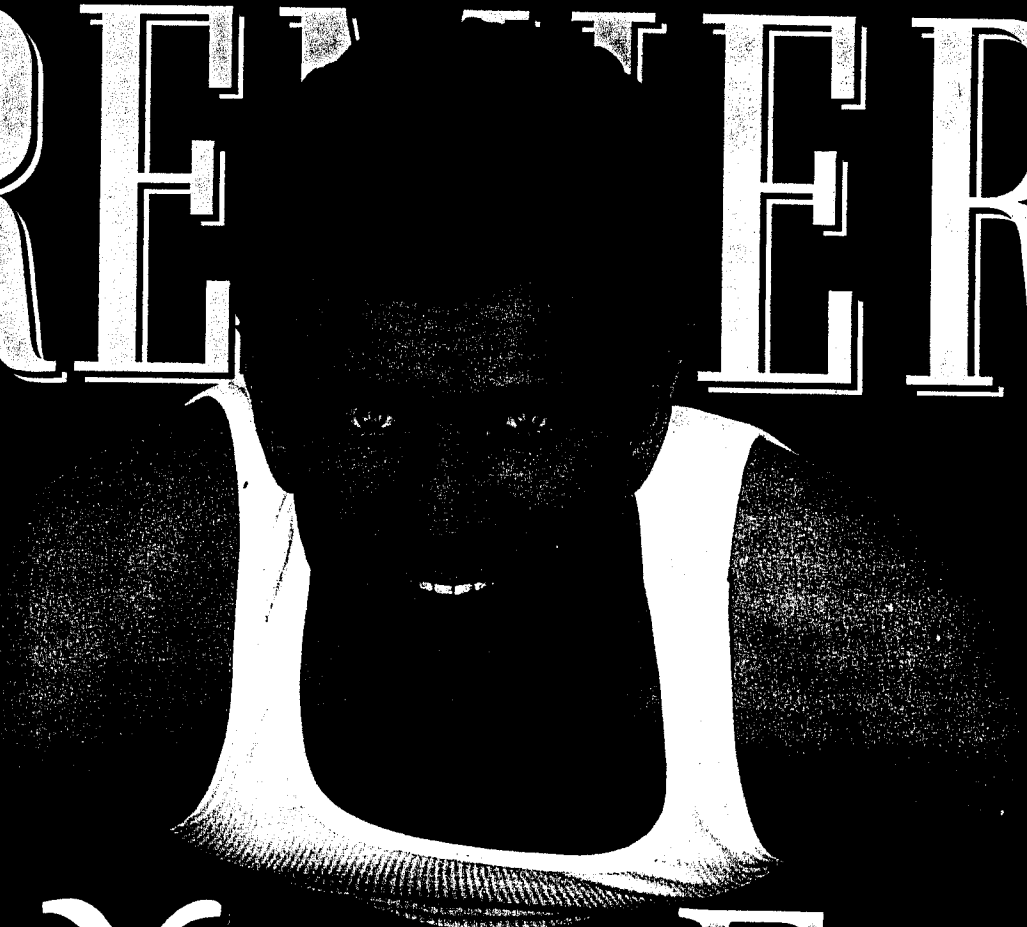


'THE FUGITIVE': STALKING HARRISON FORD

PREVIEW



IN YOUR FACE

MEL GIBSON

directs 'The Man Without a Face'

BY RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ

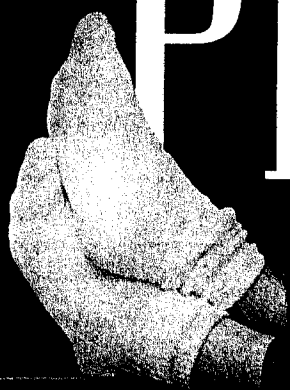
HOW SCIENTOLOGY HOOKS HOLLYWOOD

INSIDE COLUMBIA'S
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SEPTEMBER 1993



PREMIERE



MAN WITH A FACE:
Mel Gibson is out to prove he's
no slouch at directing.

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FEATURES

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MAD MEL

BY RACHEL ABRAMOWITZ

Directing and starring in your first film can make anybody crazy, especially Mel Gibson—who is not exactly Mr. Introspection, yet still had to tunnel into his childhood to make *The Man Without a Face*. "I was trying to throw in a little from what I remember of being that age," says Mel.

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HOW THEY BUILT THE BOMB

BY NANCY GRIFFIN AND CORIE BROWN

In the bunker with Arnold, Mark Canton, and John McTiernan as Columbia tried to salvage *Last Action Hero*. "In hindsight," says Arnold, "it would've been better to postpone the opening."

64

SISTER ACT

BY JOHN CLARK

PHOTOGRAPHED BY FIROOZ ZAHEDI

Patricia Arquette inflicts some Quentin Tarantino-style ultraviolence on the bad guys in Tony Scott's *True Romance*.

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BORN TO RUN

BY KITTY BOWE HEARTY

If Clint Eastwood can keep up with a presidential motorcade, Harrison Ford shouldn't have too much trouble outrunning Tommy Lee Jones in this big-budget, big-screen, big-bang rendition of that golden oldie, *The Fugitive*.

