

Advertiser



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DISCO BOSS BANS GROUP IN CULT FEAR

THE ADVERTISER can reveal that an anti-drugs charity which was to lecture in local schools and teen discos uses rehabilitation methods developed by the founder of the controversial Scientology cult.

EXCLUSIVE
Investigation
by
Graeme Allen

Registered charity Narconon had arranged to promote its anti-drugs message and rehabilitation programme at a series of discos, some in this

area, for youngsters aged 13 to 18.

Narconon uses techniques developed by the late L. Ron Hubbard - founder of the cult of Scientology.

Disco organiser, Martin Charlton, of Club 13-18, had asked schools to publicise his discos. In return, he offered them a speaker from Narconon.

Mr Charlton, who was unaware of Narconon's links to the

● Charity is using the Scientology founder's anti-drugs programme

cult's founder, immediately banned the group from the discos after the *Advertiser* told him of its findings.

Brewers Taylor Walker, whose pubs are hosting the discos, initially cancelled the first event, due this Friday in Southgate.

But they gave the go-ahead after hearing that Mr Charlton had

banned Narconon.

Barnet council is now telling schools about the group, but says it is up to individual headteachers whom they invite in.

Other education authorities, including West Sussex County Council, have also warned schools about Narconon in the past.

Narconon's executive director Sheila MacLean said: "We have no financial, political or any other kind of link with Scientology.

"Narconon and Scientology are not one and the same. All we are doing is getting people off drugs using techniques developed by L. Ron Hubbard."

Then she said: "It could be detrimental to yourself to publish this."

● Full story on pages 2 and 3

Scientology link denied

GRAEME Wilson, spokesman for the Church of Scientology said: "Narconon is a separate organisation who use the techniques of L. Ron Hubbard as we do, but we don't have an organisational link. "A lot of Narconon staff members are Scientologists and use our techniques but we are not the same," he said.

We present story

of anti-drug group's links with cult founder

FACTS BEHIND DRUG CHARITY

NARCONON has a large drug rehabilitation centre on the Chilocco Indian Reservation in Oklahoma, USA.

The centre was exempted from state certification from the Oklahoma Board of Mental Health in August 1992.

However, the board had earlier denied certification, ruling that "there is no credible scientific evidence the Narconon program is effective".

Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard's "Purification Rundown" is a central technique used in the programme.

It supposedly flushes the body of drug residues through massive and potentially damaging use of vitamins and five hours each day running and sweating in a sauna.

The board also stated that Narconon clients at the centre were able to handle and provide medication to other clients; that staff employed by the centre were inadequately trained and educated in the field of drug and alcohol abuse, and that no mental health professionals were employed by them.

Narconon was started in 1966 by Arizona State Prison convict William Benitez, using rehabilitation methods developed by L. Ron Hubbard.

Narconon says it is not part of the Church of Scientology. It says that taking its Drug Education and Prevention Programme into schools is the result of growing concern among thousands of parents.

The group claims "over 100,000 surveys of participants worldwide of Narconon's Truth

About Drugs Education programme show that our presentation is a successful deterrent to drug abuse for youth".

Narconon also quotes numerous testimonials to the results of its work, including letters from the office of the Governor of

the State of California.

The group claims the lectures it delivers in schools were written by the president of Narconon International John Duff.

Ian Haworth of charity Cult Information Centre, which investigates cults

said: "We've heard of Narconon trying to get into schools and have always sought to make education authorities aware of them."

● If you have any experience of Narconon, call us on 081-449 5577.

Investigation by
GRAEME ALLEN

Controversy surrounds the Scientology group

BEST-SELLING science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard founded the Church of Scientology in 1953.

Ever since, he and his organization have been at the centre of controversy.

In 1984 in the High Court, Mr Justice Latey described Scientology as "corrupt, sinister and dangerous," and described the practices of the founder, his church and his helpers as "grimly reminiscent of the ranting and bullying of Hitler and his henchman".

The judge made his comments when he ordered two young children to be taken from their Scientologist father and placed in the custody of their mother.

