

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 1991

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty" II Cor. 3:17

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THE PROS...

"There was always kind of a wooden dullness in my head... At the end (of the program), things looked brighter and much clearer. And before that there was a sort of deadness."

— Larry Jerrim,
a Scientologist

THE TWO SIDES OF SCIENTOLOGY

Members see a path to spiritual well being, critics a course of manipulation

By SUSAN HEADDEN
STAR SENIOR WRITER

If you happened into the waiting room of Anderson dentist Mike Kasie, you would find among the usual magazines some pamphlets on a philosophy Kasie says has changed his life.

Because of it, he says, he has lost his "superiority complex." He can relate better with patients. He feels smarter. And he has plenty of energy to play with his children at the end of the day.

"Life was constantly remembering what we didn't do yesterday and trying to get it done today," Kasie says. "This has brought me more control, more stability."

In Indianapolis, meanwhile, commercial photographer Tom Hanafec sits in his living room

chronicling his years with an organization he says nearly ruined his home life.

He spent thousands of dollars pursuing it, he says, and in the process, distanced treasured friends and nearly wrecked his marriage.

"This is hurting people financially and physically, and people who need help are not getting it legitimately," Hanafec says. "On a spiritual level, souls are being lost."

Provoking praise and scorn, the organization in question is the Los Angeles-based Church of Scientology, a 40-year-old sect that claims millions of members worldwide and is presently engaged in a \$3 million campaign for public approval.

Each day throughout the summer, the church is buying full-page advertisements in USA Today detailing Scientology's achieve-

ments. The aim: to rebut a May 6 expose by Time magazine that called the organization a "greedy, ruthless, worldwide scam." Likewise, the strongly anti-drug organization has been locked in a public battle with Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly and Co., whose controversial anti-depressant Prozac the Scientologists deplore.

Cynthia Kisser of the Chicago-based Cult Awareness Network calls Scientology a "hugely profitable and destructive cult" that generates more complaints than any group she knows of and traps members with psychological manipulation.

Scientists, by contrast, call theirs a bona fide religion that seeks only "a civilization without insanity, without criminals and without

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...AND CONS

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— Tom Hanafec,
a former member

Scientology

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war, where the able can prosper and honest beings can have rights and where man is free to rise to greater heights."

According to the church, an estimated 350 to 400 residents of central Indiana are active Scientologists. With recent publicity almost exclusively bad, these supporters suddenly find themselves leaping to the defense of their beliefs. At the same time, defectors are finding renewed vindication of their decisions to leave.

Anderson mission

The debate over Scientology in Indiana starts with a group in Anderson, which opened a mission about five years ago after the church closed its office in Indianapolis. They met with *The Star* recently to share their views. The discussion was informal — except that the Scientologists brought a spokesman from the church's Office of Special Affairs in Chicago.

Friendly and articulate, they included dentist Kastle, a local veterinarian, a writer, a professional Scientology counselor and several automobile-headlight designers.

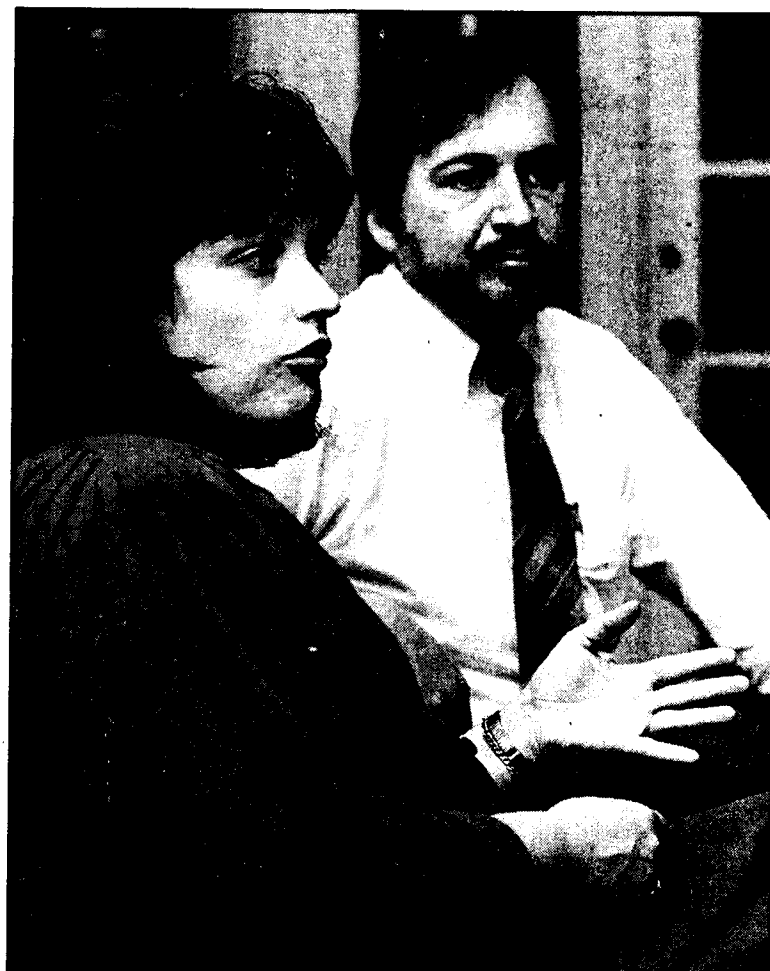
The church these members portray bears scant resemblance to the one exposed in recent articles as an organization whose leaders were once sent to jail for burglarizing and wiretapping public and private agencies investigating them.

