, citizens were alerted by a local radio station. The government of New York has also launched an investigation, and many residents have come forward to report similar incidents.

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Do they just want to scare you or do they want to transfer a feeling?... (p. 1989:49)

The official explanation may well be true, since psychoanalyst Erich Fromm has described cases in which adolescents deliberately turn to random acts of sadism or masochism out of "depression-boredom." In one case, a teenage boy told of walking along the streets of New York with a concealed knife, which he would "stick into people as they walked by." When the boy would turn to see the expression on the victim's face, he would report, "The motive... does not seem to be hate, but... an unrelenting sense of boredom and impotence..."

A New York City teenager who was arrested and charged with the incidents. The explanation offered by police was that the youths simply "felt it was fun to run down the street and stick females and see their reactions." ("Stab" 1989:49).

The "mysterious assailant syndrome" is nothing new to big cities. Michael Goss has done an intensive study of a panic that occurred in Halifax, England in November 1938, when an unidentified "shaper" inflicted superficial cuts on a series of women with a razor blade. In his analysis, Goss traces a series of similar panics, dating back to a London "monument" who in 1788-90 pricked ladies' thighs and buttocks with a sharp knife. As in New York City, police patrols were increased and the streets were patrolled by some cartoonish booby women being fitted with copper petticoats. In such panics, the attacks appear to have been the result of some kind of disorder, whether a nervous breakdown or an attack of hysteria. In such cases, we have the evidence of an attack on women, but in cases where the evidence is inconclusive, we have the evidence of an attack on women, but in cases where the evidence is inconclusive, we have the evidence of an attack on women.

In 1920, the man is seeking pretty girls to sell into white slavery (involuntary prostitution), and the needle contains a powerful sedative or anesthetic. This rumor is at least as old as the state of Massachusetts, which had an official investigation into the "white slavery traffic, so called" and recorded a number of contemporary police-reports. One, the final report observed, "alleges the administration of a narcotic drug by the use of a hypodermic needle to the new right. He even had a female white pedestrian in the street car or in the theatre."

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power structures and became--like the comic-book Joker--legendary manifestations of "irrationality."

Works Cited

Just In!

ALIENS LAND IN RUSSIA. On 27 September 1989, at 6:30 PM local time, a group of soccer-playing boys in Voronezh, a large city southeast of Moscow, witnessed the landing of a UFO. They boys saw a globular space craft descend from the sky, circle the park, then hover over the ground. A hatch opened, and a 3-eyed, 10-foot-tall alien wearing sliver overalls and bronze-colored boots appeared in the doorway. An 11-year-old witness said that the creature "did" have a head, or shoulders either. He just had a kind of hump. There he had three eyes, two on each side and one in the middle. This creature, accompanied by a robot, came out, but when the witnesses began screaming, the creatures retreated and the craft disappeared for 5 minutes. When it reappeared, the alien pointed a tube about 20 inches long at a 16-year-old boy, who disappeared. The alien returned to the globe, and when the craft took off for good, the boy reappeared.

The Soviet press agency Tass released the story on 9 October, claiming that scientists had confirmed the landing as authentic. Two samples of rock left behind had been examined and determined to be of extra-terrestrial origin. The daily newspaper Sovetskaya Kultura admitted that "it's hard to believe in what happened in the town," but added, "Children and eyewitnesses of the abnormal phenomenon have been questioned by police workers and journalists."

There are no discrepancies in the description of the shape itself, or in the origin of the being. Moreover, the children who became witnesses to this incident are still afraid, even now. On 11 October the Soviet nightly news program Vremya (Time) broadcast pictures of burnt impressions allegedly left by the spacecraft and a child's drawing of one of the aliens.

Genrikh Silanchuk, head of the Voronezh Geophysical Laboratory, was cited by Tass as verifying the rocks' extraterrestrial origin, but he later repudiated this judgment, identifying the samples as chunks of iron ore easily found on earth. He conceded that there was a symmetrical "landing site" left at the place of the sighting but felt that the depressions could also have been caused by an underground sinkhole or leaking pipe. Other scientists disparaged the report as a sign of "rising sensationalism in the Soviet press." Newsweek observed that the release was only the most dramatic of several recent anomalous reports from Russia: in another, a correspondent toldirrorazhny Pravda that on 30 July he had met aliens from the planet Red Star near Perm, west of the Uralas. He asked to visit this other world, but the aliens (presumably familiar with H. G. Wells' War of the Worlds) refused, saying he would carry "thought bacteria" with him.

