

# Todesdrogen in Micky-Maus-Bildchen



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CONTEMPORARY LEGEND RESEARCH

**BILD AND THE MICKEY-MOUSE LSD RUMOR**

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Düsseldorf. --Die Rauschgifthändler werden immer heimtückischer. Sie lauern vor Schulen, verkaufen Mädchen und Jungen Micky-Maus-Bilder. Wer das Papier schluckt, versprechen die Dealer, wird wunderschöne Träume haben. Die Kinder ahnen nicht, was sich hinter den harmlos aussehenden Comics verbirgt: Die Todesdroge LSD. Ein Kripo-Sprecher: "Die Bilder sind mit dem Rauschgift getränkt. Es kann wahnsinnig machen, Menschen in den Selbstmord treiben." Gestern nahmen Zollbeamte an der holländisch-deutschen Grenze zwei Rauschgifthändler fest. Sie hatten 130 Comic-Bilder mit LSD bei sich.

**Drogen-Bildchen:  
Die Dealer kamen im Sportwagen**

Die Dealer (beide 20), Zivildienstleistende aus Koblenz, kamen mit ihrem Sportwagen im Kreis Kleve über die Grenze. Das Rauschgift war im Handschuhfach versteckt. Die Drei mal vier Zentimeter großer als eine Briefmarke) sind aus Löschpapier, das mit LSD getränkt ist. Für einen Trip reißt man sich ein viertel Stück heraus. Es kostet fünf Mark.

Aufgedruckt waren Comicfiguren wie Micky Maus, Goofy, Batman, Paulchen Panther und Abbildungen von Kreml-Chef Gorbatschow. "Die Hersteller in Holland versprechen sich dadurch bessere Absatzchancen," sagte Erich Schlautmann, Sprecher der Oberfinanzdirektion Düsseldorf. "Gorbatschow und Batman gelten als schick. Micky Maus fasziniert Kinder und Jugendliche."

Trips in Comics sind in letzter Zeit häufiger aufgetaucht. In Bielefeld verhaftete die Polizei eine 29-jährige, die mehrere hundert Micky-Maus- und Asterix-Bilder mit LSD bei sich hatte. "Sie wurde vor Schulen im gesamten Ruhrgebiet gesehen," sagte ein Kripo-Sprecher.

LSD war in den 60er Jahren die Modedroge der Hippies. Es wird auf chemischer Basis aus Getreidekorn hergestellt. Wer es einnimmt, fühlt ein Kribbeln in Händen und Füßen, sieht farbige Traumbilder. "Die können zu Schreckensvisionen werden. Manche glauben, sie könnten fliegen, stürzen sich aus dem Fenster," sagen Experten.

LSD zählt wie Hasch zu den sogenannten Einstiegsdrogen. Schon 500.000 Jugendliche haben bei uns Drogen ausprobiert. Viele landen bei Heroin und Kokain. In den USA hat sich die Zahl der Drogentoten in vier Jahren um 23 Prozent erhöht. 1987 gab es 9800 Rauschgifttote. 233 von 29000 elfjährigen Schülern nehmen täglich oder mindestens einmal die Woche Kokain, ergab eine Umfrage.

In Hamburger Schulen wurden sogar anonyme Flugblätter verteilt, auf denen vor LSD-Abziehbildern gewarnt wird. "Wer sie anfeuchtet, bekommt Rauschzustände," heißt es.

**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 --SS.]

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 130 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 Kleve 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 comics figures like Mickey Mouse, Goofy, Batman, Pink Panther and pictures of Kremlin boss Gorbachev. "The producers in Holland 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 licks 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 --SS.]

**Eltern organisieren sich  
DEALER WEG VOM SCHULHOF**

Hamburg. - Empörte Eltern riefen gestern **BILD** an, forderten: Rauschgifthändler müssen weg von den Schulhöfen! Grund: Gewissenlose Dealer locken vor Schulen mit LSD-getränkten Micky-Maus-Bildchen, wollen Kinder süchtig machen. In Hamburg haben sich Eltern organisiert, bringen ihre Kinder aus Angst vor Dealern in die Schule, holen sie wieder ab. Mutter in Frankfurt haben einen 12-Sitzer-Bus angemietet. 40 Prozent der 95 000 Schüler in Frankfurt hatten bereits Drogenkontakt. In München ist der 12jährige Sohn eines Schul-derektors in ärztlicher Behandlung: Seit einem Jahr ist das Kind heroinsüchtig. Das Schicksal des Jungen, wie die Schulen gegen die Drogenwelle ankämpfen, auf der letzten Seite.

**Parents Organize:  
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: fearing drug dealers, they take their children to school and bring them home again. Mothers in Frankfurt have rented a 12-seat bus. In Frankfurt, 40% of the 95,000 school kids have already had contact with drugs. In Munich, the 12-year-old son of a school principal is under medical care: for a year now the child has been addicted to heroin. [**BILD** (29 September 1989):1 (Hanover edition).]

The column ends, "For the fate of the boy and how schools fight drugs, see the back page." There appear several general reports about the fight against drugs under the headline **Drogen 2 Kinder starben, sie waren nicht mal 14** (Drugs kill 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 model beside the headline **Drogenhandel auf dem Kinderspielplatz** (Drug Dealing on the Playground).

On 30 September, **BILD**'s front page featured the headline **Wir wollen nicht länger zusehen, wie unsere Kinder sterben / Drogen: Stars greifen ein** [We can no longer stand by while our children die! Drugs: Stars strike back]. The piece began: Von Steffi Graf bis Thomas Gottschalk und Otto Walkes - jetzt kämpfen die beliebtesten deutschen Stars Seite an Seite mit **BILD**

gegen Rauschgifthändler auf den Schulhöfen, gegen die Dealer, die unsere Kinder verführen. [From Steffi Graf to Thomas Gottschalk and Otto Walkes - 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 wurden wir verführt** [Here's how we were seduced], which tells the stories of three teenage drug addicts. Immediately underneath was a column of advice: **Daran merken Sie, daß Ihr Kind süchtig ist** [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 Haschwolken über Woodstock haben sich längst verzogen. Die Blumenkinder sind inzwischen selber Eltern. Und ausgerechnet uns soll Rauschgift die Kinder wegnehmen?

Als wir unsere psychodelischen Phantasien und Easy-Rider-Träume auslebten, kamen wir uns unglaublich klug vor. Viel weiser als unsere kriegsgebeutelten Eltern. "Born to be wild", und im richtigen Moment würden wir schon normal werden. Die meisten von uns haben's geschafft. . . .

Aber der Wind auf unseren Schulhöfen pfeift kälter, die Niedertracht ist kaum noch beschreibbar geworden.

Dealer, die mit Mikkay-Mouse-Symbolen arbeiten, um Kids ans Rauschgift zu bringen, sind nicht Erfindung eines Horror-Schriftstellers, sondern drohende Wirklichkeit. Unsere eigene Blödsinnigkeit, mit der wir einst die Drogen auseinanderdividiert haben, sollte uns heute noch die Schamröte ins Gesicht treiben. Von wegen Cannabis ist ja was Natürliches und LSD macht ja nicht süchtig und Korn wäre ungesünder als Hasch. . . .

Prügel nachträglich wäre angesagt. Was wir über Drogenkarrieren wissen, bestätigt, daß des Tag des Einstiegs der Anfang vom Ende ist und nicht der Umstieg von weich auf hart.

Wir, denen die Kids - aus welchen Gründen auch immer - vielleicht noch was glauben, sollten es ihnen auch immer wider sagen: Laßt es bitte! . . . müssen wir erst darauf warten, bis die Kinder unserer Nachbarn im Koma liegen, bevor bei uns was passiert?

**Viel zu ruhig  
an der Drogenfront**

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

**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 themselves have become parents. And should 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 blush of shame on our faces. Because "Marijuana is just something natural and LSD couldn't make you an addict and booze is worse for you than hashish. . . ."

But additional threats would 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 hard drugs.