What matters to these followers is the power of Scientology to rid them of the mental baggage of their past lives — to "clear" them for a new way of thinking. This they achieve through a rigorous course of study developed by the late philosopher and science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard.

Hubbard, who died in 1986 after several years in seclusion, founded Scientology in the 1950s after publication of his self-help best seller *Dianetics*. He claimed that he was crippled and blinded in World War II, then, through his own mental powers, cured.

A number of published exposes have challenged the accuracy of Hubbard's biography — and Scientologists now say that Hubbard was only visually impaired — but none of these investigations appears to have tempered the devotion of the Scientologists here.

Scientology counseling begins with a process called auditing, a series of interviews in which a counselor elicits feelings from the student and registers them on a meter. Hubbard claimed that unhappiness stemmed from



STAR STAFF PHOTO / GREG GRIFFO

Larry Jerrim, with wife Maggie, once viewed Scientologists as "nuts." Courses helped him see them more clearly.

early mental traumas called "engrams."

Engrams disappear — and the student is clear — when they no longer register a charge on the E-meter.

Getting the most out of Scientology involves a long, tedious climb up the ladder of truth. Students cannot take one step without having completed another. Acceleration is not only forbidden, it might also be confusing. That's because Scientology has a vocabulary of its own. For example:

"Scientology or Dianetic processes will not function in the presence of bad TRS. The pre-clear is already being overwhelmed by process velocity and cannot bear up to TR flubs without ARC breaks." That statement from a Scientology training manual roughly translates into: The student will get upset if the teacher doesn't listen and moves too fast.

Money, dedication needed

According to Hubbard doctrine, human beings have a physical body, a mind consisting of mental pictures of the past, and a soul or "thetan." Thetans progress to different levels of enlightenment depending on the number of courses they have passed.

Achieving the highest goals of Scientology — progressing from clearing the individual to clearing the planet — requires not only dedication, but also money. After a free personality test,

prices range from \$100 for a basic communications course to several thousand dollars for a months-long Operating Thetan Level 8 course.

The Anderson Scientologists each said they had spent about 10 percent of their incomes on Scientology. "fixed donations" they equate with tithes paid to other churches. But the benefits, they said, were well worth the cost. All talked of having vitality, clear heads and a sense of peace. They even said they were smarter.

"It is easy to document that this course does raise your IQ," says Larry Jerrim, a headlight designer and longtime Scientologist. "My own IQ, I think jumped about 20 points over a number of years. Now that's one thing that everybody knows can't be changed. But (it) very definitely can."

An important first step for all these Scientologists was the so-called "purification rundown," a regimen developed by Hubbard that combines vitamins, exercise and sauna to free people of harmful effects of drugs, alcohol and chemicals in the environment. You don't have to be a drug addict or an alcoholic to benefit.

Scientologists say there are lingering effects from drugs as seemingly harmless as aspirin. Toxins can be lodged in fatty tissues, they say, and released as long as 15 years after they are taken in. Once these are released, the individual's suscep-

tibility to the harms of new toxins is said to be reduced.

Maggie Jerrim, who runs the mission in Anderson, says she could actually feel the transformation.

"I was driving home one night, and I kept thinking my mouth feels weird. What is that? I never realized that it was the marijuana I had smoked as a teenager — 14 or 15 years ago — that was getting out of my system."

Her husband, Larry, says: "There was always kind of a wooden dullness in my head. I wasn't aware of it until I was like halfway through the program. At the end, visually, things looked brighter and much clearer. And before that there was a sort of deadness."

Analytical approach

To the uninitiated, purification may seem strange. But these Scientologists find it eminently logical. In fact, what drew them to Scientology was the precision of *Dianetics*, in which Hubbard lays out his fundamentals of mental health.

Jim Mellinger, an automotive designer, saw in *Dianetics* a scientific, analytical approach to the mind rather than a psychiatric one. It teaches its followers how to study, he said, so they can grasp subjects forever, not just for the purposes of an exam. Joe Ballman, also a designer, says Scientology helped him to handle easily an otherwise painful divorce.

