Once Again into the Abyss

When we revived this original newsletter of the Church of Satan in 1995 c.e., after a seven-year hiatus, it was because there was so much energy bristling through our Dark Continuum that Dr. Lavey felt it was time to utilize The Cloven Hoof, along with the grotto system which he revived at the same time, to focus and feed our best members. Two years later, our High Priest died and my life turned upside down. After publishing the LaVey tribute issue in 1998, my energies necessarily turned toward maintaining the Church of Satan and sustaining our son. I had battles to fight in the world above. Though I constantly wanted to return here, to this secret lair of intoxicating ideas and speculation where we could share magical inspiration with each other, I never seemed able to find my way back. My travels along the Left-Hand Path led me down some isolated alleys, and practical concerns interferred with my Darker indulgences. I've been concentrating on Satanic matters, doing my job aboveground (as we all must) but the shadows beckon ceaselessly.

Now we have a new High Priest, Peter H. Gilmore, and a new High Priestess, Peggy Nadrasia-I feel confident in their power to strengthen and further refine the philosophy to which Anton LaVey devoted his life. Our institutional grotto system is broader and better organized than ever before, our Internet presence is impressive, and with the implementation of our new online members-only SIGs, our leaders have provided us with ever more efficient ways to ferret out like-minded individuals for productive alliances. Accurate information about Satanism has never been this readily available to students, journalists and potential members. (Of course, there's also enough "Satanic" misinformation floating around in cyberspace to ensure all but the most devilishly dedicated—but that's part of the game, isn't it?)

It has been almost five years since the last Cloven Hoof was released, but that time has only allowed the infernal flames to grow brighter and clearer within me, and within this delicious cabal we share. Though my Satanic allegiance has never wavered, for a time I wondered whether there was any point in continuing The Cloven Hoof. The earliest Church of Satan newsletters and information sheets were printed on brightly-colored paper, and were released every two months. They were more like bulletins than magazines, containing Dr. LaVey’s thoughts, observations and humor, as well as pithy articles by other members, book and movie reviews, and pertinent, timely organizational information as needed. That was the basic format until 1988 c.e., when we suspended publication. Technology has progressed light-years since then. Now, for up-to-date news and policy statements, we have the official Church of Satan website. We have several high-quality, widely-distributed Satanic magazines. For Luciferian real-time conversations, we have chatrooms and on-line buddy lists. And we have dozens of affiliating websites containing endless Satanic articles, opinions and speculation. What niche could The Cloven Hoof possibly serve?

After considerable reflection, I re-read the opening editorial from the revived 1995 Cloven Hoof. In that, I spoke of a need for timely information (which the website is better suited to provide now), as well as...
Fumbling with the Combination Lock Principle?

By Jeb Webb

Sometimes it really seems like I was born either too early or too late to find my niche with the other eccentrics. I recently finished reading Issue 130 of *The Clover Hoof*, and I admit that I was deeply moved by many of the submitted personal accounts regarding Dr. LaVey. Like so many others who are not fortunate enough to have spent personal, quality time with the Doctor, I was envious of those who did. I always hoped to meet him someday when older and more accomplished than I am now (perhaps making a name for myself would keep me from ranking with the nuisances who were always trying to take his time). When it was already too late, I really wished that I had at least tried.

When Anton LaVey died, he left an immediate loss. Not only of a hero, but of the hope to meet him. As may have noted, it is a wholly selfish longing... if not somewhat vampiric. We all wanted to be graced with the presence of this incredible man who symbolized and codified the legacy that every Satanic is born into. We wanted to have a little slice of time—his time—to hold and remember as our own. Psychopathic vampirism at its ugliest.

---

*The Clover Hoof*

2

Issue 131
1. Man is an Animal

Anyone who has ever taken a high school biology class knows this. We are, without question, members of the animal kingdom, hairless, hive-birding primates with close family ties to various simians. Human behavior can be explained easily and thoroughly in terms of animal behavior. (Pair bonding, territorialism, pack behavior, sexual displays—you name it and we do it.) Those who doubt it need only read introductory textbooks on taxonomy, genetics, animal behavior (Kourad Lorentz is especially recommended), biology or ecology.

This point is so obvious that your opponent will rarely try to dispute it. Instead, he will claim man is somehow "different" than the other animals that he is gifted with an "immortal soul" or that he is otherwise set apart. Make him prove it. Ask for evidence of man's "soul"; for proof that man is "set apart" from the animal kingdom. Likely he will tell you some variant of "man is smarter than other animals." Point out that this does not prove the existence of an "immortal essence"; a computer with a Pentium II/400 processor is faster than a beat-up old 286/16, but we don't take that additional capacity as evidence for its soul. Keep asking them for one piece—ONE piece—of evidence that man differs from animals qualitatively, not just quantitatively.

Some or later, if you keep this up, your opponent is likely to say some variant of "I believe on faith!" He may say, "You aren't capable of understanding..." or "You've oversimplified the situation..." or some such, but what he's really saying is "The evidence is against me but I want to believe." At this juncture further debate is probably pointless; telling a True Believer he should change his opinion is like telling a street person those voices in his head aren't real. Those who are wobbling the debate will know who won the point, and that is the important issue.

2. There is only the "Physical Realm"

We no longer explain lightning as "Zeus (or Thor, or Indri) throwing down his thunderbolt". We have found a scientific explanation for thunderstorms which does not require us to postulate angry gods. We no longer believe that influenza is caused by bad planetary conjunctions; germ theory explains the flu, and helps us treat it far more effectively than any astrological chart. Similarly, we have no need to create a "spiritual realm" if we recognize that man is just another animal, not an "immortal soul incarnate in flesh".

The Clown Hoof

Starting From Zero: Satanic Philosophy from the Ground Up by Kevin Filan

Most religious and ethical systems are based on a vision of things as they should be. Satanism is concerned with things as they are. Anton LaVey's worldview is its own, easily observed, easily verified facts. That explains why so many Satanists say that their first encounter with The Satanic Bible was a confirmation of what they knew all along; common sense will lead any sane, rational person to LaVey's conclusions. (It also explains why some folks, unable to challenge these facts, claim that Dr. LaVey "plagiarized" them.)