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

**Far 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.]

On Monday, October 2, **BILD** ran on page 10 an article titled **Wer stirbt schon gern mit 20? Erschütternder Report über Rauschgift in Deutschland** [Who wants to die at 20? Unsettling report on drugs in Germany]. This includes the statement: **Kaum spielt jemand (wie **BILD** letzten Freitag) auf, daß LSD-getränkte Comic-Bildchen aufgetaucht sind, steht jemand auf und nennt LSD "harmlos."** [No sooner has someone pointed out (as **BILD**

did last Friday) that LSD-soaked comic-pictures have appeared, than somebody stands up and calls LSD "harmless".] This was followed by two accounts of teenagers whose lives were ruined by drugs. The report ended: **Morgen lesen Sie: Wie sie alle reingerutscht sind ins Drogenelend. Und warum das auch den Kindern, die Sie kennen, passieren kann.** [Tomorrow you'll read how they all drifted into the misery of drugs. And how this could also happen to the children you know.]

The quotations show best the character of the German boulevard press and its emotional approach to readers. BILD 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. But BILD 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 (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? There are still 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 the population--do not know what is in vogue among the kids presently. Thus for them anything might be possible--and true.

BILD never cites the source of their information. Ironically, we learn this from the Hazleton Standard-Speaker, which on Sept. 28 (the same date BILD 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

DUESSELDORF, 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-Emmerich 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 were 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 of BILD and see how the many motifs of this legend had been interwoven with reality.

By the way, in the edition of Sept. 30, back page, BILD quotes TRUD, the Russian trade union paper, extensively, according to which "Yeti raided tomato Kolchose". And the catch-line of the front page of today's edition (Tuesday, Oct. 10) is devoted to the UFO landing in Russia. One should read BILD daily! [Also the Hazleton Standard-Speaker --BE.]

#### Horrortrip mit Gorbi

Gerd Elenndt mit Wolfgang Metzner

Warnschreiben über angebliche LSD-Aufkleber für Kinder versetzen Eltern in Angst.  
Die Polizei spricht von Panikmache.

Eine Phantom-Droge macht ihren Weg durch Europa: der »Blue Star«. Flugblätter, die nicht nur in der Bundesrepublik verteilt wurden, warnen vor einer »großen Gefahr für unsere Kinder«. Kleine blaue Sterne auf weißem Papier seien als eine Art Aufkleber oder Abziehbild im Umlauf. Sie hätten die Größe von Kaugummis und wären zusammen mit Micky-Maus-Bildern verpackt: »Jeder Stern ist mit der Drug LSD imprägniert und kann vom Papier gelöst und in den Mund genommen werden. Die Aufnahme kann auch durch die Hautporen erfolgen, indem man ganz einfach das Papier reibt und so die Tätowierung anbringt.« Die Flugblätter verkünden: »Dies ist die neue Art und Weise, Drogen zu verkaufen. Ein kleines Kind, das in den Besitz dieser Aufkleber kommt, könnte auf einen tödlichen »trip« gehen.«

Was laut Überschrift eine »Aufklärung« für besorgte Eltern sein soll, ist für Rauschgiftfahnder »völliger Quatsch«. Die ominösen blauen Sternchen hat kein Drogenspezialist je zu Gesicht bekommen. Und LSD-getränkte Aufkleber oder Abziehbilder sind in der ganzen Bundesrepublik noch nie aufgetaucht. Für unsinnig halten Experten vom Bundeskriminalamt in Weisbaden allein schon die Behauptung, LSD könne über ein Abziehbild auf der Haut in den Körper eindringen und einen Rausch verursachen. Die Polizei hat jetzt den Weg der Flugblätter verfolgt, die seit Jahren in Europa herumschwirren. Ergebnis: Die französischen Krankenhäuser oder Polizeistellen, die auf dem Warnschreiben als Quelle genannt werden, gibt es teilweise gar nicht. Sofern sie tatsächlich existieren, haben sie dementiert, daß die »Aufklärung« von ihnen kam.

Ein Kölner Lehrer hat inzwischen kleinlaut zugegeben, daß er ein französisches Flugblatt unbekannten Ursprungs aus dem Urlaub mitgebracht, übersetzt und auch noch »angereichert« hat, bevor er es in Umlauf brachte. In Frankreich läuft inzwischen ein Ermittlungsverfahren gegen Unbekannt. In der Bundesrepublik geben die Phantom-Abziehbilder immer wieder Stoff für Horrormeldungen und Verwechslungen ab. »Eltern, paß auf: Todesdrogen in Micky-Maus-Bildchen«, warnte die »Bild«-Zeitung in der vergangenen Woche. Sie will Dealer mit den heimtückischen Bildern vor Schulen geortet haben.

#### Horror Trip with Gorbi

Gerd Elenndt and Wolfgang Metzner

Warnings about supposed LSD stickers for children terrify parents.  
Police call it a horror story.

A phantom drug is making its way through Europe: the "Blue Star." Flyers, which have been distributed not only in West Germany, warn about a "terrible danger for our children." Little blue stars on white paper are said to be circulating as some kind of sticker or transfer decal. About the size of chewing gum, they are wrapped up with pictures of Mickey Mouse: "Every star is impregnated with the drug LSD and can be separated from the paper and put in the mouth. Absorption can also take place through the pores of the skin, so that one can simply rub the paper and so attach the 'tattoo' to the skin." The flyer warns: "This is a new way to sell drugs. A small child, who gets hold of such a sticker, could go on a deadly 'trip'."

What is supposed to be a "clarification" (according to the headline) for concerned parents is to narcotics agents "absolute nonsense." These ominous little blue stars have never been spotted by any drug specialist. And LSD-soaked stickers or transfer decals have never turned up in all of West Germany. It's simply silly to think, say experts from the Federal Department of Justice in Weisbaden, that LSD from a transfer decal could penetrate through the skin into the body and make someone high.

Police have now traced the path of the flyer, which has been buzzing around Europe for a year. The result? The French hospitals and police departments, which the warning named as sources, for the most part do not exist. The ones that actually do exist deny that the "clarification" came from them.

A teacher from Cologne has meanwhile meekly admitted, that he brought a French flyer of unknown origin back with him from vacation; he translated it and also "enriched" it, before he set it into circulation. In France, meantime, an inquiry is being made into the mystery.

In West Germany the phantom transfer decals have provided more and more material for horror tales and confusion. "Parents, watch out: Killer Drugs in Mickey Mouse Pix," warned the newspaper BILD last week. It maintained that dealers had been located in front of schools with these malicious pictures. In real life, Customs agents at the German-Holland border seized

In Wirklichkeit hatte der Zoll an der deutsch-holländischen Grenze LSD-Trips mit dem aufgedruckten Porträt Gorbatschows erwischt. Das Rauschgift war in einer Art Löschpapier enthalten, das von niederländischen Labors seit Jahren als Träger der Droge verwendet wird.

Die Papierstreifen, die gestanzt sind, lassen sich in Portionen zerreißen. Sie werden geschluckt oder in Wasser aufgelöst. Der Aufdruck soll nicht bloß Tarnung oder ein Gag sein: Wenn da Goofy zu sehen ist oder der rosarote Panther, ist dies eine Information für den »Kunden«. Die Labors, die den halluzinogenen Stoff in Holland herstellen, verwenden die Bilder wie Markenzeichen. Wer sich auskennt, liest daraus etwa die Stärke des »Trips«. Auch ein Micky-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-Außerirdische »E.T.«. Für Experten ist auch klar, daß mit Comic-Aufdrucken nicht Kinder angelockt werden sollen. Die Bilder sind einfach ein »Gutesiegel«---wie jetzt »Gorbi«.