The cult vehemently denies accusations of indoctrina-



Top actress Kirstie Alley



Top Gun star Tom Cruise

tion and brainwashing, claiming it is a movement dedicated to the betterment of mankind.

The Church of

Scientology, whose UK base is in East Grinstead has thousands of famous people throughout the world who sup-

port or have supported its ideology, among them are top international stars Kirstie Alley and Tom Cruise.

**Party invitation
is cancelled**

CLUB 13-18 boss Martin Charlton cancelled Narconon's invitation to the disco minutes after the *Advertiser* told him that Narconon used techniques developed by L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology.

"I just can't believe this," he said. "We were looking for an anti-drugs charity to take part and found their name in the Yellow Pages."

"We're trying to organise an anti-drugs thing for children. Narconon mentioned L. Ron Hubbard, but never told me of his links to Scientology. It's come out of the blue to me."

The first disco is being held this Friday, January 15, at Selborne Hall, The Mall, behind the Cherry Tree pub, Southgate, from 7.30 to 11pm. There will be a sound system, special effects, a dance crew and multi-level dance platforms.

...responsibility, is the
cult capital of Europe. PETER
BEAUMONT investigates a spiritual
hypermarket. Photographs by
Richard Smith.

And God created East Grinstead

Barbara Bradley, publicity officer and seventh level 'Thetan' in the Church of Scientology, takes a dim view of the media. They are, she told us, somewhere on the evolutionary scale from 'slime to human being'. Where exactly? She shrugged. Carlos, the security guard, had just prevented us from photographing a member of staff at Saint Hill Manor, the Scientologists' opulent headquarters. Since Ms Bradley - a chain-smoking, bird-thin former library clerk with a flat, Californian voice - had already forbidden us to photograph L. Ron Hubbard's study, or even an 'E-meter' (the device with which Scientologists measure spiritual development), there seemed little point in staying. We made our way out past manicured lawns where, earlier, squads of uniformed Scientologists had been practising their drill; took one last look at the 18th-century manor house, 57-acre grounds and modern, purpose-built castle; and drove off towards the headquarters of the Rosicrucians nearby.

It was a tight schedule. After the best part of a morning spent grappling with the controversial teachings of the creator of 'dianetics', we had just an hour to get a handle on the mystical teachings of Christian Rosenkreuz, before our tea-time appointment with a local witch. We were on a mission to find God in East Grinstead - the spiritual supermarket of the Home Counties. But which God? And where?

We had an impressive shopping list: not just Scientologists and Rosicrucians but Mormons (who have their only British temple here), Jehovah's Witnesses, Anthroposophists and numerous others. Although East Grinstead has only 30,000 inhabitants, this unassuming Sussex commuter town has proved a honey pot for pursuers of alternative religions and Christian sects. The Scientologists, who have just opened their own 'dianetics' bookshop in the town, claim 2,000 local members. The Mormons, who recently reconsecrated their temple, say that 50,000 people from the surrounding area went to view their temple interior (which has been closed to >



White witch Dawn Dubois in the woods near East Grinstead, where she leads the local coven

the whole town from his hilltop church. 'There is a desperate need in people these days for meaning, for purpose and a sense of certainty. That is what underlines many of these religions. In that sense organisations like Scientology purport to give all the answers: the package deal. It is very alluring. Christianity, on the other hand, requires a personal act of faith. It is more demanding.' The seriousness of the conflict, with the Scientologists in particular, has been brought home with force to Mr Brown, who earlier this year was reported to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, accused by the cult of trying to kidnap one of its members. It is a charge he denies. He is dubious about the claims and merits of many of the other 'churches' in the area, but his main worry is with the Scientologists. They regularly leaflet his vicarage; he - and his Christian colleagues - provide leaflets on the 'dangers' of this cult. He also admits, however, to finding the Mormons 'a bit weird in general' and their teachings 'very, very bizarre'.