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ELEPHANTS IN THE GARDEN

BY ESTHER FREUD

When you cross *Edward Scissorhands*' writer with the director of *Europa Europa* to adapt a kids' classic like *The Secret Garden*, you get a hybrid that might have surprised Frances Hodgson Burnett.

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LEADER OF THE (PADDY) PACK

BY JOHN CLARK

Gabriel Byrne has a tough time getting his wife, Ellen Barkin, to pass the salt, but he's not having too much trouble with his acting career. "Who knows?" he says. "One of these movies could take off . . . and I'd be the next Julia Roberts."

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CAUSE WITHOUT A REBEL

BY PAUL ALEXANDER

James Dean may never come back to the five-and-dime, but his spirit draws 30,000 die-hard fans to the annual James Dean festival in Fairmount, Indiana.

84

CATCH A RISING STAR

BY JOHN H. RICHARDSON

For nearly 40 years, *Scientology* has cultivated Hollywood celebrities—and Tom Cruise now heads a long roster of satisfied show-biz converts. But get between the church and its stars, and you may find yourself shunned by your family, investigated by private detectives—or even accused of being an accomplice to murder.

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THE BLUE SCREEN

BY JOHN H. RICHARDSON

In chapter eight of our serialized fiction, a little too much whiskey and a hidden secret land Peter James on the unemployment line as Detective Grimm's words continue to ring in his ears: "Do you even know, James? Do you know what you've gotten into?"

-003500-

CATCH A

Scientology's membership boasts some of Hollywood's top talent, despite one of the most sinister reputations of any modern religion

BY JOHN H. RICHARDSON

PHOTO-ILLUSTRATIONS BY JAMES FEE

RISING STAR

"The evidence portrays [L. Ron Hubbard] as ... virtually a pathological liar when it comes to his history, background, and achievements. The writings and documents in evidence ... reflect his egoism, greed, avarice, lust for power, vindictiveness, and aggressiveness against persons perceived by him to be disloyal or hostile."

—Paul G. Breckenridge, Jr.,
Judge of the Superior Court
of Los Angeles, June 20, 1984

AFTER HIS WEDDING TO NICOLE KIDMAN, TOM CRUISE was the guest of honor at a dinner party given by the powerful Creative Artists Agency at the trendy DC3 Restaurant, overlooking the Santa Monica Airport. Cruise sat at a table with CAA kingpin Michael Ovitz, often called the most powerful man in Hollywood. Right next to them sat David Miscavige, often called the most powerful man in the Church of Scientology, the self-help religion that promises "auditing" will "clear" its followers of the fears and traumas blocking them from total success—at a typical cost of \$300 to \$400 an hour. Nearby were two full tables of Scientologists. According to one of the guests, the Scientologists around Cruise were "like they always are—very direct, very attentive, very protective—hovering over Tom. And shaking a lot of hands."

Across town, a former Scientologist named Nan Herst Bowers was agonizing over a letter she'd recently received from her 23-year-old son, Todd. "Dear Mom," he wrote, "I am sending you this letter to let you know that I have to disconnect from you. . . . I can't see you, the babies, or Jim until this is all over and handled."

A Hollywood publicist, Bowers had been a Scientologist for twenty years, had been married to a Scientologist, and had raised three sons in the organization. Although she had been drifting away for years, she was still officially a member when an article appeared in the *Star* about Cruise's involvement with Scientology. Almost immediately, the tabloid began getting strange calls. The callers "started harassing me to find out who my source was," says Janet Charlton, the reporter who broke the story. "People in the [Tarrytown,] New York office, the reporter who worked with me, the front office all got fake calls, trying to find out my source, to get a phone number." When that didn't work, Charlton says, she got a startling call from the phone company. "They told me there were people calling from different places, from New York and the West Coast, trying to get copies of my phone bill, pretending to be me. Then someone called me pretending to be a lawyer from my own magazine."

Shortly afterward, Bowers says, she also got a strange call—from a man claiming to work for the *Star*. "He said his name was Alan Goldman and he was with the GP Group, which had recently bought the *Star* and the *National Enquirer*. He said he had talked to Janet Charlton, and she said I was her source for the Tom Cruise story, and if it wasn't true, she would be fired."

Bowers insists she wasn't a source for the Cruise story. But Charlton is a close friend. So, Bowers says, under pressure from "Goldman," she finally made the statement that tore apart her family. "I lied for Janet," says Bowers. "He said, 'Did you get paid for it?' and I named a figure I thought was right."

It turned out that "Alan Goldman" was lying. In fact, as Scientology officials readily admit, the caller was a private detective working for Scientology attorneys. Three days later, Bowers says, a Scientology official named Philip Jepsen paid her a visit. "He comes with two people in uniforms—very intimidating—and he asks me about Tom Cruise," Bowers recalls. "It became obvious he knew everything I had told 'Goldman.' He grilled me for two hours. At the end, he handed me a Declare."