Für »verantwortungslose Panikmache« hält es der Chef des Hamburger Rauschgiftdezernats, Reinhard Chedor, wenn Eltern durch angeblich aufgetauchte Micky-Maus-Drogen aufgeschreckt werden. Chedor: »Solche Sensationsmeldungen machen uns sehr viel Arbeit.« Denn in der vergangenen Woche meldeten sich zahlreiche aufgeschreckte Eltern bei der Polizei. Dadurch werden Drogenfahnder gebunden, die an anderer Stelle dringender benötigt werden. Rauschgiftprobleme bei Jugendlichen nehmen zu. Nicht nur der »Joint in der Pause« ist bei vielen Schülern inzwischen üblich, das Rauchen von Heroin - ohne die verpönte und gefürchtete Spritze - greift immer mehr um sich. Und Dealer setzen teilweise schon zwölf-jährige Kinder als Rauschgiftkuriere ein.

In Bremen will die »Bild«-Zeitung einem besonders brutalen Fall von Drogen-Kriminalität entdeckt haben. Kurdische Dealer hätten einem zwölf- und einem 13-jährigen Mädchen mit Gewalt Heroin gespritzt, um sie süchtig zu machen. Wieder bloß Horror: Weder Täter noch Opfer, weder Tatzeit noch Tatort sind bekannt. Bremens Kripo-Chef Peter Möller, der den Vorfall angeblich bestätigt hatte, kannte ihn nur vom Hörensagen. Der Hamburger Drogenfahnder Reinhard Chedor fand schon nach der Micky-Maus-Panik: »Das Thema ist zu ernst, um damit so umzugehen.«

»trips« of LSD printed with a portrait of Gorbachev. The narcotic was contained in a form of blotter paper, which for years has been used by a Netherlands laboratory as the medium for the drug.

These strips of paper, stamped with pictures, can be torn into squares. They are swallowed or dissolved in water. The image printed on them is not supposed to be a disguise or a gag: seeing Goofy or the Pink Panther on them provides the »consumers« with information. The labs that produce the hallucinogen in Holland use the pictures as trademarks. Knowledgeable users may also infer from them how powerful the »trip« will be. But only one Mickey Mouse image has ever been confiscated by customs officials. In any case, that was a year ago. The images change with the fads: sometimes it's Batman; sometimes it's the movie extraterrestrial »E.T.« To

experts it is also clear that the cartoon images are not intended to appeal to children. The pictures are simply a »seal of approval«---as »Gorbi« now is used.

It's an »irresponsible horror story,« says the Head of Hamburg's Department of Narcotics, Reinhard Chedor, when parents were panicked by alleged Mickey-Mouse drugs. Chedor said: »Such sensational journalism only creates a lot of work for us.« For in the past week countless frightened parents have telephoned police. This tied up drug agents who were needed for more urgent cases. Meanwhile, the problem of narcotics among teenagers is increasing. Not only is a »recess joint« customary with many schoolchildren, but the narcotic heroin---without the tabooed and feared hypodermic needle---keeps spreading. And dealers sometimes use even 12-year-old children as narcotics runners.

In Bremen, the newspaper BILD claims to have uncovered an unusually brutal case of drug crime. A Kurdish dealer supposedly injected some 12- and 13-year-old girls with high-test heroin, to make them addicted. Again, just a horror story: neither culprit nor victim, neither the time nor the place of the crime could be determined. Bremen's Chief of Police, Peter Möller, who confirmed the incident as authentic, knew about it only from hearsay. Concerning the »Mickey Mouse panic,« Hamburg drug investigator Reinhard Chedor finally concluded »This topic is too serious to go away.« [Stern (October 1989): 232-34. Courtesy Hermann Bausinger. Translated by Bill Ellis.]

[Editor's Note: For previous mentions of this rumor, see Jan Harold Brunvand, The Choking Doberman (New York: Norton, 1984):162-69, and FN 12:2-3, 13:5, 14:3-4, and 15:6. Veronique Campion-Vincent has kindly provided me with Jean-Bruno Renard's unpublished essay "Les tatouages pour enfants au LSD: un cas limite de rumeur de contamination" [LSD Tattoos for Children: A Case Study of a Contamination Rumor]. Renard observes that the flyer and associated rumors circulated throughout all parts of France between April and December of 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 translation in a memo circulated to ALCAN [Aluminium Company of Canada] employees on 18 November 1987.

By April 1988 a flyer clearly derived from this memo was being distributed in Nice, France, apparently brought over by a doctor attending a congress in Montreal. Derivative flyers later crossed over to Belgium (September), to Switzerland (October), and to Germany and Luxembourg (January 1989). Renard's fine study, which also discusses the rumor's sociological 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--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 Vilsek in spring 1984," he recalled, "those of us who were designated to become company commanders in the near future were given a briefing on some problems that could affect our units' 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 cautions. Apparently the American Embassy in West Germany had expressed concern over the matter and had asked AFN [Armed Forces Network]

to publicize the matter. Never during my tour (from 1983 to 1986) did I 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 Raul Ramirez also recalled being stationed in Kitzingen, West Germany, in late 1981, where he heard that it was common for drug dealers to buy postage stamps (both American and German) and soak them in LSD. In fact, he knew of one individual in his company who had actually been caught with 15-20 sheets of LSD-laced American postage stamps. Perhaps this practice lies behind the frequent reference to "stickers" or "lick and stick tattoos" in this rumor complex? In any case, the process of diffusion described by Renard and the Stern article reflects only the latest expression of this contemporary 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 slingshots, guns 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. -- BE]



**NEEDLING WHITEY:**  
**The New York City Pin-Prick Incidents as Ostension**

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Hazleton, PA 18201 USA

Shortly before Halloween this year, an odd outbreak of violence took place in the Upper West Side of Manhattan in New York City. Beginning on 21 October, black teenagers, mostly girls, jabbed needles or pins into the backs or necks of randomly chosen female white pedestrians. In all, 41 women reported being pricked by the gangs, 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 mysterious needle 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:B3). Others went out wearing thick leather jackets and cautioned others to do so as well.

A New York Times reporter commented, "In a city where finding reasons and explanations for even horrible incidents can help people deal with their worries, residents of the Upper West Side seem most upset by the meaninglessness of the attacks. They are afraid, but in a new way, and they feel perhaps even more helpless than they would over a spate of shootings or robberies. Those are, at least, comprehensible." The article continued by quoting a social worker from the area (a quote reproduced prominently in large type): "I really don't know what the purpose of using needles is. . . . Do they just want to scare you or do they want to transfer a disease or something?" (Lyal 1989:27).

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 gangs in the act. Later, citizen vigilantes helped out in guarding pedestrians. Newsweek commented that in many sites it looked "as if martial law had been imposed." Within a week, however, ten black teenagers were 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 reaction" ("Stabs" 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 around city streets with a concealed knife, which he "would stick . . . into people as they walked by." Then the boy would turn to see the expression on the victim's face. Fromm comments, "The motive . . . does not seem to be hate, but . . . an unbearable sense of boredom and impotence and the need to experience that there is someone who will react, someone on whom one can make a dent, some deed that will make an end of the monotony of daily experience" (1973:250-51).

And the "Mystery Assault 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 "slasher" 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 "monster" who in 1788-90 pricked ladies' thighs and buttocks with a sharp knife. As in New York City, police patrols were increased and ladies wore protective clothing; one cartoonist showed women being fitted with copper petticoats. In some such panics, the attacks appear to have been the result of mass hysteria, and many "victims" later admitted that they had inflicted the evidence of an attack on themselves. But in other cases there clearly were real assailants, and, in any case, Goss concludes, "sooner or later the Slasher or someone like him will be back in our streets and in our imaginations" (1987:42-43).

And one also suspects that the teens knew the old legend about women walking down the street unattended who are attacked by a man with a "poisoned needle." In the variant that my mother recalled from Baltimore, MD, ca. 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 1914, when the state of Massachusetts ordered an official investigation into "the white slave traffic, so called" and recorded a number of contemporary legends about near-abductions. One, the final report observed, "alleges the administration of a narcotic drug by the use of a hypodermic needle by a procurer, who plies the needle on his victim as he passes her on the street, or as he sits beside her in the street car or in the theatre."