The criticisms go both ways. Dawn Dubois, for example - white witch, coven leader and local organiser of the Pagan Federation - believes that 'moderate' Christianity can be every bit as bizarre as many less respectable cults. Dawn has an adult handicapped daughter, with a mental age of nine, who she allowed to go to Lourdes with a friend. 'I thought that it wasn't going to be hard-sell evangelical, but when she got back she was having nightmares. They had tried to make her drink communion wine, telling her it was the blood of Christ and if she didn't drink it she wouldn't go to heaven. She spat it out. She was convinced that it was warm and salty. I find that appalling. Religion should not be about frightening people - people who have no defence. Should it?'

Yet it seems that allegations of fear and exploitation are never entirely absent from the world of alternative religions. Ron Parsons, editor of the *East Grinstead Observer*, is laid back about most of the groups in his circulation area. Like Prebendary Brown, however, he has had a rough ride with the Scientologists. Taken to the Press Complaints Commission for calling them a cult - he won - he also claims to have been the recipient of anonymous threats. His policy is simple: 'I won't have any of that sciento clap-trap near the paper.' Parsons admits, however, that the town is split in its attitude to its religious cuckoos. Many people, he says, welcome the money that they bring in. Others, no doubt, are grateful to the cults for demonstrating that East Grinstead is not as dull a place as outsiders usually imagine. But why are they all located there? 'Coincidence,' says Brown. A convergence of ley lines, say others; or, perhaps, a convergence of wealth. Ultimately, God only knows. □