Newsweek revealed: "When the news is mostly bad--food shortages, ethnic violence--tales of the snowman or a mysterious orange cloud can be a pleasant diversion. For the media, it can be one way to enhance their popularity."

Looking at the world through the lens of the media, a visitor from the US during the debate, cautioned that "Tass is a very serious organization--users att has been a very reliable source of news and information in the Soviet Union." It would never publish something like this if it knew for certain that it wasn't true. ... I believe that something unusual took place."

FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH COMPUTER VIRUS

On Tuesday, users of IBM compatible personal computers faced widespread attacks from the Dataexre or Columbia Day virus. This was supposed to activate itself when the computer's internal clock hit 12:01 AM on Friday the Thirteenth; it would disable computers by wiping out the hard disk's directory so that the computer could not access any files. The virus appeared in Germany and was attributed to to Iranian terrorists and was found to have infected certain types of system files circulating through computer bulletin boards or informally by amateurs trading software. It was identified in a dzen or so actual cases before the activation date. In one NASA center, a computer manager like a virus. When he advanced his clock to 12 October, he found that "it was impossible to receive any data from any of the files."

Many computer security experts advised amateurs to prepare for the date by making back-up copies of all important programs. They also recommended using a "vaccine" to check existing programs for possible viruses. The vaccines are based on advance knowledge of the program. The Dataexre virus, for example, was usually found in a system file with a CM suffix and adds either 1,162 or 1,180 bytes to the file; thus, if the virus finds such a file with extra bytes adding up exactly to one of these numbers, it warns the user and destroys the extra routine. IBM encouraged use of its
The New Hampshire panic, focused around Manchester and Concord, may have been started by a 3-day police training seminar, headed by satanic "expert" Dale Griffis, who assured local police that there were more than two thousand members of the occult in the US. The conference was followed by numerous findings of "mutated" animals (later shown to have natural explanations) and the arrest of a group of youth in a meeting in a remote area wearing medieval costumes and holding candles and an animal skull. Later, it was proved that they were college students preparing a class project.

(Courtesy Jeffrey A. Victor)

SATANISM IN THE LIBRARY. According to "Attacks on the Freedom to Learn," an annual survey of parent-school confrontations published by People for the American Way, accountants about 90 cases of occultism provoked the largest number of complaints against readings or audiovisuals used in American classrooms. In nearly half the instances parental complaints were successful in banning or restricting use of such materials. Items found objectionable were "Halloween ABC" (exposes elementary school pupils to the concept of "the Witch"), "The Witch Grows Up" (makes "witchcraft look like a viable lifestyle"), "Devils and Demons" ("might lead children to a life of evil worship") and "Slack, Spells, Secrets, and Sorcery" (features "step-by-step instructions to set up an occult group").

In addition, two districts in Georgia complained about "the excessive number of books in school libraries dealing with the occult and satanism." Conservative columnist Phyllis Schlafly defended such complaints as "legitimate assertions of "parental rights to protect the faith and morals of their children."

(Spooks and witches in the classroom," syndicated column, 9 October 1989.)

The previous year, Schlafly had commented on a previous report by People for the American Way, which described a case in which parents had expressed horror after their second-grade children heard Roald Dahl's "The Witches" during reading lessons. Schlafly concluded her 1988 column by saying that "the satanismfad is not harmless" and encouraging parents to "check into the reading and visual materials your children are given in school, especially at the elementary grade levels."

(Mitchells ride in the classroom," syndicated column, 28 August 1988.)

HOW TO IDENTIFY SATANIC CULTS. Experts on satanism continue to proliferate, as do "warning signals" that one might be at risk of becoming a cult member. Following are selected items from recent news releases claiming to survey present "satanic activities" and giving parents advice on how to identify cults.

PENNSYLVANIA. Trooper John Skrachuck of the Rockview State Police warned Penn State students that satanism begins with obsession with the occult, with death, with collecting knives, and with listening to "black metal" music (performed by groups like Venom, Ozzy Osborne, Mega Death, and Mercyful Fate). One important symptom, noted recently, is the possession of a diary containing artwork with satanic symbols, spells, rituals, and pledges to the dark powers. Such a book, called variously "The Book of Death," "Black Bible," "Book of Shadows," or simply a "grimoire," may be as elaborate as a ribbon-bound parchment or may simply be a separate part of a student's notebook.

