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Calgary group to fight influx of mind-warping cultists

A group of concerned Calgarians, ex-Scientologists and parents of youngsters who have fallen into the clutches of the various mind-warping, brainwashing cults such as Hare Krishna and the Unification Church (Moonies), have got together and formed an organization.

Its main functions will be to combat such cults, to help parents cope with and understand the situation when their children fall prey to them and, where possible, to rescue the victims and help them get their heads back together.

They held their first meeting recently, with 17 people forming the nucleus of the new organization. They have been in contact with similar groups in eastern Canada and the U.S.

Anti-cult activist organizations have been springing up throughout North America to do battle with these terrible quasi-religious outfits which entrap troubled young people and use them to raise massive sums of money for their masters. One of the bigger ones, a Texas-based anti-cult society, has a paid lobbyist in Washington.

Only now, after they have become one of the most serious problems involving young people today, are these cults beginning to attract the glare of publicity that should have been shone on them years ago.

Hopefully, it isn't too late. However, Ted Patrick, the famed U.S. "deprogrammer" who recently rescued a young Vancouver man from Hare Krishna, had some frightening words for reporters.

He said that Moonies — adherents of the notorious Korean Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church — have infiltrated offices of U.S. senators and congressmen, the FBI and the U.S. Attorney-General's office. He said cult members are fed on as little as 50 cents a day, while bringing in up to \$300 per day for their masters by begging and other activities.

That figure fits in with what a Calgary woman, whose son is a Moonie told me.

She visited the boy in Kansas at a time when he was a member of a mobile fund-raising team, going from town to town selling candy that had been made in a factory the "church" owns. They also begged and they peddled close-to-dying flowers they'd taken from the garbage bins of florist shops.

The boy was being upbraided for failing to bring in his quota. Despite the fact that he had been canvassing for 16 to 18 hours that day, he had raised only \$50. His mother, who was forging a sympathetic attitude toward her son's lifestyle, was shown the records of the other six canvassers by the team's captain. They had all brought in between \$200 and \$300.

Think about that. That's better than \$1,800 per day for the Moonie masters from just one day's activity by a single seven-person fund-raising team. But the Moonies claim a membership of over 30,000 persons in North America alone. And, income is tax-free because of their status as a so-called "church". These money-grubbing cults seek

out mixed-up, unhappy kids, often kids who have been involved in drugs or are in a state of deep depression or anxiety. They lure them out to isolated indoctrination centres without telling their victims who they are and, with highly-sophisticated brainwashing techniques, which have been refined for literally thousands of years, take control of their minds.

Of course, once a kid is brainwashed, he honestly believes he is acting of his own free will. Thus, the laws ensuring freedom of religion protect the cults, despite the fact that they are not religions at all, but money-making con games run by rich, ruthless men.

When anyone speaks out against them, of course, he threatens the money tree, and so the cults immediately accuse the detractor of religious persecution. Law suits, launched only to harass their enemies, are common.

Deprogrammers, like Patrick, who physically tear victims away from their enslavement and work with them until the brainwashing is undone and they have regained control of their own minds, are loudly denounced as infringing on religious freedom.

Saddest of all, the cults are constantly abetted by well-meaning people (who generally have no idea what they're talking about) comparing opposition to such brainwashing money-hustlers with real religious oppression. There is absolutely no similarity whatsoever. A brainwashed kid is not acting

of his own volition. He just thinks he is.

The woman I mentioned told me she went to the Canadian consulate in a U.S. city and raised the point I brought up earlier. Since Canadian kids snared by these outfits are in the United States illegally, how come the American immigration authorities don't deport them?

I was informed that they fix them up with phoney identification papers, she said.

I am told the Moonies are dealing on some land in Alberta with a view toward setting up an indoctrination centre here, and that an American member currently living in Toronto is scheduled to come out and head it up.

If that turns out to be the case, let's hope they're unmercifully hassled by the immigration department, the income tax people, the officials who are involved with licensing salespeople, charitable solicitations and such, the police and anyone else who might be able to persuade them to get lost.

Right now, most of their Canadian victims are grabbed off the streets of Vancouver and Toronto or places like Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, a hot spot of cult recruitment.

We don't need them that close to home.

Meanwhile, if you've lost a child to one of the cults, and would like to be put in touch with the new Calgary organization, give me a call.