"It's like I'm traveling down a road, and I know where I'm going, and I feel good about it. In today's world I can't imagine feeling like that without doing some study of Scientology," Ballman said.

Veterinarian Jim Speiser had a growing practice but said he harbored a vague discontent. As people envied him for having it made, he was dreading going to work in the morning. He took a Scientology personality test and discovered that he took life too seriously. Further study helped him communicate better with others, he said, and come to terms with himself.

Members of the Anderson group are not naïve about outsiders' opinions of their church. Jerrim at first thought Scientologists were "a bunch of nuts." And Kasle exhibits a cynicism so thick that he might seem an unlikely disciple of any line of thought. He says he took the personality test just to see how wrong it could be.

"I was so sure they wouldn't have a clue," he said. "But at the end, I was asking them which ones of my friends they had talked to. Here I was laughing it off as a big joke, and it was brutally accurate."

Because Scientology charges

for its services, it has struggled over the years to prove to the Internal Revenue Service that it is a religion — and thus eligible for tax-exempt status.

But like followers of any sect, Scientologists say they focus on the spiritual being and work for a better world. You can be a Catholic, they say, and a Scientologist, too.

"In Scientology people do believe in God, but it's not the God you are told to believe in. It's like you come to a greater awareness of God," says Carol Brookes, the public relations representative. "We believe in ethical living that is going to bring about good things for everybody."

Toward that aim, the church has developed anti-drug programs and outreach missions throughout the world.

Local discontent

Not everybody who has followed Scientology agrees with Scientology.

Among Indianapolis residents who participated in the church only to become disillusioned are Hanafee and real estate agent Walter Banks.

Both were members of the Indianapolis mission, which closed for unknown reasons in the early 1980s at about the same time its directors, Adrian and Sharon Dixon, filed for personal bankruptcy. The Dixons, who could not be reached, have

left the state and reportedly severed their Scientology ties. Several other Indianapolis residents also defected but did not wish to explain why publicly.

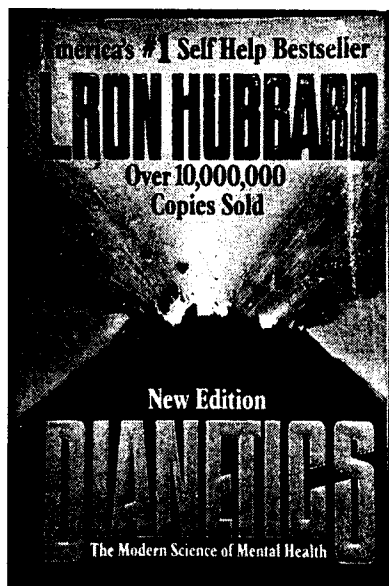
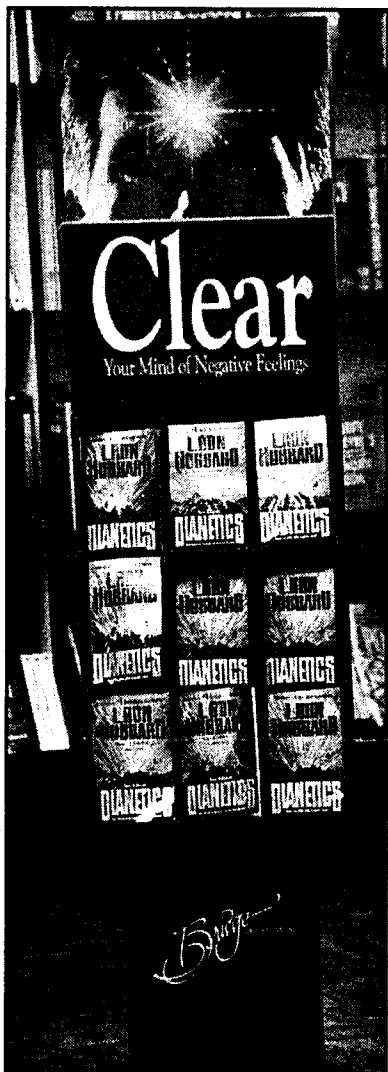
Hanafee, for one, contends that Scientology is compatible with few other doctrines. Studying for hours every night and weekends for six years, he found little room for those of dissimilar bent.

"It was a time in my life when I was very down. I did a lot of searching for those big questions that I had never had answered," he said. "I considered myself your standard atheist, and I thought this would find me the answers."

Today, Hanafee has embraced Roman Catholicism with a passion evidenced by the sacred artwork that adorns his living room. Ultimately, he said, "I found that Scientology has a reason for everything and an answer for nothing."