Skerchuck claimed that satanic rituals were on the rise in the state. In August, a Centre County teenager boy sacrificed his dog to keep his +Hamic idol safe from Satan, whom he believed was controlling his actions.
through a Oujia board. In another incident, near Stroudsburg, PA, the skull and hands of a body were removed from a mausoleum. Such bodies, authorities say, give satanic rituals special power. [Oklahoma City, OK, is the center of satanism.] Larry Zilliox, Jr., director of operations at the Cult Awareness Network of New York and New Jersey, discussed the problems at a Asbury Park Parent-Teacher Association meeting. The Cult Awareness Network also listed danger signals like self-inflicted cuts or cigarette burns on the left arm, silver jewelry (satanists shun gold), black T-shirts bearing names of heavy metal rock bands, and tatooes like "WPA" or "NATS" (ammon and Satan spelled backwards).

Nearly all the acts reported to police, Zilliox conceded, were committed by Satanists. For instance, "One Bayoush youth [told Zilliox] of a night he and some friends killed more than a dozen cats and drank their blood, the ultimate "Bloody Mary." Such dabbling, Zilliox warned, could lead to "hard-core" practices. The worst of these is to "feed the devil" by feeding him human flesh and sex, and Satanists would be the first to admit that such involuntary involvement could lead to a neo-Satanic church.

A number of frightening incidents were cited as evidence for satanic activities, among them an incident in Little Silver, NJ, in which a middle-aged man supposedly sacrificed and dismembered a dog, draining its blood and sharing it with a group of teenagers. Police arrested the teenagers and told their mother. The father vowed to fight to keep his sons out of the hands of his ex-wife, commenting, "I'm willing to give custody of the children to Satan but not to Satanists."

In Jefferson Township, a young boy who killed his mother and himself had committed the act as a pledge to Satan after eight weeks of involvement.

Listening to "black mass" music is not in itself "cause for alarm," police assured parents. "But when combined with a satanic Bible, bizarre diagrams or writings, such as books by Aleister Crowley, then parents should look closer," Linda Blood, an experienced satanist now advising the American Family Foundation, warned that parents should not confront children directly if they suspect satanic influence; rather, they should "document the problem and talk to an expert." Jeanne Jackson and Linda R. Kruse, "Satan's Children," Asbury Park Press (NJ) News (19 November 1989):1C, 9.

ALABAMA. The Rev. Mark Correll warned the Birmingham News that graffiti on a wall in a local shopping center was clearly inspired by Satanism. "What concerns me is the fact that the kids know what they're doing," he told the paper. "That's the theme throughout all of the signs."

The one that ties it all together is the cross. That's a serious mark because it protects people who are not embroiled in any type of evil spirits they may conjure up," Rev. Correll said. 2000 members. The owner of a nearby record store disputed Correll's readings, identifying the graffiti as "just attention seeking in Birmingham ministry," Tuscaloosa Standard-Speaker (29 November 1989):40.

EDINBURGH. In September, two American experts on satanic child abuse addressed a seminar intended to help identify children who had been involved with the Chicago Police Department. A 2-day seminar was conducted by the Chicago Police Department, explained his version of the four levels of satanic involvement: 1) child molestation, 2) child abuse and prostitution, 3) child pornography, and 4) involvement in the body of networks of groups. He claimed that police were investigating a network that spread across five states in which "children were forced to commit sadistic occult practices." Pamela Klein, a psychologist with the Children's Advocacy Center in Chicago, observed that a similar practice appears to be happening in the city. Klein said that symptoms of such abuses included "outbursts of violence, mutilation of pets, bad dreams and disclosures which went beyond those normally associated with child abuse victims."

In a conference "horrified" of a later week, Ronald Wilson, senior lawyer for Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, said that he was convinced that, in most cases, the problems were the result of satanism. In Nottingham last year, he noted, results peaked at guilt by incest and indecent assault against 21 of children. "It's not the time, Wilson claimed, "that was what appeared to be satanic rituals were involved." The seminar was closed to the press and parents amidst a storm from an American-made film on the topic. ["Rite of passage in satanic rites," The Scotsman (27 September 1989).]

CHILDREN RECENT SATANIC CHILD ABUSE STORY.

Elsewhere, skepticism backlash appeared to be forming. Matthew and Daniel Behr, 9 and 7 respectively, from Montgomery County, PA, had appeared on the afternoon TV talk show Geraldo to describe ritual baby-killing and blood-drinking that their mother and her boyfriend forced them to witness. After losing legal custody of the children, their father, Louis Behr, abducted them and took them to Atlanta, where they were concealed with the help of Faye Yager, a satanic "expert" who protects children victimized by occult rituals.

