

EIR Feature

Manson revisited: the story behind Matamoros

by Carol White and Harley Schlanger

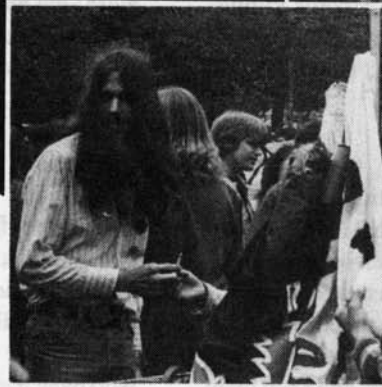
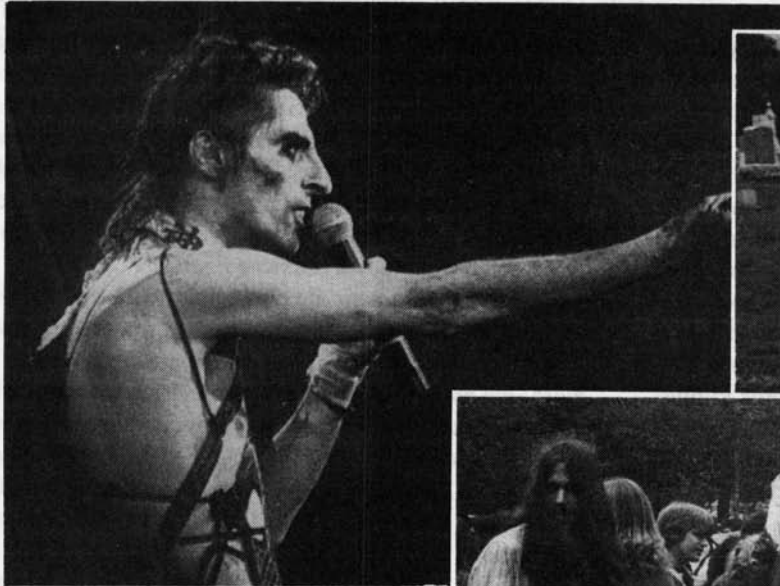
Since 1969 this country has seen a number of shocking instances of ritual, cult violence. Going back only six years further to 1963, we lost one President to assassins' bullets, and two others were threatened with death by assassination. Governor Wallace was forced to resign as a candidate for high office and has spent the rest of his life in a wheelchair; Martin Luther King, Jr. is dead.

It is beyond the scope of this report to tie all of these together with documented evidence. On the other hand, it is an insult to our intelligence that the assertion is made that one of these, plus the Manson murders, Jonestown, the Son of Sam killings, the Atlanta child murders, and now the Matamoros killings, are isolated instances of either individual or group madness.

The truth is that since 1960, with the deliberate spread of the drug-counter culture out of the Esalen Institute, under the direct supervision of Aldous Huxley and Dr. Gregory Bateson, this country has suffered from the proliferation of cults, and from a systematic degeneration of the overall level of culture.

Things have gotten to the point today that there is such a thing as "classic" rock music, or perhaps "Christian" rock music, which is viewed as a cultural benefit in contrast to the "heavy metal," more overtly Satanic version. Similarly, there is a drumbeat to force Americans to accept the view that Satanism and witchcraft cults which worship the Devil—or the hedonist principle—are the moral equivalent of Judaism or Christianity, and must be accepted as *bona fide* religions.

Even 20 years ago, this arrant and evil nonsense would have been recognized as such and rejected by most Americans. Yet today, Army chaplains are told to allow members of the Armed Services to practice Satanist rituals, and servicemen are allowed to observe the special dates, such as Halloween and Walpurgis Night, as holy days. That Col. Michael Aquino was not discharged from the service, but instead had top security clearance, despite evidence that members of the Temple of Set cult which he leads were involved in abusing children, is a national disgrace for the United States of America.



The lost children of the rock-drug counterculture are the recruiting ground for the more hideous forms of Satanism that are proliferating today. Counterclockwise, from top left: rock star Alice Cooper, potheads on parade in New York City, and a cemetery in Maryland, desecrated by a Satanic cult in 1986.

