

Why these superstars are fighting mad

WORD WAR TWO

Celebrity sect launches propaganda battle over probe of their secret religion

TOM CRUISE, John Travolta and Kirstie Alley have gone to war after Scientology was attacked as a "criminal organization," not a religion.

The Los Angeles-based sect, which lists dozens of celebrities among its members, is using all its influence to fight charges that it uses psychological terror and that its first order of business is making money.

Government officials in Germany are looking closely at the activities of the mysterious Church of Scientology in their country. And they don't like what they see.

One group of ministers blasted it as an "organization that combines elements of business crime and psychological terror against its own members."

And a major nationwide youth group has led a boycott of films by Scientologists, such as Cruise's *Mission Impossible* and Travolta's *Phenomenon*.

Scientologists have blasted back with a series of full-page newspaper ads comparing their treatment by the German government to the persecution of Jews by Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime.

They have even persuaded non-Scientologists such as Dustin Hoffman, Goldie Hawn and director Oliver Stone to join in a publicity campaign attacking the Germans.

"When Scientology compares its treatment in Germany to that of the victims of the Holocaust, it is falsifying history and offending the sensibilities of the Nazi victims and their families," German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel tells STAR.

Travolta, who is one of the leading spokesmen for the Scientologists, is among those outraged by the attacks on his "religion."

"I think the reason I didn't end up like Elvis or Marilyn



John Travolta and Kirstie Alley are Scientologists. He says it saved him from ending up like Elvis.

is that I had Scientology to go to," he says. "I had a place where I could unload."

"There are so many parts to Scientology. Someone like Kelly [Preston, his wife and another member] or Tom Cruise did it to boost their already good lives. I did it to bail me out of upsets."

Other celebrity members include Juliette Lewis, Anne Archer, Isaac Hayes.

Cruise's wife Nicole Kidman, Priscilla Presley, Lisa Marie Presley, Karen Black, Nancy Cartwright of *The Simpsons*, rock star Edgar Winter, and jazz musician Chick Corea.

Scientology was founded in 1954 by science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, author of the best seller *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*. Followers be-

lieve a tyrant called Xenu blew up billions of space aliens in earth's volcanoes 75 million years ago and all our problems today are caused by invisible remnants of those beings.

But Stefan Schwartz, of Germany's Christian Democratic party, says it is nothing more than "a sect that makes people financially dependent

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Celeb Scientologists include, from top, Tom Cruise, Lisa Marie Presley, Priscilla Presley, Chick Corea, Juliette Lewis, Isaac Hayes, Karen Black and Kelly Preston.



Celebrity sect launches propaganda battle over probe

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 on it and then squeezes them like lemons."

Scientologists believe they hold the key to dealing with deep-rooted psychological problems. And the route to happiness is a series of counseling sessions called auditing which leads eventually to

becoming "clear." The lengthy training sessions can easily cost more than \$50,000 and as much as \$100,000, Burmester says. Ralf Burmester is a Hamburg lawyer who represents ex-Scientologists who claim they were financially and personally devastated by the organization. Quoted in an investigative story in the *St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times* last month he claimed: "Normally, by the

time they come to me they are finished, ruined, and they know it," Burmester says. Burmester says it's not the superstar members who get in trouble — they can afford it. He alleges: "Typically, it's a young man or woman who's an office worker, a clerk, or an accountant in a large firm."

"They join Scientology and buy an apartment through a company controlled by Scientologists for about \$135,000. This is not the kind of apartment they can afford, but with the help of the Scientologists, they get a bank loan for that amount. "But only \$100,000 is for the apartment. The other \$35,000 goes to Scientology. "After a while, they can't make their payments. The bank starts pressing but they don't have the money. They're stuck. Scientology has its \$35,000 but they're stuck. It's an impossible situation but it happens all the time here. Eventually many of them come to me, usually frightened and desperate, no money, no more jobs, no insurance or Social Security." But the Scientologists have been

Joyce Jillson says: Start a **PSYCHIC** Friendship

It's the middle of the night ...