Both Hanafee and Banks were disaffected by the price attached to enlightenment. Banks broke with the church in a dispute over requirements for being certified as "clear." He was asked to pay \$700 for a "Sunshine Rundown," which, he said, required him to walk around looking at large and small objects until he had a revelation.

"The process was just not
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STAR STAFF PHOTOS / RON IRA STEELE

Scientology was founded by L. Ron Hubbard in 1950s, shortly after publication of his *Dianetics*. In the best-selling self-help book, Hubbard shares his formula for purging the mind of negativism and developing a clear head and a sense of peace.

Scientology

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worth the price," said Banks. "My attitude was I know I'm clear. I feel it."

Banks, who estimates he spent \$5,000 on Scientology, says he found the courses generally worthwhile. Yet he questions the program's stated altruistic aims. Only those who can afford Scientology, he says, truly learn Scientology.

"I think it's become a thing to make money, and they have no concern about whether it helps people. . . . To get where you are supposed to be probably would have cost me \$50,000."

Claims of mind control

Others expressed concern about what they claim is mind control. A Kokomo woman, who says she spent \$35,000 on Scientology in two years, said she credits the church with teaching her to work hard. But she now deplores the methods she said the church used to do it.

"They know everything about you. That's how they keep control," said the woman, who did not want her name used. "They



Anderson dentist Mike Kasle says Scientology helped him lose his 'superiority complex.'

kept saying I was PTS — potential trouble source."

The woman claims church counselors told her she would not make progress if she associated with people hostile to her views. So she didn't speak to her parents for a year. After the church taught her to "deliver effective blows to the enemy," she took it upon herself to steal anti-Scientology books from the Indianapolis public library.

Shortly after signing a billion-year contract with the Scientology staff, she was sent to a rehabilitation project in California. She was having problems, she said they told her, and needed to be redeemed. Rehabilitation involved working from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., she said, with time out for meals and five hours for auditing.

Today, the woman, referred by the Cult Awareness Network — a controversial organization in itself — is getting psychological counseling.

"I feel like I just wasted 15 years of my life — the best part of my life. Now that I've come to my senses, I realize people have kids and marriages and nice houses, and I just feel like a displaced person."

Militant tone prevails

Scientology manuals, issued to auditors as part of their training, provide an interesting look into the organization's philoso-



STAR STAFF PHOTO / GREG GRIFFO

Believer Joe Ballman says his study of Scientology helped him with his divorce.

phies, strategies and rules. A kind of militant tone prevails. With orders signed by "The Commodore," they hint of Hubbard's management style and of Scientology's reluctance, in the face of opposition, to turn the other cheek.

Wrote Hubbard in one directive:

"When somebody enrolls, consider that he or she has joined up for the duration of the universe. Never permit an 'open-minded' approach. If they are going to quit, let them quit fast. If they enroll, they are aboard on the same terms as the rest of us — win or die in the attempt. Never let them be half-minded about being a Scientologist."

In the manuals are details about some of Scientology's methods of instruction — some of which even the ex-Scientologists found to be quite worthwhile.

In one typical drill, called "Confronting the Preclear (student)," the student and the auditor (counselor) sit facing each other. They must sit still — not speaking, moving, blinking, giggling or acting embarrassed — for a matter of hours. The point of the exercise, developed by Hubbard, is to overcome "obsessive compulsions to be interesting."

Similarly, a drill called "Bull-baiting" has the auditor harassing the student with words and actions carefully selected to make him angry, hurt or embarrassed. The student passes the exercise when he can take this abuse without reacting.

The meaning of Scientology, Hubbard said, is as follows: "You are an immortal being. Through lies, treachery, deceit and pretense, you can destroy yourself. By seeking truth and living a life of helping others, by being honest and decent you will be strong and achieve your power and immortality."

The operative phrase is "seeking truth." Scientologists have withstood considerable attack in recent years. They handle the criticism by finding everything they can about the source — and striking back.

Lilly, they say, would lose millions from the sale of Prozac if Scientology's anti-drug principles universally took hold. The Cult Awareness Network, they say, is an anti-religious "hate group" whose past leader was a

convicted felon. And *Time* magazine, they say, has a history of bias.

"Merchants of Chaos"

Indeed, Scientologists believe that virtually all Scientology attackers — "Merchants of Chaos," they are called — have hidden agendas. It falls to the faithful to uncover those biases and, through a sophisticated public relations apparatus, to disseminate them.

About Eli Lilly, Jerrim says: "It's only been this century that man feels . . . that if there's something wrong with him you put a drug in his body. If somebody comes along and says that isn't true, you are going to upset a lot of people."

Mellinger shared the opinions of his fellow Scientologists in his assessment of the widespread criticism and of the *Time* article, which detailed a number of questionable and allegedly illegal practices by Scientologists.