In a debate, you should concentrate on these simple points. If your opponent tries to change the subject, or otherwise refuses to respond, keep bringing the debate back to our basic beliefs. These core principles are the strongest weapons in our artillery; they are the truths they cannot refute. If we refuse to be distracted by noise and nonsense and stick to our principles we can win the argument every time. Starting from zero, forgetting the Nine Satanic Statements, the Eleven Rules of the Earth, and anything else Anton LaVey ever wrote, we can still find our way back to a Satanic philosophy with nothing more than these basic ideas.
Bishop Berkeley and a few Buddhist cults aside, the physical world is pretty damned difficult to deny. We don't need to spend a lot of time proving that we exist, that the building we live in exists, that the planet we live on exists and so forth. Our opponents, on the other hand, must prove these invisible realities they've created. We have to make them provide evidence for their "spiritual plane".

It's likely they will produce some "channelized" document as proof of their claims. Don't let them get away with it. Point out that their document is convincing only to those who want to be convinced—and that they're engaging in circular logic. (e.g., "God exists."
"How do you know?"
"This document was written by God himself."
"How do you know that?"
"Well, it says it was written by God himself, and I can't argue with God.")

Ask your opponent to describe this "spiritual realm" for you. Make them give as many specifics as possible. Then ask them how they arrived at their conclusions. If they try referring back to their "sacred" documents, remember the pointer above. Sooner or later, they're going to crack and tell you, yet again, that they believe on faith. And, once again, you can point out that your belief doesn't require faith, just common sense and an ability to see things for what they are.

3. Satan is a Symbol

We all know how much power symbols have in our day-to-day lives. Corporations pay enormous sums for symbols which will make us buy their products—the Marlboro Man, Ronald McDonald, Prudential's "Rock". English teachers tell us to seek out the "symbolism" in literary works, and give poor grades to those who can't see Moby Dick as more than just a big white whale. Politicians seek votes by stopping protest signs, turning the flag—symbol to some of American greatness and to others of American crimes.

We recognize Satan as a powerful, evocative symbol. Satan still gets a reaction out of folks, even in this post-Christian age. (Those who doubt it are welcome to check out the history of the last Marilyn Manson tours, or the efforts of Wiccans and other pagans to distance themselves from Satanists.) We use that symbol in our own ends; sometimes we capitalize on its shock value and at other times we use Satan as symbolic of man's higher potential. Some folks may disapprove of our use, some may claim it's counterproductive and juvenile, but nobody can deny that Satan is a symbol, nor that this symbol can at times be useful.

Our opponents, on the other hand, are claiming that their gods are "something more" than just symbols: they believe that their deities are real, that they take a direct and personal interest in the lives of their followers, and that they have certain set taboos and requirements which we must follow lest we risk rejection or punishment. And, yet again, they have no evidence to back this up. Be sure to hammer this home.

4. There is nothing "sacred"

Symbols don't talk to people; they don't choose sides in petty interreligious quarrels; they don't declare their followers to be the "chosen people" or any such hoo-hah. They don't say "You must not question me lest you be tormented in hell"; perhaps most important of all, they don't draw distinctions between "sacred" and "profane".

The concept of "the Sacred" implies that the material world and material philosophy is "profane". It implies that "divine revelation" is to be considered superior to rational findings. It implies something set apart, something which cannot be held to the standards of our day-to-day world. Ultimately, it implies a leader who determines how the "sacred" and the "profane" interact, and whose ideas, like the "sacred" texts, are not subject to rational considerations.

We in the Church of Satan recognize the carnal, material world. We recognize the laws which govern this world—the laws of thermodynamics, the laws of cause and effect, the laws of chemical reaction, the laws of logic. We think these laws are the "ultimate truth"...and we set no reason to say that some mass delusion is more truthful than that which we can deduce using our knowledge of these laws. Again, we find this self-evident, and don't understand how anyone could doubt it.

If your opponent is a theist, he likely has a few "Sacred Cows"—a few "doth shalt not questions" hammered into him by his fellow cultists. Find them, and hammer on them. Force him to defend those beliefs which are "beyond all reason". If you do, you'll soon find out that his beliefs aren't trans-rational or post-rational...just irrational. Likely you'll see outbursts of fury; remember, these beliefs aren't based on logical considerations, but on emotional needs. You may see your opponent reduced to babbling "prayers" over and over like a mantra. He may even use violence—ranging from electronic "mail bombings" to physical assault—in a desperate attempt to shut you up. Assuming you're able to defend yourself (and caution is always advised when dealing with True Believers),

The Cloven Hoof
Arsenal

Items of devilish interest

There’s excellent Satanic material being produced now, most of it poned and reviewed on numerous websites. I’ve got a teetering column of valuable magazines and books I’d love to review for this section but much of what I’ve hoarded is now out of print or obsolete. If you’ve taken me off your mailing list, please put me back on so I can mention your magazines, books, recordings and other stuff. If you’ve sent things that are still current and you’d like reviewed, let me know. I’ll grab just a few items out of the tower to review here:

—That anachronistic macon, Doran Wittelsbach of BUA Productions, has outdone himself again. The first issue of Bloody Beautiful was striking in presentation and content, and Issue #2 is no less so. I don’t know where he finds this material, but I’m delighted he shares it so extravagantly with us. In #2 we are treated to lengthy articles on Al Bowfly (a much-neglected English popular singer of the 1930’s), and McDermott and McGough (those two eccentric artists/photographers who live in the past—fascinating time travellers), as well as shorter articles on spats and derby hats (which my son loved), and a 6-page gallery of beautifully-illustrated sheet music (ranging from 1906-1941). You even get an AI Bowfly sticker to put on your car or school notebook, and a 9-inch record!

To read Bloody Beautiful is to suspend time, to enter a rich and exciting total environment. Issue #1 is listed as still available for $10, but there’s no price listed for Issue #2. Send $10 to BUA Productions, 1701 Broadway, #347, Vancouver, WA, 98663, USA, and you’ll be delighted with either issue.

While you’re at it, you might want to inquire whether there are any copies left of Mr. Wittelsbach’s excellent book on Dr. Nixon: Isi and Beyond. Again, Mr. Wittelsbach is tireless in his research and lavish in his production. Gold-embossed cover, rare photos and interviews within. As those of us who admire Anton LaVey know, Dr. Cecil Nixon was almost a surrogate father to our young Magician—this book explains why. Nixon was erudite, crusty, cultured and talented, and a vital spectre haunting San Francisco’s gallery of eccentrics. If this book is still available, grab it quick.

