

entertainment remained throughout his years as head of the Church of Satan, playing bizarre organ music for hours each day and, for a time, keeping a lion as a pet.

LaVey's version of Satanism was more contempt for Christianity, rather than the typically accepted traditions of human and animal sacrifice associated by some with devil worship. "My father was considered by some as the world's most dangerous man, but he would never hurt a living thing. My father loved animals and children," his daughter, Karla LaVey, told the Associated Press.

In 1969, he published *The Satanic Bible*, a work that sold briskly in secular bookshops for many years. He wrote and published three other volumes, with a fifth book to be published posthumously this year. LaVey's family stated they "will continue in his footsteps to do as he directed to keep the Church of Satan going and keep it strong."

—MKG

INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF CHRIST SCORES PARTIAL VICTORY

The International Church of Christ's Singapore congregation, Central Christian Church, prevailed on one of five points in defamation suits filed against *The New Paper*; the Chinese-language evening paper, *Lianhe Wanbao*; and the Christian magazine, *Impact*.

In a Nov. 23, 1991, report, the newspapers called the group a cult. The CCC sought damages totaling \$3.25 million (Singapore): \$2.25 million from the editors of the two newspapers and \$1 million from the magazine's editor. *Impact* was named in the suit because it was used as a source by the two newspapers.

Justice Warren Khoo, who presided over the 18-day trial last July, threw out four of the five suits, saying the publications had been fair in their report. However, he said a front-page headline in *The New Paper* that read "2 Cults Exposed" amounted to sensationalism. He issued his ruling last November.

Khoo said that the defendants had failed to establish a basis for calling the CCC a cult. He said he found no evidence that the sect was a "half-crazed people" or a "secret organisation run by persons with an agenda" and that its members are permitted to leave the group if they desire.

The ICC had never sued one of its critics before. One ICC public document says: "How do you respond to critics who equate discipling with 'mind control' or 'brain washing'? We try to respond with forbearance and love, for Christians have always been misunderstood and persecuted" (*Media and Law*, August 1, 1994).

Adrian van Leen, director of Concerned Christians Growth Ministries in Australia, was an expert witness called by the defense. Gordon Melton of The Institute for the Study of American Religion was the expert witness for the plaintiffs. Melton said the ICC is not a cult and further declined to label groups such as the People's Temple (Jim Jones), the Church of Scientology, Japan's Sum Supreme Truth, and several other sects as cults.

The amount for settlement of the defamatory headline will be determined later in a separate hearing.

—MKG

RUSSIAN LDS VIDEO AVAILABLE

After several years in production, a Russian language version of Personal Freedom Outreach's video presentation, *Mormonism: The Christian View*, is now available. The production was a joint effort between PFO and the Jesus Film Project.

Following the decline of communism, the opportunity to take the Gospel to the people in the former block of Soviet Union countries became a reachable goal. Unfortunately, freedom for cults to preach a false gospel also availed. In an attempt to minimize the Latter-day Saint church's influence in this new territory on the foreign mission field, the Jesus Film Project contacted PFO about revising and translating its video for the Russian speaking people. Late last year the undertaking became a reality.

The video is available in both PAL and VHS formats. The cost is \$19.95 per copy (plus \$1.50 postage). Contact PFO Saint Louis for more information or to order.

—MKG

MASS SUICIDE PLOT FOILED

In what could have been called "Heaven's Gate II," police in Spain prevented a plan in which cult leader Heide Fittkau-Garthe orchestrated the mass suicide of herself and 32 of her followers. The 57-year-old Fittkau-Garthe, a German psychologist, was charged Jan. 10 with attempted murder and ordered held without bail. She was arrested Jan. 7 at her chalet on the Spanish resort island of Tenerife during what police described as the group's "last supper."

Officials stated they were alerted to the suicide pact by the cult leader's brother, a businessman from Düesseldorf. Police said they discovered poisonous chemicals at her home.

According to a Reuters News Service report, Fittkau-Garthe and her followers believed that a UFO "would