Stuart Lewis

The cultural degeneration of the United States, which has so markedly accelerated over the past 20 years, has not been accidental. Men such as Bateson and Huxley carried out a policy, which we have defined in detail in the book, *The New Dark Ages Conspiracy*, as the reintroduction of a neo-feudalist dark age, a universal fascist regime, which would be administered jointly between a Russian oligarchy and a Western (preferably Anglo-American) oligarchy.

The results of their work are not only seen in headline events such as the recent Matamoros killings, but they are the everyday reality in the schoolyards and playrooms, as more and more children, at a younger and younger age, are being introduced not only to drugs and promiscuity, but to Satanic ritualism as well.

By putting the pieces of the picture together, our intention is to deny any credibility to the hoax that these are separate cases, and to inspire political action to halt the cancerous growth of Satanism.

Matamoros killings: a timely warning

When Mexican police uncovered the bodies of 11 men during what had appeared to be a routine drug raid, international attention was transfixed. Since April 11, more bodies have been found outside the border town of Matamoros, and other ritual burial sites on the U.S.-Mexican border have been found as well. Not only were the victims of the murderous

cult brutally tortured before their deaths, but their bodies appear to have been subject to cannibalism as well.

While one victim, a college student named Mark Kilroy, appears to have been lured to his death as a chance pickup, other victims were identified as having been involved in the narcotics trafficking also practiced by the cult. Kilroy, a student at the University of Texas at Austin, had gone across the border during spring vacation, with some friends from his home town.

After the first shock from the killings died down, the U.S. press has attempted to downplay any connection between the cult ritual murders and the wave of Satanic activity being observed in American schools and campuses. An attempt has been made portray the Mexican killers as members of an ethnic sect connected to the supposedly otherwise harmless *Santería religion*. These cults are not so innocent.

For example, an *EIR* correspondent living in the West had the following story related to him by a victim of *Santería* who fortunately only lost her money to the cult. Her in-laws are connected to a market which sells apparently Catholic religious objects but is actually tied into *Santería*. Her brother was a drug addict, and her mother approached members of the cult for aid. They took money and performed certain animal sacrifices prescribed by *Santería*. Of course, the brother's condition was not improved. It turned out the brother was actually getting his drugs from

that same market.

At a higher level of complicity, there is an effort to create the fiction that most Satanic and witchcraft cults do not sacrifice animals or commit ritual murder, or indulge in sexual abuses. For example, the FBI's chief expert on sex crimes, Kenneth V. Lanning, told reporters from Virginia's *Richmond News Leader*, in an April 6 interview, that while he was aware of claims of sacrifice in the Richmond area, he did not believe that *bona fide* Satanic cult sacrifice was practiced either in central Virginia or in the United States as a whole.

Another self-styled expert, the Episocopal Rev. Michael G. Rokos, a member of the Baltimore Cult Awareness Network, told a forum on April 25 that the Matamoros killings were done as part of an indigenous Aztec ritual. This man made a strong defense for Satanist groups, which he said were legitimate religions.

Killer cults

One problem which police officers dealing with Satanic crime face in the United States, is the fact that the Church of Satan and the Temple of Set have been given legal status as *bona fide* religions. Santería is another such cult.

There are of course, variants of Satanic practice itself—cult ritual practice, individual ritual practice, abuse which is garbed in Satanic ritual to threaten the victims and keep them quiet, and occult dabbling which is only semi-serious. Furthermore, groups such as Wicca or Santería, the Church of Satan, and the Temple of Set try to keep an agreeable public face in order to keep the police at bay, and in order to attract new members who are only gradually introduced to and entrapped in illegal activities.

Santería is a version of Satanism which involves the fusion of rites ascribed to the Nigerian Yoruba tribe and Christianity. It has two Cuban variants, Abaquá and Palo Mayombe, which are assassin cults connected to the drug trade. Similar such variants exist throughout Ibero-America. The Matamoros murders are ascribed to Palo Mayombe, particularly since the cult leader, Adolfo de Jesús Constanzo, still at large, is a Cuban national from Miami. The cult referred to themselves as "El Compañía," say Texas press accounts.