—While we’re on the topic of anachronistic publications, this fellow Michael Maleficenda Pendragon has winnowed out a perfectly cozy spot with his Penny Dreadful and Songs of Innocence publications. The first is subtitled “Tales and Poems of Fantastic Terror”; the second covers “the very best of today’s Romantic fiction and verse”. I am holding Issue 13 of PD in my hands, from Midsummer 2000, so it’s a few years old—but I trust they haven’t gone out of print already. In his opening statement, Pendragon describes Penny Dreadful as “a late Victorian era publication, Tales and poems making references to 20th or 21st century persons, events or things will have a difficult time finding publication in her pages…It is as if Pound, Eliot, Joyce, Hemingway had never lived.” Pendragon has attracted some like-minded writers and poets to the pages of his magazines who do a good job evoking with dark imagery and rhymed meter. If you enjoy the tangles provided by Victorian and Romantic poets and short story writers, you won’t be disappointed here. For an issue, send $3 to Michael Pendragon, P.O. Box 719, New York, NY, 10101-0719. (This temporal misfit is also responsible for a more directly diabolical rant that I won’t tease you with because I don’t know if he has them anymore. But it’s good. Just ask him about it with your order.)

—On the opposite end of the spectrum, we have a slick, glossy, full-color magazine which advertises itself as “the first great horror magazine of the 21st century”. Are You Going? displays high production costs and seems to be covering recent lower-budget horror films. I haven’t heard of most of them, but it seems to be an ideal magazine for low-budget horror aficionados. In Issue #4, they have an interview with well-known horror writer Tananarive Due, as well as a positive review of the DVD of a little gem the Doctor was fond of, Motel Hell. If you recognize the names Dante Tomasoelli and Tom Savini, you might want to give this
-You know Reverend Matt Paradise produces an outstanding Satanic magazine, *Not Like Most*, and that he has a top notch website, and that he conspires to be an astute representative of the Church of Satan. Have you heard about The Book of Satanic Quotations? If not, you should have—so I will now tell you how vital it is that you get a copy posthaste for your bookshelf. True Satanists, I've noticed, have a wide range of interests and references in their brains as well as on their bookshelves. This little handbook reflects this eclecticism perfectly. As a test, I peeked at Flaubert, Bertrand Russell, and Carl Sagan—all are included, each with intriguing, deft quotes. It's a good book to carry with you, for amusement or inspiration. Send $12 to Forging Talon Publishing, P.O. Box 8131, Burlington, VT, 05402.

-Speaking of amusement, there's a handy little book published in Australia called The Antichrist's Bible which you'll probably find invaluable if you still enjoy the sport of debating Christians. This is subtitled, "222 dark truths, contradictions and pagan connections behind the Gospels". Mr. Sinton really did his research and includes all those pre-Christian beliefs which fed into the formation of the Christian myths. Plus there are blaspemous observations and quotes sprinkled liberally throughout the text. My copy was published in January 2001, so you can find out if there are any copies left by contacting The Haunted Bookshop, 15 McKibop Street, Melbourne. AUSTRALIA, 3000. Or try their website: www.haunted.com.au.

-I suspect you'd enjoy Gavin Baddeley's new book, Goth Chic. Like his previous Lucifer Rising, he covers the topic at hand, but also wanders down some ancillary corridors—attraction of evil, the thrill of fear, forbidden sex and, of course, Goth music. His style is always enthusiastic and engaging. Look for Goth Chic at all major bookstores.

-Nocturnal Reflections Grotto is still going strong, publishing a colorful newsletter now, titled The Devil's Reign. It emphasizes their affiliation with vampiric mythos, as well as their love of astronomy with upcoming astronomical events described—even a cute article about a pair of pet hedgehogs. There are Satanic poems, articles and resources galore, and events in the Vancouver area. I'm not sure if this magazine is available to those outside the grotto (I don't see a pricet anywhere), but, if interested, contact them at www.nocturnalreflections.ca to find out.

-While on the topic of vampiric associations, the Temple of the Vampire is going stronger than ever. Their representatives are usually the most intriguing ones quoted in these ubiquitous Contemporary Vampire survey books. Within the Temple, they've produced new, sensually-pleasing versions of their main materials (I'm not at liberty to elaborate), they've expanded their website forum and are guiding our hungry seekers down some intellectually and psychically satisfying paths. If you're drawn to the darkly potent image of the Vampire but don't yet understand why, you owe it to yourself to fulfill your destiny. Contact the Temple by sending a SASE to TOV, Box 3382, Lacey, WA, 98509. Or find out more on their website: www.vampiretemple.com.

-Another grotto newsletter that has really blossomed over the past couple of years is *The Trident*, published by the Legion of Loki Grotto in St. Louis. I have enjoyed every issue of this newsletter. The editor has received some excellent articles on Latin in ceremonies, creating a pact, tips for Satanic men, along with a handful of worthwhile reviews. Their latest issue covered the enticing theme of SEX, with some spicy fiction, articles on B and D, and true liberation. You'd look forward to this one showing up in your mailbox. For a sample issue, send $2 (36 outside U.S.) to Legion of Loki, ATTN: The Trident, P.O. Box 140252, St. Louis, MO, 63114.

-As I was completing this, I received the latest issue of Bloodfire!. Editor Les Hernandez has put together another fine magazine, including an article on polyamorous relationships, handgums, necromancy, and some intriguing fiction. He's also releasing a full-length album of Satanic punk! For information, send a SASE to Bloodfire!, Box 95, 350 Ward Avenue, Suite #106, Honolulu, HI, 96814.

-One more Satanic magazine of note is *The Devil's Diary*, released twice a year at Halloween and Walpurgisnacht. In Volume 4, Mr. Blackthorne includes a lengthy article on Aristotle, confessions of a vampire, an interview with "Lucifer" (a Satanic rock band), various poetry reviews and even a trapezoidal crossword puzzle: Well worth a look—Send $6 to *The Devil's Diary*, 2775 E. Valley Blvd., Box #119, West Covina, CA, 91792.
haven't received an issue in awhile. Show me what you've got, big boy!

