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## Undead guru logs into pc shock

The "church" of scientology guru L. Ron Hubbard has announced he has broken the key to developing artificial intelligence computers.

In his "new" book *Dianetics* which has been in circulation for as long as anyone can remember, Hubbard claims dianetics can help programmers to achieve their dreams.

Now a press campaign has been launched by the cult's followers to home in on the computer market. Spokeswoman Lee Payne explained how Hubbard, who died in 1986, first hit on the idea of how to crack AI. After the war, Payne claimed, the guru was crippled by a back injury.

"He was left blind, deaf and

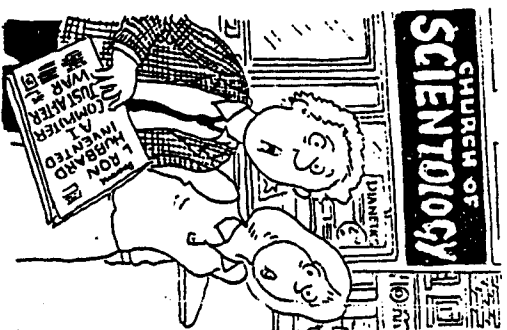
paralysed but after he discovered dianetics he cured all his ailments. It was then he discovered the powerful force of the mind."

Hubbard claims that the key to developing new generations of unbelievable computers lies in his methods for mental health.

For £30 an initial course can be booked which will "help" programmers come to terms with themselves.

Payne said: "If you help the individual programmer think more logically the individual programmer can program computers much better."

Asked to explain how this would help develop AI Payne admitted she knew nothing about the subject herself.



'Sect! Our intelligence has been artificial for years!'

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Mike

*L.A. Times 10-18-88*

# Church Can Be Sued on Recruiting

## Beliefs Protected but Not Conduct, Justices Rule

By PHILIP HAGER,  
*Times Staff Writer*

SAN FRANCISCO—In a major ruling on the separation of church and state, the California Supreme Court held Monday that a religious organization may be sued for fraud for allegedly "brainwashing" unknowing recruits into joining the church.

The justices ruled 6 to 1 that two former members of the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church can proceed to trial with claims that they were tricked by recruiters who denied they were church members and then used subtle "mind-control" techniques to obtain conversions.

The court majority, in an opinion by Justice Stanley Mosk, said that while religious beliefs were entitled to full protection, religiously motivated conduct was subject to restriction by the state.

There was no constitutional barrier to a fraud suit "for deceiving non-members into subjecting themselves, without their knowledge or consent, to coercive persuasion," Mosk said.

Allowing such suits would not intrude on the beliefs of church members, Mosk said, and would pose only a "marginal" burden on religiously motivated recruiting practices.

### Protection From Fraud

Any such impediment to the constitutionally protected free exercise of religion was outweighed by the state's interest in protecting unknowing recruits from fraud and the possible risks of "brainwashing," the court said.

"While some individuals who experience coercive persuasion emerge unscathed, many others develop serious and sometimes irreversible physical and psychiatric disorders, up to and including schizophrenia, self-mutilation and suicide," Mosk wrote.

The court ruled also that one of the two former "Moonies" in the suit could sue to recover a \$6,000 donation he was allegedly deceived into making to the church.

In a sharp dissent, state appellate Judge Carl West Anderson, sitting by special appointment, said the ruling was "bad legal policy" that "unnecessarily projects the court into the arena of divining the truth or falsity of religious beliefs."

### ■ High Court to Rule on Scientology Case

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear a government appeal in a **Los Angeles** case involving the Church of Scientology in order to decide how far the Internal Revenue Service can go in obtaining and using confidential documents in tax-fraud inquiries.

The government launched an investigation in 1984 of the tax returns of L. Ron Hubbard, the church's founder who died Jan. 24, 1986. The IRS said it suspected that millions of dollars in church funds were transferred to Hubbard in the late 1970s and early 1980s in an apparent scheme to protect the church's tax-exempt status and avoid paying taxes on the money.

In October of 1984, the IRS sought 13 confidential documents held by the Los Angeles Superior Court in connection

with a lawsuit filed against the church by a former member. A federal judge ordered five of the documents turned over to the IRS, but only on condition that they not be disclosed to any other agency.

The judge refused to let the IRS have the other eight documents, which included taped conversations in a meeting between church members and lawyers for Hubbard and Scientology. The judge ruled that the conversations were confidential lawyer-client communications.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal upheld the judge's ruling in 1986. The Justice Department appealed that decision on behalf of the IRS.

