

The Scroll of Set

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[1] A Tree in the North #3

- by Michael A. Aquino VI°

As Halloween drew near, the San Francisco Police Department continued to maintain an icy silence in response to all attempts by my attorneys and myself to get it to correct the Pamfiloff/Gallant fiasco and return my & the Temple's property. So we prepared the papers to file a court action for their return. A day or so before the papers were to be filed, someone - not us - leaked the uncorrected SFPD version of the "raid" events to the San Francisco news media.

The spirit of Moloch prevails in S.F., and so there has since ensued a veritable media orgy, with story after story trying to out-gasp its competitors. The Temple of Set has been portrayed as a Mephistophelian shadow looming over God, Motherhood, and Apple Pie; while I myself would seem to be Damien Thorn come to horrific, actual life [pause here for Gregorian chanting & intermittent Rottweiler barking in the background]. In the *San Francisco Examiner* on November 2, for instance:

His pale face, eyebrows that stab upward like the horns of the Devil, and shiny black hair shaped into a prominent widow's peak over his forehead make Michael Aquino look more like a 1930s' actor playing Dracula than what he claims to be - Satan's earthly lieutenant, the Prince of Darkness. He was a wacko to many who saw him at the Presidio Officers Club wearing a black shirt and clerical collar with a Satanic medallion around his neck. To those who know Lt.Col. Aquino as one of the Army's experts on psychological warfare, he is more of a scary enigma.

Police, the FBI, and the Army long have been curious about the activities of the High Priest of the Satanic Temple of Set - a man who believes he is the Second Beast of Revelation

...

You get the general idea. Variations on the above have been bouncing merrily around the San Francisco newspaper and television media for the past half-month, getting a little wilder and weirder each time. The newspapers got on the bandwagon in

San Jose and Los Angeles, and then copy hit the wire services, with *Newsweek* shooting off Satanic firecrackers in its November 16 issue:

The Second Beast of Revelation - Claims of Satanism and Child Molesting:

Lt.Col. Michael A. Aquino, U.S. Army Reserve, has a face that might scare little children. "I have sharply-pointed eyebrows and a strong widow's peak, and I suppose I can look pretty demonic," he says. He also, as leader of a San Francisco-based Satanic church called the Temple of Set, has referred to himself as the "Second Beast of Revelation", which frightens some adults ...

Technically most of the media articles and television spots have been "balanced", meaning that where the Adams-Thompson allegation is concerned, they have reported my denial - and the facts supporting it - as well as the allegation. This is still annoying to me, of course, because the very fact of the allegation tends to stick in some people's minds. But without that allegation the news wouldn't be "news", so we can expect to see it kicked around for awhile longer.

Even more annoying is the continuing refusal of the San Francisco Police Department to acknowledge their mistake. To this day they have allowed the media impression to persist that the raid on our home actually yielded something relevant - by referring mysteriously to "confiscated videotapes and photographs" but **refusing** to acknowledge that there is **nothing** in those videotapes and photographs even remotely related to child abuse/pornography/etc. They have continued to refer to me as a "possible suspect", which is, of course, one of those "innocent but loaded" terms.

Our attorneys have now gone ahead and filed the motion for a court order to return the confiscated property. This will be heard around the latter part of this month. Originally Lilith and I had planned to go to San Francisco for the hearing, but once the media bacchanalia erupted that became out of the question; the courtroom would become a circus-tent. Excerpts from a draft of the Memorandum filed with the court are as follows:

On August 14, 1987 the San Francisco Police Department executed a search warrant on the home of Lt.Col. and Mrs. Michael Aquino. The Aquinos were given an unsigned copy of the warrant ... The police seized a substantial amount of property.

Almost three months have now passed. The Aquinos have not been charged with any crime. The Police Department has refused to return their property despite repeated oral and written requests ...

The Police Department has provided no explanation for its continued retention of the property. Instead it has taken the position that its policy is to require the owner to retain an attorney and go to court to obtain an order for the return of property. The Police Department will not seek such an order. Accordingly the Aquinos have now moved this court for an order restoring all the seized property to them. Penal Code Section 1540 provides as follows:

“If it appears that the property taken is not the same as that described in the warrant, or that there is no probable cause for believing the existence of the grounds on which the warrant was issued, the magistrate must cause it to be restored to the person from whom it was taken.”

In addition this court has the power to release improperly seized or retained property under both Penal Code Section 1536 and “the inherent power of the court to control and prevent the abuse of its process” (*Buker v. Superior Court*, 1972).

In this case there is no reason why the property should not be returned, and many reasons why it should.