But after Behr was arrested by FBI agents on 16 October, the two children admitted that they had made up the story. It turned out that the children were not friends with their father. After a lengthy interview, a psychologist pronounced the children normal and healthy, and recommended that they return home. The father vowed to fight to keep his sons out of the hands of his ex-wife, commenting, "I'm willing to give custody of the children to Satan but not to Satanists."

The father then produced a letter from his father asking him to help him. He asked his father to help him. "I believe they'll die. They haven't heard the last of me. There's going to be a lot of hell to pay if I don't get what they've done," Philadelphia Inquirer (21 October 1989):1B, 48.

SAYING FOR THE DEVIL. Some insight into satanic practices was provided by "Debbie" (last name withheld), a practicing satanist who was interviewed by the Asbury Park Press. She admitted that she had belonged to a cult in the Bayside, NJ, area, but had quit them after they began killing animals and drinking their blood.

Blood drinking, she said, is a mark of a devil worshippers, not a satanist. "The difference between a Satanist and devill worshipper is that difference between a Catholic," she said. "They are completely different."
Halloween in America

NEW YORK CITY. After four high school students were shot and killed in separate incidents, parents kept their children home in droves on Halloween day. Overall, 65% of the city's public schools stayed home; in the Bronx, executive director of NYC's high schools, attributed the decrease to "real fear among young people about each other" during the past years. "Some parents tell the children home safe rather than be traveling throughout the city," who said. "Looking out for the neighborhood," commented that they experienced far fewer incidents than on a normal day.

Elsewhere, students from one high school in the East Side of Manhattan went on a rampage after school hours, setting off fireworks and vandalizing cars and stores. "It was like a war," said one student. "We were just having fun, just expressing ourselves." Another student added, "It was just so much fun being able to do things we normally can't do." The police were called out, but by then the damage had been done.

LEXINGTON, KY. Robert A. Baker, semi-retired professor of psychology at the University of Kentucky, said he had been investigating the phenomenon of "haunted" houses for the past several years and had never come across anything like this. "It's as if the walls are alive," he said. "Everything is happening in the house. The walls are talking to you, and you can feel it. This is not some sort of hallucination or delusion, this is the real thing." Baker is now working on a book about his findings, which he hopes to publish soon.

LITCHFIELD, CT. In a second visit over high traditions, the "Ghostbusters" Ed and Lorraine Warren teamed up with Latin browser Catholic priest Robert McKenna to eliminate a "typical demon" from the house. The owner of a house built over a century ago by a Scottish dwarf explained that the builder appeared to her as a dark shadow, manhandled her, tossed her around the living room, and yanked out part of her hair. The Warrens and Father McKenna moved through the house, accompanied by the reporter and a TV crew from the floor. Praying in Latin and sprinkling holy water, the ghost hunters eventually drove off the spirit of a young girl. "We had a very successful day," said one of the Warrens. "We got some good evidence." The "Ghostbusters" said they plan to return several times in the next few months to continue their investigation.

FREEDOM "TRIPS." Perhaps the Mickey Mouse LSD panic in West Germany reflected more than fear of spreading drug use. During the recent exodus from East Germany (first facilitated by Hungary and Austria), the official Communist Party newspaperagma Deutschland revealed that the fear of drug use was one of the reasons why so many people fled. A woman in Budapest said, "I had just seen the train too crowded with drug users."

AFRICAN CASTRATION RAY. During celebrations following South Africa's promise to release eight political prisoners, between thirty to forty thousand black activists assembled in Port Elizabeth in a peaceful "victor's" demonstration. However, before the event, anonymous pamphlets were distributed warning that "merchants would be sterilized by invisible rays" and "activists soon" would be "blamed South African security forces." In the American rumor that a fried chicken chain had been contaminated by a white racist organization, which is said to have "tainted" blacks' sex drive; see Patricia A. Turner, "Church's Fried Chicken In Khan: A Rhetorical Analysis of Rumor in the Black Community," Western Folklore 46 (1987):294-306. --ED.

POISON SOLIDARITY LEGION. In 1989 the Polish Communist Party's Central Committee round up dozens of dissident labor unions, talks led to the formation of Solidarity and the election of the institution of democratic elections. Lawrence, The New Yorker's correspondent, reports that during the negotiations "extraordinary" corroboration stories were circulating through Warsaw.