... and you hear the door slam. When will he stop coming home so late and start paying attention to how you feel? Your friends keep telling you to do something, but what do they know? You need some good advice and you need it today. Your best friend has lost her job and her confidence. No matter what she tries to do, it always seems to come out wrong. You hate to see her this way, but how can you help her? There's got to be some way she can turn her life around. No matter how hard you try, money seems to slip through your fingers. You just can't seem to make ends meet. You want to buy a present for your sweetheart, but how can you afford it? You know the opportunities are out there, if only you knew where to look. Ordinary people aren't the only ones asking these questions. Famous actors and actresses from shows like *General Hospital*, *One Life to Live*, *Days of our Lives* and *All My Children* face the same kinds of problems that we do. And hundreds of famous celebrities have found the answers that help them make it through. One star of a popular daytime soap opera was recently going through a rocky divorce. As she became more emotionally damaged by the proceedings, her career and the rest of her life began to be affected. She thought she had no one to turn to ... until she called one of Joyce Jillson's master psychic counselors. With the help of her psychic advisor, this soap star began to turn her life around. He helped give her the strength to finalize her divorce, then used his unique talents to offer insight into how she should revitalize her career. Now she has not only succeeded on television, she recently signed on to play a key part in a major new motion picture—and she's telling everyone that, with Joyce Jillson at her side, the sky's the limit!



Science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard founded Scientology in 1954.

stepping up their attacks against Germany and its boycott. In the sect's full-page ad, they compare the movie boycotts to the Nazi book burnings of the 1930s. "In the Germany of the 1930s, Hitler made religious intolerance official government policy," said the \$56,000 ad, which was paid for by Bert Fields, a lawyer for Cruise, Travolta and other Scientologists. Helmut Kohl, the German leader, called the open letter from Hollywood "rubbish" and wouldn't dignify it with a reply. "The people who signed this know nothing about Germany and don't want to know," Kohl says. "Otherwise they wouldn't be peddling such a thing." Unlike America, Germany does not recognize Scientology as a religion. And the government keeps a close eye on its activities. Even in the U.S., Scientology fought a long battle to win recognition as a church. It was only in 1993 that the IRS finally agreed to give it tax-exempt status. Ursula Caberta, who heads a government department set up to protect people in Germany from falling for the ideas of Scientology, says: "These people are a danger to society. It's an extremist movement. A bunch of subversives." Subversives? Tom Cruise, John Travolta, Kirstie Alley?

* Psychics have helped reunite long-lost relatives and friends who have searched for one another for years. A psychic in Minnesota helped reunite more than 500 people—including identical twins separated at birth who didn't even know the other existed! Hundreds of success stories like these flood Joyce Jillson's headquarters daily. People from across the country have turned to her psychic counselors to give them advice that has CHANGED THEIR LIVES. Discover the power of the psychic forces—start a relationship with one of Joyce Jillson's psychic counselors today!

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 For your daily recorded astrological forecast, call 1-900-740-2787, \$.99 per minute

THE POWER OF PSYCHIC SCIENCE
 This celebrity is like many Americans: she needed a friend and counselor to give her the confidence and knowledge to reach her potential. That's what Joyce Jillson is all about—helping people like you to unleash their inner power. **This is no myth, no hocus-pocus act—it's a technique that has been proven time and again.** People from all walks of life and professions are learning that psychic energy is an important tool for succeeding in today's high-pressure environment. * Police departments across the country have been turning to psychics to uncover key leads in what were once thought to be unsolvable crimes. One heroic psychic in New York actually helped catch a murderer before he struck again! * Leaders of industry and government value insights that psychics can provide when they are faced with crucial decisions. One Florida executive received advice from a psychic that helped him save his company from bankruptcy and make millions!

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THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

29 JAN 1997

Scientology suit seeks access to records

SUMMARY: The Church of Scientology sues the Pinellas-Pasco County Medical Examiner to open records in a death investigation.

By **GEORGE CORYELL**
of The Tampa Tribune

CLEARWATER — The Church of Scientology filed suit against the Pinellas-Pasco Medical Examiner Tuesday in an attempt to get access to records of a Scientologist whose death is being investigated.