-I've got another request, as well. I'd like one of our readers near Pittsburgh, PA, to visit a particular restaurant I've heard about and send us a review. It's called the Church Brew Works in Lawrenceville. The restaurant is housed in a former Catholic Church that was scheduled for demolition. The architecture was so beautiful, someone decided to buy it and open a pub/microbrewery! It's become a decadent temple of indulgence, judging from the descriptions of some of the dishes they serve. Is it really the experience we would hope for? Let us know.

Jesus Loves the Little Children
by Reverend George Sprague

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. And Jesus passed his love of children and young boys unto his priests, as we have all seen from the news concerning acts of pedophilia by God's chosen bugger men. What a lovely bunch, these Catholics! There are many aspects of this behavior that merit discussion, especially the manner in which the Catholic mafia, ahem, the Church hierarchy has devoted all its resources to hiding this nasty little secret.

Now, I realize it is highly popular to say all these priests are hiding something, and they are all whacked-out kid molesters. The fact is, a good many priests are not. But what is entrenched amongst all the clergy is a sense of blind obedience to his Popinax in Rome and the rest of that rot-gut mafia. And herein lies the problem.

To begin with, there are two kinds of molestation going on. First we have the good old child molester, ravage a little kid type of thing. Second, and the one less talked about, is homosexual activity toward teenagers. This last one usually gets lumped in with the little kids, but it is important to differentiate the two. Why? The reason for this rests on one of the feasible solutions offered by some of the more "progressive" Catholics. Please note the quotation marks. There's no such thing as a progressive Catholic. These Nazarene cultists are so far behind they think they are first. Anyway, some Catholics suggest priests should be allowed to marry. I like this idea. But to suggest that this will solve the problem of pedophilia or any other sort of sexual antics is pure B.S. How many men out there lead hidden lives.
hiding their homosexuality behind marriage? And how many child molesters, too?

Yes, the Catholic Church does attract men who are unique and wondrous and have to hide behind those black robes to try to suppress their inadequacies. Yes, homosexuals and child molesters (notice I don’t lump them together) find a nice little club to survive and thrive in. But the same would be true if priests were allowed to take wives. You see, the hierarchy would still go to bat for these animals, pretending that nothing happened and sweeping the whole thing under the rug. Essentially, you would be trading one group of sickos for another. The wives would just add a complexity to the situation that isn’t there now.

Whether it’s two, two dozen, or two hundred child molesters, the Church thinks it is exempt from civil law. They insult my intelligence by not only transferring the perpetrator to another locality, but also telling us all to pray for Father Dickhard, so he can find his way back to the Lord. And when all Hell breaks loose, when all the evidence begins to come forth, what do they do? They take a vacation to Rome, to the Vatican, to meet with the best living example of what the Church is: ancient, dumb, irrelevant, moldy, stupid, and dying. That would be the Pope. And what solution do these people come up with? Well, they have to study the situation further. But meanwhile, any priest who engages in this sort of thing should probably be suspended. Probably?

I’ll tell you what should happen. Heat an iron cross until it is white hot then shove it up their a**es. In public, at St. Peter’s Basilica. Okay, that won’t happen. So excommunicate the bastards, turn them over to civil authorities and send them to jail for life. Let the jailbirds show them what they think about child molesters, predators who force themselves on young teenagers. Isn’t it grand, a kindergarten teacher who molests a child loses his job, gets tagged as a sexual predator, goes to jail. But let a priest of the great mafia, the Catholic Church, do the same and we are supposed to turn the other cheek and let God handle it.

And they say we Satanists are the bad lot!

The Satanic Family

I know there are several discussion forums available to Satanic parents now, but that won’t stop me from creating my own and putting in my two cents. There are more and more Satanists developing lasting relationships (or trying to), forming families, having children...and a multitude of questions inevitably arise. Should I tell the neighbors? Do I have to redecorate every time neighborhood children visit, guiltily hiding all the spooky artifacts? What do I tell my child when she goes to school, about talking about our religion? I try to encourage him to always tell the truth; how can I instruct him to lie? What if it gets out that we’re Satanists? Should he participate in religiously-oriented groups for certain enjoyable activities, even if I don’t agree with the group’s tenets? These are just a few of the broad topics we’ll discuss here—so send in your articles, comments and questions!

Satanists, though passionately involved in the real world, spend relatively little time addressing real-world concerns of family-oriented Satanism. Are we supposed to convert to something more socially palatable once we become parents? I hardly think so. Not all of our members are between the ages of 14 and 22. Many people pick up Dr. LaVey’s books after they’ve already had children, after they already have a (non-Satanic) mate. How are they supposed to tell their loved ones of their new-found dedication to Darkness? Let us know how you handled it.

Since Xerxes and I learn at home (a luxury, I realize, that is sadly not realistic for many Satanists), I’ll start with the basics and mention a few curriculum books and resources we’ve found valuable. Even if you can’t teach your children at home, you can remain as involved in your child’s learning as possible, meeting with teachers and supplementing where you judge necessary.

There are two broad methods for most homeschoolers: structured and “unschooling”. The first entails sending away for a set curriculum of texts and workbooks and pretty much sticking with a day-to-day lesson plan. Some people call it playing school at home. The other method is “child-led” education, which advocates finding what interests the child most, then using that as a gateway topic to reading, math, history, etc. As usual, we Satanists find a third path; I’d call our method “eclectic unschooling”. Xerxes has some distinct interests, usually something to do with history, weaponry, costuming, theatre arts, science or math. But I also keep one eye on what basic skills he needs to get along in the world, and what the educational standards are for our state. Xerxes is ahead in some things, and behind in other things. But that’s true of any child. The nice part about homeschooling is if he knows more history than the average 10th grader, but can’t read very well yet, I can tailor his lessons to challenge him in history and reading at his level...

Issue 131

The Cloven Hoof
What I like most about the unschooling notion is that it recognizes that the main purpose (and drawback) of public school is that it expects all children to fall into lock-step with one another. Unschooling allows parents to engage that most important learning faculty: the imagination. Memorizing cold dates and facts from a book is now considered one of the least effective ways of teaching. Engaging the imagination, through costuming, telling humanizing tales about how naughty or drunken or quietly historically important people can be, by teaching magical math tricks, makes learning so much more enjoyable, and your brain retains the information longer.