Such stories were thoroughly investigated, the report continues, but each one was "either found to be a vague rumor, where one person has told another that some friend of the former (who invariably in turn referred the story farther back) heard that the thing happened, or, in a few instances, imaginary occurrences explained by hysteria or actual malingerers. Several of the stories were easily recognized versions of incidents in certain books or plays" (qtd. in Prostitution 1976:22).

As "The Attempted Abduction," Brunvand notes, this legend type remains in active circulation in the 1980s. Sometimes the young girls are injected with heroin, cocaine, or LSD, and the drug may be administered in the buttocks through a seat in a darkened movie theatre (a detail remembered also by my mother) (1984:79-80). In general, though, this legend tends to reflect the Anglo majority's fears of intrusive minorities, especially blacks. Even the most commonly feared outcomes of the abductions--"white slavery" and pornography "black market"--make an explicit comparison between the traditional privileges of the white upper class and the traditional subjugation of the black lower class. The horror behind the legend, in other words, is not that decent white girls will become prostitutes, but that this form of abducting and selling them will turn them into slaves, making them (in some symbolic way) negroes.

It's impossible to tell whether any African Americans are aware of this legend's implications for Anglos. In any case, the legend circulates among blacks as well and has its own implications for their culture. In Washington, DC, Gladys-Marie Frye collected traditions of "night doctors," medical students who abducted poor blacks to dissect or conduct medical experiments on. They were said to sneak up behind blacks on the street and stick anesthetic needles in their backs. One informant said: "They say they'd throw some kind of a needle, or something, and it would stick you and that's the way they would catch you. . . . They say you'd stop right there and you wouldn't move another peg" (1975:196).

It's likely, therefore, that the pin-prick attacks were legend performances through acts of ostension, literally "needling" the previously dominant white culture and symbolically turning the tables on them. Previously, blacks, though freed from black slavery, were still subject to unauthorized sterilization and other dehumanizing acts of medical manipulation (such as the notorious Tuskegee syphilis experiments). As Patricia A. Turner has shown, African Americans widely believe that AIDS is yet another white medical "experiment" in which the CIA used Africans as guinea pigs to test biological warfare (1988). So, for New York City blacks, it must have been fortuitous that frightened whites assumed that the gang's mysterious needle contained not a narcotic or sedative, but the same virus with which they supposedly infected blacks.

Now the needle is in the other hand. For the incidents took place in the middle of a bitter political campaign filled with racial innuendo. After defeating incumbent Mayor Koch in the Democratic primary, Afro-American David Dinkins was virtually assured the November election. But in a city where Democrats outnumber Republicans 5-1, the actual outcome was much closer. Blacks overwhelmingly supported Dinkins, while 70% of whites voted for his Italian-American opponent, and traditionally Anglo neighborhoods turned out in extraordinarily large numbers to oppose him. Dinkins's adviser commented, "Racism is too gentle a word. . . . This was a pure antiblack vote" (Fineman 1989:52-53). Nevertheless, Dinkins won, as did black candidates in Connecticut, Virginia, North Carolina, and Washington state, claiming positions once reserved for whites only.

Probably, then, the New York City pin-prick attacks celebrated this shift of political power. The wounds inflicted were superficial and harmless--but the traditional fears evoked were powerful ones. Whether we see it as an expression of bored impotence or as a artful performance, in either case the black teenagers must have enjoyed the way they reversed traditional

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

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#### 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 silvery overalls and bronze-colored boots appeared in the doorway. An 11-year-old witness said that the creature "didn't 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 Sovietskaya 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 sphere itself, or the actions of the 'alien.' Moreover, all the children who became witnesses to this event 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 Silanov, 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 told Komsomolskaya Pravda that on 30 July he had met aliens from the planet Red Star near Perm, west of the Urals. He asked to visit this other world, but the aliens (presumably familiar with H. G. Wells's War of the Worlds) refused, saying he would carry "thought bacteria" with him.

Newsweek moralized: "When the news is mostly bad--food shortages, ethnic violence--tales of the abominable snowman or a mysterious orange cloud can be a pleasant diversion. For the media, it can be one way to enhance their popularity." But Linna M. Moratcheva, senior English instructor of the Moscow-Lenin University of Physical Education and Sports Science, gave a different explanation. Visiting the US during the media debate, she cautioned that "Tass is [a] very serious organization and has been a very reliable source of news and information in the Soviet Union. Therefore, I feel it would never publish something like this if it knew for certain that it wasn't true. . . . I do believe that something unusual took place." Asked why the event took place there, Moratcheva pointed to the political changes recently enacted. "It's because of [Gorbachev] and our country's restructuring. It is wonderful. It's what we should have done many years ago. People feel different and they are different. . . . Maybe they [the aliens] know we have perestroika. Maybe that explains why they chose to land in the Soviet Union rather than in some other country."

[AP releases, 10 October and 12 October 1989; Carroll Boqert, "They Came From Outer Space," Newsweek (32 October 1989):42; Ed Conrad, "Soviet visitor: Don't dismiss alien landing report," Hazleton Standard-Speaker (22 October 1989):5.]

#### FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH COMPUTER VIRUS

On 13 October, users of IBM-compatible personal computers braced for widespread attacks from the Datacrime or Columbus 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 no longer access programs. The virus apparently originated in the Netherlands (some users attributed it to Iranian terrorists) and was attached to certain types of system files circulating through computer bulletin boards or informally transmitted by amateurs trading software. It had been identified in a dozen or so actual cases before the activation date. In one NASA center, a computer manager doing a routine maintenance check located what looked like a virus. When he advanced his PC's clock to 12 October, he found that "It was impossible to receive 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 and locate possible viruses. The vaccines are based on advance knowledge of where viruses are attached and how many bytes they add to the program. The Datacrime virus, for example, usually was found in a system file with a COM suffix and adds either 1,168 or 1,280 bytes to the file; thus, if the vaccine 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

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own vaccine (\$35), which dealt only with the Datacrime type of virus, but other firms capitalized on the scare by charging exorbitant prices for software that experts suggested had not been adequately tested. One surveyor noted that fully one third of companies setting out to specialize in vaccines had "gone belly-up" due to bugs in the programs produced.

User newsletters also circulated additional advice, such as using "safe computing"--that is, avoiding public computer bulletin boards and floppy disks whose history is unknown. Another suggested setting computer clocks ahead to 15 October to avoid the danger period. At Hazleton, the local hackers felt that this would not work, as the virus would destroy hard disks on any date after 13 October; the only sure cure was to set computer clocks to 12 October 1989. Another warned that an older virus, known as PLO, was far more likely to cause damage, since it was designed to erase programs every Friday the Thirteenth.

Early news reports on 13 October seemed to bear out the early warnings. When Great Britain's Royal National Institution for the Blind began work that morning, they found that most of their files were gone. An employee lamented, "Every time we try to look at a new program file it vanishes in front of our eyes. . . . It's horrendous. Months and months of work has been wiped out here." In Switzerland, viruses were detected in several dozen of the government's computers, but all of them were destroyed in time. In New York City, a dozen PC's at Columbia University were disabled, but fortunately the university had made safety copies of files. About fifty other reports of damage were reported, but in most cases these proved to be false alarms caused by operator error. A computer bulletin board in Bedford, MA, asked users to "Please calm down. The sky is not falling."

Still, many experts felt the jitters were justified. The president of American Computer Security Industries warned, "It's not a problem that's going to go away. Just because a magic date passes does not mean the threat is over. . . . Millions of computers aren't going to blow up today. (But) the viruses are out there, and they attack indiscriminately." And perhaps the next round is yet to come: a Yale professor of computer science suggested publicly that "it might make more sense to a computer vandal to program a virus to activate Friday night, so it could bubble and brew all weekend while computers are unattended." He concluded, "The 13th isn't over yet."

