

Satanic Cult has Bizarre Links to Marin

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By Alex Neill

Satanic church members -including a key figure in the Presidio child molestation case - have been linked to satanic cult activities in Marin County.

William Butch, 34, and Lynn Butch, 31, are listed by the Marin County Clerk's Office as founders of two Marin satanic cult groups: Dark Star 9 pylon and Meta Mates.

William Butch is the brother-in-law of Michael A. Aquino Jr., a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserves, and the founder and high priest of the satanic Temple of Set.

Aquino is under investigation in connection with alleged molestations at the Presidio daycare center. William Butch's sister, Lilith, is Aquino's wife and a high priestess of the Temple of Set.

Aquino owns property in Marin and Sonoma counties, including a historic San Rafael house that he inherited from his mother, Betty Ford-Aquino.

Ford-Aquino, who died of cancer in San Francisco in 1985, was a temple priestess. She left her son a \$3.2 million estate, including a house at 828 Mission St. in San Rafael, which is leased by Project Care for Children and the Marin County Child Abuse Council.

Built in 1880, it was the residence of the first mayor of San Rafael, Edward McCarthy. Aquino also inherited a professional building at 914 Mission in San Rafael and another professional building at 1212 Fourth St. in Santa Rosa.

Officials of Project Care for children expressed shock that the building's owner was linked to the Presidio molestation case. They emphasized that Aquino has nothing to do with the operation of the center, a private non-profit organization that assists parents in finding daycare.

"This is the most ironic and bizarre twist of fate, said Daria Seivers, past president of Project Care.

Lynn Butch, who also used the name L. Darlene Butch, is the daughter of Harry H. Johnson, a wealthy Mill Valley developer who was allegedly kidnapped in September by Kenneth R Russo. Russo contends that Johnson swindled him out of more than \$500,000 in a business deal. The case is now being unraveled in Marin County Superior Court.

Dark Star 9 Pylon, which is filed under the corporation name of Temple of Nephthys, lists an address on Indian Valley Road in Novato. The house was occupied by a former friend of Lynn Butch, Patricia Lillie, now of Sonoma County. Lillie was unavailable for

comment.

Dark Star is similar to the name originally given to the Temple of Set. A pylon, said former Temple member Linda Blood, is a gathering of satanists to practice occult rituals.

Blood, who said she was temple member for about nine months in 1979, said temple members would often hold "destruction rituals" and pins and needles were jabbed into doll-like figure, she said.

"They really believed it would work: they really believed that person would die," said Blood, 43, who now works in Massachusetts for the Cult Awareness Network, which counsels ex-cult members and provides public information on cults.

MetaMates is listed as doing business, as a professional building at 205 Camino Alto in Mill Valley. Harry H. Johnson is associated with several businesses at that site.

In a telephone interview, Aquino said he believes that Marin groups were started by former Temple of Set member Lynn Butch because of personal and philosophical differences Butch had with the temple.

William Butch, who lives at one of Aquino's houses in San Francisco, could not be reached for comment.

Aquino founded the Temple of Set in 1975 after leaving the Church of Satan because of philosophical differences. The Temple of Set is a private, non-profit corporation, listed in the Yellow Pages of San Francisco.

Attention focused on Aquino after a 3 ½ year old girl told her father that Aquino and former Presidio daycare worker Gary Hambright took her to Aquino's Russian Hill home and molested her. Hambright has been charged with 10 counts of child abuse at the day-care center. No charge have been filed against Aquino.

In a search of Aquino's home, police confiscated dozens of audio and video tapes, address book, photograph negatives and other material. Aquino filed motions to recover the property. "This is a case of religious persecution pure and simple."