

Wicca and the Atlanta child murders

This is the story of Victoria Karp, her daughter, and her four grandchildren. Today, Victoria's daughter and her children are in hiding, protected by the Sanctuary movement. The children are Alicia, 9; Gary, 7; and Daryl, 5. The youngest child is 2. He was not involved in the events that Victoria describes.

Her daughter and grandchildren are currently "on the run," because of a judge's decision to give custody of the children to their father, despite the fact that he admitted to abusing them sexually, and worse yet, despite the fact that he is a third-generation member of the Wicca cult. The children reported to their mother and grandmother that they had been abused in the home of their paternal grandparents, and that they had witnessed the murder of other young children.

The Wicca cult has tax exempt status in the state of Georgia, where it is viewed as a legitimate religion. Victoria Karp's story is of high-level protection of this cult, even in the judiciary itself.

The following is an account taken from an interview with Victoria Karp conducted by Debra Freeman in February of this year.

Victoria Karp's story

On a Sunday in August 1986, Victoria, her daughter and son-in-law, and Alicia were sitting together in church. Gary and Daryl, then ages 5 and 3, were in the nursery, not old enough to sit through a service yet. At the time, Alicia was not quite 7. Alicia's mother noticed that the child was masturbating vigorously. After a few moments, she began fondling her father's penis and then moved to sit in his lap where this activity continued.

Victoria's daughter picked the child up and sat her down between herself and Victoria. However, after a few moments, the father picked Alicia up and put him in his lap and the activity resumed. After church, Victoria's daughter called her up at home and asked her mother if she had witnessed the same thing. Victoria said that she had; that there was obviously something very wrong going on. Victoria's daughter said

she had confronted her husband about what she had seen. He denied it and insisted that she was suffering from postpartum psychosis and that he would not discuss this with her. The next morning, he went to work as usual.

Victoria went to her daughter's home and began questioning Alicia. Alicia became hysterical and said that she was doing what her dad had taught her and that he liked her to do it. When her son-in-law Alan came home from work, Victoria confronted him. At first he denied what had happened, but then admitted it and agreed to visit their pastor and seek therapy. However, when Victoria left, Alan packed his bags and left.

He never came back home. He did proceed to call everyone he could find to tell them that he didn't know what to do, because his wife had gone crazy. He also called Victoria and her husband and told them that if they opened their mouths about anything, he would sue them and take every penny they had. When Alan would come to take the children for a visit, Alicia would become hysterical and physically resist going with him. The more their mother questioned the children, the more they revealed.

It was clear that Alicia was not the only child who had been molested. The two boys, Gary and Daryl, had been sodomized. The family went to Family and Children's Services to seek help. They were told to hire an attorney and to seek verification of the children's stories from a psychiatrist and a therapist. When these professionals corroborated the children's stories, Alan was arrested.

The case was later thrown out, when the court decided that the children were just too young to be credible witnesses. Meanwhile, Victoria's daughter had filed for divorce. She had temporary custody of the children, and Alan was granted weekly four-hour supervised visits. Things were calm for a bit, but then the children starting reporting incest between Alan, his mother, and his grandmother. It was back to court for another hearing.

This time, the judge ordered all parties to undergo psychiatric exams. It was during these exams that the stories came pouring out. These children had not been subjected to mere sexual abuse, but had been victims of ritualistic abuse. The children said they were Wicca witches. They said Wicca witches were different from other witches. White witches do not kill, brown witches do "bad stuff" but do not kill humans, but Wicca witches do. Of the three children, it seemed that Alicia had had the worst time.

Perhaps it was simply that she was older and understood more about what was going on. She told of sexual relations with her father, her grandmother, aunt, and others.

Additionally, the child was used as a prostitute and was frequently filmed and photographed, while various perverted sex acts were performed on her. She said that in the beginning she liked it, because it made her feel important and she was told she was very special. She said that they told her that her part in the rituals was so important that other little girls had

to act as stand-ins when Alicia couldn't come.