When looking for homeschooling or supplementary educational materials, be aware that there are the homeschooling Christians who tend to sprinkle in a lot more of their religious views amongst the verbs and adds than most of us would prefer for our kids. Then there are the ex-hippie, feel-good, love everybody types who have their own agendas to sell. The most objective books still might require some Socratic editing or explanation when presenting lessons to your children. Three books we find best as basic overviews to start from are What Your 4th Grader Should Know (or 2nd grader or 4th grader, etc.), the Learn at Home books from American Education Publishing, and The Well-Trained Mind. The first two books are grade-terel general books with curriculum suggestions and worksheets. They cover a broad range of topics from which you can pick and choose, depending on your particular needs. But the last book has such a devoted following that there are "well-trained minds" homeschooling groups throughout the country.

When I first picked up The Well-Trained Mind by the mother-daughter team of Jessie and Susan Wise at the library, I was thrilled! It outlines the classical education I wish I'd received as a child, an education that I'm continuing on my own. Though the authors take a firmly Christian posture, they also have an academically rigorous, open approach to learning, emphasizing the Western canon (dominated by dead white guys), logic, literature, mathematics and values we'd largely agree with. Just don't go to their website expecting to see more great openness. The Wises are hardcore Christians, somewhat dismayed that their editors at W.W. Norton chose to tone down their religious fervor for the sake of attracting a mainstream audience. The best part of the book is the vast array of great catalogues, resources and websites they recommend for learning supplies, texts and workbooks. The Christian-related material is usually identified, but read carefully before you order.

That gives us a place to start our future discussions on child-rearing, family matters and homeschooling: I'll look forward to your comments, questions and articles. And neither one of us is finally out. Read it out loud together; the language is delicious to share. If you don't have children, read it to someone you love; why let the kids have all the fun?

The Other Myth of the 20th Century: German Freak Culture, Nihilism and Western Civilization, 1888-1945.

By Adan Flores

"Let's move to Berlin...they worship their freaks!" — Peggy Hill, after discovering son, Bobby, in flagrante delicto with a Styrofoam wig stand.

Of all the tortures humanity endured during the 1900's, by far the most humiliating was the necessity to scrape the perceived bottom of its carnal barrel to deal with its most desperate crises. Even the most cursory look at world history from the coronation of Wilhelm II to the suicide of Joseph Goebbels will bear me out. That's not to ignore the holocaust, lurking around in the depths of the American id that elected Franklin Roosevelt four times and made superstars of men as diverse as Charles Steinmetz and Johnny Eck. Like Ampu-TENASE magazine, these indulgences have their place. My focus here is to investigate the genesis of a nation that would abandon its critical faculties, and its children, to the dubious mercies of Bunker-rats like Seppi die Siedelfetz and Artur Axmann while gassing the charming and talented Lia Graf at the same time.

The most obvious reason for this dedication of the psychologically (and physically) twisted lies in the thousand-year-old crazy-quilt of kingdoms, duchies and electorates that made up most of German-speaking Europe prior to the proclamation of Bismark's 2nd Reich in 1871—with the concomitant bluster and fetishistic need to overcompensate typical of any alienated adolescent. Just picture Kaiser Bill as Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris with one working arm between them and the German military as a Trenchcoat Mafia with better ordnance in the high school parking lot that was fin de siecle Europe. And had a primatologist like
Jane Goodall been at the peace-tables of Versailles, the world may have stopped to ponder the wisdom of antagonizing million-member troops of mutant, hairless chimps with half-digested Nietzsche and burning revenge in their minds.

The echoes of the next 25 years continue to reverberate among the ruins of the reality actualized by this cabal of basket-headed one-offs. Thalidomide tragedy was only the most heartbreaking form of Hitler's revenge. Shameed and enraged by the desperation and credulity that had allowed them to be manipulated by a handful of cripples for over fifty years, the temporarily able-bodied masses of the West reacted with altrurism in the truest sense of the word—united with all the buried resentment, eroticized horror and peek-a-boo eliminationism implicit in what is paradoxically the most naked and socially-acceptable form of apartheid they could get away with. Offerings include thieving "charities", the legislated penury of disability payments, the "productive" heftly of dead-end, low-paying jobs: and, of course, that masterpiece of Newspeak, "vocational rehabilitation". What a neat for social terms of all descriptions to plot their slow-motion getterdömmning from! Although, I confess, the shabbiness of the Kultur that created and feeds this Moloch is staring to amuse me less and less.

What justifies my existence in the face of these saccharine frauds? As a purely intellectual Working, read Lorenzo Milam's CripZen and de facto Sataniast Jim Knipfel's Slackjaw back-to-back to catch an inkling of what makes Your Humble Narrator the smartest wallflower at the Totemanc. Leave Sgt. Schultz's marmalade manna behind, but the anti-life stampede finds itself a higher cliff, treat the few treasured individuals in your world as the fying gods they are, and be on the lookout for ever-more exquisite pleasures. I know I will.

Solitary Refinement

by Zachary Simon

"Humans are social animals." This statement is often used to better understand the psychology and even physiology of our species. The struggle for social success has been an almost universal experience among people throughout recorded history; however, this desire to be included within a larger group or society has been the cause of great amounts of anxiety. In this age of widespread information, more and more people are beginning to recognize the destructive potential of herd mentality; of valuing success over personal growth. Although avoiding the label of "outcast" or "loner" is still a top priority today, individuals are placing more importance on the quality rather than quantity of their allies. It has become more crucial to form and maintain interpersonal relationships than to comfortably assimilate into a circle of friendly acquaintances.

But in the context of a mass society, a person's social behavior is still thought to influence his ability to create and nurture close relationships. There are many who believe that everyone must constantly practice social skills and shun isolation in order to be successful on an interpersonal level. But just as outcasts often become leaders, couldn't many "antisocial" people simply be seen as more discreet in their choice of allies? Successful interpersonal relationships can be just as dependent on a person's quality of independence as on their social competence. By consciously choosing solitary activities, a person's capacity for interpersonal relationships will actually improve.