BUFFALO, N.Y. Bujak, Solidarity's legend and a regional leader, said that one of the major problems was the legal war that had erupted in the early 1980s, "I've lost count of how many times I've been arrested," he said. "I've been beaten, I've been thrown in jail, I've been tortured. The police have done everything they can to stop me."

"Halloween can be the scariest of all nights for both parents and children combined," said the spokesperson. "We recommend that parents keep their children home on Halloween, and collect candies by going from door to store to store. The flyer added, "This month is for parents' peace of mind. . . Security will be available, mail-out, and any questions can be answered by going from door to store to store."
François Duvalier: "For the Haitian child, 'Tonton Macoute' has always been the dark side of Christmas. If you have been a good boy, Tonton Noel [Uncle Christmas] will come and reward you with wonderful gifts from his treasure-laden sack. If you have been a bad boy, Tonton Macoute [Uncle Knapsack] will come and grab you, throw you in his sack, which is huge and dark, and carry you off into the night. The fear of the frightening ogre carrying off naughty children is probably universal, and in countries where secret societies ruled the night in the countryside, where in some areas people knew they could not travel after dark without a safe conduct' grant from local, voodoo-linked authorities, and where stories of travellers vanishing in the darkness were common, it took on a deeper resonance..." *("Beyond the Mountains,* The New Yorker (4 December 1989):127.)

**REDEEMED AFTER ALL**

**ROCK POINT, AR.** The Navaho Lutheran Mission recently succeeded in collecting one million Campbell's soup labels. The total collection weighed 1300 pounds (590 kg.) and would measure 56.5 miles (91 km.). Children of the mission school brought in the labels, which were supplemented by donations from across the US. Campbell's Soup agreed to accept the million labels in exchange for a new Dodge Maxi-Van. *("Labels beget van," The Lutheran (27 September 1989):42.)

**FREELAND, PA.** The Freelend High School Student Council turned over its first load of aluminum can tabs --150 pounds (68 kg.) worth--to the Hemodialysis Patients' Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania. The tabs will be redeemed for money to defray kidney patients' travel to hospitals. According to a local press release, "Michael Hadzick, president of the FHS Student council, explained that when first informed of the needs of patients needing kidney dialysis, the student group determined that this, indeed, would be a worthwhile project as the students began saving the tabs from aluminum cans..." The tabs were collected at school and at homes of the students and proceeded, but at a slow pace, until paydirt w hit itself in the person of John K. Davis. Davis had been collecting the tabs for some time and had grocery bags full of them.

"Davis is active in the Freelend American Legion and through the efforts of Legion members Mike E. Kaplan, adjutant, and Charles Thomas, who is an FHS building custodian, a 'tab connection' was made and the tabs began pouring in. More and more tabs kept being added to the collection through the efforts of Davis and other people in the Freelend area. The FHS student group feels there are other persons who save these tabs but do not know what school they are for. They can now bring them to the student council or with Davis. Other drop-off points are: the Freelend American Legion post, Tom's Discount Corner store and Gordie Moore's barbershop.

Mrs. Corcoran [student council advisor] said that as the project goes on and in hand over a bag of tabs. "On behalf of the students," she said, "I want to thank all who have helped. I am extremely pleased and excited about the ‘tab connection’ and the community support." *(Freelend High Project Hits dialysis patients, Hazle Standard-Speaker (10 November 1989):48.)

I spoke to John Hldzick, president of the dialysis support group, who clarified some of the points in the article. He wanted that rumors had circulated locally that tabs could somehow be redeemed for two minutes on a dialysis machine, a belief that proved incorrect. *(See ED 5:3 for one such.) However, his organization was able to work out a deal with local aluminum recycling plants in which they would accept bags of tabs donated on behalf of the Hemodialysis Patients' Association, then forward a check directly to the organization. This might be the solution for patients' transportation, and the state of Pennsylvania then matches these funds 3-to-1. Of course, cans too are accepted as donations, and having more bulk add up to more money for the association. But Hldzick repeated that the idea was to get people's private collections of tabs out of basements and convert them into funds that really benefited kidney patients. His nephew, a local lawyer, told me that he was the only one in Pennsylvania who was the first heard of the scheme, having heard the rumor in other parts of the country. But after seeing how it worked (more than 4000 pounds [1814 kg.] of tabs have been redeemed so far), he admitted, "It's not the money, it's the awareness."