[AP releases, 13 and 14 October 1989; "Computer Virus Countdown Ends," *Wall Street Journal* (13 October 1989): B1, B2; Michael Selz, "Claims of Cures For Data Killers Aren't Proven," *Wall Street Journal* (13 October 1989): B1, B2; "Virus busters profit from PC panic," *Denver Post* (13 October 1989): C1; Abram Katz, "Computers survive virus scare unscathed," *New Haven Register* (14 October 1989): 1-2. Thanks to Michael J. Preston, Dick Sweterlitsch, and John W. Ellis.]

#### EYE ON SATANIC CULTS.

**MORE RUMOR-PANICS.** Satanic cults provoked fear and official investigations in western Pennsylvania and throughout the state of New Hampshire in April and May 1989. In Pennsylvania, a murder case in which a teenager killed two girls may have sparked the panic, for the defense argued that the killer had been affected by heavy metal music and satanic doctrines. Parents heard that devil-worshippers were looking for blond, blue-eyed children to abduct; many kept children home from schools.

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 million cult members in the US. The conference was followed by numerous findings of "mutilated" animals (later shown to have natural explanations) and the arrest of a group of youths holding a meeting in a remote area wearing medieval costume and using candles and an animal skull. Later, it was proved that they were college students working on 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, accusations about witchcraft and satanism 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 "satanic influences"), *The Witch Grows Up* (makes "witchcraft look like a viable lifestyle"), *Devils and Demons* ("might lead children to a life of devil worship") and *Stars, 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 over having their second-grade children hear Roald Dahl's *The Witches* during reading-aloud time. Schlafly concluded her 1988 column by saying "The satanism fad 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." ["Witches ride in the classroom," syndicated column, 28 November 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 Skerchok 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 Osbourne, Mega Death, and Merciful 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.

Skerchok claimed that satanic rituals were on the rise in the state. In August, a Centre County teenage boy sacrificed his dog to keep his own soul safe from Satan, whom he believed was controlling his actions.

through a Ouija board. In another incident, near Stroudsburg, PA, the skull and hands of a body were removed from a mausoleum. Such bones, authorities say, give satanic rituals or spells special power. (Susan Watenpool, "Satanism alive and on the rise; Halloween brings arcane rituals," Penn State Daily Collegian [University Park, PA] (31 October 1989): 2.)

**NEW JERSEY.** Cult experts here feel that satanic activity is on the rise, though experts noted that it was "almost exclusively [practiced by] a white, middle-class population." Larry Zilliox, Jr., director of operations of the Cult Awareness Network of New York and New Jersey, discussed the problem 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 tattoos like "NEMA" or "NATAS" (amen and Satan spelled backwards).

Nearly all the acts reported to police, Zilliox conceded, were committed by teens "dabbling" in satanism. For instance, "One Bayshore 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 best way to tell if this has occurred, he said, "is to hold a conversation. The hard core practitioner will let you know that he believes God is dead, and Satan rules heaven and earth." Further involvement could lead to a neo-Satanic church such as Anton LaVey's Church of Satan, and then to "the real hard core"--pedophilia, child pornography, and murder.

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 disemboweled a dog, draining its blood and sharing it with a group of teenagers. Police arrested the teenagers, but admitted that they could not prove that the leader existed. In numerous other instances, police received reports that black-robed figures had been seen chanting in local graveyards, and in several cases burned candles and satanic symbols had been found in mausoleums and in clearings around altar-like objects. In Jefferson Township, a young boy who killed his mother and himself was thought to have committed the act "as a pledge to Satan after eight weeks of [cult] involvement."

Listening to "black metal" music is not in itself "cause for alarm," local 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 ex-satanist now advising the American Family Foundation, warned that parents should not confront children directly if they signs of cult involvement; rather, they should "document the problem and talk to an expert." (Jeanne Jackson and Lisa R. Kruse, "Satan's Children," Asbury Park [NJ] Press (19 November 1989):C1, C9; Courtesy Krista Piddington.)

**ALABAMA.** The Rev. Mark Correll warned the Birmingham News that graffiti on a wall in a local shopping center was clearly inspired by Satan. "What concerns me is the fact that the guys know what they're doing," he told the paper. "The same themes. The skulls, the upside-down cross. And the one that ties it all together--the pentagram. That's a serious mark because it protects persons who are dabbling in Satanism from any demons or any type of spirits they may conjure up." Rev. Correll heads Parkway Christian Fellowship, in Huffman, AL, with 2000 members. The owner of a nearby record store disputed Correll's readings, identifying the graffiti as names of popular rock bands and albums. ("Ex-city man gets attention in Birmingham ministry," Hazleton Standard-Speaker (29 November 1989):40.)

**READING, ENGLAND.** In September, two American experts on satanic crime addressed child care specialists in a seminar intended to help identify children who had been sexually abused by cults. Jerry Simandi, a youth officer with the Chicago Police Department, explained his version of the four levels of satanic involvement: 1) teenage dabbling, 2) child abuse and prostitution, 3) child pornography, and 4) involvement in "the governing body of networks of groups." He claimed that police were investigating a network that spread across five states in which "children were forced to kill babies during occult practices." Pamela Klein, a psychologist with the Child Advocacy Center in Chicago, observed that similar practices appear to be going on in England. 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 "hurriedly organized" a week later, Ronnie Wilson, a senior social worker at Royal Alderdeen Children's Hospital, said that he was convinced that "some cases treated there were the result of satanism." In Nottingham last year, he noted, nine adults pleaded guilty of incest and indecent assault against 21 children. "What was not publicised at the time," Wilson claimed, "was that what appeared to be satanic rituals were involved." The seminar was closed to the press and public, apart from a showing of an American-made film on the topic. ["Rising fears of child sex abuse in satanic rites," The Scotsman (27 September 1989). Courtesy W. F. H. Nicolaisen. See Arthur Lyons, Satan Wants You (New York: Mysterious Press, 1988):140-160.]

#### **CHILDREN RECENT SATANIC CHILD ABUSE STORY.**

Elsewhere, skeptical 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 had forced them to witness. After losing legal custody of the brothers, 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 stories so they could continue to live with their father. After a lengthy interview, a psychologist pronounced the children normal and healthy, and recommended that they be returned to 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 up custody if it means they won't go back to them. But God help them if they do. I believe they'll die. . . . They haven't heard the last of me. There's going to be a lot of hell to pay!" ["Sons tell a D.A. that they lied," Philadelphia Inquirer (21 October 1989):1B, 4B. Courtesy Jeff Victor.]

**SATAN-HUNTING PRINCIPAL SUED.** In Bay City, MI, a suit was filed on 27 October against the principal of a middle school and two other officials who accused students of satanism during a scare last year. After the October 1988 Geraldo! documentary on satanism, the suit claims, the principal searched student lockers for evidence of satanic activities. He confiscated one 13-year-old's hand-drawn pictures and copies of song lyrics as proof of cult activities. According to state police reports, the student allegedly admitted satanic worship, and other students told the principal "that members of the alleged cult had planned or were involved in a possible suicide pact, that animal killings were occurring, and that the cult planned to sacrifice a popular student."

The girl and three others were called before the principal and ordered not to leave their houses or have any contact with each other during the upcoming Halloween weekend. After a period of ostracism and constant surveillance, the girl's father transferred his children to another school district and filed suit. After other protests over his concern with devil worship, the principal resigned in April. ["Teen-agers sue, claim to be victims of 'witch hunt,'" The Ann Arbor News (1 November 1989). Courtesy Jeff Victor.]

**SYMPATHY 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 Bayshore, NJ, area, but had quit them after they began killing animals and drinking their blood. Blood drinking, she said, is the mark of a devil worshipper, not a satanist. "The difference between a Satanist and a devil worshiper is like the difference between a Catholic and a Jew," she said. "They are completely different."