First, a review of the incomplete inventory discloses that the property seized is not the same as the property described in the warrant. For example, nothing in the warrant describes a computer or any of the 36 videotapes which, as the evidence produced in the courtroom will show, are mostly commercially-released videotapes of movies such as *Star Trek*. Even as to those items of seized property, such as “miscellaneous loose papers with names and addresses”, which have some superficial relation to property described in the warrant, the evidence at the hearing will clearly establish that the papers seized do not contain names or addresses which would tend to “identify any juvenile”.

The seized property does include membership lists and similar records of a religious organization, the Temple of Set, of which Lt.Col. Aquino is High Priest. As such the property should be restored, since its seizure and continued retention violate the freedoms of religion, privacy, and association guaranteed by the United States and California constitutions. For example, in *NAACP v. Alabama* (1958), the Supreme Court struck as unconstitutional an order requiring the NAACP to produce its membership lists:

“Inviolability of privacy in group association may in many circumstances be indispensable to preservation of freedom of association, particularly where a group espouses dissident beliefs.”

Nor is there any probable cause for believing the existence of the grounds on which the warrant was issued. The Police Department knew or should have known that the information upon which the affidavit in support of the warrant was based was inaccurate.

Assuming, however, for purposes of this motion that the warrant was properly issued, there is certainly no longer any probable cause to connect the Aquinos with any of the alleged crimes in connection with which the property was seized. The investigation into those crimes has been conducted by the FBI and the U.S. District Attorney’s office. As the Police Department well knows, the Honorable Joseph Russoniello, U.S. Attorney, recently announced that after an extensive investigation of those alleged crimes, a federal grand jury returned an indictment against one Gary Hambright and that no further arrests would be made because there was no evidence of any co-perpetrator.

Moreover the Aquinos were living in Washington, D.C. during the period when the alleged crimes were committed, where Lt.Col. Aquino was regularly attending the National Defense University while on assignment by the U.S. Army.

Instead it appears that the only reason the Police Department has not returned the Aquinos’ property is because of a policy or practice it has of requiring the owner of the property to retain counsel and affirmatively move this court for a return of property. Such a policy or practice constitutes a deprivation of the rights to be free from unconstitutional searches and seizures, and not to be deprived of property without due process of law guaranteed by the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and by Article I of the California Constitution:

“Section 1540 does not put the burden on the citizen of suing to get the property back. It makes it the duty of the magistrate to see to its restoration by a mandatory ‘must’. There is no discretion about it. Upon ascertaining that the property taken is not that described in the warrant, and it is not difficult to do that, he

must not order its return, but must 'cause it to be restored' ..."

These rights belong not only to the Aquinos but to all other citizens who are subject to the policy and practice of the San Francisco Police Department. This practice is an abuse of this court's process, and this court should order an end to it.

For the foregoing reasons and for any additional reasons which may be adduced at the hearing, Lt.Col. & Mrs. Michael Aquino respectfully request this court to order that all property seized from them be restored forthwith, that an order issue directing the San Francisco Police Department to henceforth move the court for an order permitting it to return property when it concludes that it has not reasonable basis for continuing to retain it, and for an award of attorneys' fees incurred in obtaining said order.

If the judge returns all of the property to us, that will resolve the immediate injustice. If he does not, we will have to file further lawsuits in California court. A major civil rights lawsuit is also possible, but would require far greater time and expense in federal court. We will make a decision concerning state or federal legal action only when/if it proves necessary.

We have also filed a \$1 million claim for damages against the City of San Francisco for Pamfiloff's & Gallant's actions. We have the option to proceed or not with a lawsuit to enforce that claim, and will make a decision concerning that based on the behavior of the SFPD in the near future. A formal complaint concerning Pamfiloff & Gallant is also being filed with the Office of Citizen Complaints, Police Commission for the City and Country of San Francisco. This office has the power to recommend that the Chief impose discipline when the results of its investigations indicate that an officer has engaged in misconduct.

As discussed a couple of issues ago, the idea here is not to proceed in such a way that honest and legitimate crime-prevention efforts of the SFPD are impeded, but rather to single out the unConstitutional and unjustified "intelligence" activities of Sandi Gallant against a religion that she personally has decided to harass - and the actions of Glen Pamfiloff based on Gallant's anti-religious premises rather than on probable cause of criminal activity per se. So while we will proceed forward with such legal actions as may be necessary, we will be ready at any point to discuss a less-adversarial resolution of the matter.