**LONDON, ENGLAND.** Ten-year-old Craig Sher gold, suffering from a rare form of brain cancer, received a special commemorative card from Guinness Publishing, Ltd. that he has captured the record for receiving the most get-well cards. His name will appear in the 1991 issue of World Record Book.

After Craig was unable to meet Princess Diana, his card was sent to Los Angeles, CA, also of England (1,000,265 cards). On September 24, they began asking friends and acquaintances to encourage others to send cards. The appeal soon reached computer networks and fax machines and spread quickly, since it included a request for the recipient to forward the appeal on to two more people. The appeal circulated throughout Great Britain and eventually reached North America and the Middle East. The appeal included a crucial requirement: the recipient must write to Craig by special courier. Local post offices in Ashford, South London, has been "very helpful," according to Sher gold's mother. "They've been compliance, but we'll make sure that the card is not destroyed."

November, he had received a total of 1,256,265 cards. Sher gold appealed to well-wishers to stop sending cards. Craig, who underwent surgery to remove part of the brain two months ago, is unwell. The doctors performed a successful surgery and are now monitoring his health.

The appeal is similar to one sponsored by a citizen's band radio organization in 1982-83 on behalf of "Little Buddy," a child dying of leukemia in Paisley, Scotland. Again, the goal was to collect a record number of cards (postcards). The message was that the child could make the *Book of World Records*.

Sandy Hobbs, checked with the Paisley Post Office, who responded: "Thank you for your interest. All of the correspondence addressed to 'Little Buddy', PO Box 76, Paisley, Renfrewshire (the address of the CB organization). Some time ago, the CB organization made it very clear through the media that they were unable to accept further mail. To our knowledge it was not established that the original appeal was a hoax. However, I must emphasize that the appeal is now closed." Jan Harold Brunvand, in his featured Feature Syndicated column of 4 May 1987, noted that the appeal was still circulating in the US, even though CB and postcard-collectors were allegedly trying to stop people from sending more cards. Some estimates that more than four million cards were eventually forwarded to "Little Buddy." Anne Guigné (Folklore Dept., Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 5S7 CANADA) has been working on a study of this phenomenon. Maybe it would be a good idea if all readers would send her what you have heard in "Little Buddy" or "Craig Sher gold," and simultaneously fax or e-mail her address to two additional addresses? I'm certain that she would like to be included in the next *Book of World Records* as being the first folklorist to receive one million variants of a contemporary legend.

Craig's mother has agreed to place request foreign correspondents to send postcards, as the Drum (PA) Garden Club is collecting stamps to send to American eagles with broken wings. Please, none faced with L.O.D.-**ED.**

**HAVE YOU HEARD...?**

The following brief items have recently come to the editor's notice. I would like to know more about them. Would any reader have more specific information please send it c/o Editor, *FUTAPEL News*?
MORE TO COME IN 1990!

With this issue, the first full "year" (actually 17 months) of ISCLR comes to an end. The period has seen publication of two volumes of essays from the Sheffield with Iron Teeth and The Questioning Beast. A March-April conference in the UK and arrangements have already been made to hold the 1990 Perspectives seminar at Halifax. The ISCLR Council met again at Philadelphia to consider future publications. The next collection of the most substantial of the 1987 and 1988 Sheffield ISCLR members and affiliates who renew for the 1990 FOAFALE NEWS. It's new expanded format.

Society for Contemporary Legend Research, ISCLR was formed to build worldwide links among leading scholars, legends, and also of any legend that is circulating research area to join us. Help us incorporate study of so-called "modern" and "urban" actively. We invite all who have an interest in this newsletter, and also an annual book-length publication including the best in contemporary legend research. To Mark Glazer, Vice President, Department of Behavior, Science, Texas University.--Janamericans, Edinburg, TX Robbs, Treasurer, Department of Applied Social Studies, Paisley College of Technology, Paisley, Scotland, and I paid to receive FOAFALE NEWS may affiliate themselves with ISCLR for the same price.

FOAFALE News is now indexed in the MLA Bibliography. Please send queries, critiques, notices, and Editor, Penn State--Hazleton Campus, Hazleton, PA 18201 USA. I can now accept material on IBM-compatible 3 1/2 inch diskettes (please include information on what software you used). Telephone: 717-450-3026 or 717-788-2021. E-mail: WCE2 at PSUV net.

Have A Nice Day!