Investigations have extended into Houston, Texas, where police have found a tie-in to the cult's drug-trafficking activities. Serafín Hernández Ribera, the father of Matamoros suspect Serafín Hernández García, was arrested in Houston April 17. He appears to be a kingpin in the drug trade and was arrested for conspiracy to distribute, and possession with the intent to distribute marijuana. Investigators are now also saying that the Matamoros cult was doing a big-time business in the cocaine trade.

The stars

Police in Mexico City have identified Constanzo as a well-known homosexual, and gay pornography was found in his Mexico City home, according to the Matamoros Federal Ju-

dicial Police Commandant, Juan Benítez Ayala. Two of the suspects who have been jailed as members of the Matamoros cult have homosexual nicknames. These are Sergio Martínez Sera, 23, known as La Mariposa (the Butterfly), and David Serna Valdez, 22, called El Cozuetto (the Flirt). Reportedly lists of names found at Constanzo's home indicated numbers of people involved in the homosexual pornography circuit. These are now naturally under investigation, and may involve some well-known Mexican figures.

Even more dramatic are direct links to the entertainment industry which have surfaced. Actors, a singer, and a beautician have been named, all of whom are connected to Televisa, the major private Mexican television network, which also produces Spanish-language programming that is marketed internationally. The Mexican Federal Police are now probing the connections between the drug-running cultists and several well-known media stars. There are also clear connections to Hollywood.

The first break on this side of the story came when the police identified that Maria Teresa Quintana, the sister of one of the imprisoned cult members, Martín Quintana Rodríguez, as a high priestess in a Mexico City branch of the cult. She has apparently agreed to cooperate with the police and has revealed the names of a number of people "in high places" who have participated in cult activities. The house in Mexico City was equipped with expensive security gear, several luxury cars were parked in the driveway, and, in general, it gave the appearance of affluence as well as evil. (Satanic altars and paraphernalia were found on the scene.)

The beautician, Alfredo Palacios, had clients who starred in major soap operas produced by Televisa. One of these, Lucía Méndez, is the star of a soap opera which portrays the present-day activities of a coven of witches who have been reincarnated after being burned at the stake during the Middle Ages. People who have viewed the drama reported that the witches are portrayed as dynamic, exciting figures, in contrast to good women who are uniformly dull and ineffective.

Another Palacios customer is the Televisa star called Talina Fernández. Studio gossip alleges that she burned her skin while participating in a black mass. The star "La Tigresse" Irma Serrano and Televisa producer, director, and actor Ernesto Alonso have also been mentioned in the Mexican press in connection with the cult.

Televisa is currently producing three soap operas on the subject of witchcraft, and has hired Anton La Vey as a consultant on witchcraft practises. He, of course, is the head of the California Church of Satan. He has played a similar role in Hollywood, and was the adviser for Roman Polanski's Satanic movie, *Rosemary's Baby*. Polanski and his wife, Sharon Tate—the actress murdered by the Manson cult—were involved in the the production of several Satanic films, and there are indications that she, at least, also participated in witchcraft rituals.

The Matamoros murders follow this pattern.

The Texas picture

Police now believe that the group responsible for these rituals includes at least 12 members, headed by Constanzo. The members of the group assert that the human sacrifices had been conducted to "give them power, to protect them from the police and make them invulnerable to bullets."

Prior to the discovery in Matamoros, two similar finds were made along the U.S.-Mexico border. On March 24, five bodies were found near Tucson, Arizona. Police said that they had been mutilated; it is suspected that these murders were drug-related. And in Agua Prieta, south of Douglas, Arizona, 12 bodies were found. Again, the victims had been tortured and mutilated, with fingers cut off (a particular *modus operandi* of Satanic killers). Preliminary investigation has led to the conclusion that these deaths are also narcotics related.

In Chambers and Liberty counties, in the Houston area, mutilated and skinned animals, including dogs, have been found. In Baytown, an abandoned house was found to have Satanic symbols on the walls, and mutilated animal remains inside. In Pine Grove, east Texas, two 14-year-olds are in custody, charged with having killed the mother of one in a Satanic death pact.