She turned to satanism after three years of practicing Wiccan, or white magic, doubting that God was answering her prayers. She had also been involved in a serious car accident, in which she lost all feeling from the waist down, but experienced nearly total recovery after becoming a satanist. She also has used satanic rituals to gain money and revenge on persons who wronged her, but she warned that in such cases Satan "puts an obstacle in her path, a test to let her know that she has to pay for what he has done on her behalf." She has been involved in four fires, each time after asking Satan for a favor. "You have to make sure you want what you're asking for," she said. "You can't just have it



for the hell of it. . . ." [Lisa R. Kruse, "To Debbie, Satan's no devil," Asbury Park Press (19 November 1989): C1, C8. Courtesy Krista Piddington.]

#### **HALLOWEEN IN AMERICA**

**NEW YORK CITY.** After four high school students were shot and killed in separate incidents, parents kept children home in droves on all-oween day. Overall, 45% of students in public schools stayed home; in the Bronx, the percentage was as high as 55% Victor Herbert, executive director of NYC's high schools, attributed the absences to "real fear among young people about each other" and noted that Halloween violence has grown during the past years. "Some parents tell the children to stay home," he commented, "because it's better to be home safe rather than be traveling throughout the city when you don't know what's going to happen." Principals who stood guard at school doors, "looking out for students who might be concealing weapons or eggs for throwing," commented that they experienced far fewer incidents than on a normal school day.

Elsewhere, students from one high school on the well-to-do East Side of Manhattan went on a rampage after school hours, "randomly punching passers-by . . . storm[ing] into an Italian restaurant, pushing over tables and plants and striking two waiters." [Joseph Berger, "Schools See Empty Desks On Halloween," New York Times (2 November 1989):B1, B6.]

**LEXINGTON, KY.** Robert A. Baker, semi-retired professor of psychology at the University of Kentucky and head of the Kentucky Association of Science Educators and Skeptics, spent the season investigating and debunking "haunted" houses. "I've never met a ghost that couldn't be explained away by perfectly natural means," he told a Wall Street Journal reporter. Recently he visited a house afflicted by mysterious happenings: a vacuum cleaner that turned on by itself; a telephone that flew off the hook; doors that slammed; footsteps that circled the kitchen. Baker interviewed the witness and proposed solutions: a dog might have started the cleaner; the phone's cord might have tangled around a chair leg; vibrations from a nearby highway could jar doors or mimic footsteps. The occupant grudgingly commented, "I'm not sure he's explained everything," but Baker promised to return if the occurrences persisted. He told the reporter confidentially that he carried a secret weapon: a vial of cornstarch. "I tell people it's the ground-up bones of saints," he explained. "I sprinkle a little around and tell the demons to leave. It's reassuring, and it usually works."

**LITCHFIELD, CT.** In a second visit covered by the Wall Street Journal, "demonologists" Ed and Lorraine Warren teamed up with Latin-liturgic Catholic priest Robert McKenna to eliminate a "typical demonic infestation." The owner of a house built over a century ago by a Scottish dwarf complained 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 New York City, until the owner began writhing on the floor. Praying in Latin, the priest sprinkled her with holy water, and the demon eventually gave up, leaving her with only "psychic burns." "This time . . . I think we got it," Ed Warren commented. The Warrens get 3-4 legitimate calls a week from people bothered by ghosts and demons. [Bill Richard, "And You Thought 'Ghostbusters' Was Just a Movie Farce?" Wall Street Journal (31 October 1989):A1, A14.]

**HAZLETON, PA.** The Fraternal Order of Police and local pharmacies united to offer parents safety tips for Halloween. Among these tips were warning children not to eat any of their candy or other treats until parents could check them at home. The F.O.P. cautioned parents to "Disregard [?? sic for "discard"?] unwrapped or loosely wrapped items" and "Consider passing out stickers . . . and other non-candy treats," adding "The other parents will appreciate your concern for their children's safety." The Heights Terrace Pharmacy, oddly, suggested that residents should "Wrap treats that are loose or home-made" but added that parents should "cut all fruit and candy into sections before eating." Both suggested taking trick-or-treat bags to Hazleton General Hospital for x-raying on Halloween night. [FOP offers tips for a safe Halloween" and advertisement, Hazleton Standard-Speaker (30 and 31 October 1989).]

An alternative activity was sponsored by Laurel Mall, the area's largest shopping mall. In a flyer distributed in area schools, a spokesperson observed that

"Halloween can be the scariest of all nights for both parents and children combined." She recommended that children come instead to the mall's "Safe Trick or Treat Night" and collect candy by going from store to store. The flyer added, "This night is basically for parents' peace of mind. . . . Security will be available, maintenance is on call, and a paging system is available for lost children. . . . There is no charge for the candy and the children will be safe." No children were

reported abducted from the mall, and hospitals detected nothing unusual in x-rayed candy. "This is the third year we've done this and found nothing," the hospital's x-ray manager observed. She noted that parents were asked to sign a release informing them that the process detects only metal, glass, or wood objects in the candy, and cannot detect poison. Many hospitals in other parts of the country, she admitted, have given up the service because of the threat of liability suits if a child were harmed by poison left undetected by hospital x-rays. But the Hazleton manager countered that she felt the service was necessary "as long as there are children out there on Halloween collecting candy." [Rosemarie Seamon, "Hospital x-rays turn up no danger in candy," Hazleton Standard-Speaker (1 November 1985); see also David Wilkison, "X-rays don't detect tampered Halloween treats," AP release (31 October 1989).]

#### **LEGENDS AS POLITICAL PROPAGANDA**

**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 opening its borders to Austria), the official Communist Party newspaper Neues Deutschland printed a "firsthand" account of a near abduction. A woman in Budapest, it seemed, gave an East German railway worker cigarettes that "tasted funny." He passed out and later regained consciousness on a bus bound for Austria. Fighting his way off the bus, he managed to make his way back to East Germany, where he complained, "I consider myself the victim of kidnappers and criminals." [Harry Anderson, et al., "The Flight to Freedom," Newsweek (16 October 1989): 42. See FN 12:1 for a more typical "white slave" abduction story.]

**AFRICAN CASTRATING RAY.** During celebrations following South Africa's promise to release eight political prisoners, between thirty to fifty thousand black activists assembled in Port Elizabeth in a peaceful "victory march." Before the event, anonymous pamphlets were distributed in nearby black townships warning that "marchers would be sterilized by invisible radiation rays." Activists noted that several faked documents had been distributed before and blamed South African security forces. ["S. Africa scene of victory marches," New Haven (CT) Register (from the Washington Post) (15 October 1989):1. This sounds suspiciously like the American rumor that a fried chicken chain popular among blacks is actually controlled by a white racist organization, which is lacing the chicken with drugs that take away blacks' sex drive; see Patricia A. Turner, "Church's Fried Chicken and The Klan: A Rhetorical Analysis of Rumor in the Black Community," Western Folklore 46 (1987):294-306. --Ed.]

**POLISH SOLIDARITY LEGENDS.** In January 1989 the Polish Communist Party's Central Committee began round-table negotiations with members of dissident labor unions, talks that led to the legalization of Solidarity and the institution of democratic elections. Lawrence Weschler, The New Yorker's correspondent, reports that during the negotiations "extraordinary corridor stories were circulating through Warsaw."

For example: ". . . there was one about Zbigniew Bujak, Solidarity's legendary Warsaw regional leader, who for more than four years after the imposition of martial law had managed to evade arrest, even though he had had some close calls: once he literally ran out of his sheepskin coat as he was being nabbed by security agents, leaving them holding nothing but the coat. During the talks, the story goes, Bujak found himself in colloquy with General Kiszczak, the head of security and, indeed, the man who did eventually succeed in jailing him. 'By the way,' the General told Bujak, 'I have your coat in my office. You're welcome to come by and pick it up whenever you like.'" ["A Grand Experiment," The New Yorker (13 November 1989):62.]

