

6-Pinellas

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

Sports

Friday, March 1, 1991



Tribune photograph by RON J. BERNARD

Olympic gymnast Charles Lakes talks to Clearwater about his career, his life and the student body of the True School in about his beliefs.

Role model

Olympic gymnast Lakes gives children advice, motivation for success in life

By BILL WARD
Tribune Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — When he's not writing short stories, drawing cartoons and comics, singing music on an upcoming album or coaching dancers and aspiring gymnasts, Charles Lakes manages to sneak in to a gym for a daily workout.

"At this point in my career, I really only need about 90 minutes a day," said



Lakes, who was the first African American gymnast to compete for the United States in the Olympic Games. "It's not that gymnastics is not as important to me, it's just that all these other things I'm doing are important, too."

Yet another activity for Lakes, 26, is a nationwide tour for his major sponsor, Dianetics.

Lakes spoke recently at the True School in Clearwater to the entire student body — about 100 kids, ranging in age from preschool to high school — about his career, the

importance of a positive attitude, a healthy lifestyle and the willingness to learn from personal failures.

And as hard as it is to believe, Lakes has felt his share of disappointment.

At age 12, Lakes was a late comer to gymnastics when he was drawn to the sport after watching the 1976 Olympics on television. And if it weren't for the fact that his father had just received a promotion at his job with the Blue Cross in Pasadena, Calif., Lakes said he would have been unable to afford to start gymnastics classes.

"It's probably the reason you don't see more young blacks enter this sport, or any sport where coaching and lessons are so important in the early stages," Lakes said. "And because of that, there's a lack of role models for the black kids."

That's why Lakes is so eager to talk to and display his skills to any gathering of curious kids — especially curious black kids.

"For whatever reason, it seems like all black kids have a tendency to do a lot of tumbling at very early ages," Lakes said. "I can remember jumping up and down on my bed and trying to do stuff even before I saw the '76 Olympics."

See LAKES, Page 8

Lakes prepares to make a comeback

■ From Page 6

Lakes is the first to admit, however, he had to work hard at his natural talent. He talks about the time he cried when he failed to make the U.S. junior national team in 1980, and the frustration and disappointment he felt by not making the 1984 U.S. Olympic team.

But along the way, Lakes continued to improve. He was an All-American three times during his career at the University of Illinois and he left school in 1986 to concentrate on his training. Lakes finished second at the 1987 USA Championships but dropped one place the following year.

Like most other setbacks, he says this one turned out to be a positive step backward because it got him to reread L. Ron Hubbard's best-seller "Dianetics."

"I couldn't figure out what had been different in the year that I went from No. 2 to No. 3," Lakes said. "Then I began to realize that so much of gymnastics is mental and one's ability to concentrate.

"That's where the book took on a new perspective for me. I had read it in '84, but it all came togeth-

er when I realized the mental power we all possess."

By the time the '88 U.S. Olympic gymnastic trials rolled around, Lakes was No. 1 for the first time in his career and heading to Korea as a member of the American Olympic team. According to Lakes, the U.S. squad received a bad draw and was forced to compete in its compulsory routines early in the morning. Competing first, Lakes says, causes gymnastics judges not to "box themselves in" by scoring a team too high.

As result, the Americans had a disappointing showing as a team in Seoul. But as an individual, Lakes advanced to the all-around competition and wound up 19th in the world. The next closest American took 34th place.

For the past two years, Lakes has continued to train on a relatively low-key basis but he calls 1991 his "comeback year." In his spare time, he has been coaching 24 young gymnasts ranging in age from 6 to 12. Lakes hand-picked all of them and he is trying to place them all on the junior national team.

"If you look at the other strong gymnastics countries like the Soviet Union, you'll find that the guys on

their Olympic team were all on their national juniors team at one time," Lakes said.

"But for some reason, it doesn't work that way in the United States. Guys like myself and Mitch Gaylord were on the Olympic team but never made our junior team. There's something wrong there and I want to help change it."

Lakes is also working with a 20-year-old named Cruz Fino, whom he says he "salvaged" from the Southern California gang scene four years ago, and a young dancer named Joey Dibello, whom he says is about to become a big teen idol.

For himself, Lakes is working on his own album, which will be produced by Oingo Boingo frontman Danny Elfman, and working out daily on the road and at his home under longtime coach Dan Connelly.

Lakes is even trying to invent some new gymnastics moves to help him turn the heads of judges during his comeback year.

"I've got a few you've never seen before," Lakes said. "There's the 'Lakes I, II, III and IV' that should blow some people away. Just wait and see."

Court May Ease Church-State Separation

By DAVID G. SAVAGE
TIMES STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court announced Monday that it will decide whether a Rhode Island high school may include a prayer in its graduation ceremony—a signal that it may be ready to permit a broader role for religion in schools and in public life.