Child sacrifices

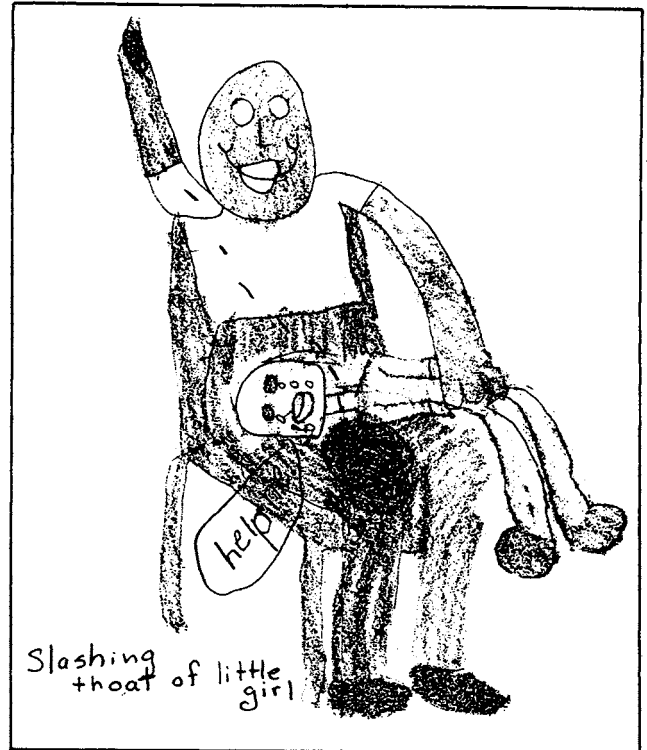
What Alicia did not like, however, were the sacrifices. She said that she saw the parents of a little boy hand him over to be sacrificed and that that had really scared her. She said that she always believed that if something happened to her or her brothers, her Mom would come looking for her.

This belief was shaken when her father told her that her mother knew everything. He also told her that everyone did these things, but just didn't talk about them. Once, Alicia got really upset over something and wouldn't cooperate, insisting that it was time to go home. But, she wanted to wait for her brother Gary. After a time, they brought her pieces of a little boy with red hair and told her it was Gary. After she became hysterical, the real Gary came out. Alicia doesn't know who the other little boy was. Gary told about going out "hunting" with his dad at night. He said that bank machines were good hunting grounds, but that sometimes, on a bad night, they would just go out and find street people to use in the rituals.

He said that sometimes, kids were brought in by van and stored in houses or warehouses. The three-year-old insisted that his Aunt Pat had a penis. He also said they would always "drown" him by blindfolding him and shoving a "hose" down his throat—lots of different people would stick hoses down his throat and then shoot liquid out of the hoses as they pushed the hose deeper and deeper. All three children said balloons were stuck inside them and blown up. (Later, during the raids, the police did find helium tanks. They said it was a common practice used to stretch the children's vaginal and anal openings without scarring them, in preparation for rituals.) The kids also reported that some kids were taken to "farms" in the country, but they didn't know where.

Alicia also reported that her father had other wives and children and that she had half-sisters. Unlike her younger brothers, Alicia remembered dates and addresses of places they were taken. She identified 11 houses. As the stories grew more and more bizarre, the police were brought back into the case. They decided to raid some of the houses Alicia had identified, but wanted to wait until a Satanic holiday. Finally, after nine months, two of the homes were raided. Police found sacrifice tables, large supplies of jelly and condoms, dog and cat remains, but nothing to indicate that human sacrifices had been conducted. The children insisted that people and bones were buried in tunnels under the houses and "in the walls." The police never did go beyond the initial raids.

Finally, 13 months after the children's allegations, Alan, his mother, and his great-aunt were indicted for cruelty to children and held on \$50,000 bond each. Victoria and her family were told by the police to keep quiet and not discuss the cases with anyone. Even so, she and her family were subjected to incredible harassment.



This drawing is by one of Victoria's abused grandchildren.

Terrorism

On several occasions, attempts were made to run them off the road. They received threatening phone calls. Pets were killed. Dead animals were crucified on their property. Hideous photos, some of Alicia, were sent to them. All incidents were reported to the police and the Fulton County Police Department, along with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, which claimed to be investigating the case. The children grew increasingly hysterical.

At one point, the family took a vacation trip to Brady County, Tennessee. Their motel was raided by 15 county police officers who took the children into custody. They had received an anonymous call that the children were going to be sacrificed! The children were finally released after Victoria was able to convince the police to contact Fulton County authorities.

Now that state lines had been crossed, the family went to the FBI. They took down all the information and said they would look into it. Six weeks later, the FBI withdrew from the case, citing the fact that they were shorthanded and that, in their opinion, the Fulton and Cobb County police were doing an excellent job.

As the investigation continued, nine hours of videos with the children's testimony were filmed for use in court.

Victoria's daughter was also in the middle of a civil case seeking to divorce Alan and gain custody of the children. Superior Court Judge Robert Flournoy, who had just recently

been appointed to the bench by Georgia Gov. Joe Frank Harris, ordered the videos, all the children's drawings, basically all the information that had been gathered for the criminal case, turned over to the court in the civil action.