The suit states that because Medical Exam-

iner Joan Wood made comments to the press last week about the death of 36-year-old Lisa McPherson, all the records from the death investigation should be available to the church.

"We want access to the entire medical examiner's file so our own experts can examine it," said church attorney Sandy Weinberg.

The suit said that Wood's comments were a selective release of information that amounted to a smear campaign against the church. The church filed suit after requests for the records were denied because the investigation is ongoing.

The church is asking for records of autopsy, all documents relating to media communication about the death and all reports from the investigating agencies, including the water police, the state Department of Law Enforcement and the State Attorney's Office.

Wood's attorney said Tuesday that her client's comments do not overrule the exemption in the public records law, which keeps records from an open investigation private until the investigation is finished.

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"Basically no government official has the ability to amend the law through their actions," said attorney George Rahdert, who is representing Wood.

In addition to the documents kept closed until the investigation is over, the church has requested McPherson's medical records, which are protected by state law and can only be released by her relatives.

David Bralow, an attorney who is a public records specialist for Holland and Knight and represents The Tampa Tribune, said what a public official discloses to the press does not override the public records law and its exemptions.

"A public official is entitled to speak or not speak as much as she wants," Bralow said. "Just because she talks doesn't waive the confidentiality of the public records act."

Last week Wood told the news media McPherson had been deprived of water for five to 10 days, if not longer, before she died. Church members have said she was under the care of the church then.

Wood said it was possible McPherson, who died in December 1995, had nothing to drink throughout her 17-day stay at the Fort Harrison Hotel, the world spiritual headquarters for the church. Wood also said McPherson was comatose for the last 24 to 48 hours of her life.

McPherson had been a Scientologist for 18 years. On Nov. 18, 1995, she had a minor car accident. Paramedics found her walking down the street without her clothes and took her to Morton Plant Hospital for an evaluation.

She signed herself out of the hospital against medical advice and went with other Scientologists to the Fort Harrison Hotel. Church members brought McPherson to a New Port Richey hospital on Dec. 5, 1995, where she was dead on arrival.

An autopsy by Wood's office showed McPherson died of a blood clot brought on by "severe dehydration and bed rest."

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St. Petersburg TIMES
Church BI
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medical
examiner

■ The Church of Scientology claims the examiner tarnished its reputation and demands the files in the case of a member who died in church care.

By THOMAS C. TOBIN
Times Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — The Church of Scientology alleged in a lawsuit Tuesday that Pinellas-Pasco Medical Examiner Joan Wood has poisoned its reputation by speaking publicly about the unexplained death of a church member.



Medical Examiner Joan Wood says the files are part of a continuing investigation.

The lawsuit argues that when Wood recently spoke with reporters about the 1995 death of Lisa McPherson she waived any right to keep her records on the case closed.

The suit demands that Wood's files — including tissue, organ and blood samples from McPherson's body — be opened so Scientology's medical team can conduct an "independent analysis."

Three times in recent days, Wood has denied Scientology's requests for confidential records on McPherson's autopsy. She said she won't release them until completion of "an active criminal investigation" by the Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Clearwater Police Department.

McPherson, who had been a Scientology parishioner for 18 years, died in December 1995 after a 17-day stay in the church's downtown Clearwater retreat, the Fort Harrison Hotel. She had been healthy when she entered the hotel.

McPherson, 36, was taken more than 20 miles from the hotel to a New Port Richey hospital by fellow Scientologists. But she was not breathing and had no heartbeat when she arrived. She was pronounced dead 21 minutes later.

Please see **CHURCH 7B**

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Church from 1B

An autopsy by the Pinellas-Pasco Medical Examiner's Office found she died of blood clotting brought on by "bed rest and severe dehydration." McPherson, who was 5-foot-9, weighed 108 pounds when she died.

Later, Wood elaborated on the findings and interpreted medical terminology for reporters. She said tests from the autopsy showed McPherson had deteriorated slowly, going without fluids for five to 10 days. They also showed she had been unconscious for up to 48 hours before her death and probably had been bitten by cockroaches, Wood said.