**MAKING A LIST, CHECKING IT TWICE.** Mark Danner, in his history of Haitian politics now appearing serially in The New Yorker, explains the background of the Tontons Macoutes, the dreaded secret police force created by

Francois 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 figure of the frightening bogeyman carrying off naughty children is probably universal, but in Haiti, 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' granted by these unofficial, voodoo-linked authorities, and where stories of travellers vanishing in the darkness were common, it took on a deeper resonance. . . . Any Haitian can tell you Macoute stories. They are carved on his mind, like the memory of a unique force of nature." ["Beyond the Mountains," *The New Yorker* (4 December 1989):127.]

#### REDEEMED AFTER ALL!

**ROCK POINT, AZ.** 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 Freeland 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 and 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 was hit in the person of John E. Davis. Davis had been collecting the tabs for some time and had grocery bags full of them."

"Davis is active in the Freeland 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 Freeland area. The FHS student group feels there are other persons who save these tabs but do not know what to do with them. They can now bring them to the student council or with Davis at his home. . . . Other drop-off points are: the Freeland American Legion post home, Ed's Discount Corner store and Gordie Moore's barbershop."

"Mrs. Corcoran [student council advisor] said that as the project grows many more persons stop in and 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 proud of the students and the community support.'" ["Freeland High project helps dialysis patients," *Hazleton Standard-Speaker* (10 November 1989):14.]

[I spoke to John Hludzick, president of the local dialysis support group, who clarified some of the points in the article. He granted that rumors had circulated locally that tabs could somehow be redeemed for two minutes on a dialysis machine, a belief that proved incorrect. (See *FN* 15:5 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 as a donation. This money is put aside 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 Hludzick repeated that the idea was to get people's private

collections of tabs out of basements and convert them into funds that really benefitted kidney patients. His nephew, a local lawyer, told me that he was skeptical when he 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 baloney, it's wonderful!" --Ed.]

**LONDON, ENGLAND.** Ten-year-old Craig Shergold, suffering from a rare form of brain cancer, received a official certificate on 19 November 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 the *Guinness Book of World Records*.

After Craig was unable to meet Princess Diana, his parents decided to cheer him up by trying to break the world's record, then held by 12-year-old Mario Morby, 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 addressees. The computer message circulated throughout Great Britain and eventually reached North America and the Middle East.

The appeal received a crucial boost from J. P. McDougall and Co., an English decorators' supply, who faxed the message to all 100 of its depots. This appeal yielded 30,000 cards alone, which were sent to Craig by special courier. The local post office in Carshalton, South London, has been "very helpful," according to Shergold's mother. "They've taken over a warehouse free of charge for us and when we've opened and read all of the cards we put them in bags of 2000." Some cards were accompanied with presents and chocolates. By 19 November, he had received a total of 1,256,266 cards. Cards are still arriving, and Mrs. Shergold appealed to well-wishers to stop sending cards.

Craig, who underwent surgery to remove part of the brain tumor and who is bald from chemotherapy, is not bothered by the publicity, though "he gets tired." Doctors feel that the disease has been halted by treatment, but since part of the tumor is inoperable, they "take one day at a time." The cards, his mother said, "have been the best medicine in the world." ["Millions of cards put sick boy in record book," AP press release, 22 November 1989.]

[This 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 in this case) so that the child could make the *Book of World Records*. Sandy Hobbs checked with the Paisley Post Office, who responded: "Thank you for your letter. . . . regarding items of correspondence addressed to 'Little Buddy', PO Box 76, Paisley, Renfrewshire [the address of the CB organization]. Some time ago such an appeal was made. The response exceeded the organisers' expectations and the appeals was closed in June 1983. The organisers, whilst expressing their appreciation to all respondents made it very clear through the media that they were unable to accept further donations. . . . To our knowledge it was never established that the original appeal was a hoax. However, I must emphasize that the appeal is now closed." Jan Harold Brunvand, in his *United Feature Syndicated* column of 4 May 1987, noted that the appeal was still circulating in the US, even though CB and postcard-collectors' magazines were actively trying to stop people from sending more cards. Some estimated that more than four million cards were eventually forwarded to "Little Buddy."

Anna Guigne (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 on "Little Buddy" or "Craig Shergold," and simultaneously fax or e-mail her address to two additional addressees? 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.

This might be the best place to request foreign correspondents to use postage stamps instead of meter postage, as the Drums (PA) Garden Club is collecting foreign stamps to help treat American eagles with broken wings. Please, none laced with LSD. --Ed.]

#### HAVE YOU HEARD...?

The following brief items have recently come to the editor's notice, and he would like to know more about them. Would any reader having more specific information please send it c/o Editor, *FOAptale News*?

**HUNGARIAN SUICIDE SONG.** "The deadliest song ever written is, beyond doubt, the mournful 'Gloomy Sunday' by Hungarian composer Rezo Seress with lyrics by Laszlo Javor, introduced in 1933. Three years later a Budapest shoemaker left behind a suicide note quoting the lyrics. Shortly thereafter 17 other Hungarians followed his example by ending it all while listening to the song. It has been reported that several suicide victims jumped into the Danube River with the sheet music in hand [after noting that the stone lions have no tongues? --Ed.]. The song was banned in Hungary." [Charles Stumpf, "American Song and Dance--Nationwide and Local, Part II," Panorama Magazine [Hazleton, PA] (October 1989): 12.]

**RAIN OF HUNGARIAN SPIDERS.** "And 1922 is the infamous year that spiders rained on Hungary." ["The Sky's the Limit," Panorama Magazine (October 1989): 5.]

**LONDON VAMPIRE HUNT.** "On Friday March 13th 1970, there were press reports of a vampire hunt in Highgate cemetery, in which a leading figure was said to be a 'Mr. Blood'." [Tony Barham, Witchcraft in the Thames Valley (Bourne End, Bucks: Spurbbooks Ltd., 1973):60.]

**WAITING FOR POE'S GHOST.** "A friend of long acquaintance . . . was one of those who each Halloween would wait through the night in the dark yard of the Westminster Presbyterian Church at Green and Fayette streets [in Baltimore, MD], his eyes fixed on the glass of brandy set upon the tomb of Edgar Allan Poe. However vigilant their watch, when the sun struck into the yard at dawn, the brandy was always gone." [Richard O'Mara, "Baltimore," TWA Ambassador (June 1989):39.]

**TOWN CURSED BY PRIEST.** "With what was left of day, I crossed the Ohio River into old Gallipolis [OH], a town of a dozen pronouncements, a gazebo-on-the-square town settled by eighteenth-century Frenchmen. Although a priest once placed a curse on Gallipolis--I don't know why--residents today claim it's the loveliest French village on the Ohio." [William Least Heat Moon, Blue Highways: A Journey into America (Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 1982):409.]

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

**CUFOS PUBLICATIONS.** In FN 15, I failed to provide information on how to order the Journal of UFO Studies special issue with the forum on UFO abductions. It can be purchased from The J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 2457 W. Peterson Avenue, Chicago, IL 60659, for \$15 USD postpaid. The Center's journal, International UFO Reporter, is published bimonthly and is available to all who make a contribution of 25 USD or more. Back issues (some available only as photocopies) are available back to 1976 for 4 USD apiece (with discounts for orders of more than five issues.)

Andrews, John H. The Extraterrestrials and Their Reality. Prescott, AZ: JACO, 1989. [Aliens are using humans as sources for organ transplants and as food for alien children.]

Barber, Paul. Vampires, Burial, and Death: Folklore and Reality. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988. [Vampire panics were caused by misinterpretation of normally decomposing corpses.]

Bartholomew, Robert E. UFOlore: A Social Psychological Study of a Modern Myth in the Making. Stone Mountain, GA: Arcturus Book Service, 1989. [Chronological listing of alien-human contacts from ancient times, plus discussion of modern events in the light of earlier religious visions and fairylore.]

\* Bullard, Thomas E. "The American Way: Truth, Justice and Abduction." Magonia 34 (October 1989):3-7. [Defense of American UFOlogist studies of abduction accounts and attack on psychological explanations.]

\* Basterfield, Keith, Vladimir Godic and Pony Godic. "The Abduction Phenomenon in Australia." International UFO Reporter 14:4 (July/August 1989):11-13, 24.