During the civil action, the lawyers, their wives, and their children were terrorized. The home of Victoria's pastor, who had been very supportive, was burned down. Nevertheless, the case continued. Victoria's daughter was seeking custody and wished to deny Alan visitation rights.

The judge denied her request. Despite testimony from a long line of experts who had examined the youngsters, as well as from Dale Griffis, a retired Ohio police chief with extensive experience in dealing with cults, the judge gave the mother custody, but with liberal visitation rights (6 p.m. Friday to 6 p.m. Sunday) granted to the children's father.

The order was appealed, but in Georgia, civil appeals go before the same judge.

Victoria's daughter refused to comply with the order and denied her ex-husband the right to unsupervised visitation of the children. She was found in contempt of court.

Judge Flournoy gave her three months in which to change her mind. In the meantime, the family encountered a shocking revelation. A report appeared in the *Atlanta Journal* newspaper of another famous child molestation case in Cobb County. It is a case that has become a national *cause célèbre*—the case of Faye Yager. Mrs. Yager's first husband, Roger Jones, had systematically abused their two-year-old daughter. When Mrs. Yager, who was 22 years old at the time, tried to take action, she was institutionalized and subjected to 17 electroshock treatments.

In the course of the case, she, her parents, and her attorneys were jailed. Roger Jones's attorney was Robert Flournoy—the same Robert Flournoy who was the presiding judge in this case!

Aug. 16, 1988 was the day Victoria's daughter was to appear before Flournoy and declare whether or not she would comply with his visitation order. On Aug. 13, she and her children went into hiding. Ultimately, Flournoy turned custody of the children over to Alan.

Today, Victoria's daughter remains in hiding. The same FBI that was too busy to investigate Wicca cult abuse of the children is today searching for her and has placed legal wire taps on Victoria Karp's phones, in case her daughter attempts to contact her.

But the story still isn't over. Alan, his mother, and one of the homeowners whose home was raided are suing the Karpes and the police in federal court for violations of their civil rights—their constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of "religion." Needless to say, the lawsuit (which follows an earlier \$75,000 libel suit) has shut up the police, the therapists, and others who had been involved in the case.

The Atlanta child murders

The cult connection to a series of murders of black chil-

dren in Atlanta was widely publicized due to the efforts of Roy Innis, the head of the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), to force police action. Innis relied upon a witness, Shirley McGill, who substantiated his charge that rather than a lone assassin, a drug network which practiced ritual sacrifice, was involved in the killings. Miss McGill herself claimed to have witnessed the murder of four black children and one adult. Wayne Williams, since convicted for all the murders, was according to her a member of the cult, but only one of many.

Innis first brought Miss McGill's information to light in April of 1981. While child murders did occur thereafter, confirming that the arrest of Williams was not sufficient to arrest the activity of the cult, the number of such murders abated. Innis was asked to leave Georgia by the FBI director in Atlanta. On Feb. 2, Innis held a press conference in New York, with subsequent television interviews to follow on Feb. 13. His son was shot to death by three assailants, in New York, while he was walking home.

It was thought by Innis at the time, that the Wicca cult was involved in the child murders. According to McGill, the murder cult to which she was connected was made up of black drug runners, who also engaged in occult practices. She said that the high priests, however, were white and were also involved with a parallel white organization. She described the murder victims as children or young adults who had distributed drugs for the cult, but had run afoul of them for some reason, such as holding back money. The ring was believed to have gross profits in the neighborhood of \$125,000 per week—a considerable sum in the early 1980s.

She described cult practices as including animal and human sacrifice, and sodomic sexual activity by humans with animals, the making of pornographic films, prostitution, and the practice of Satanic witchcraft. According to her, they also held black masses. She was employed by them as a bookkeeper, but had reason to fear for her own life.

The Atlanta Wicca tried to change its name to "Church of the Old Religion" in 1979 following the murder of a 15-year-old girl, who was killed during the performance of a ritual open to the public. According to accounts, a Wicca member placed a gun to her head after the girl said "kill me" to him, during the ritual. The man who pulled the trigger was indicted by an Atlanta grand jury.

The Wicca cult at that time had a connection to a Wicca group in Toledo, Ohio, led by a Mrs. William Cather, who took the name Lady Circe. The Atlanta cult explicitly described by Miss McGill (not Wicca per se) was part of a drug ring which sold cocaine and marijuana.

Following the arrest of Wayne Williams for the murders, Atlanta Police Commissioner Lee Brown and Atlanta's FBI chief, John Glover, were transferred or promoted out of Atlanta to Houston, Texas, and Washington, D.C., respectively. In the April court term of 1982, Wicca was given tax exempt status in the state of Georgia.