The first argument someone might make to this idea would be that interpersonal communication is a skill and thus can only be truly improved with practice. It's very understandable that people associate those who prefer solitary activities with non-assertive, broken and generally inefficient speech. If a person spends the greater portion of his free time alone, how can he learn ways to verbally express himself and respond to the expressions of others? It's hard to imagine being able to build a personal relationship on exchanged letters, and even though actions often speak louder than words, body language is usually most expressive when combined with some sort of verbal message. There are plenty of romantic stories of married couples that have been together long enough to predict each other's thoughts and actions, but this kind of relationship is usually established after many years together. It seems only logical to suggest that solitary activities allow whatever speaking skills a person might have to atrophy, and thus leave them unprepared when those skills need to be strongest.

The main problem in suggesting that only social people have communication skills lies in the fact that it often doesn't take a monologue thick with eloquent metaphors and witty insights to make a powerful statement. Fast or slow talkers are not always the most successful in their relationships. People can share their thoughts and feelings quite effectively with short sentences and simple terms. In response to the admittedly sound idea that good interpersonal communication requires practice, a person does not have to be an extremely extroverted
socialite to hone his speaking skills. One serious draw-out conversation a week can be just as valuable, as many chi-chat sessions spread throughout the day.

Although pursuing solitary activity may not impair a person’s ability for interpersonal communication, many still fear that it can weaken or even cripple a person’s will for it. People attach negative connotations to the word “solitary” because it brings to mind images of hermetic, depressed and even psychopathic individuals. Work and school environments often cause solitary time to be associated with some kind of chore or punishment. It is thus a common practice to view the student who reads alone at lunch rather than socializing as lacking in communication skills or possessing some kind of emotional defect. Scientists studying social behavior will point to studies that show people who disfavor relationships with depressed or generally withdrawn people. According to a 1983 study by Strack and Coyne, non-depressed subjects, who talked with depressed or mildly unhappy people came to feel more hostile, depressed, anxious, and were less willing to interact with their partner. Solitary activity could very well lead to a type of antisocial circle wherein isolation perpetuates itself. By choosing to be alone amidst a social society, a person has a greater risk of developing a withdrawn and even misanthropic personality.

Observers rather than members are naturally more critical of a society, and the transition from critic to cynic to curmudgeon can take place in a relatively short period of time. Someone whose pursuits cause them to feel deviant is consequently less likely to form or maintain close relationships. How can solitary activities improve a person’s capacity for interpersonal communication if they lead to a negative self-perception and a state that repels others?

In all likelihood, most people are aware of the implications of foregoing social activities in favor of more solitary pursuits before they make the decision to do so. It doesn’t take long for them to feel depressed or isolated, and are thus likely to pursue them either in moderation or with confidence. Someone who has experienced feelings of isolation and/or depression as a result of their favor for solitary activities is likely to appreciate interpersonal relationships more than someone who is almost always with a friend or group of friends. Although doing things by oneself may be characteristic of the shy introvert, psychological texts such as Understanding Human Behavior identify this type of personality as “...a quiet, retiring sort of person, introspective, fond of books rather than people. He is reserved and distant except with intimate friends.” Those who spend more of their time alone seem to measure their social success in terms of quality rather than quantity.

It can also be argued that those who consciously seek out a largely solitary existence will not likely have a great deal of interest in talkative people, much less develop friendships with them. One of the most common criteria for forming relationships is that the individuals share a common interest or are able to relate on a deeper mental or emotional level. This is called the “sameness thesis,” in communications studies. Simply put, solitary people gravitate to one another when in a public place. Two such people are better able to empathize with each other about the stigma and emotional vulnerability associated with opting out of most social activities. If both partners in a relationship like to make time for solitary projects, there will be less chance for conflict over how much time they spend together.

Solitary time provides the opportunity to develop skills and talents that may create and strengthen bonds with others. Although a person may not be practicing communication skills directly, by honing his or her ability in some type of art or craft, the individual will have something tangible to contribute to a relationship. Choosing to spend larger portions of time alone with a musical instrument passes a person closer to developing a partnership with other musicians, as well as attracting admiring music fans. The same principle can be applied to all art mediums. Though initial instruction is usually required, solitary practice time is essential to become proficient at any art. Even if a person is repelled by these hermetic tendencies, the talents developed during solitary activities are almost universally attractive. Stereotypes of the withdrawn, unstable artist aside, creative individuals who collaborate on a compelling project can develop a relationship just as deep as any romance.

Is sleeping or daydreaming just as relevant a solitary activity as practicing a musical instrument or creating a work of art? People are shaped by how they spend their time. Even non-social activities that may not appear overtly productive can provide a chance to grow, preparing one for future interaction. Time spent by oneself will logically lead to contemplation of the world without and within. A person usually has to be away from others for significant self-examination to occur, as the process can be confusing and generally unpleasant. Sending a child to a corner of his room is
a common example of how isolation is often required to initiate contemplation. Those who seek solitary time will have more frequent and positive opportunities to "figure themselves out." By examining one's own motives and reasons, actions and reactions, one will be better prepared to apply that knowledge to future interpersonal relationships. People who are more aware of various aspects of their own personality are more likely to be assertive and honest in communication, and people who recognize their emotions are better able to share them. A sense of individuality makes connections to others more meaningful, as studies on romance have indicated. Although solitude can cause anxiety, it can also bring greater efficiency and insight into an interpersonal relationship.

In spite of the stigma against "loners" and constant societal pressures to be around others, solitary activities can actually increase a person's ability to form and maintain interpersonal relationships. There's a chance communication skills may weaken and emotions fester during prolonged human separation, but individuals who enter isolation aware of these dangers are likely to achieve more growth than those who seek out friends whenever possible. Fear of solitude can be just as debilitating as a fear of social interaction. If people can recognize the difference between antisocial and non-social activities, they will be better able to build creative talents and obtain a healthier self-knowledge. There is a common saying: "You have to love yourself before anyone else can love you." But it's hard to love someone you don't know.