Those findings were at odds with the account of Scientology officials, who say McPherson was well cared for at the Fort Harrison and suddenly fell ill. She was put in a church van for the trip to the hospital. They believe the clotting was caused by a severe staph infection that was detected in a hospital blood test but not mentioned in the autopsy report.

Wood has said her test results



Lisa McPherson died in 1995 after a stay at a Scientology retreat in Clearwater.

show there is no way McPherson could have died from a staph infection.

McPherson's relatives in her native Dallas say they believe she was preparing to sever ties with Scientology and was detained at the Fort Harrison when church members found out.

Tuesday, they disclosed that they have hired Tampa lawyer Ken Dandar to represent them in the case. Dell Liebreich, an aunt of McPherson's, said Dandar approached the family.

The Scientology lawsuit, filed in Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Court, says Wood's comments to reporters contradict and "go well beyond" the autopsy report released earlier by her office. It says her statements help "create the false perception that the Church of Scientology was somehow responsible for the tragic death of one of its parishioners."

Church lawyer Sandy Weinberg of Tampa said Wood now should open all records on the case "so we can begin the process of defending ourselves."

But Wood's attorney, George Rahdert of St. Petersburg, argued that Florida law dictates the records should remain closed until the criminal investigation is over.

Rahdert's firm represents the St. Petersburg Times, often in cases seeking to open public records. He acknowledged that representing Wood to keep public records closed is a departure for the firm, but he added: "We recognize the boundaries of the law, in particular in a case where there is a serious criminal investigation."

Rahdert said Scientology's allegations against Wood were "astounding."

"It's simply attacking the messenger for the message," he said. "It appears if they don't like what they're hearing about a medical/scientific investigation, it's automatically a smear job, and they couldn't be any more wrong than they are."

NY TIMES FEB 1, 1997 P 5

Germany Says It Will Press On With Scientology Investigations

By ALAN COWELL

BONN, Jan. 31 — With remarks ranging from the frosty to the outraged, German officials today brushed aside United States Government criticism of Germany's attitude toward the Scientology movement. The officials said they would not be deterred from inquiries to see whether the organization should be placed under surveillance or outlawed.

In its annual human rights report on Thursday, the State Department gave more prominence than before to assertions from the Church of Scientology, based in Los Angeles, that the 30,000 members it says it has in Germany are subject to harassment, sometimes with official approval.

The Scientology movement has stirred controversy among Germans in recent weeks by renewed comparisons between its treatment at the hands of the Bonn Government and the persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany. Some Hollywood personalities signed a full-page newspaper advertisement this month criticizing the

German authorities saw no reason to be diverted from what he termed their "duty to publicize Scientology's practices and protect citizens from them."

The Interior Ministry confirmed today that state officials were studying the possibility of placing the Scientology movement under surveillance to establish whether it was engaged in unconstitutional activities.

The legislation has been used in the past to ban extreme political groups on the right and left and organizations regarded as having terrorist aims, like the Kurdish Workers Party.

Unlike the United States, Germany does not accord Scientology the tax breaks and other rights of recognized religions.

German critics of the Scientology movement label it an exploitative sect harboring conspiratorial designs, saying it brainwashes followers and brings them to emotional and financial ruin.

But in their firm rejection of Scientology, German adversaries also reflect what Mr. Haussmann, the Gov-

ernment spokesman, today called "differing views rooted in the history and constitutional traditions" of Germany and the United States.

While the movement, founded in the 1950's by the science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, likens the present German Government to the Nazi regime, German officials argue that it is precisely because of their history that they are sensitive to the perils of totalitarian movements growing from modest beginnings.

Last year young members of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's governing Christian Democratic party boycotted a Tom Cruise movie, and a concert by the jazz pianist Chick Corea was canceled, because the two men are Scientologists.

On Wednesday, Bernd Protzner, the general secretary of the Christian Social Union — the Bavarian sister party of the Christian Democrats — accused the Scientology movement of "slandering rhetoric."

Heber Jentsch, president of the Church of Scientology, in turn, accused the Bavarian party of "Teutonic arrogance and insensitivity."

Germany defends opposition to Scientology against U.S. criticism.

German attitude.