For at least two decades, the high court has been badly split on church and state issues, leading to a series of confused rulings on Christmas displays at city halls, prayers during public ceremonies and state aid to parochial schools.

Two years ago, the court's four key conservatives called for a major shift in the law to allow the government to "accommodate" and encourage religion, so long as nonbelievers are not "coerced" to

Please see COURT, A27.

COURT: Church-State Separation Rule May Be Eased

Continued from A1

participate.

Last month, the Bush Administration urged the justices to hear the Rhode Island dispute and to adopt the looser standard on religion that had been advocated by the conservatives. Government should be permitted to sponsor ceremonies that reflect "the heritage of a deeply religious people," U.S. Solicitor General Kenneth W. Starr told the court.

On Monday, the justices announced that they would hear the Rhode Island case (*Lee vs. Weisman*, 90-1014) in the fall.

The ruling, likely to be announced early next year, could allow the government to display religious symbols and to provide some aid to religious groups. However, it is believed unlikely that the high court will tamper with its still-controversial ban on prayers in schools in this case.

In 1962, the court prohibited official prayers in school as a violation of the 1st Amendment ban on laws "respecting an establishment of religion."

The court, then dominated by liberals, concluded that this clause demanded a strict "separation of church and state," a phrase taken from a letter written by Thomas Jefferson in 1802.

The conservatives, including Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, have long disputed the "separation of church and state" doctrine. According to Rehnquist, the 1st Amendment forbids only the establishment of a national church or mandatory contributions to religion. Otherwise, he says, government may encourage and support religion in general.

Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy and Byron R. White also have called for a change

in the court's approach to allow more government support for religion.

However, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the fifth conservative, so far has refused to join them. She has insisted that any government action that appears to endorse religion—such as a display of a creche in a city hall—violates the 1st Amendment.

The outcome probably will rest on the vote of the newest justice, David H. Souter. As New Hampshire's attorney general, Souter defended an attempt by his state's Legislature in 1975 to reinstate "the traditional Lord's Prayer" in the schools. In addition, he defended the governor's 1978 order to state employees to fly flags at half staff on Good Friday to "memorialize the death of Christ on the Cross."

In a court brief in which he argued the state government's point of view, Souter wrote: "The lowering of the flag to commemorate the death of Christ no more establishes a religious position on the part of the state or promotes a religion than the lowering of the flag for the death of Hubert Humphrey promotes the cause of the Democratic Party in New Hampshire."

In each case, federal courts rejected Souter's argument on the basis of the "separation of church and state" doctrine.

The Rhode Island case began in June, 1989, when Daniel Weisman took offense at a religious invocation during his daughter's graduation from a Providence junior high school. A rabbi opened and closed the ceremony with a brief message that began with the words "O God" and ended with "Amen."

Based on the father's lawsuit, a federal judge in Providence issued

an order prohibiting the "inclusion of prayer" in city school ceremonies. In July, a federal appeals court upheld that decision on a 2-1 vote.

The California courts have been divided on whether public schools may include a religious invocation during a ceremony. Although they relied on the same set of Supreme Court pronouncements, one state appeals court upheld a religious invocation in the Morongo Unified School District in San Bernardino County but another prohibited such an invocation in Livermore. The issue is now pending before the California Supreme Court.

In December, a federal judge ordered Beverly Hills officials to take down a 28-foot Hanukkah menorah that had been placed across the street from City Hall. This ruling was in turn based on a splintered 1989 Supreme Court ruling that prohibited Pittsburgh city officials from erecting a creche in their City Hall but permitted a menorah outside on the street.

In their brief, Bush Administration attorneys said that the court should sweep away the confusion by ruling that the 1st Amendment forbids only "religious coercion" by the government. A school ceremony that invokes the name of God or a public display of religious symbolism is not unconstitutional, they said, because it does not establish "an official church" or compel people "to participate in a religious exercise."

Last year, the high court sharply revised its approach to the issue of minority religions and government regulation. Before, the more liberal court had said that religious adherents were exempted from laws or government policies that infringed on their "free exercise of religion." Under the 1990 ruling, the court

said that religious practices will not be exempted from general laws.

Meanwhile, in separate cases, the court gave attorneys for the Hare Krishnas and the Church of Scientology another chance—although a slim one—to persuade California courts to throw out multimillion-dollar verdicts won in lawsuits filed by former devotees.

Two weeks ago, the high court said that juries may impose huge punitive damages, so long as state judges make sure that the amounts are in line with the gravity of the offenses.

Following practice, the justices sent back for reconsideration seven pending appeals on punitive damages, including the two highly publicized religion cases from Southern California.

The brief high court order keeps alive legal disputes that date to the late 1970s, an era when nontraditional religions flourished in California and parents feared losing their children to "cults."

In 1983, a Santa Ana jury handed down a \$32.6-million verdict against the Hare Krishnas, who had been accused of brainwashing an Orange County teen-ager and then concealing her whereabouts from her parents.