The Great Satan
by Reverend Chris Trian

Hell, YES! We are the Great Satan and should be damned proud of it. Despite the millenial madness plot to theorize the world, we STILL stand forth as a bastion of a secular society. Now, I'm just a Reverend in this outfit. And that's all the title I'll ever require. But I hereby COMMAND every Satanist, especially every American Satanist, and most particularly every member of the Church of Satan to REJOINCE in the present-day domestic and international shenanigans. There VILL (the "V" is typo) be no trembling in our boots, wringing our hands, or any fear of the "Christian Right" whatsoever! Not to mention Osama bin Whoopee, or Saddam the Same, or whatever paper aiger, is stuck up in front of us. Whatever anthrax, bio-warfare, HARP weather control system or, plan to tattoo the "Mark of the Beast" or the Ten Commandments on every (naturally, sodomized) youngster's posterior is a home grown phenomenon and one that should have us rolling in the aisles. We are not, I repeat NOT ("No, no and again no") to quote Mein Kampf) to take the whole thing seriously. The situation is hopeless, but not serious. And it plays right into our hands.

Yes, indeed! It's Helter Skelter, Armageddon, the Apocalypse, the End Times; end game, rear end and any other kind of baboon's ass END OF THE WORLD you can imagine. And high time, too!

The pens are breaking down and the sheep are running amok. The molecules that hold the mind control mechanism are de-constructing. The Soft Machine has broken down and "the man who squats behind the man" is earnestly reading a Green Hornet comic book. This dethouse is coming down.

We have a fake presidency, a thugocratic military police state in the making, we ARE the Third Reich, nobody dares challenge us. Blow jobs count more than genocide. The population is waking up and getting mad as hell (please see the classic movie, "Network").

Remember Charlie's supposed plan? It's HAPPENING. Remember all those Native American curses ending in "We'll get it back some day?" Well, they will, my friends. Just ask that fighting warrior Rev. Steven Johnson Leby of the United Satanic Liberation Front. I recently attended one of his events and met half a dozen other Satanic Apaches! That boy really STARTED something.

And as all the chickens run helter skelter, we move in on every front imaginable to help Satanize this great country so k can be worthy of the name the Ayatollah dubbed it. Don't get me wrong. There can only (MUST only) be a small, select number of us. But that is why we can precisely shape the New World Order (a term probably coined in the caves). There are only wolves, sheep and goats. The goats run the wolves to keep the sheep in line. That is a one-sentence definition of history. And it is as it should be. Read your Enochian Keys; they spell it out perfectly.

How do we go about it is up to each of us. As Dr. LaVey said, "They'll know what to do when the time comes 'round". Well, the time's come 'round. I'm a painter and a writer. I have my weapons. I've been sharpening them for years. How it comes about (i.e., questions of globalization vs. non-globalization) is not the point. The N.W.O. is inevitable. Globalization is inevitable. Race mixing is too. The "urge to merge" beats the "urge to purge" because sex ALWAYS runs the game, and we are as yet one.
species. As we SPECIATE, it will be along cerebral, not skin color, lines. Got it?!

But we can mold the chaos; we can shape the whirlwinds of change. We can create our own New World Order. The future is ours for the taking. The idiots, the old dianasours, the popes and the pederasts and fake Satanists will try DESPERATELY to take it, too. We have no mandate. Dr. LaVey hated that word. What we have is the OPPORTUNITY. And the definition of success is: "when opportunity meets the prepared". And I'm with the Thoreau on seeing nothing wrong with the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. Just change "Zion" to "Satan" — sounds like a plan to me.

So whatever is your "thing", as we used to say, it's time to DO IT! Don't talk back now, in the name of Satan. Get on that Internet. Don't be paranoid. An Old Norse saying goes, "Fear avails a man (woman) nothing". FDR said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself". Which is one of the best statements from a leader of all time.

It's not the time to go around scaring people. The government is doing a fine job of that. Be POSITIVE. Be unique. Be creative. Weave your spell of how the imaginary world should be. Take a tip from Anne Rice and J. K. Rowling. A bit white-light, but it's no time to go black. Satan is bigger than which way a pentagram points. If you think people invented God, you're one of us in spirit. The rest is just a matter of deeper levels of study and dedication.

Remember the big picture, which is to change the way people THINK, so that we reclaim our power as animals with brains and thereby re-link with the evolutionary process and ensure our mutation and speciation. In other words, we have to turn into something else or DIE OUT! That is Nature's imperative.

To close, seize the day, the night, their dreams, and every other goddamned thing. And fight to save Mother Earth. As far as I'm concerned, the life of a gnat is as precious as that of most humans. If we lose our biosphere, it won't matter what we puny killer apes believe or think we think.

Hail Satan! Forward HARCH!

Grimoire

Now that Summer Solstice is over, let's look ahead to our nest cross-quarter day (Lammas Night or Lugnasad—the night of July 31st), in order to devise some Satanically-pertinent rituals or reminders. Some new Satanists are perplexed, sometimes frustrated, that there isn't more magical dogma within Satanism. What holidays am I supposed to celebrate? What rituals am I supposed to perform? How am I supposed to do it? More advanced Satanists explain, "All you need to know is in The Satanic Bible and Rituals." All the dogma you need is there. All the dogma you want is there.

The ritual tools, the symbol, the five ingredients of magic, the Thirty-Three Steps, the holidays. If our practices were any more explicit, you would feel too constrained, and wouldn't have the freedom to create rituals that are directly emotionally charged for you. Wiccans have books clock-full of rituals for each of the eight traditional points on the magical calendar. For Lugnasad (pronounced "lo-nus-ad"), the Wiccan books refer to it as The First Harvest. They recommend you dress in yellow and green (jack!), dance around outdoors with flowers in your hair, and adorn your altar with fresh corn and other vegetables, as well as fresh bread. We've to evoke the Goddess and God and give thanks (yet again) to the Earth.

Oooh, not likely. Since we are no longer an agrarian society, this kind of cavorting doesn't seem very potent. And unlike the Wiccans, most of us don't gain strength from reiterations of the Death and Rebirth of the God myths (images shiny of their use for their Turning of the Wheel). Satanists have to go back to original mythological resources and discover the blood and darker truths behind these celebrations. Like us, our forebears used complex, robust personalities to explore extremes within ourselves. Once we scrape away the veneer of sweetness and light from these ancient stories, we find the genuine Philosopher's Stone which can alchemically transform our rituals.