"When I was reading this I thought, 'Jeez, I have never seen anything like that.' Yet when I was on a (Scientology) course I found people who had problems with life or with drugs benefited. I could see it. And it occurred to me, being a scientist, that you draw conclusions on what *is*. And people who know me think I'm a lot happier."

None of the recent furor has swayed these Scientologists' convictions that their organization holds the answers to life's questions. Ultimately, Jerrim says, it has made him more tolerant of other's religious convictions, while fiercely loyal to his own.

"The press has often misrepresented our practices and beliefs, slyly, as unusual or bizarre. The press gave the same treatment to the Jews a few decades ago. True, we do not turn the other cheek. As Mr. Hubbard says, 'It's a tough universe, the social veneer makes it seem mild. But only the tigers survive, and even *they* have a hard time. We'll survive because we're tough and dedicated.'"

Express & Echo

EXMOUTH

No 37,027

EXETER: Wednesday, July 24, 1991

25p

GIRL RESCUED FROM CULT

by PETER HARDY

A RELIGIOUS cult member was persuaded to rejoin her family during a dramatic secret meeting in Exmouth, the Express & Echo can reveal.

The daring rescue bid was set up after the family consulted expert opponents of the Church of Scientology, which has been accused of employing brainwashing techniques to win over some of its followers.

Now the girl, a science graduate, is safe at a secret address, thought to be in the north of the country, after the successful reunion which is believed to have taken place at an Exmouth guest house.

The town was chosen for the secret rendezvous to avoid interference from church followers who were believed to be shadowing cult expert Jon Caven-Atack. Church agents suspected that a meeting with one of their members was due to take place.

Mr Caven-Atack was contacted by the parents of the girl when they said she began to regard everyone outside the church as an enemy.

Before the rendezvous took place Exmouth police were contacted by someone, believed to be a Scientologist, warning them that some kidnappers were in town who were about to snatch a minor.

A police spokesman confirmed that they were contacted.

"We confirm that enquiries were made and no offences were disclosed," he said.

The meeting took place and after three days the family were reunited when the girl began to question Scientology.

The girl was lured to the address a week ago to see her family who told her they wanted to talk about Scientology.

The girl was said to be 100 per cent committed to the cult.

"The girl had parted with thousands of pounds," he said.

He explained that it was possible that Scientologists were now active within the Exmouth area.

A former victim now helps people escape "brainwashing" sects

The rock drummer out to beat the cults

Last week cult expert Jon Caven-Atack set up a meeting in Exmouth and persuaded a member of the Church of Scientology to return to her family. The Echo's Peter Hardy now talks to the man who has dedicated his life to exposing cults which he says brainwash their members.

FOR NINE years, former rock drummer Jon Caven-Atack was under the spell of a "religious" sect known as the Church of Scientology.

Now, outside the cult, Jon has pledged his life and a full-time career to expose the workings of an organisation which has attracted thousands of followers.

The cult, which, like the Moonies, is accused of brainwashing its members, is thriving and has between 50,000 and 100,000 members.

Since leaving the "Church" in 1983, Mr Caven-Atack, now aged 38, has helped around 100 people leave the sect and has influenced many others. He lives in East Grinstead where the church's British operation is based.

He has already written one book. A Piece of Blue Sky, which came out last October, and is now working on three others.

He is a consultant on the Church of Scientology and is fast becoming an expert on the techniques of mind manipulation, which he says is used by advertising companies and by politicians to put over their message.

Things like trigger words or colour matching for certain products can sink suggestions deeper in the mind than the conscious on-looker realises.

Last week, he and two American cult experts travelled to Exmouth to help a mother and father retrieve their daughter from the grip of the Church of Scientology.

After luring her to a guest house in the town, they spent three days trying to convince the girl of the truths behind the teachings of the late L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of the movement. The girl then agreed to return with her parents to their home in the North of England.

Mr Caven-Atack refers to L. Ron Hubbard as a stage hypnotist whose book, The Science of Survival, first drew him into the cult.

"I was in a pretty receptive state of mind at the time," he recalls.

"I had just come back from a tour of France where I had not been able to find one gig to discover that my girlfriend was living with one of my best friends and they were intending to move out to New Zealand.

"I was just hooked by it. It wasn't a religious thing and there weren't any drugs or electric shock treatments.

"You were just going to sit down and talk over the traumas you had lived through in the past and it seemed eminently sensible."

Mr Caven-Atack said he did not have any money and had to scrape together the £5 for his first communications course.

It is these courses, known collectively as The Bridge, that can cost their students up to £250,000 to complete.

"The promises at the end of it all were that I would become super human and gain the ability to make lots of money.