Three years later, a Los Angeles jury handed down a \$30-million verdict against the Scientologists, who were said to have ruined the mental health and financial standing of a former member.

In response to church appeals, state judges reduced the amounts of both verdicts to less than one-tenth the original awards.

Lawyers for the churches said that they had been subjected to "heresy" trials in California, but the justices ignored their religious claims.



12 The Edmonton Sun, Thursday, March 21, 1991

Minister sues over sex charges

A Church of Scientology minister charged with sexually assaulting a 10-year-old girl is suing two police officers and an Edmonton woman for a million dollars.

Rev. Allan Butnor filed the civil suit in Edmonton Court of Queen's Bench yesterday, seeking damages for false arrest, negligence of duty and libel.

Butnor has pleaded not guilty to two counts of sexual assault, two of sexual interference and one of unlawful confinement. He's scheduled to be back in court June 14.

Butnor is seeking damages of \$1 million — \$200,000 for general and aggravated damages, \$600,000 for punitive and exemplary damages and \$200,000 for violation of constitutional rights, court documents show.

Janice "Kelly" Gariepy, RCMP Cpl. Reed Leary and city police Det. Ken Montgomery are named as defendants in the suit.

Butnor remains on the job.

Kozak mum on exec's leaving



Ken Kozak

Embattled Ald. Ken Kozak confirmed yesterday his executive assistant has resigned — but refused to say why.

Kozak said yesterday he has spoken to Tracy Corbett since she quit Monday, but wouldn't say what they discussed.

"It's between her and me," Kozak said while walking into his office. He wouldn't say when he spoke to Corbett.

When asked to confirm that Corbett had quit, Kozak would only say he will "have to fill the position."

Sources say Corbett, who didn't return telephone calls yesterday, quit in a telephone call to other aldermanic staff.

Kozak wasn't officially told of her resignation until he managed to contact her.

Kozak was convicted March 5 of assaulting his estranged wife. He has refused to quit as alderman despite such demands by Mayor Jan Reimer, some aldermen and more than 1,100 Edmontonians.

Other staff said Corbett quit because she was being swamped by a flood of abusive calls to Kozak's office from people who want him to resign.

Corbett worked under contract to Kozak. City hall secretaries have been taking the alderman's calls since Corbett quit.

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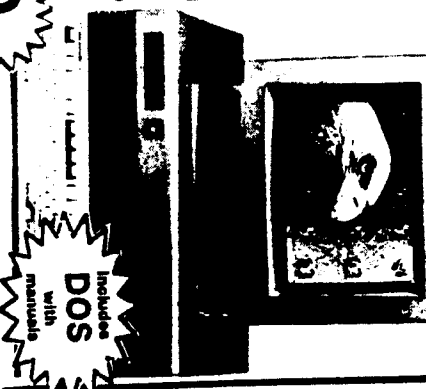


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County, church talking secretly

By KEVIN SHINKLE
Tribune Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — When Church of Scientology officials casually mentioned this week the church was seeking a settlement with Pinellas County over \$5 million in back taxes, it came as somewhat of a surprise.

That's because the mediation proceedings are taking place behind closed doors. And despite the huge amount of public money involved, state law says it's OK to conduct those negotiations in secret.

There's no guarantee, either, the private mediation will mean the county actually receives any of the money. The court-appointed mediator's decision is non-binding.

"We expect to be paying our fair share of taxes," said Richard Hawthorne, a spokesman for the church. "We think the mediation process will resolve it."

County Attorney Susan Churuti said she couldn't discuss the negotiations because the proceedings are closed to the public.

The church has refused to pay taxes since 1983 — eight years after it moved its worldwide spiritual headquarters to Clearwater from California.

Scientology is based on the writings of the late L. Ron Hubbard, whose books include "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health." He also wrote dozens of science fiction novels.

Scientologists say their spiritual beliefs are as valid as any other religious group's. The county argues the church is a money-making operation that must pay taxes.

Every year, the county sends a tax bill to the church for the 12 Scientology-owned properties in Clearwater, and every year the church ignores it.

This year, the church's tax bill was \$465,068.74, according to records in the county property appraiser's office. The church owes about \$5 million in back taxes, Property Appraiser Jim Smith said.

That's a large amount for a city as strapped for cash as Clearwater. The city raised property taxes by one-tenth of a mill this year. That will generate about \$400,000 in new tax revenue.

And the stakes for the city are getting even higher.

See **MEDIATION**, Page 2

Mediation under way with Scientologists

■ From Page 1

The Scientologists announced Tuesday a church trust group plans to build a \$42 million training center downtown. The trust will lease the building to the church.

The 170,000-square-foot building will encompass nearly an entire city block and replace the decrepit Gray Moss Inn at 215 S. Fort Harrison Ave.

It will be connected to the church's headquarters — across the street in The Fort Harrison hotel — by a glass-enclosed walkway above Fort Harrison Avenue.