There is a desperate need in people these days for meaning

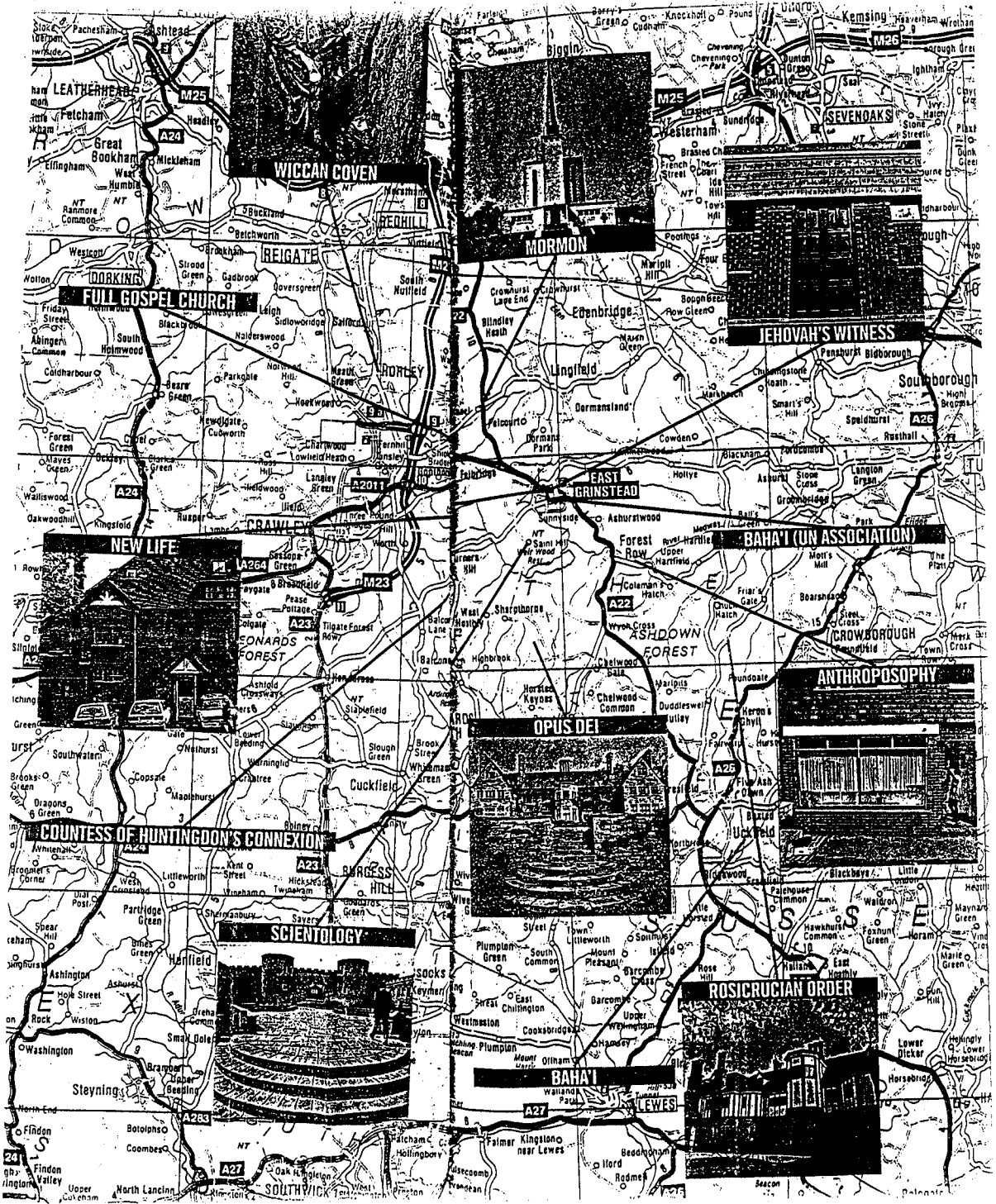


● THE CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY

Founded in the 1950s by pulp science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard (above) who claimed to have discovered 'dianetics' - the modern science of mental health. To his followers (whose UK headquarters is at Saint Hill Manor, East Grinstead), Hubbard was a great writer, artist, philosopher, explorer, scientist and war hero. The opposite view - which has seen the controversial organisation condemned in many countries - is that he was a charlatan, schizophrenic and habitual liar. Scientology is heavy on jargon, light on science. One of its many claims is that man can only develop his full potential by clearing himself of his 'reactive' mind, the early painful experiences that cloud his judgement. This is achieved through 'auditing', dianetics courses and use of the E-meter - a needle dial wired up to two metal handsets that records the presence of Engrams, or past painful experiences. Scientologists claim to have been persecuted by the FBI, the CIA, the media and the psychiatric profession (whom they blame for everything from the holocaust to ethnic cleansing in Bosnia). They recruit through dianetics bookshops, anti-drug front organisations like Narconon and free personality tests. Star members: John Travolta, Priscilla Presley.

● THE PAGAN FEDERATION

A loose alliance, founded in 1971, of 'old' religions such as Wicca (witchcraft), Druidry, Asatru and Shamanism. 'People get the wrong idea,' says Dawn Dubois, white witch, coven leader and organiser of the Pagan Federation in the East Grinstead area. 'We don't have sex in covens. We're more interested in picnics and playing conkers.' She admits that her 'craft' has, in the past, attracted lunatics, looking for power over their fellow



○ ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

Conceived in 1912 and dedicated to the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner. Based on the premise that the human mind is capable of contacting spiritual worlds. Combines elements of Christianity and of Eastern religions, but puts man at the centre of its world view. Has various educational buildings around Forest Row, East Grinstead.

● OPUS DEI

Controversial and elitist right-wing Roman Catholic sect founded by Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer in 1928. Argues that everyone is called to holiness, not just the clergy and members of monastic orders. Full non-clerical members or 'numaries' live communally in sexually segregated houses and give their salaries to the organisation. Ascetic practices include the wearing of the 'cilice', a spiked chain around the thigh, for an hour a day; and self-flagellation. Recruits exclusively from the Roman Catholic Church. It has been criticised for its recruitment methods, especially among young people. UK retreat: Wickenden Manor, Sharpthorne, just south of East Grinstead.

● ROSICRUCIANS

Worldwide brotherhood with obscure origins claiming to possess esoteric knowledge handed down from ancient times. The earliest references to the order are in the Fama Fraternitatis, 1614, an account of the journey to the middle east by Christian Rosenkruz. Headquarters for the UK, Europe and Africa: Greenwood Gate (above), Black Hill, near East Grinstead.