"I was trained in how to recruit other people in Scientology and altogether got about 50 people in. Luckily, most didn't stay. The only rules were to avoid communists, journalists and homosexuals.

"They didn't pay me and they didn't provide me with anything. I was simply a happy hoven for L. Ron Hubbard."

Mr Caven-Atack knows of Scientologists who have parted with over 450,000 dollars in six weeks to the cult. Well known household names regu-

larly contribute, and the church is thought to be worth many millions of pounds.

"The Bridge is never ending," said Mr Caven-Atack.

"Prices for the courses really went crazy from 1978. They were going up by 10 per cent per month, which was a 320 per cent per annum rise.

"After two years, a £6 course was costing £120. I managed to reach the



© A HELPING HAND: Former rock musician Jon Caven-Atack has now devoted his life to helping the victims of "religious" sects. He himself was held "under the spell" of the Church of Scientology for nine years.

fifth OT (Operating Thetan) level. All the time you were aiming to rid your lives of body satans. I spent very little, probably about £8,000 to £7,000."

According to cult experts Conway and Siegelman, the Church of Scientology has the most debilitating set of hypnotic rituals of any cult in the United States. Meanwhile, the cult's late creator continues to be revered in three sacred shrines where all his writ-

ings are preserved — etched on to stainless steel to stand the test of time.

The shrines are multi-million pound caverns hewn out of rock and secured with titanium steel vault doors.

L. Ron Hubbard has been the subject of many books since his work to create the Church began in the 1950s. Mr Caven-Atack's 420 page book is available direct from his home at Avalon, Cranston Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex, price £16.95.

I am a Scientologist.

One day I realized that I was not going anywhere. I was broke and unhappy. I lost my driver's license, couldn't work and left Colorado. I moved to L.A. and then turned to Scientology. The results were instant. Scientology enabled me to completely turn my life around. I am now doing all the things I have ever wanted to do. I can communicate with people, something I could never do before. I can achieve anything I want. I attribute this directly to Scientology.

Jim Blythe
Window Cleaner



Before Scientology, I was a taxi driver in Pittsburg. The only problem was that it wasn't really what I wanted to do. I had nearly given up on achieving my goals – until I found Scientology. Since then I have increased my abilities beyond my wildest dreams and it hasn't just been in my career. I am also now very happily married and am leading a happy, fulfilling life doing what I want to do and achieving all my goals.

Colwell Garth
Graphic Artist

I have been a Scientologist for 11 years and it has totally changed my life for the better. Before Scientology, I was soft-spoken, insecure and had a hard time communicating. With L. Ron Hubbard's incredible technology, I have overcome all of this. Today, my husband and I are top professionals in our field.

Mary Belue
Direct Marketing Sales Manager



I've been a Scientologist for 17 years now. The more Scientology courses that I have taken, the more my income and technical abilities have increased. I have learned all about the problems that anybody can have. As a result, I now know how to handle my own problems and help others handle theirs. This is an immense ability that I have gained solely by learning Scientology.

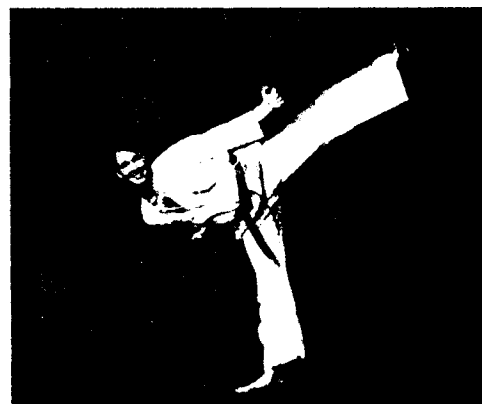
Joe Spencer
Artist



It's amazing to me how Scientology has helped me in every way. When I got into Scientology my IQ was about 96 and I was doing badly in school. I didn't even think that I could do anything about it. I thought, "That is just the way it is and I am not as smart as other people." I was wrong. Now my IQ is 127 and at 16 I've already graduated from high school and am having a great time working with my dad in his business – all thanks to Scientology. It's given me a future I wouldn't have had otherwise.

Kevin Cook
Painter

If it were not for Scientology, my marriage would be on the rocks. I used to be a self-centered person who only thought about himself. To be honest, I probably would not have been faithful to my wife. Now, with Scientology, I have the knowledge and wisdom of what it takes to hold a marriage together. The principles in Scientology have given me incredible insight on why I used to be the way I was and what I needed to do to overcome it.



Today, I have a loving and caring wife and she has a devoted and faithful husband – thanks to Scientology.
Dan Anderson
Karate Instructor

My education still left me with vast questions about human nature. Why people acted the way they did and found it so difficult to get along with one another seemed to be tied up with mysteries that were never to be known. I was more than astonished to find the wealth of answers to "unknowable" questions in Scientology, let alone the simple and doable ways that I could help myself improve my life. My understanding of life, my imagination and my personal abilities have expanded beyond anything I had ever before imagined.