On one hand, the expansion may end up generating tax dollars for the city. That's because the hotel could be eligible for taxation after Scientology classes held there are moved to the new building, said Paul Johnson, the church's lawyer. The hotel then could be considered a private business rather than a church building.

But the church likely will claim the new building should go untaxed because religious activities will be held there.

Officials from the church and the appraiser's office met for the first time three weeks ago with the mediator appointed by a circuit court judge. A second meeting scheduled for this past Monday was postponed.

Smith declined to discuss the mediation proceedings, saying his comments might be misconstrued by the church.

Still, Smith reiterated the county's long-held position the church was set up just to make money.

"They are a professional organization, and as such, should be taxed," he said.

Properties in Pinellas County owned by the Church of Scientology

Property	Value	1990 Taxes
Fort Harrison Hotel 210 S. Fort Harrison	\$9,355,600	\$211,197.05
Former Elks Lodge 516 Franklin St.	\$226,800	\$5,119.87
Former bank building 500 Cleveland St.	\$355,200	\$8,018
Hacienda Gardens Apartment Complex 551 N. Saturn	\$5,060,400	\$109,175
Sand Castle Retreat Corner of Drew Street and Osceola Avenue	\$2,254,900	\$50,903
Former apartment complex 1024 Cleveland St.	\$824,200	\$18,605.82
Former bank building 118 N. Fort Harrison Ave.	\$707,000	\$15,960.10
Church annex 109 N. Fort Harrison Ave.	\$151,700	\$3,424.54
Church annex 25 N. Fort Harrison Ave.	\$142,400	\$3,214.59
Church building 15 N. Fort Harrison Ave.	\$227,100	\$5,125
Former hotel 702 Bayview Ave.	\$1,775,600	\$34,323.59
Total	\$21,000,000	\$465,068

Tribune graphic

Pinellas/north

Thursday, March 21, 1991

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

PAGE 1, PINELLAS/NORTH SEC.



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Disadvantage for Pinellas in sect case

CLEARWATER — About 10 years ago when Jim Smith was a GOP state representative in north Pinellas, he sponsored an unsuccessful bill that in retrospect, looks better with the passing of each fiscal year.

"I proposed that all churches should pay taxes on all property, except for the parsonage and church itself," remembers Smith, currently the Pinellas property appraiser.

"It never even got to a committee. The Catholics and Baptists beat me over the head with it."

Smith doesn't remember the Church of Scientology being involved in the opposition, but that unconventional faith now looks like the chief benefactor of his bill's failure to become law.

Since moving their so-called spiritual headquarters to Clearwater during the mid-1970s, the Scientologists have bought up more and more downtown properties, and recently purchased yet another choice parcel where they hope to build a glitzy \$42 million training center.

But lots of prominent people regard the Scientology stronghold as more of a curse than a blessing, and Smith too has problems with this sect that maintains it's a religion worthy of tax-exempt status.

The past eight years have seen a stalemate between the county and church. Each year, the property appraiser's office has billed the Scientologists for their extensive holdings — nowadays, more than \$21 million worth of property — but the church would file an appeal and put everything in limbo.

Finally, in January a court-appointed mediator, former GOP state Rep. William Fleece, got involved, and both sides report "some progress." Fleece has no binding authority, and any agreement he might help hammer out will need court approval.

Holy rollers?

The Scientologists' attorney, Paul B. Johnson of Tampa, says the church is willing to pay its fair share — whatever that may be — but points out that it has gained religious exemptions in other locations, including Miami.

That kind of talk weighs heavily on Smith, who doesn't buy for a minute that

Scientology even remotely resembles religion — indeed, it seems more a mishmash of the late founder L. Ron Hubbard's passions for science fiction and amateur psychology.

There's not even an official doctrine per se, much less a god, and Scientologists won't even come clean with non-Scientologists — referred to as "Wogs" — on just what this faith is about.

But Smith — a Wog and proud of it — can't pursue this angle during mediation proceedings. The U.S. Constitution bars the government from passing judgment on the validity of any religion, even if it's something as unclearly defined as Scientology.

Instead, Smith must take the approach that a lot of non-religious activity takes place at Scientology-owned facilities like the old Fort Harrison Hotel and others. Tax-exempt religions can't operate primarily for business, and Smith believes the church isn't worshipping anything more than the almighty dollar when it charges parishioners for odd and often-times expensive counseling sessions.

The Scientologists can't just erase their property from the tax rolls, Smith says. That \$5 million they've been billed is needed by various cash-starved public entities.

Keeping their spirits up

In any given year, thousands of Scientologists shuttle in and out of Clearwater, where they undergo procedures that supposedly rid their souls of "thetans" or bad karma. Church spokesman Richard Hawthorth says Scientology is winning all kinds of converts, and the proposed six-story training center is an attempt to meet the ever-growing demand.

"I call it a nice problem to have," Hawthorth beamed Tuesday when he and Johnson unveiled architectural drawings.