In the Rio Grande Valley, where Brownsville is located, officials have been quietly noting an enormous growth in Satanic incidents. These have been reported in San Benito, Port Isabel, Rio Hondo, and Mercedes. In Pharr, the Church of the Eternal Flame, believed to be a center of Satanic activity, burned down the night Mark Kilroy's body was found.

Peter Stout, an investigator with the Valley Humane Society, said he has found horses skinned, with their blood drained, dogs split open and nailed to inverted crosses, and bulls with their tongues and sexual organs cut out. Sgt. Roberto Avita, head of the Brownsville Police Department Juvenile Division, said, "It's a whole lot bigger than some people believe is possible." He asked, "What's the barrier to stop you from going from one [kind of] sacrifice to another?"

The Houston area, the primary drug market serviced by the Constanzo cult, has experienced a recent increase in Satanic violence. In one recent incident, police found a murder weapon used in the stabbing of a homosexual in a safehouse loaded with Satanic and "skinhead" paraphernalia.

Satanic networks on the campus

It is being suggested that University of Texas student Mark Kilroy was chosen as a sacrificial victim by chance, but this is rarely the case in such murders. Far more likely, he was lured to Matamoros and to his death by members of a Satanic cult located on the campus of the University of Texas. Since one of the high priests of the Church of Set, Stephen Flowers, is a professor at the university, recruitment of a Satanist coven on campus is to have been expected.

Cult leader Sara Villareal Aldrete was also a student. She

was a physical education major at Texas Southmost College in Brownsville, and also an aerobics instructor. At least one other member of the cult, one of the Hernández brothers—now in police custody in Mexico—was also a student.

An anthropology professor, Tony Zavaleta, at Texas Southmost College, specializes in Mexican folklore beliefs, and both Aldrete and Hernández were students of his. Coincidentally, at the time that the story broke, he was about to conduct a three-day seminar on the campus on the subject of the occult and Satanism. The crowd was so large, that he had to move his seminar to a larger hall. He was quoted, "Now I can't help wondering if there are any others in my classes. It makes me a bit paranoid." One might question what was, indeed, his role.

Constanzo reportedly studied at Miami Dade College in Florida, where at least one faculty member, Mercedes Sandoval, has surfaced in the press in defense of Santería's "non-violent" religious nature. Sandoval was an adviser for the film *The Believers*, which was apparently watched repeatedly by the Matamoros cult, for the accuracy of its representation of their practices. In any event, there are preliminary indications of a nationwide Satanic infrastructure located on college campuses.

As we have reported before in *EIR*, Houston is the home of the Rothko Chapel, which featured Islamic fundamentalist terrorists in 1981, to annual appearances by "whirling dervishes." There are also persistent rumors that black masses and animal sacrifices take place there. Down the street is the de Menil Collection, home of the de Menils' personal art collection, which recently exhibited works by Michael Tracy, a follower of the "Vienna Blood Group" of Hermann Nitsch and Rudolf Schwarzkogler. Nitsch practices bloody cult rituals in his "Theater of Orgies and Mysteries."

The Manson pattern

Since the Manson Family killings in 1969, there has been a succession of striking murders: Jonestown, the New York Son of Sam killings, and the Atlanta, Georgia, child murders. In each there was an element of coverup. The Atlanta murders and the Son of Sam killings in New York were each ascribed to one individual despite the fact that there was ample evidence that these were ritual murders in which many individuals were involved in the killings.

Maury Terry, in *The Ultimate Evil*, and Ed Sanders, in *The Family*, document an extensive network which tied in the Manson murders to the Son of Sam killings—even though they took place ten years apart. In all of these cases, drugs, prostitution, pornographic videos, and snuff films (during which people are murdered) were involved. In each, the cult breached every layer of society.

We see the same story in the Matamoros murders. Students, drug runners, the theater set—all are involved. Further investigation seems likely to confirm that the Church of Set and the Rothko Chapel fit into the picture as well.