Barry Stein
Architect



When I decided to handle my education I was 18 years old. I took the Basic Study Course by L. Ron Hubbard. I learned why I could not study. This problem had been holding me back, limiting my abilities and I felt that I needed to change this. The thought of study difficulties hampering my personal progress was scary. But after completing just this one course, I found that I could study easily and am now willing to tackle any subject and can apply what I have read. I am looking forward to succeeding in life and now know that I can.

Heather Selleck
Cashier

To find out more about Scientology,

Write for a free brochure to the Scientology Information Center,
6331 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, California 90028-6313 or

Call 1-800-334-5488

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1991

MEDICINE

Scientists Fail to Persuade FDA on Prozac

By THOMAS M. BURTON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

INDIANAPOLIS—The Food and Drug Administration weighed in heavily on the side of Eli Lilly & Co. in rejecting claims that the popular anti-depressant drug Prozac is connected to murder, suicide or other maladies.

The FDA action follows a yearlong campaign against Prozac by the Church of Scientology that had sought to persuade the federal agency, through a formal petition, to ban U.S. sales of the Lilly drug.

But the FDA found that a Scientology-founded group called the Citizens Commission for Human Rights hadn't demonstrated links between the drug, known chemically as fluoxetine hydrochloride, and suicidal thinking.

"The data and information available at this time do not indicate that Prozac causes suicidality or violent behavior," said the federal agency in rejecting a call from the Scientologists to ban the sale of the drug.

Prozac, the world's top-selling anti-depressant, has been prescribed for more than four million people and is expected to reach more than \$1 billion in sales this year. If so, Prozac would become Lilly's top-selling product. So the stakes were high when the Scientologists—longtime opponents of psychiatry and psychiatric drugs—set their sights on Prozac.

Lilly hailed the FDA action against what it termed the Scientologists' campaign of "dangerous deception" that is "a menace to the public health as it attempts to frighten patients away."

Prozac doesn't work for about one-third of the patients who take it. But for those who are aided, Prozac has fewer side effects than other drugs previously on the market and often has greatly improved patients' mental states.

Sanford Block, head of the church's Citizens Commission, said he expects to provide further information to the FDA allegedly linking Prozac and suicide. Mr. Block, who calls Prozac a "killer drug," noted the agency will hold hearings on the safety of anti-depressants in general.

In addition to concluding Prozac isn't linked to suicide, the FDA found no demonstrable connection between Prozac and movement disorders known as tardive dyskinesia and tardive dyskinesia.

"FDA's review revealed no basis for concluding that Prozac caused these adverse clinical events" brought to its attention by either Lilly or the Citizens Commission, the agency reported. The agency focused, for example, on material in a peti-

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FDA Rejects Claims By Scientology Group About Prozac Drug

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tion from the Scientology group purportedly tying suicide and attempted suicide cases to Prozac.

In doing so, the agency concluded that "these data provide no way of distinguishing the role of the patients' underlying medical condition and the role of the drug in causing these suicidal events."

The FDA report announcing its rejection of the church's petition noted that "depression itself is highly associated with suicide" and concluded that clinical data from Lilly tend to disprove the assertions made by the Scientology group.

The FDA also found that "assertions that Prozac leads depressed patients to obsess more about suicide than depressed patients not on the drug cannot be substantiated."

Some medical reports on small numbers of depressed patients have shown an increased tendency toward suicidal thinking after taking Prozac, though these findings deal mostly with patients already inclined toward such thoughts or with serious obsessive-compulsive disorders. Moreover, Harvard professor Martin Teicher, who authored one of those reports, said the Scientology group seriously distorted the findings of his study, which focused on only six patients.

Prozac, unlike some other anti-depressants on the market, doesn't cause drowsiness or a "drugged" feeling. It energizes patients and makes others jittery, factors that some physicians theorize could pose problems in a small number of patients.

Lawsuits have been filed in several states by patients who contend their suicide attempts were caused by the drug. In addition, defendants in some murder cases have argued—thus far unsuccessfully—that Prozac made them commit their crimes.

Scientology, which treats its members through therapy that has been denounced as quackery by psychiatrists and doctors, has attacked other drugs and seeks also to condemn all anti-depressants. Prozac became the latest target of the group after becoming a popular remedy for a large population of clinically depressed people.

The National Mental Health Association described the Lilly drug as "an extremely useful drug therapy in the treatment of depression" and added it "applauds the FDA's decision to reject the Citizens Commission's baseless petition."

And the American Psychiatric Association said the FDA had "chosen science over sensationalism" and said "it is depression, the illness, which kills by causing suicide in as many as one in six patients."