Smith says it's a problem, all right, but doesn't see anything nice about it. He's going about his side of the case in a hard-nosed manner, saying that \$5 million is what's been billed and what the Scientologists should owe up to.

"I told them a long time ago, 'I'm not one of you and don't want to be, but if you pay your taxes, I won't bug you,'" Smith says. "I maintained that then, and I do now."

Unfortunately, Smith's hands are largely tied by federal law that cults exploit to the max, and the state's rejection of his sensible legislation of a decade ago.

Family reports 4th shooting in a week

CORINNA SCHULER
and DON RETSON
Journal Staff Writers

Edmonton

An Edmonton family says it was terrorized Wednesday by a gunman firing shots at their home for the fourth time in a week.

Children were playing Wednesday afternoon in their yard around 119th Avenue and 91st Street when five shots were fired from a car speeding down the back alley, said Janice Gariepy, a mother of six.

"They could have been really hurt."

Shortly after the incident, the 31-year-old stood teary-eyed and shaking through the broken glass of her front door, damaged by shots last week.

"All I want is to be able to walk out, take out my garbage, take my children to school and be safe," said Gariepy.

She said her children, aged two to 10, were playing by a picnic table when shots rang out. Gariepy's eight-year-old daughter, Ciel, said she spotted the culprits.

"I saw a brown car with two people in it driving fast down the back alley, then I saw the shots coming," she said, surrounded by other children.

Four police cruisers, including a dog unit, were called to the scene but no suspects were located.

"There was a broken window . . . There was no other evidence to suggest shots were fired. No neighbors heard or saw anything," said police spokesman Annette Bidniak.

Police couldn't begin to look for a suspect because there was no description or even direction of travel available. Bidniak stressed, however, that evidence of shootings has been gathered on other occasions at the home.

Police have responded to four reported shooting incidents at the Gariepy home since last Thursday — 12 shots have been fired and six windows have been damaged.

Dominique, 9, still has an ugly gash from where he was hit by a pellet last week. He was taken to hospital to have the tiny pellet removed and his wound repaired with a stitch.

"We can't go from the street," said Ciel.



Jim Cochrane The Journal

Pellet holes show in the window where Janice Gariepy stands with her daughter Guylaine, 4

"And we have to be within five inches of mom," added her sister Marie, 10.

Bidniak said police are concerned and an investigation is ongoing. She would not say how extensive the investigation is or if the

house is being watched by police.

Gariepy refused to say who she believes is responsible for the frightening string of incidents.

Gariepy is too scared to even let her children attend school. She pulled the eldest four from Ecole

Leo Green School on March 6.

School principal Paul Croteau said police officers he has spoken with about the case support her decision to withdraw the children from classes.

Sunday, April 14, 1991

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THE DAILY YOMIURI

More Hokum From Guru Hubbard

By Mark Wilkinson

Daily Yomiuri Staff Writer

CLEAR BODY, CLEAR MIND: The Effective Purification Program, by L. Ron Hubbard; Bridge Publications; 306 pages.

After years of polluting your body, there's hope: L. Ron Hubbard's *Clear Body Clear Mind*. It gives insights into the horrible toxins in all of us and provides home remedies for flushing our bodies.

And if you're an utter rube, you may find comfort in the evangelical, condescending tone of this astounding example of self-promotion.

Claiming to have discovered the presence of impurities in our bodies, Hubbard goes on for too many pages giving us "his" ideas on how to cleanse our bodies of toxins. In truth, "his" ideas are only old home remedies and common sense, but like his other books, they are packaged to dazzle and amaze us with Hubbard's intelligence.

Hubbard starts by meticulously explaining why it's so important for the reader to understand every word of his 306-page, double-spaced book, which could easily be condensed to less than 50 pages. To help the reader, he provides footnotes on almost every page for such difficult words as "vying" and "dormant," footnotes that on some pages take up more space than the main text.

After the lecture on comprehension, he goes into the toxins, which, according to him, could be anything. Drugs, pesticides, even perfumes could get into

your body, he says, and lie "dormant" (better check your dictionary before continuing) until released.

Once released, all hell breaks loose, as the toxins start "vying" (better grab your dictionary again) for control of your psyche.

Yes, remember that cologne you stopped using several years ago? Well, it's in you, waiting for a chance to escape and TAKE OVER YOUR BODY!!! according Hubbard.

To help every feeble-minded one of us—because, of course, only Hubbard had the mental ability to understand his insights—the book contains drawings showing drugs embedded in body tissues. And in case you can't figure out how those drugs got there, the book has drawings of people taking drugs.

Having scared the bejesus out of us, he introduces his Purification Program. OK, here it is . . . Ready? Here we go: First, exercise. Second, sweat. Third, eat a balanced diet. Fourth, drink plenty of liquids. And finally, maintain a regular schedule.