# Los Angeles Times

THURSDAY,

Thursday, November 17, 1988

## The Cult Wars

### Ten Years After Jonestown, the Battle Intensifies Over the Influence of 'Alternative' Religions

By BOB SIPCHEM, Times Staff Writer

**E**ldridge Broussard Jr.'s face screwed into a grimace of such anger and pain that the unflappable Oprah Winfrey seemed unnerved. It hurts to be branded "the new Jimmy Jones" by a society eager to condemn what it doesn't understand, the founder of the Ecclesia Athletic Assn. lamented on TV just a few days after his 8-year-old daughter had been beaten to death, apparently by Ecclesia members.

At issue were complex questions of whether the group he had formed to instill discipline in ghetto youth, and led from Watts to Oregon, had evolved into a dangerous cult. But Broussard couldn't have found a less sympathetic audience than the group gathered around the TV in the bar of the Portland Holiday Inn.

There last month for the annual conference of the Chicago-based Cult

Awareness Network were people whose kin had crumpled onto the body heaps at Jonestown. Guyana, 10 years ago, and people who believed they or family members had lost not their lives, but good chunks of them, to gurus and avatars less infamous but no less evil than Jim Jones.

One group's cult is another's "new religious movement," though, and in the 10 years since Jonestown, a heated holy war of sorts has been mounting over the issues of how to define and contend with so-called cults.

The battle lines aren't always well defined. Ongoing guerrilla actions between those who see themselves as crusaders against potential Jonestowns and those who see themselves as the

persecuted members of outcast religious groups comprise the shifting legal and political fronts. On the outskirts of the ideological battleground is another loosely knit force that sees itself as the defender of a First Amendment besieged by vigilantes all too eager to kiss off the Constitution as they quash beliefs that don't fit their narrow-minded criteria of what's good and real. As one often-quoted definition has it: "A cult is a religion someone I don't like belongs to."

"It's spiritual McCarthyism," Lowell D. Streiker, a Northern California counselor, said of the cult awareness cause. To him, "the anti-cult network" is itself a "cult of persecution," cut from the same cloth

as colonial witch hunters and the Ku Klux Klan.

The key anti-cult groups, by most accounts, are CAN, a secular nondenominational group of 30 local affiliates; the Massachusetts-based American Family Foundation; the Interfaith Coalition of Concern About Cults and the Jewish Federation Council's Commission on Cults and Missionaries.

Although they contend that their ranks continue to fill with the victims of cults or angry family members, they concede that the most significant rallying point came in the fall of 1978 when the leader of one alleged cult put a rattlesnake in an enemy's mailbox and another led 912 people to their deaths.

Even though nothing so dramatic has happened since, cults have quietly been making inroads into the fabric of mainstream American life, and the effects are

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# Los Angeles Times

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Los Angeles Times

## CULT WARS: The Confrontation Heats Up

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potentially as serious as the deaths at Jonestown, cult critics say.

With increased wealth and public relations acumen—with members clothed by Brooks Brothers rather than in saffron sheets—the 1,000 or more new cults that some estimate have sprung up in America since the '60s have become "a growth industry which is diversifying," said Dr. Louis Jolyon West, director of UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute. "They have made steady progress on all fronts."

### Uglier Connotations

In the broadest sense, Webster defines a cult as simply "a system of religious worship or ritual." Even before Jonestown, though, the word had taken on broader and uglier connotations.

To make a distinction, critics use the term *destructive cult*, or *totalist cult*. The issue, they say, pivots on the methods groups use to recruit and hold together followers.

CAN describes a destructive cult as one that "uses systematic, manipulative techniques of thought reform or mind control to obtain followers and constrict their thoughts and actions. These techniques are imposed without the person's knowledge and produce observable changes in the individual's autonomy, thoughts and actions. . . ."

A 1985 conference on cults co-sponsored by the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute and the American Family Federation came up with

this definition:

"A group or movement exhibiting a great or excessive devotion or dedication to some person, idea, or thing and employing unethically manipulative techniques of persuasion and control . . . designed to advance the goals of the group's leaders, to the actual or possible detriment of members, their families, or the community."

The "manipulative techniques" in question are what cult critics call mind control or brainwashing.

To critics of the critics, on the other hand, brainwashing amounts to hokey.

And both sides say the weight of evidence is on their side.

### New Beliefs, Personalities

Cult critics often point to classic surveys on brainwashing, which catalogue methods which they say are routinely used by cults of every color, religious and secular, to manipulate unsuspecting people into adopting new beliefs, and often, in effect, new personalities.