Group Linked to Scientologists Loses Prozac Bid

From Associated Press

WASHINGTON—The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday rejected a request by a group affiliated with the Church of Scientology that it ban the anti-depressant drug Prozac on grounds that it makes people suicidal and violent.

The FDA released a letter to the Citizens Commission on Human Rights saying that it had found no evidence for these claims or for the commission's additional claims that Prozac is addictive and causes movement disorders.

The agency said it had reviewed the evidence provided by the group, along with data supplied by the drug's manufacturer, Eli Lilly & Co. of Indianapolis.

The group's petition cited cases of depressed patients being treated with Prozac who committed or attempted suicide.

The FDA said the data provided no way of determining the relative roles of the drug and the depression in causing the suicidal behavior. "Depression itself is highly associated with suicide," the agency said.

It said clinical trials did not show any greater rate of suicide attempts among depressed patients on Prozac than among those being given placebos or treated with other anti-depressants.

Eli Lilly called the action a reaffirmation of the safety and effectiveness of the drug. It said the Citizens Commission on Human Rights was a Scientology front group engaged in "a dangerous deception."

The FDA said the drug's labels already note that violent behaviors have been reported among a small number of patients and that, in clinical trials, hostile behavior was observed at rates ranging from 1 in 100 to 1 in 1,000.

The commission said Prozac had been linked to murders, but the FDA said the small number of cases and the lack of detailed information made it impossible to draw conclusions from the data.

The group asked for the ban last October.

CRITICS say cult behind drug-rehab program

By PAT ST. GERMAIN
Sun Staff Writer

Kids working for Scientology front? AUG 4/91

Dozens of Winnipeg teenagers have been hired to raise funds for a drug rehabilitation program which critics charge is nothing more than a recruiting front for a "mind-control cult."

About 60 teenagers who answered newspaper advertisements for summer jobs are selling pepperoni and T-shirts door-to-door to raise money for Narconon — a drug rehab organization linked to the Church of Scientology.

And while officials from the program and the man behind the drive say it's all above board, it has sparked concern that the church — which has been alleged to



RUTNER: Dangerous

former Scientology members as patients.

Rutner said it's not unusual for cult-like organizations to attract recruits through a

be a cult and accused of crimes by U.S. experts — may be using the campaign to indoctrinate local teens with church-supplied videos.

"It sounds like a potentially dangerous situation," said Winnipeg psychologist Toby Rutner, who has had some former

socially acceptable pretext and then expose them to the organization's doctrine.

And an Oklahoma newspaper publisher who has been battling the Church of Scientology for two years said he has no doubt it's a cult — and Narconon is used to attract new members.

"(Narconon's) just strictly a recruiting front for the Church of Scientology," said Newkirk Herald Journal publisher Bob Lobsinger, who says he has been harassed by the church for opposing its plan to set up a Narconon operation in the state.

"It's a paramilitary, mind-control cult."

'Frightening'

A Winnipeg woman who has seen media reports about the church and was approached by a teen salesperson last week said it's "frightening" Narconon is raising money here and taking donations that would otherwise go to legitimate Winnipeg charities.

The woman, who asked that her name be withheld because she fears harassment, said she might have made a donation if she hadn't seen a recent television documentary linking Narconon to Scientology.

As well, a recent cover story in Time magazine alleged that the church — founded by writer L. Ron Hubbard and based on his book Dianetics — is a ruthless, corrupt organization whose members are abused and bilked of their savings.

A Church of Scientology member in Toronto verified Narconon is "related" to Scientology, and that the church supplies all Narconon's books, videos and materials.

Good intentions

However, both a Narconon spokesman and Brian Knowles, manager of Wellington Food Service, which operates the fund-raising effort, said Narconon is a separate entity from the church, and has nothing but good intentions.

Knowles said Wellington — which also provides food products for fund-raising efforts for schools, clubs and charities — hired students to sell for Narconon because he believes the program helps people get off drugs.

And he's using the opportunity to have occasional "briefings" with the teens about the "drug situation," and show them Narconon videos, the first of which is a promotional video, he said.

Narconon has several U.S. centres, but only two in Canada: in Toronto and Vancouver. Knowles said the organization is considering opening a centre in Winnipeg, and added he wouldn't be alarmed to learn the drug program is an arm of Scientology.

However, Lynne McKague, spokesperson for Narconon in Toronto, hotly denied

THE WINNIPEG SUN

(PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD)

Church of Scientology headquarters on second floor of 388 Donald.

the program is involved in recruiting Scientology members, and suggested she should send the local woman promotional material to allay her fears.

Plans for a Winnipeg centre are in the "embryonic" stage, and won't necessarily bear fruit, she said.