That's it. Three hundred and six pages spent telling us what every mother tells her children, what every doctor tells his patients and what every teacher tells her students. And get this, he claims to have discovered this Purification Program. He claims that scientific research has only confirmed what he has known all along.

Where did Hubbard get the gall to lay claim to authoring the Purification Program? Why, he was the grand pooh-bah of Scientology.

What's Scientology? In Hubbard's

own words, Scientology is "the broad science of life."

In 1956 he wrote, "If you knew what life was doing, you would know what many sciences and activities are doing." And with these words, says a Scientology brochure of his works, L. Ron Hubbard went from pulp-novel science fiction writer to author of self-help books and founder of Scientology.

Ask people from the United States about Scientology and you're liable to hear strange stories. They'll talk of kidnappings, surgery without instruments and rituals involving snakes. But if you press them for details, they'll probably shrug and claim ignorance.

The truth is that Scientology is one of those U.S. phenomena that most Americans seem to know little about.

According to the brief bio in *Clear Body Clear Mind*, Hubbard dropped out of college in the 1930s and became a science fiction writer. During World War II he was injured, and while rehabilitating, found himself thinking about his body. It was during this period of convalescence that he came up the "basic tenets of Dianetics technology."

In 1950 Hubbard released the tenets in *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*, breaking ground for the modern genre of self-help literature. Suddenly thousands of Americans had guidance, and Hubbard was their guru. Building on the success of *Dianetics*, Hubbard cranked out more self-help literature and established the Scientology organization to manage his following and legitimize his writings.

Actually, Scientology and Dianetics



stem from a bet made at a science fiction convention in the 1940s. During a discussion on how religions can be created in science fiction, Hubbard bragged that he could create a religion and dupe people into following it.

Using his success and considerable writing talent, he contrived Scientology. Today it is a cult with thousands of members, the most devoted of whom work promoting Hubbard's teachings.

Judging from the success of his works, it can only be guessed that many have derived inspiration from his works. However, as *Clear Body Clear Mind* was released after Hubbard's death in 1986, it can only be assumed that it was published to keep Hubbard's name alive. If so, we may have to suffer through more of his never-before-published books.

WALL STREET JOURNAL.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1991

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA

Medical Flap

Anti-Depression Drug Of Eli Lilly Loses Sales After Attack by Sect

Scientologists Claim Prozac
Induces Murder or Suicide,
Though Evidence Is Scant

Campaign Dismays Doctors

By THOMAS M. BURTON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

INDIANAPOLIS—L. Ron Hubbard, the late founder of the Church of Scientology, long harbored a profound and obsessive hatred for psychiatrists, who, he declared, were "chosen as a vehicle to undermine and destroy the West!"

Five years after Mr. Hubbard's death, Scientologists are still waging war on psychiatry. The quasi-religious/business/paramilitary organization's latest target is Prozac, the nation's top-selling medicine for severe depression. The group is calling it a "killer drug" that drives people to murder or suicide. Its tactics include scores of condemnatory mailings and press releases, going on the talk-show circuit and lobbying with Congress and the Food and Drug Administration to ban Prozac.

To the dismay of some doctors and the drug's manufacturer, Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly & Co., the campaign has had some success. Although Prozac's sales are huge, its share of the antidepressant market has slipped to 21% from 25% last July.

'Public-Health Problem'

"The public's fear of Prozac as a result of this campaign has itself become a potentially serious public-health problem as people stay away from treatment," says Jerrold Rosenbaum, a Harvard psychiatry professor.

Moreover, the Scientologists' arguments are being repeated in courts of law. In about a dozen cases pending around the nation, defense lawyers are arguing that their clients shouldn't be held responsible for any crimes because they were taking the drug. In five criminal cases already decided, however, the defendants were convicted. In addition, more than 50 civil suits related to violence allegedly induced by Prozac are pending against Eli Lilly; none have been resolved.

Lilly says it hasn't any evidence that the drug can turn patients either murderous or suicidal, but Prozac, like all antidepressants, does have side effects, including nervousness and sleeplessness. For many people, it is by far the easiest antidepressant to tolerate and doesn't leave the user feeling drugged or sleepy, as other antidepressants tend to do. And it has been known to dramatically relieve depression and improve the lives of some patients.

Going Off the Medicine

Yet at the St. Vincent Stress Center in Indianapolis, severely depressed patients were frightened enough by one Scientology official's remarks on television to stop taking the medication, only to deteriorate rapidly. "I have people coming off Prozac, and some of them are ending up in the hospital," says Paul Riley, the medical director. "I'm very angry about this. Somebody's going to end up dead from coming off the medicine," Dr. Riley says.

For Lilly, the Scientologists' campaign poses special problems. The company is very conservative. Lilly rarely seeks publicity and, with most of its drugs sold by prescription, it isn't used to marketing to the public.