The most vehement response to the State Department report came today from the predominantly Roman Catholic southern state of Bavaria, which bars Scientologists from jobs in public service and wants the organization banned.

"We will not be intimidated by a massive smear campaign," Bavaria's Justice Minister, Hermann Leeb, said, referring to the State Department report and an avalanche of advertisements, Internet articles and news releases issued by the Scientology movement in recent days.

Even in Bonn, the Government spokesman, Peter Haussmann, said at a news conference today that the

SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 2, 1997

'GATE 25 1. June 17 marks the 25th anniversary of the Watergate break-in, but the commemorative fun starts Friday. The American Bar Association has assembled the ultimate all-star panel — including Bob Woodward and John Dean — for a rehash in Boca Raton, Fla. 2. Not included: John Ehrlichman, a Watergate revisionist who now says it's "likely" that Dean instigated the break-in. 3. This theory is central to "Silent Coup," a 1991 book (by Len Colodny and Robert Gettlin) that provoked a libel suit, still-unresolved, from Dean. 4. Dean's alleged motive for the burglary? To expose a Democrat-run escort service. 5. Whatever their take, many revisionists agree that the Boca Raton panelists represent an outmoded orthodoxy. "Frankly," says Jim Hougan, whose book "Secret Agenda" claims Watergate was a C.I.A. operation, "it sounds like a bore."

PSYCHOLOGY

Very Preventive Medicine

11. Are your actions considered unpredictable by others?
12. Do you often sing or whistle just for the fun of it?
13. Do you get occasional twitches of your muscles when there is no logical reason for it?
14. Does "everything" seem glorious to you even though you are aware of some things that changed?

The dangers of being a doctor who performs abortions are well known, but according to a 1993 report by the American Psychiatric Association's Task Force on Clinician Safety, cosmetic surgeons face plenty of risks themselves. Since 1993, four have been killed by men who didn't like their nose jobs.

Now, in an effort that may or may not catch on, some plastic surgeons are trying to protect themselves by using patient screening tests that tell them, essentially: Will you hate me when the bandages come off? For \$45, Surgeon's Insight, a company in Redondo Beach, Calif., sells and evaluates the Oxford Capacity Analysis, a 200-question gauge of 10 key personality traits developed by none other

than L. Ron Hubbard, the late founder of the Church of Scientology. The analysis rates clients' potential explosiveness with probing queries like, "When hunting or fishing, do you feel concern for the pain you inflict on game, live bait or fish?" The answers are used to plot patients on a Trouble Index ("Level 3: Personality enturbulates staff")



American Playhouse (situated above a Bronx supermarket), who mounted a production with unknown actors and scored a hit. The run proved so successful, in fact, that the producers have reinvested and moved the play downtown — with the Bronx cast. It opens Tuesday at the Cherry Lane.

and a Threat Index ("Level 5: Extremely dangerous").

Dr. Edward Terino, a Los Angeles plastic surgeon and Scientologist who helped adapt Hubbard's questions, became a believer a few years back after he was threatened with a beating by the husband of a miffed nose-job patient. The test, says Robert Rich of Surgeon's Insight, is "diabolically accurate," but owing to his "poor marketing abilities" he has sold only two subscriptions. Could that be because doctors know patients wouldn't like it?

"Some patients do get threatened," says Terino. "Their insecurities come out. But what the heck — surgery is not a game."



QUESTIONS FOR:

Eric Bogosian

Eric Bogosian's movie "Suburbia" opens Friday.

Q: A friend is thinking of moving from the city to the suburbs. As someone who

grew up in the and came to the what do you say that?

A: What do you're going to How do think going to spend time? How oft you think you' actually be out the car when y outside of the Do you think y ever walk again

walk way more in th than you ever will — no wonder heart dis on such a rise. The o time you'll interact v other people is at the supermarket. You we have any other huma relationships. People live in the suburbs th city is a dangerous p but the city is full of established values ab community that dor in the suburbs.

Q: But it's for the ki A: That's fine — unt kids are, like, up to 8 old. But then they'll restless and bored, a can be very dangero especially when automobiles are inv Q: So ... ? A: Don't do it!