Among the techniques are constant repetition of doctrine; application of intense peer pressure; manipulation of diet so that critical faculties are adversely affected; deprivation of sleep; lack of privacy and time for reflection; cutting ties with the recruits' past life; reduction of outside stimulation and influences; skillful use of ritual to heighten mystical experience; and invention of a new vocabulary which narrows the range of experience and constructs a new reality for cult members.

Margaret Singer, a former professor of psychology at UC Berkeley, describes psychological problems that have been attributed to cultic experiences, ranging from the despair that comes from having suddenly abandoned ones previous values, norms and ideals to types of "induced psychopathy." Other psychologists and lay observers list similar mental and emotional problems linked to the indoctrination and rituals of cults.

Sociologist Dick Anthony, author of the book "Spiritual Choices," and former director of the UC Berkeley-affiliated Center for the Study of New Religions, argues the exact opposite position.

"There's a large research literature published in mainstream journals on the mental health effects of new religions," he said. "For the most part the effects seem to be positive in any way that's measurable."

He and other defenders of new religions discount so-called mind control techniques, or believe the term has been misappropriated by anti-cult activists.

"Coercive Persuasion is a bombastic redescription of familiar forms of influence which occur everyday and everywhere," said Streiker. "Someone being converted to a demanding religious movement is no more or less brainwashed than children being exposed to commercials during kid- dy programs which encourage them to eat empty calories or buy expensive toys."

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## CULTS

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"An attempt to persuade someone of something is a process protected by our country's First Amendment right of free speech and communication," said attorney Jeremiah Gutman head of the New York City branch of the American Civil Liberties Union and an outspoken critic of the anti-cult groups. "What one person believes to be an irrefutable and obvious truth is someone else's errant nonsense."

## 'Fraud and Manipulation'

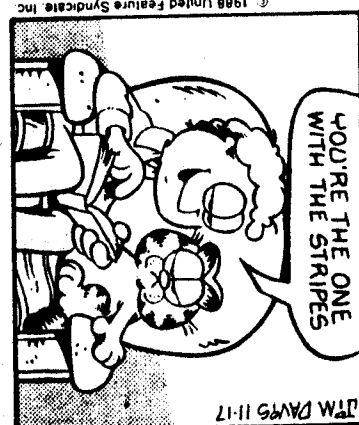
But anti-cult spokespeople say they have no interest in a group's beliefs. Their concern is when destructive cults use "fraud and manipulation" to get people to arrive at those beliefs, whatever they may be. Because people are unaware of the issues, though, cults have insinuated themselves into areas of American life where they are influencing people who may not even know where the influence is coming from, they contend.

The political arena is the obvious example, anti-cult activists say.

Followers of the Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh had a major impact on the small town government of Antelope, Ore., and Jim Jones had managed to thrust himself and his church into the most respectable Democratic party circles in San Francisco before the exodus to Guyana, for instance.

But recently the process has expanded, with the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church the leading example of a cult that is

## GARFIELD®



by Jim Davis

quietly gaining political clout, they say.

"What Jim Jones did to Democrats in San Francisco, Sun Myung Moon is doing to Republicans all across country now," Kissler said.

Moon's most obvious stab at mainstream legitimacy, critics say, was his purchase in 1982 of the Washington Times, a D.C. daily newspaper, and his financial nurturing of the paper's magazine Insight—both of which have an official policy of complete editorial independence from the church.

In September, 1987, the conservative American Spectator magazine published an article titled "Can Buy Me Love: The Mooning of Conservative America," in which managing editor Andrew Ferguson questioned the way the political right is lapping up Moon money, citing, among many examples, the \$500,000 or more the late Terry Dolan's National Conservative Alliance accepted in 1984. When the church got wind of the article, the Spectator received a call from the executive director of the Unifica-

tion Church's World Media Assn. warning that if it ran, the Times "would strike back and strike back severely," Ferguson wrote in an addendum to the piece.

## 'Everyone Speaks Korean'

Therapist Steven Hassan, a former "Moonie" and the author of the just-released book "Combating Cult Mind Control," estimates that the church now sponsors 200 businesses and "front organizations."

Moon "has said he wants an automatic theocracy to rule the world," explained Hassan, who, on Moon's orders, engaged in a public fast for Nixon during Watergate and another fast at the U.N. to protest the withdrawal of troops from Korea. "He visualizes a world where everyone speaks Korean only, where all religion but his is abolished, where his organization chooses who will mate, and he and family and descendants rule in a heroic monarchy."

Moon "is very much in support of the democratic system," counters John Biermans, director of public

affairs for the church. "His desire is for people to become God-centered people. Then democracy can fulfill its potential."