Lilly also is vulnerable because of problems with two earlier products. It was one of several companies that sold DES, a drug blamed for an abnormal incidence of cancer in women whose mothers took it to avoid miscarrying. And in 1985, it pleaded guilty to 25 misdemeanor charges for failing to inform federal officials of four deaths and six illnesses after patients took Oraflex, an anti-arthritis medication.

Company's Position

Nevertheless, Lilly feels strongly that Prozac is safe. Leigh Thompson, the company's top medical official, says: "It's a demoralizing revelation to watch 20 years of solid research by doctors and scientists shouted down in 20-second sound bites by Scientologists and lawyers."

Lilly researchers first synthesized Prozac, known medically as fluoxetine hydrochloride, in 1972. The drug didn't hit the U.S. market until 1988, partly because Lilly had never made an antidepressant before and management didn't push its development. Now, Prozac has become crucial to the company; its sales, despite the late-1990 dropoff, were up 116% to \$777 million last year. It is Lilly's No. 2 product, trailing only the antibiotic Ceclor, and many analysts predict that this year Prozac will top \$1 billion. Pfizer Inc. and SmithKline Beecham PLC have chemically comparable antidepressants that are on sale in Britain but not yet in the U.S.

The attack on Prozac is only the latest battle in Scientology's war against psychiatry. Mr. Hubbard was a Nebraska-born science-fiction writer who, after a stint in the Navy, took to calling himself "commodore." His best-selling book, "Dianetics," led to creation of the group.

Mr. Hubbard's hatred of psychiatry may have sprung in part from the fact that "the mental-health community early on rejected" his ideas, suggests Cynthia Kisser, executive director of the Cult Awareness Network. He also realized, she contends, that "the best recruits were people whose problems were not being solved by the mental-health profession. These people might buy into Scientology." Church offi-

cials didn't respond to phone calls seeking comment.

Scientologists' central belief is that human beings have a soul-like entity called a "thetan" that is perfect and travels from galaxy to galaxy. Their goal is to help their thetans get rid of something called engrams—essentially, bad memories.

To this end, Scientology developed a lie-detector-like device called an E-meter, which is used to treat mental problems often at hundreds of dollars per session. Psychiatrists consider these "treatments" quackery. In 1984, the Internal Revenue Service successfully challenged the tax-exempt status of the Church of Scientology of California, then the mother church, arguing that it was more business than church. Scientology boasts of having millions of members, but the Cult Awareness Network and former Scientologists put the number closer to 12,000.

In recent years, the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, a Scientology-founded group, lambasted Ritalin, a Ciba-Geigy Corp. drug for hyperactive children. Last year the group, many of whose members have "Psychiatry Kills" stickers on their cars, alerted church members that some favorable press coverage of Prozac was "a declaration of war" that "cannot go unanswered."

"Psychiatrists are in their way," asserts Dennis Erlich, a former Scientologist minister. "Scientology is a serious conspiracy to derail psychiatry, pharmaceutical companies, and so on." He notes the group's paramilitary nature: Some members have military ranks, wear Navy-style uniforms and can be judged for offenses against the church by military-style tribunals.

A Minister's Observations

Sanford Block, a college dropout and Scientologist minister who serves as executive director of the Citizens Commission, says his group isn't run by the church but is mostly staffed by church members. He says he became convinced that psychiatry kills after noticing that "there's an enormously high rate of suicide for people who leave mental institutions" and that "a large portion of mass murderers had been psychiatric failures first."

In attacking Prozac, Scientologists often cite a 1989 mass murder at the Standard Gravure printing plant in Louisville, Ky. They say Joseph Wesbecker, who killed eight co-workers, wounded 12 and then shot himself to death, was "turned psychotic"

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Medical Flap: Lilly's Prozac, a Major Antidepressant, Loses Some Sales Amid Attacks by Scientologists

Continued From First Page

by Prozac. On a recent Phil Donahue Show on NBC, Dennis Clarke, president of the Citizens Commission, characterized Mr. Wesbecker as a man who before Prozac "had no history of violence" and "didn't have an argument on the job for 32 years." Mr. Block, the Scientology minister, adds in an interview, "There was no evidence about any threats" made by Mr. Wesbecker against co-workers or bosses before taking Prozac.

That is far from the truth. In fact, Mr. Wesbecker was for years a tragically tormented man who tried to commit suicide at least 12 times. During a period when he wasn't taking Prozac, he was diagnosed as a borderline personality, regularly talked about killing his bosses (according to nine separate witnesses who talked to the police), bought the guns he eventually used—including an AK-47 assault rifle—and went to a gun range to practice. He even bragged about his plans to kill his bosses to a man who came to his house regarding some tile work.

The Scientologists' anti-Prozac material often assumes that any criminal who takes the drug must have committed his crimes because of it. "The numbers of persons who have been driven or are being driven suicidal or homicidal by Prozac is astronomical," one press release says.