The actions of Chaplain Adams-Thompson in this entire affair have not been forgotten. We are

continuing to give the Army a reasonable opportunity to censure him through internal administrative procedures. Failing that, court-martial charges will be preferred against the chaplain.

[2] The "Child Abuse" Industry

- by Michael A. Aquino VI^o

In *Scroll #XIII-6* we reported several incidents of the irresponsible or malicious association of "Satanism" with child-abuse. [Since then we may note that Steve Bass of PCG Seminars has removed the libelous page from his publication and is notifying previous recipients of this change.]

What we had not yet realized, however, is that we had only touched the tip of a far bigger and uglier iceberg: the systematic convincing of parents that their children have been victims of "Satanic molestation" when they have not been, and the simultaneous brainwashing of infants into making false statements in support of this scam. The object is simply to make money from parents and/or from government- and charity-funded programs which are intended to support **legitimate** efforts to combat child abuse.

The book that blows the lid off this whole, shocking story is *The Politics of Child Abuse* by Paul and Shirley Eberle (Secaucus, N.J.: Lyle Stuart, 1986). The Eberles are investigative journalists based in Los Angeles, and their book is a detailed analysis of this loathsome "industry", including exhaustive case studies of such celebrated scandals as California's McMartin and Kern County cases. At one point they asked Allen McMahon, a prominent Santa Ana attorney who worked on the McMartin case, about the origins of the "industry". He responded:

It was Walter Mondale. In 1974 the Mondale Act was passed by Congress. And this law provided that huge federal grants to states would be paid if they passed mandatory reporting laws. Millions! So almost all of the fifty states passed these mandatory reporting laws in order to get this money. But in order to get the money, they had to generate new cases. They are fabricating these cases.

One of these child-abuse agencies got a \$2 million grant because they **created** a child molestation case, with lots of victims and lots of suspects, all of them innocent. But they're all facing prison terms. None of the kids said they were molested until they talked with the interviewers. In L.A. the Sheriff's Department spent \$1 million on a Child Sexual Abuse Task Force. They dug up half the South Bay, and all they found were some chicken bones, so

maybe Colonel Sanders was the culprit ...

Under the Mondale Act the federal government is pumping these obscenely huge amounts of money into the state & local children's protective service agencies. And the amount of money they get is dependent on the number of cases they have filed.

And then you have the ripple effect. The social workers say, "It's possible this child was abused or molested, so how are we going to find out? Let's send the child to a doctor for a physical examination, and to a psychological agency for a psychological evaluation."

So then they send the child to one of their favorite agencies or doctors, some of whom have a reputation among attorneys doing juvenile law as being professional child-abuse finders. They will find abuse or molestation even if they have to grill the kid and put words in his mouth to get him to say it. And these agencies then make a lot of money from the county. They not only get paid per case or per child, but they get grants.

One agency is run by a lady whose only license is a New York State welder's license. That agency, I am informed, also received a \$2 million grant. Every city has one of these child-abuse agencies, or more than one. They are creating these cases.

What actually happens to infant children caught up in the "industry" is shocking. In 1983 the town of Jordan, Minnesota endured one of these devastating witch-hunts. 26 children were taken away from their parents, prevented from seeing them for as long as a year, and subjected to intense questioning by professional child-abuse therapists. The Eberles reported:

The questioning spun out of control. Children who had made allegations of child sex rings and mass molestations of children, Satanic, and sadistic ritual sex, now began telling their interrogators of mass murders of infants.

When Tom and Helen Brown finally got their children returned to them, they asked their daughter why the children had told the stories they had told. The girl's face fell, and tears began to run down her cheeks. The girl sobbed that she had been afraid that Kathleen Morris [one of the therapists] and the others would hurt her.

One of the children said his interrogators "wouldn't let me out of the room until I said yes. It would have gone on forever". Another said he was told that he would never see his parents

again unless he accused them of sexual abuse.

When this case finally ground to a halt, the final report of the Attorney General was scathing in its review of the therapists' methods:

In many cases the children were removed from their homes and isolated from all family contact for prolonged periods, even though the children denied having been sexually abused. In some instances the children did not "admit" their parents had abused them until several months of such separation, marked by continuous questioning about abuse. In the most extreme cases, these children were also told that reunification with their families would be facilitated by "admissions" of sex abuse by their parents and other adults.

On November 11 I gave a telephone interview to a television talk-show in San Francisco in which I briefly mentioned the techniques of such child-abuse therapists. There happened to be one such therapist also appearing on that show. She reacted to my comments not by refuting any of the facts cited, but rather by a sarcastic quip. The symptoms of "Satanic ritual abuse" she cited were apparently direct quotes from the list of therapist Catherine Gould [see *Scroll* #XIII-6].