Besides, he said, "this is a pluralistic society, people of all faiths inject their beliefs into the system on every level. . . . Using terms like 'front groups' and 'insinuating,' is just a way to attack something. It's not even honest."

Some observers dismiss concern about alleged Unificationist infiltration as self-serving hysteria whipped up by the anti-cultists.

"How much actual influence [the Unification Church] has seems questionable," said David Bromley, a professor of sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, and the author of the 1981 book "Strange Gods, the Great American Cult Scare."

Bromley estimates, for instance, that the church brings \$200 million a year into the U.S. from abroad. But he sees no evidence that the money, much of it spent on all-expense-paid fact-finding tours and conferences for journalists, politi-

cians and clergypeople, is money well-invested as far as political impact goes.

The church, he estimates, is losing about \$50 million a year on its Washington Times newspaper and the ranks of Unificationists, and most other new religions, in America are thinning as well.

Veterans of the anti-cult front, however, say that the appearance that cults are fading is an illusion.

"Like viruses, many of them mutate into new forms," when under attack, West of UCLA said. And new types of cults are arising to fill the void, they say.

Cult critics point, for instance, to the rise of such groups as the est offshoot called Forum, and to Lifespring and Insight—all of which CAN characterizes as "human potential cults" and all of which are utilized in mainstream American business to promote productivity and motivation.

Observers such as Gordon Melton of the Institute for the Study of Religious Institutions in Santa Barbara explain that many of these New Age-type trainings have their roots in the old fashioned motivational pep talks and sales technique seminars that have been the staples of American business for decades.

But critics see the so-called "psychotechnologies" utilized by some of these groups as insidious. For one thing, they say, the meditation, confessional sharing, and guided imagery methods some of them use are more likely to make employees muzzy-headed than competitive.

Other critics say the trainings violate employee's rights. Richard Watring, a personnel director for

Budget Rent-a-Car, who has been charting the incorporation of "New Age" philosophies into business trainings, is concerned that employees are often compelled to take the courses and then required to adapt a new belief system which may be incompatible with their own religious convictions. As a Christian he finds such mental meddling inappropriate for corporations.

He and other cult critics were heartened by recent cases, still pending, in which employees, or former employees, have sued their employer for compelling them to take trainings they felt conflicted with their own religious beliefs.

Next observers scoring the actions on the broader legal battlefield, however, call it a toss-up, and perceived victories for either side have often proved Pyrrhic.

## Trials of Litigation

Richard Orfhe, a sociologist at UC Berkeley, fought three separate legal battles with the drug and alcohol rehabilitation organization Synanon over research he published on the group. Although, he ultimately won the suits, he said the battle wound up costing the university \$600,000. And evidence obtained in other lawsuits showed that Synanon had skillfully wielded threats of litigation to keep several other critical stories from being published or broadcast, he said.

Similarly, a recently released book "Cults and Consequences," went unpublished for several years because insurers were wary of the litigious nature of some of the groups mentioned, said Rachel An-

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dres, director of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles' Commission on Cults and Missionaries and the book's co-editor.

But the most interesting litigation of late involves either a former member who is suing the organization to which he or she belonged, or a current member of a new religious group who is suing a deprogrammer who attempted unsuccessfully to persuade the person to leave the group.

The most significant case, everyone agrees, is last month's decision by the California Supreme Court, which anti-cult groups have cheered as a major victory.

In that reversal of lower court decisions, the justices agreed that David Molko and another former member of the Unification Church could bring before a jury the claim that they were defrauded by recruiters who denied they had a church affiliation and then subjected the two to church mind control techniques, eventually converting them.

Mainstream religious organizations including the National Council on Churches, the American



Associated Press

**Vat of poisoned Kool-Aid beside the bodies of victims.**

Baptist Churches in the USA and the California Ecumenical Council had filed briefs in support of the Unification Church, claiming that allowing lawsuits over proselytizing techniques could paralyze all religions.

"What they're attacking is



Associated Press

**Rev. Sun Myung Moon speaks to supporters in New York.**

prayer, fasting and lectures," said Biermans of the Unification Church. "The whole idea of brainwashing is unbelievably absurd. . . . If someone had really figured out a method of brainwashing, they could control the world." The church plans to appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary.

Paul Morantz, the attorney who was struck by the rattlesnake placed in his mailbox by the "Imperial Marines" of Synanon, gave *pro-bono* assistance to the plaintiffs in the Molko case.

"For me, it was a great decision

for freedom of religion and to protect against the . . . use of coercive persuasion," he said.

Morantz currently is defending Bent Corydon, author of the book "L. Ron Hubbard, Madman or Messiah" against a lawsuit by the Church of Scientology. He said he's confident of how that case will turn out.