Some Suicides Inevitable

But the number of people on Prozac exceeds 3.5 million, more than the population of Chicago, where hundreds of people commit murder or suicide every year. And Frederick K. Goodwin, the U.S. government's top psychiatrist and an authority on depression, says it wouldn't be surprising over time to see thousands of suicides among more than three million depressive patients. "For many," Dr. Goodwin says, "Prozac has truly been a miracle, the first medication to rescue them from the living hell we call depression."

Often, the Scientologists' campaign has involved taking a seed of truth and then stretching it. In February 1990, Martin Teicher, a psychiatry professor at Harvard medical school, wrote that six of his mental patients had "serious" suicidal thoughts while on Prozac. Five had previous suicidal tendencies, but Dr. Teicher said these new "obsessive and violent" notions had strengthened. He estimated that the side effect occurred in 3.5% of his patients on Prozac.

However, he adds in an interview that he doesn't think it fair to extrapolate that percentage to all patients using the drug.

Harvard's Dr. Rosenbaum and colleagues surveyed records of more than 1,000 patients on Prozac and found no tendencies such as those described by Dr. Teicher. Yet the Scientology group extrapolated from Dr. Teicher's limited report to conclude that "up to 140,000 people in the United States have become violent and suicidal by Prozac" and "can explode any moment without provocation."

Dr. Teicher says the Scientologists' use of his paper is "absolutely irresponsible." He says they are twisting his research "to advance their purpose, which is to destroy psychiatry." He considers Prozac, used properly, safe and helpful.

Publicity Easily Obtained

Despite their credibility problems, the Scientologists have little trouble obtaining publicity for their cause. For instance, last year, numerous newspapers ran articles saying Scientologists had petitioned the FDA to ban Prozac on the ground that it prompts thoughts of suicide. One such article quoted Mr. Block of the Citizens Commission as saying, "Persons who were never depressed in their lives are going onto Prozac and suddenly wanting to kill themselves."

Likewise, the Smyth County News in Marion, Va., ran an article that appeared to come straight from a Scientologist press release. "A nationwide warning has been issued on the psychiatric antidepressant drug Prozac cautioning that the drug can generate intense, violent suicidal thoughts and can push unsuspecting users of the drug to commit murder," the article said. It contained no response from Lilly or any psychiatrists.

Linda White, the Virginia paper's editor, says such press releases often get printed because small newspapers, including hers, "don't have the resources to check out all press releases."

Psychiatrists say they can't rule out the possibility of a few dangerous side effects with Prozac or any drug. A Yale-New Haven Hospital study in 1990 found some suicidal thoughts among obsessive-compulsive adolescents taking Prozac. But many psychiatrists prescribe it for hundreds of patients without problems, and scattered incidents hardly bear out Scientologists' allegations that "psychiatrists have destroyed thousands of lives" with Prozac.

Far more common are experiences such as those of Jill Silver, a 56-year-old artist and grandmother from Wynnewood, Pa. In the past five years, panic attacks associated with moderate depression forced her to run out of restaurants—and

out of her job. In January, she "bottomed out," crying incessantly and constantly needing her husband or a relative with her. "I'd become a baby again," she says.

Her doctor prescribed Prozac. Gradually, over four weeks, with therapy and the support of her family, she improved substantially. Now she is counseling the mentally ill at a crisis hot-line center.

Clinical-Trial Results

To fight the Scientologists, Lilly is taking the unusual step of publishing results from clinical trials conducted before Prozac entered the U.S. market. The results, compiled by doctors unaffiliated with Lilly on 3,065 depressed patients, show a lower tendency toward suicidal thinking with Prozac than with other antidepressants, or with the starch capsules given to a control group. Neither doctors nor patients were told what was in the capsules.

After the Scientologists' attack began, David Wheadon, a Lilly psychiatrist, met with European suicide experts to explore whether the company missed something significant in these tests. Dr. Thompson, Lilly's chief physician, also met with four psychiatrists who scrutinized its findings. Inside and outside the company, psychiatrists concluded that nothing in the clinical trials linked suicidal thinking—common in depression patients—to Prozac.

Lilly also sent out "Dear Doctor" letters about all this. And last January, the company convened its 1,700 U.S. salespeople and urged them to tell any concerned doctors about the clinical-trial results and discuss the Scientologists' campaign.

But that campaign has been effective in frightening Prozac patients. Watching a recent Donahue talk show on which Mr. Clarke and others blamed the Louisville killings on Prozac were 21 severely depressed patients at Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital near Toronto. Some had been hospitalized after trying to slit their wrists; some were then put on Prozac.

As they heard Mr. Wesbecker described as "your average nice Joe" turned killer by Prozac, the patients became distraught, some hysterically so. Doctors and nurses had to lead them out of the hospital's day room. It took three days for Robbie Thompson, the chief of psychiatry, and his staff to calm many of them.

"I'm all for looking at both sides of the coin," Dr. Thompson says, "but this just isn't right. How this has been allowed to go this far is beyond me."