And what **about** all these tales of "Satanic" rituals by the children? The Eberles interviewed Lee Coleman, M.D., a prominent psychiatrist heading the Center for the Study of Psychiatric Testimony in California. "Where," they asked, "are the children getting all the stories about Satanic rituals and devil-worship and drinking blood?" Coleman responded:

I'll tell you where they're getting it. When you start a child fantasizing by repeated questions ... when you tell a child in so many words that he's been molested - which is what these interviewers are doing, and a child comes to pretty soon believe that he has, he's in a position where he has to say something happened, but in fact he can't pull it out of his memory because it didn't happen.

Okay, once you get them going, filling in like that, then the sky's the limit ... Once you get the child started, you can't stop him. They start fantasizing beyond the sexual stuff, and I see it over and over again. In my notes of the cases I've reviewed, I've got more murders, more ridiculous stories ... I've got people pouring red and white slime on the kids, flying off to places a thousand miles away [in] hot air balloons ... going down in a sewer to the ocean, giving them all air tanks and going scuba

diving ...

What about children's "identification" of sites and buildings? [The Adams-Thompson child is alleged to have "identified" my residence in San Francisco as the home of Gary Hambright - an identification which the police knew was false, since Hambright's actual home was established as elsewhere in San Francisco.] [M.A. 1994 note: Ultimately it was revealed that this "identification" never occurred at all.]

During a recent child-molesting accusation episode in St. Louis, Missouri, the children in question "identified" pictures of homes to which the defendant had taken them. The photographs were of the residences of the St. Louis Chief of Police and the former Assistant County Prosecutor! [The children in this particular case are all 4-5 year-olds - twice the age of the Adams-Thompson child.]

There are many more facts to be brought out concerning this ugly "industry", and I am calling upon all Initiates of the Temple of Set to be alert to any information which they may find on this subject and to forward it to the Temple office. There it will be coordinated and evaluated, and forwarded to where it may do the most good.

As a consequence of these years of predatory actions by the "industry", a growing number of responsible medical and legal professionals are taking stands to expose and halt it. [Most prominent among these is VOCAL: Victims of Child Abuse Laws, Inc.] We will continue to report on the situation in future issues of the *Scroll*.

[3] **What is Going On at the Presidio of San Francisco?**

- by Michael A. Aquino VI^o

The current child-molestation scandal at the U.S. Army's Presidio of San Francisco is of course the catalyst for Chaplain Adams-Thompson's allegations concerning my wife and myself.

In its basic version, this scandal is based upon the supposed molestation of as many as 50-60 children by an official at the day-care center: Baptist minister Gary Hambright. Chaplain Adams-Thompson clumsily tried to involve me in it, apparently seeing a convenient opportunity to attack my religion and damage my community & Army reputation.

After the media had kicked this story around awhile, Presidio parents who had previously made **no** mention of "Satanic" or "ritual" abuse have **now** begun to come up with stories about it. Media accounts have now begun to refer to "Satanic rituals at the Presidio day-care center"!

Law-enforcement officials are being very closed-mouthed about the nature of the "hard evidence" they say they have that child-abuse actually took place in the Presidio. It is very curious, however, that **there were no reported incidents of child abuse for months after they were supposed to have taken place**. As I wrote to the *San Francisco Chronicle*:

If an infant were sexually violated by an adult, wouldn't the bodily damage be instantly evident? Wouldn't the child come home to parents immediately and obviously terrified? Do not parents bathe and examine their infants daily? How is it physically possible for the sexual violation of an infant to go unnoticed until months or years later - unless it never actually occurred at all, and is rather the product of the imaginations of unprincipled "therapists" preying upon the susceptibility of confused parents to sensationalistic rumors?

According to media accounts, the first allegations of child abuse at the Presidio day-care center began to occur the very month following a dramatic series of stories in the *San Francisco Examiner* about the McMartin and Kern County child-care scandals. Doesn't that coincidence register with anyone?

Methinks I smell a "child-abuse industry" rat here - particularly since a reporter recently mentioned to me that only **two** of the 50-60 children alleged to have been molested show **physical** signs of what could **possibly** be molestation. [M.A. 1994 note: Later it came out that **none** of the children showed any physical signs of molestation.] Did anything at all **actually** happen at the Presidio - or is this merely the latest and most ambitious business venture of the "industry", victimizing this time the U.S. Army - which happens to be the largest institution providing child day-care in the world?