● BAHAI

An offshoot of Islam, based on the teachings of 19th-century mystic Baha'ullah, God's 'mouthpiece for our age'. Preaches universal love, peace and harmony - hence the Baha'i United Nations Association meetings in East Grinstead. Rarely condemned, except in Iran, where Baha'is have been persecuted. >

Church of Scientology a Big Loser in S.B. Case

Can the Road Map to Salvation Be Copyrighted?

BY NICK WELSH

□ Last Friday was a dark day for the embattled Church of Scientology. A special judge in Los Angeles attacked the church in the most blistering terms possible, charging it with gross abuse of the judicial process in its unsuccessful lawsuit against the now-defunct Church of the New Civilization, the Scientology splinter group that operated "The Advanced Abilities Center" in Montecito between 1983 and 1986.

U.S. Special Magistrate James Kolts—the same retired Superior Court judge who conducted the recent investigation of the L.A. Sheriff's Department—urged that the Church of Scientology be ordered to pay the defendants (the principals behind the Advanced Abilities Center) \$2.9 million in attorney's fees. The Scientology lawsuit against the center had been thrown unceremoniously out of court last July, and only in exceptional cases are attorney's fees awarded to the prevailing party. But according to Kolts, this case has been nothing if not exceptional.

"Plaintiffs [Church of Scientology] have abused the federal court system by using it, inter alia, to destroy their opponents, rather than to resolve an actual dispute over trademark law or any other legal matter," Kolts wrote. "This constitutes 'extraordinary, malicious, wanton, and oppressive conduct.'" He later stated, "It is abundantly clear that plaintiffs [the Church of Scientology] sought to harass the individual defendants and destroy the church defendants through massive over-litigation and other highly questionable litigation tactics. The Special Master [Kolts] has never seen a more glaring example of bad faith litigation than this."

Most cases don't have Special Masters, but because the volume of motions, countermotions, and pleadings has been so enormous, presiding federal judge James Ideman appointed Kolts to help him wade through the morass of litigation. Although Kolts has acted with all the authority of a judge, his decisions must be reviewed by Ideman before becoming final.

Spokespeople for the Church of Scientology have vowed to have Kolts' recommendation reviewed by Ideman, though Ideman has almost always supported Kolts in the past, and stress that it's just that—a recommendation, not an order. They claim that all along they have sought only to protect their proprietary rights to secret and copyrighted counseling techniques developed by the church, techniques, they say; that the Advanced Abilities Center had obtained illegally and illegally disseminated. "Kolts' ruling is extremely flawed both legally and morally," said Kurt Weiland, director of



Part of the legal defense team that stands to collect \$2.9 million from the Church of Scientology in legal fees. From left to right: Gary Bright, Lawrence Powell, and Michael Damen.

official affairs for the Church of Scientology. "If you accept his reasoning, the victim will be punished and the villain rewarded."

□ **Salvation, Incorporated:** At the heart of this dispute lies a simple but intriguing proposition—namely, that the pathway to spiritual salvation and enlightenment can be copyrighted and secured by trademark protection. Unlike other organized religions, the Church of Scientology seeks to protect its key teachings and texts by copyrighting them and registering them under trademarks.

This conflict goes back to the year 1978, when Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, with major assistance from a talented acolyte named David Mayo, devised some very advanced counseling techniques, known as New Era Dianetics for Operating Thetans, or NOTs for short. NOTs were available only to those well along the path of Scientologic spiritual advancement,

they were very confidential, and, not incidentally, they were very expensive.

But by 1983, David Mayo had been purged from the Church of Scientology during a period of intense internal strife. He moved to Santa Barbara, where he and some fellow disaffected Scientologists sought to open their own church, The Church of the New Civilization, and operate the Advanced Abilities Center on Coast Village Road. According to attorney Gary Bright, who along with Jerold Fagenbaum has waged the center's defense, L. Ron Hubbard viewed the new church with alarm. He had good reason. According to Bright, the NOTs counseling was a big money-maker for Scientology and Mayo was offering it out of his center for far less than the Church of Scientology. And according to a former Scientology church official, Hubbard gave the order that Mayo and his new church "be squashed like a cockroach."