\* Clark, Jerome. "Flying Saucer Fascism." International UFO Reporter 14:4 (July/August 1989):3,22-23. [Comment on UFO theories that borrow from international Jewish conspiracy rumors.]

\* ----- "Wild Goose." International UFO Reporter 14:5 (September/October 1989):3,22. [US Air Force's role in spreading rumors about a secret treaty with aliens.]

Conroy, Ed. Report on Communism: An Independent Investigation of and Commentary on Whitley Strieber's Communism. New York: William Morrow, 1989.

Davis, Wade. Passage of Darkness: The Ethnobiology of the Haitian Zombie. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988. [Legends about persons declared dead but who later proved to be alive; possible link with Caribbean zombie tradition.]

Delgado, Pat, and Colin Andrews. Circular Evidence: A Detailed Investigation of the Flattened Swirled Crops Phenomenon. London: Bloomsbury, 1989. [Mysterious crop rings are created by "an unknown force manipulated by an unknown intelligence."]

Fiore, Edith. Encounters: A Psychologist Reveals Case Studies of Abductions by Extraterrestrials. New York: Doubleday, 1989. [13 more abductions revealed under hypnosis plus a list of "common indicators" of undiagnosed abductees.]

\* Fiorino, Paolo, Gian Paolo Grassino and Antonio Chiumiento. "Abductions in Italy." International UFO Reporter 14:4 (July/August 1989):14-16.

Fuller, Paul, and Jenny Randles. Controversy of the Circles: An Investigation of the Crop Circles Mystery. BUFORA, 1989. [Objective survey of explanations offered to explain this phenomenon; favors Meaden's theory (see below).]

\* Hubbell, Sue. "The Vicksburg Ghost." The New Yorker (25 September 1989):106-117. [Interviews with people near Kalamazoo, Michigan, who claim to have seen Elvis Presley living in retirement there.]

Johnston, Jerry. The Edge of Evil: The Rise of Satanism in North America. Dallas: Word Publishing, 1989. [Description of how satanic cults entice teenagers and then involve them in human sacrifices; by a popular public school and university lecturer; foreword by Geraldo Rivera.]

\* Jorstad, Erling. "Satanism: No figment of the imagination." The Lutheran (14 June 1989):15-17. [Advice to christian parents on how to detect satanism. See also p. 39 of the same issue, where two Lutheran scholars are quoted as decrying the present hysteria over satanism as "a simple but deceptive way of explaining bad things that happen."]

\* Lanning, Kenneth V. "Satanic, Occult, Ritualistic Crime: A Law Enforcement Perspective." The Police Chief 61:10 (October 1989):62+. [Skeptical overview of police involvement in "satanic" crimes by the head of the FBI's division on cult-related offenses.]

Matossian, Mary Kilbourne. Poisons of the Past: Molds, Epidemics, and History. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989. [Hallucinations caused by ergot poisoning may have been a factor in historical manias like witch hunts, the French "Great Fear" of 1789, and the American religious "Great Awakening."]

Meaden, George Terence. The Circles Effect and its Mysteries. Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts: Arteteck, 1989. [Mysterious "crop circles," often blamed on landing UFOs, are probably caused by a previously unrecognized kind of "atmospheric plasma vortex."]

----- "The Formation of Circular-Symmetric Crop-Damage Patterns by Atmospheric Vortices," Weather 44 (January 1989):2-10. [Scholarly handling of the above theory.]

\* Pearson, Patricia. "In Search of the Satanists." The Idler 25 (September-October 1989):19-25. [Includes an account of a 3-day seminar on occult crimes conducted by satanism "specialist" Tom Wedge, author of The Satan Hunter.]

Perkowski, Jan L. The Darkling: A Treatise on Slavic Vampirism. Columbus, OH: Slavica Press, 1989. [Includes documents recording real vampire hunts and some contemporary legends borrowing from the theme.]

\* Rodeghier, Mark. "Roswell, 1989." International UFO Reporter 14:5 (September/October 1989):4-8, 23. [Search for UFO debris on the site of an alleged crash.]

Rogo, D. Scott. The Return from Silence: A Study of Near-Death Experiences. Wellingborough: Aquarian Press, 1989. [Survey of rationalist and paranormal theories advanced to explain this phenomenon.]

\* Rojcewicz, Peter M. "The Folklore of the 'Men in Black': A Challenge to the Prevailing Paradigm." ReVISION 11:4 (Spring 1989):5-16. [Argues that folklorists should consider the objective truth underlying personal experiences of anomalous phenomena like UFOs.]

\* Sheppard, Carroll Anne. "The Jersey Devil in Ethnographic Perspective." New Jersey Folklore Society Review 10:1 (Spring 1989):3-10 [Comparison of legendary accounts of a mysterious flying or jumping creature with first-hand accounts of sightings.]

Shuker, Carl N. P. Mystery Cats of the World: From Blue Tigers to Exmoor Beasts. London: Hale, 1989. [Strange cats that terrorize communities are probably real escapees from private zoos.]

\* Simpson, Jacqueline. "A Modern Tale of Fate." Motif 7 (February 1989): 3-4. [Accounts of bizarre suicides or deaths using multiple means of death.]

\* Singer, Mark. "La Cabeza de Villa." The New Yorker (27 November 1989): 108-20. [The missing skull of Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa may be owned by the Yale University student society Skull and Bones.]

\* Stacy, Dennis. "Moore and the Military." Magonia 34 (October 1989):8-11. [US Air Force supplied false information about contact with aliens to UFOlogists.]

Strieber, Whitley. Majestic. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1989. [Novelization of rumors that the US Government is covering up evidence of alien contact.]

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 Perspectives on Contemporary Legend series: Monster: With Iron Teeth and The Questing Beast. In March-April 1989, Texas A&M University hosted the first such conference in the US, and arrangements have already been made to hold the 1990 Perspectives seminar at Halifax Hall in Sheffield (see insert).

The ISCLR Council met again at Philadelphia to consider future publications. The next collection of Sheffield essays, titled A Nest of Vipers, will collect the most substantial of the 1987 and 1988 Sheffield presentations, and will be shipped on publication to ISCLR members and affiliates who renew for the 1990 calendar year. Members will also receive four issues of FOAftale News, in its new expanded format.

FOAftale News is the newsletter of the International Society for Contemporary Legend Research. ISCLR was formed to build worldwide links among legend scholars. It encourages study of so-called "modern" and "urban" legends, and also of any legend that is circulating actively. We invite all who have an interest in this research area to join us. As a member, you will receive this newsletter, and also an annual book-length publication including the best in contemporary legend research. To join, send a check made out to "ISCLR" for \$18 U.S. to Mark Glazer, Vice President, Department of Behavioral Science, Texas University--Panamerican, Edinburg, TX 78539, USA, or for £10 UK pounds sterling to Sandy Hobbs, Treasurer, Department of Applied Social Studies, Paisley College of Technology, High St., Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland PA1 2BE. Institutions wishing to receive FOAftale News may affiliate themselves with ISCLR for the same price.

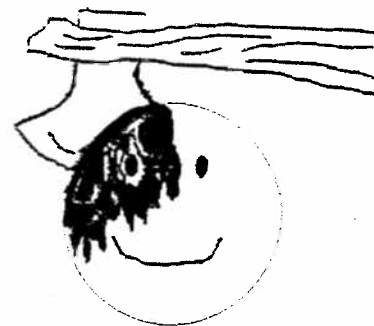
FOAftale News is now indexed in the MLA Bibliography. Please send queries, clippings, notices, and short research reports (up to 3000 words) to Bill Ellis, Editor, Penn State--Hazleton Campus, Hazleton, PA 18201 USA. I can now accept material on IBM-compatible 3 1/2 inch diskettes (please include information on what software you used). Telephone: 717-450-3026 or 717-788-2021. E-mail: WCE2 at PSUVM BITNET.

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Have A Nice Day!