

Testimonial, but no trust

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Son saved, but dad still suspicious

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A Vancouver man whose testimonial is used by Narconon in its promotional material says the organization is "extremely suspect" because of its links to the Church of Scientology.

"They (Narconon) are definitely a part of the Scientology operation," Tom Perry said yesterday in an interview from B.C.

"I know they rehabilitated my son, I know they rehabilitated his wife, but I wouldn't trust them as far as I can throw them."

Although Perry doesn't deny writing the 1987 testimonial praising Narconon, he said he's nervous about the program because "There's too much evidence that they have a lot to do with Scientology."

Nevertheless, Perry said Narconon's regimen of hard exercise, vitamin treatments, and saunas to sweat out toxins

saved his son's life about 15 years ago.

Bill, who was college-age at the time, was "almost dead" from heroin abuse when his friends took him to Narconon after traditional medicine failed, Perry said.

"He was open with us that Narconon is part of the Scientology operation," Perry said, adding Bill claims he was never a member of the church.

Perry's glowing testimonial about Narconon was part of a package of material a Winnipeg company — Mr. Peppercorn — handed out to teenagers it hired to fundraise for the drug rehabilitation program.

Perry said his son, who's "completely away from Narconon now," worked for the program for six or seven years to help pay off the cost of his rehabilitation.

However, Bill actually opposed the church's efforts to take money out of Narconon — cash Bill felt should remain in the drug rehabilitation program, Perry said.



Some of the literature offered for sale by Scientologists

Bill Perry, who's currently living and working in Toronto, couldn't be reached for comment.

Seth Asser, a doctor of immunology and pediology in San Diego, Calif., said Narconon's treatment "wouldn't be bad for you" if it was done slowly and carefully.

But Asser, who criticized Narconon when it tried to set up shop in San Diego five years ago, said the intensity of Narconon's program makes it "dangerous."

"It's a bunch of hocus pocus with no proven value," Asser said of Narconon's claim to have a 75 to 95-per-cent success rate.

"The detoxification stuff they prescribe can actually be harmful if it's overdone."

More than 20 years ago, Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard wrote a policy paper outlining steps the church should take when launching counter-attacks against journalists and others critical of the church.

The following are excerpts from that confidential document, obtained yesterday by the Sun.

■ People with "counter" opinions should be used as investigation subjects.

■ By taking those "hostile" names, a "run-down" can then be done on the people and their connections.

■ People "hostile" to Scientology usually have criminal records or connections which can be useful to Scientology investigators.

■ Uncover people's crimes and use them when launching a counter-attack against "the enemy."

■ One of Scientology's errors has been "failing to identify the enemy early and hit him hard."

■ Never get "reasonable" about the enemy — "just go all the way in and obliterate him."

■ One of Scientology's best defenses is being sure the public knows "we're a church."

■ Take over the control or win the allegiance of the heads of news media, key political figures and those who monitor international finance.

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