At this point, Bright said, the

Church of Scientology hired a team of detectives to conduct a very "noisy investigation" of Mayo and his church. "They called themselves a White Collar Task Force on Crime and Drugs and they let everyone know they were investigating Mayo for possible connections with international firearm smuggling and the Red Brigade." If that wasn't chilling enough, Bright said, the detectives, rented the room upstairs from Mayo's center, they sent people to disrupt the meetings, and they placed 24-hour surveillance teams on Mayo, his associates, and even on Bright himself.

□ **From notes to legal knots:** Bright filed a lawsuit charging the Church of Scientology with harassment and intimidation, and in January 1985, Superior Court Judge Patrick McMahon ordered the church to cease and desist its noisy investigation. Two weeks later, the Church of Scientology filed a massive lawsuit against Mayo and the center, charging them with, among other things, racketeering, receipt of stolen property, and infringement of trade secrets.

Scientologists point out that shortly before Mayo opened his center in Santa Barbara, the top-secret NOTs documents were stolen from a Copenhagen church, and that copies somehow made their way into Mayo's hands. Mayo, they say, never had any right to possess the NOTs documents let alone offer to provide them. It was they said, a church trade secret.

Attorneys for the Church of Scientology took Mayo to federal court in Los Angeles, and by 1985, they succeeded in obtaining a federal injunction prohibiting Mayo from selling the counseling methods in dispute. The

'Plaintiffs [the Church of Scientology] have abused the federal court system by using it, inter alia, to destroy their opponents rather than to try to resolve an actual dispute . . . This constitutes extraordinary, malicious, wanton, and oppressive conduct.'

—U.S. Special Master James Kolts

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injunction, however, was lifted one year later, but by then it was too late; the Santa Barbara spin-off church had already folded. The Church of Scientology still pursued the matter, arguing that Mayo had cost them at least \$2 million in lost revenues, and they sought untold more in damages.

Mayo and his attorneys fought back. He claimed that *he*, not L. Ron Hubbard, developed the NOTs techniques, and that he was entitled to use them. The church denied this, and as part of the discovery process that is part of any litigation, Mayo and his attorneys demanded any and all documents held by L. Ron Hubbard and the Church of Scientology that would shed light on the true authorship of the NOTs methods. The Church of Scientology has proven exceptionally reluctant to do so, going so far as to destroy and conceal documents.

According to Rev. Lee Holzinger from the Santa Barbara church, Scientology has developed very specific counseling techniques that must be offered in a very specific way and in a proscribed sequence. To do otherwise, he said, would subject the person counseled to potential risk and trauma. For that reason—and “to protect the purity of the text”—he said the church balked at releasing confidential documents to the court, where they could be made public.

Mayo's attorney Bright saw it otherwise. “They're using commercial trade laws to guarantee religious sanctity, and when we talk about religious sanctity, we're really talking about an economic monopoly worth hundreds of millions,” he said. Whatever the real motivations are, the church's refusal to release documents relating to their authorship of NOTs infuriated Kolts and Ideman. Two years ago, they responded by ruling that the church could not say Mayo did not write the documents, to which the Scientologists shifted their stance and argued that even if he was the author, he was still a Scientology employee. The merits of that argument—and to what extent copyright laws apply here—never went to a jury because last July, Kolts and Ideman, enraged by the Scientologists' refusal to release pertinent documents to the defense, threw the case completely out of court.

□ **Hold the mayo:** In the meantime, Bright and Fagenbaum are not spending the \$2.9 million. They expect the matter will drag on for some time, with an appeal to higher federal courts likely. They have not been working the case for free, either. Although Mayo has not had the funds to sustain this legal effort, all attorney's fees have been paid for by a former Scientologist and San Francisco psychiatrist named Frank “Sarge” Gerbode, who Scientologist Weiland contends is using Mayo's case to obtain rights to use the NOTs counseling techniques. ■