But he shares the belief of others on several sides of the multifaceted cult battle, in concluding that education rather than litigation should be the first defense of religious and intellectual liberty.

He's not, however, optimistic.

"If anyone thinks they're ever going to win this war, they're wrong," he said. "As long as we have human behavior, there will be sociopaths who will stand up and say 'follow me.' And there will always be searchers who will follow."

# Scientology Chiefs From 8 Nations Detained in Spain

From Times Staff and Wire Service Reports

Leaders of the Church of Scientology from eight nations have been arrested in Spain on suspicion of extortion, forgery and tax evasion, it was disclosed Monday.

Heber Jentzsch of Los Angeles, president of the Church of Scientology International, was among the 69 people detained Sunday at a downtown Madrid. Twenty of those arrested were released Monday after authorities determined they were not involved in running the organization, according to EFE, the Spanish news agency.

Among those being held were Scientology leaders from the United States, Britain, Portugal, Denmark, Venezuela, Switzerland, Italy and Spain.

Police searched 26 of the group's offices across Spain on Sunday, shutting two of them down for a few hours, and seizing bundles of documents.

Scientology's lawyer, Jose Luis Chamorro, said evidence presented against the group was shallow and out of context.

The Church of Scientology was founded by the late science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard. Its activities in Spain center on a drug rehabili-

tation program known as Narconon and a spiritual group called the Civil Dianetics Assn.

The police action culminated nine months of undercover investigation during which 30 telephone taps were installed, said Examining Magistrate Jose Maria Vasquez Honrubia.

Spanish tax inspectors believe the organization illegally funneled money to the United States and Denmark, did not make payments to Spain's social security system and owed money to businessmen who supplied Narconon centers in Spain, according to the Spanish news agency.

### Complaints Lodged

Vasquez Honrubia said police began the investigation after about 40 complaints were filed in Spanish courts, including one for abduction of a youth.

Those arrested, the magistrate added, also face charges of kidnapping, coercion, failure to meet social security payments and illegal association. He said more arrests were likely.

He did not specify what type of forgery and fraud the organizers are alleged to have engaged in. But news reports said at least one fraud charge stemmed from Narconon's attempts to

persuade its drug-addict clients to join the Church of Scientology as part of their treatment.

The magistrate said the group made members pay progressively larger fees for Scientology courses and threatened people who wanted to leave the organization.

The group was registered as a nonprofit organization, Vasquez Honrubia added, but documents showed profits of \$666,000 in Spain alone in 1986.

"The real god of this organization is money," he told reporters.

The magistrate said the group's four Narconon centers for treatment of drug addicts in Spain were run by unqualified staff in poor conditions of hygiene.

Boston attorney Earle C. Cooley, Scientology's U.S. national trial counsel, told The Times Monday that he did not know what allegations were being investigated by Spanish authorities, or the scope of the undercover probe.

"I know nothing about wiretaps," Cooley said. But he said the allegations, as reported by the news media, "look on the face of them as if they are trumped up."

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AURELIO JOSE BARRERA / Los Angeles Times

### Heber Jentzsch

The L.A.-based worldwide director of the Church of Scientology was among 69 arrested in Madrid.

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Cooley said Jentzsch had been speaking Sunday afternoon to an international gathering of Scientologists when police raided the hotel "like storm troopers" and hauled the leaders off to jail.

By early Tuesday in Madrid, Cooley said, Jentzsch had still not been questioned by police or formally charged with a crime.

"We are mustering our legal resources in Spain," he added. "We will fight this as long as it takes."

In Washington, the Rev. Brian Anderson, vice president of the Church of Scientology International, denounced the arrests.

"The Dianetics and Narconon organizations emphatically condemn the outrageous acts of flagrant injustice committed by the judge's instructions," Anderson said in a statement.

He said that "Narconon in Spain is the most effective organization in handling drug addiction" and that it "saved thousands of Spaniards from the devastating effects of drug abuse over the last few years."

"Our organizations are here to stay and expand," he said, adding that a new facility is set to open in southern Spain. The church operates in about 30 countries.

In 1986 and again last June, Spain's Justice Ministry rejected a petition by the church for accreditation as a legitimate religious institution on the grounds that the group's activities "negatively affected public health."

In 1984, the U.S. government began an investigation of Hubbard's tax returns after the Internal Revenue Service said it suspected that millions of dollars in church funds had been transferred to Scientology's founder, Scientology's founder, Scientologists said the FBI, the CIA, the IRS and other government agencies took part in a conspiracy to harass the organization in violation of its religious freedom.

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering the case.

## ARRESTS