

Dragnet type text sensationalistic, lacks insight**Church sues author of Charles Manson book**

By BRIAN PEARL

The Process Church of the Final Judgement is suing Ed Sanders for one and a half million dollars because Sanders connects the Processeans with Charlie Manson and his freaking acolytes who murdered Sharon Tate and numerous others. The Processeans are deeply worried about the adverse publicity that the book created by describing their religion as "an English organization dedicated to gore, weirdness and end of the world slaughter" and implying that Manson was attracted to their philosophy and adapted some of their strange cult-vibes to his own use.

Sanders' book, called *The Family, the Story of Charles Manson's Dune Buggy Attack Battalion*, is a dragnet type description (just the facts, ma'am) with a lot of vague theorizing about the origins of the Manson trip and the motives for the murders (a drug 'burn' executed by Jay Sebring, one of the victims who died with Sharon Tate). But the theories include no insights into the

reason why the Manson thing became a bizarre social nightmare for the media.

The Process Church of the Final Judgement is apocalyptic and the central image of their faith is the pending unification of Jesus, Satan and Lucifer in the destruction of the whole world and the final judgement. Sanders noticed that Manson was also into the unitary image of Christ and satan, which may have evolved from the Family's own religious trips or may have been borrowed from the Processeans.

The evidence that the Process had an influence on Manson is all circumstantial in Sanders book. He says that the leaders of the Church and Manson were seen in the same places (never together) and sometimes they moved in the same upper class Hollywood circles. But the most damaging claim Sanders makes about the "baleful influence" of the Process has nothing to do with Charlie Manson. Sanders connects Sirhan Sirhan, the convicted assassin of Robert Kennedy, with



Charles Manson

the Process. "Sirhan is known, in the Spring of '68, to have frequented

clubs in Hollywood in the same turf as the Process was proselytizing. Sirhan was very involved in occult practices. He has talked... about an occult group from London which he knew about and which he really wanted to go to London to see". The group Sirhan was talking about is probably the Process Church. "There was one Process member named Lloyd who was working as a chef for one of the large Los Angeles hotels, either the Ambassador or the Sheraton. . . It is probably a coincidence that Sirhan seems to have visited a friend who worked in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel the day before he shot Senator Kennedy". And Sirhan stationed himself in an unguarded hallway that connects the reception hall to the kitchen of the Ambassador. A lot of reporters have suggested that Sirhan had some inside help in finding such a safe spot to shoot from.

That bit about the hall and the reporters is not in Sanders' book. I included it to make a point. The point is that theories of "baleful influence" are all based on cir-

cumstantial, never hard, evidence. They're all easy to believe because they're vague enough to be possible without the facts of the case getting in the way. Conspiracies are satisfying explanations, for people hung on causality, for cosmic caprice. It's strictly who feels lost without that good old cause and effect formula for all that goes on — the heavier the going on, the heavier the conspiracy.

The fact that Charlie Manson was into the idea of the unity of Christ and Satan is no more the fault of the Process Church of the Final Judgement than of the Catholic Church. There is no evidence that any member of the Process ever knew what either Manson or Sirhan Sirhan were up to and did not try to stop them or change their minds. I hope that the Processeans get their money from Sanders and his publishers because it's about time that a sensationalist author got his. There is a need for a simplistic explanation to a deep and complicated series of personal psychological and social imagistic problems.

More and more record reviews**Steve Miller Band's new style disappointing**

By STEVE GELLER

Steve Miller Band: *Rock Love* (Capitol Records SW-748) is a disappointing album to say the least. Not only has Steve Miller changed his band around but also his style. The light country blues which seemed to be the direction in which the group was headed has been completely forsaken for some basic blues techniques that are far below the level of Miller's earliest compositions. The Gangster is Back seems to be the "big hit" on the album but there are many other cuts which are equally as bad.

Quicksilver Messenger Service: Quicksilver's newest album is definitely the best thing they've released since *Happy Trails* a few years ago. Quicksilver Messenger Service (Capitol Records SW-819) is

a combination of the soft, wispy sound the group has been developing throughout their last three L.P.s fused to a constant drive reminiscent of their very early material. Dino Valenti's writing has never been better and the group's overall tightness makes up for the loss of Nicky Hopkins.

Traffic: Traffic have had two albums released in the last little while. The personnel on both albums are the same but the material featured differs greatly from one L.P. to the next. *Welcome to the Canteen* was recorded live in England last summer and more or less just serves to reunite some temporarily lost members of the group. Dave Mason has returned to join Stevie Winwood, Jim Capaldi and Chris Wood.

Former Family and Blind Faith bassist Rick Grech and "Reebop" Kwaku Baah — (congas, timbales and bongos) have also joined the group. *Welcome to the Canteen* (Polydor 2334022) does not feature any new material. Instead, it is a random sampling of some of the things the members of Traffic have done at various stages of their careers. Gimme some lovin' (A windwood composition that dates back to the Spencer Davis Group days); Dear Mr. Fantasy, Medicated Goo and 40,000 Headmen along with two Dave Mason hits, Sad and Deep as You and You Shouldn't Have Taken More Than You Gave, make for the contents of the album. The sound on this album is adequate. Nothing more, nothing less.

The other Traffic album, *The Low Spark of High Heeled Boys* (Polydor 2334026) bears little musical resemblance to its predecessor. *Low Spark* is more a continuation of the jazz-rock element that became apparent with Traffic's *John Barlycorn Must Die* album. The tracks on the album are of a longer nature. This enables the group to develop some interesting in-

terpretations from their main melody lines.

Bob Seger: *Brand New Morning* (Capitol Records ST-731) is one of the more interesting albums to be released in the last few months. Bob Seger accompanies himself on acoustic guitar on his first attempt at a solo album. Instead of a traditional folk premise, Seger manages to exert all his energy into creating a wild, explosive type of acoustic rock. Although mellowed somewhat, the music on *Brand New Morning* is not really drastically different from the sound put out by the now historical Bob Seger System. As a solo artist, Seger is

able to create the same mood as established by his earlier rock and roll days of electric power. *Brand New Morning* supports the idea that Bob Seger is one of pops most underrated musicians.

Chuck Mangione will be returning to Toronto for another of his concert appearances. He will be featuring music from his *Friends and Love* album as well as from his newest composition called *Together*. Tickets for the concert which takes place at 9:15 p.m. Saturday, January 29th are \$6.00, \$5.50, \$5.00, \$4.00 available now at Sam's downtown and at all Eaton's Attractions Ticket Offices.

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