The Celts (among whom the myths of the god Lugh originated) were a brutal, frightening people. Speaking of their leaders, the Druids, Gerhard Herm writes in The Celts, "...they were much more than the scholarly 'wise men of the oak' that many of their historians have made them out to be. They took part in mysteries that may seem sinister to us, leading people that saw no frontier between the human and the infernal, practiced ecstatic rites, self-abasement, orgies, blood-sacrifices, made head-hunting sacred out of religions conviction and indeed possessed the shamanistic traits that centuries-old reports ascribe to them. Their gods were just like themselves." Lugh gave his name to the Gaelic month of August ("an Luanasal"), also to the cities Lyon, Lepont and Ledian. He was one of the greatest of the Celts 69 deities, embodying the essence of the noble warrior. He was also a magician who mastered all the useful and decorative arts. He played the harp, wrote poetry, built houses, forged iron and, with the help of magic, 14

Issue 131
won battles. He was identified with Wotan in various
details (the accompanying ravens, the infallible spear,
he discovered runes and thereby acquired magical
powers), but fought on horseback. Like Odin or
Wotan, Lugh is regarded as "the great Shaman."

Janet and Stewart Farrar (whose witchcraft is
older than the current Wicca and still has some
sexual/demonic roots intact) describe Lugh as "a fire-
and light-god of the Baal/Hercules type; his name may be
from the same root as the Latin lux, meaning light
(whch also gives us Lucifer, "the light-bringer"
They call Lugh, the Celtic Lucifer."
He could also be
associated with Prometheus, in stealing either some
agricultural or metalworking secrets from the Elder
Gods for the benefit of his tribe. As with other ancient
rural celebrations, Lughnasadh included rituals of the
wedding-sacrifice, with the physical games and athletic
contests and dancing traditionally associated with this
day interpreted as both wedding and wake-revels. The
crowning of the male (sky) element and the female
(earth) element (i.e. sex in the cornfield) to ensure
healthy crops; flocks and babies is preserved in the
Robert Burns poem, "It was upon a Lammas Night"
(check the soundtrack for the movie "The Wicker
Man").

Since this day was a celebration of Lugh's
marriage, it can be remembered that Celtic gods often
had very fierce women at their sides. Aridana was a
hunting goddess (where we get the name "Aridens"
Belisama was identified with the Roman Minerva (the
flashing-eyed battle goddess the Greeks called Athena).
and Nemetona was a goddess of war.

From these ancient elements, we can derive
more contemporary Satanic rituals that we would find
stimulating. If your interests are in the arts, you could
concentrate on Lugh's aspect of the poet/warrior, much
like Apollo (who was also, to the Greeks, the God of
Light)—a musician, a healer, the sponsor of the oracle
of Delphi... but he could also be cruel and pitiless. You
might call the spirit of Lugh into you, evoking that
spark of inspiration, that fire of the mind, that comes
from direct congress with the gods. To approach the
myths from another direction, you could emphasize the
strength of a man and woman standing together against
the world, how strong individuals can find one another
and defeat all that would stand in their way. (If you
are holding a private ritual with a lover, the sexual
opportunities are obvious.) You might take the elements
of the sacrifice, that anything you wish to accomplish
requires discipline and sacrifice—the larger the goal,
the greater the discipline required. Perhaps it is a good
time to restate your plans and summon up the warrior
spirit within you, that frightening, blood-soaked,
screaming, batal Celtic warrior that shocked Caesar
in order to mercilessly attack your objectives.

The important thing to remember is that these
images are there for you to utilize, to evoke the power
within you to fulfill your goals with laser-like precision
and, to whatever extent you understand these immortal
mythic beings, use them as private conduits for even
greater power.

One final thought from Why People Believe
Weird Things by Michael Shermer (this is a quote
from Carl Sagan he used to open the book): "It seems
to me what is called for is an exquisite balance between
two conflicting needs: the most skeptical scrutiny of
all hypotheses that are serve up to us and at the same
time a great openness to new ideas. If you are only
skeptical, then no new ideas make it through to you.
You never learn anything new. You become a
crotchety old person convinced that nonsense is ruling
the world. (There is, of course, much data to support
you.)"

On the other hand, if you are open to the
point of gullibility and have not an ounce of skeptical
sense in you, then you cannot distinguish useful ideas
from the worthless ones. If all ideas have equal
validity then you are lost, because then, it seems to me,
no ideas have any validity at all."

Ψ Ω Ψ Ω Ψ

Next time, I'd like to include a letters column
(if anyone submits questions), a random selection from
my bolting bookcases ("From the Devil's Bookshelf"),
reports from/suggestions for grottos, a rundown on
recent LaVey rip-offs (our ever-popular "By Any
Other Name" column), and many other thought-
provoking articles and reviews.

Enjoy your summer. The longer days provide
extra hours to indulge in the Elements—ocean, river or
lake play, gardening, sailing, hang-gliding, hiking,
camping, daydreaming with cherished friends... The
Solstice means the Fire God is at his peak power, but
even at that moment, the Darkness begins its
inexorable climb toward dominance. The more intense
the light, the deeper the Shadows. Revel in the
Flames, and in the haunting shapes they cast.

壬⑥ Shmoz Kapop!

The Cloven Hoof

Issue 131
The Cliven Hoof is $5/issue. Subscriptions aren’t available now (until I convince myself I can stick to a publishing schedule), but you can send $5 ahead of the next issue and you’ll be put on the list to receive it as soon as the ink is dry. We still have Issues #127 through #130 available for $5 each. (Issue #126 is temporarily out of stock. #127, #128, and #130 are photocopies.)

Submissions and questions which reflect original thinking and thorough study are encouraged; anyone who expects an answer should have the courtesy to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE).

Submissions betraying a lack of basic knowledge about Satanism, Anton LaVey or the Church of Satan will be mercifully ignored. All opinions contained herein are those of the authors alone; such views do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, nor policy of the Church of Satan. Anything not specifically credited can be assumed to have been written by yours truly.

The Baphomet symbol on the first page is properly of the Church of Satan and is used with permission.

Please send all *Cliven Hoof* orders, comments, and submissions to: *The Cliven Hoof*, Post Office Box 210666, Chula Vista, CA, 91921-0666, USA.

For information on the one true, original, authentic, 100% bona fide, Grade A, laboratory-tested Church of Satan (slow-cooked in its own juices for that smoky deelicious flavor), please contact our website at:

www.churchofsatan.com

Or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Post Office Box 499
Radio City Station
New York, NY 10101-0499

*The Cliven Hoof* 16

*Issue 131*