The charges listed in Bowers's "Suppressive Person Declare"—essentially an order of excommunication—included "writing anti-Scientology letters to the press or giving anti-Scientology or anti-Scientologist data to the press" and "engaging in malicious rumour-mongering to destroy the

authority or reput[e] of higher officers or the leading names of Scientology." The Declare meant that, in general, no one in Scientology should speak to her again, including members of her family. It was followed by "Disconnect" letters from her sons and ex-husband.

When Bowers tried to contact her sons, she got letters back from Jepsen. "Dear Nan, I just received a letter from Todd, enclosing a card you sent to him for Valentine's Day," Jepsen wrote. "In the card you suggest to him that you and Todd see each other without telling anyone. I think you realize that this would not help Todd in any way in his auditing, and he would at best have a withhold that would keep him constantly out of session and unable to make any gains. Todd has asked me to let you know that he is now engaged and that he is giving you a year's warning in which to handle your situation so that you will not miss out on something you really want to be part of." In other words, recant or miss your son's wedding.

Scientology officials respond to Bowers's charges by accusing her of being in league with the Cult Awareness Network, an anticult group whose members they call "thugs" and "kidnappers." Scientology organizations and individuals have lodged more than 40 lawsuits against CAN, which counts among its members the wife of Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas and Patricia Ryan, whose father, Representative Leo J. Ryan, was killed by Jim Jones's followers in Guyana. CAN officials say their only service is to provide information, and they adamantly deny Scientology's charges that they are involved in kidnapping or any other illegal acts. Scientologists also say Bowers tried to get one of her sons "kidnapped" by deprogrammers. Bowers admits trying to get her son to talk to two "exit counselors"—who say they don't use force and only talk to people who are willing to speak to them—but the son ran away before she could even bring them together.

Since her Declare, Bowers has been trying to contact Cruise. He has a reputation for being a good guy, she says—surely he wouldn't want her family split up on his account. Maybe he would intervene. "I sent a letter to his assistant," she says. "I said, 'Listen, Tom, the church went out of its way to protect you, and in doing so they ruined my relationship with my three boys. I wanted to know if you could help.'"

Bowers never heard back.

CELEBRITIES HAVE BEEN PART OF SCIENTOLOGY FOUNDER L. Ron Hubbard's strategy for success since 1955, when he launched "Project Celebrity" by printing a wish list that included Orson Welles, Danny Kaye, James Stewart, Greta Garbo, Walt Disney, Darryl F. Zanuck, Cecil B. DeMille, and many others. Scientology's *Ability* magazine printed detailed instructions for hunting them down. "If you want one of these, write us at once, giving the ONE celebrity you have selected. We will then allocate this person to you as your game. Having been awarded one of these celebrities, it will be up to you to learn what you can about your quarry and then put yourself at every hand across his or her path. . . ." The order concluded: "These celebrities are well guarded, well barricaded, overworked, aloof quarry. If you bring one of them home, you will get a small plaque as a reward."

Nearly 40 years later, Scientology has arrived in Hollywood in a big way. The list of celebrity Scientologists now includes Cruise, Kidman,

"THE PURPOSE OF
CELEBRITY CENTRE
IS TO: FORWARD THE
EXPANSION AND
POPULARIZATION
OF SCIENTOLOGY
THROUGH THE ARTS."
— L. R O N H U B B A R D

Priscilla Presley, Lisa Marie Presley, Anne Archer, Juliette Lewis, Kelly Preston, John Travolta, Mimi Rogers, Karen Black, and Kirstie Alley. There are dozens of lesser-known Scientologists in show biz as well: Lee Purcell (*Big Wednesday*), Jeff Pomerantz (*General Hospital*), Geoffrey Lewis (Juliette's dad, who was in *Every Which Way but Loose*, among other movies), Judy Norton-Taylor (*The Waltons*), Nancy Cartwright (the voice of Bart Simpson), child TV actor Vonni Ribisi (*My Two Dads*), Michael Wiseman (*Predator 2*), Kimberley Kates (*Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*), Michael D. Roberts (*Rain Man*), and Gary Imhoff (the forthcoming *Thumbelina*). Then there are the behind-the-scenes talents: *Dick Tracy* screenwriter Floyd Mutrux; composer Mark Isham (*A River Runs Through It*); actor and acting teacher Manu Tupou (*Hawaii*); and director Dror Soref (*The Seventh Coin*), who cut his teeth on Scientology films and now has a deal at Paramount. Scientology even claims one of Hollywood's most successful acting teachers, Milton Katselas, who heads the Beverly Hills Playhouse. People who have drifted through Scientology include Jerry Seinfeld, Patrick Swayze, *Top Gun* producer Don Simpson, Harvey Haber (brother of CAA cofounder Bill Haber), actor Brad Pitt, and Ernest Lehman, screenwriter of *The Sound of Music*.

Scientology's physical presence in Los Angeles and Hollywood is massive. It owns at least seven large buildings, staffed by 2,500 members, and is associated with a wide array of local organizations—"front groups" to their detractors. Some are directly affiliated with the Church of Scientology, like the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, an antipsychiatry group, and Author Services, which represents Hubbard's books and hires actors like Roddy McDowall and Bruce Boxleitner to read the Scientology founder's books on tape. Others have Scientologists on staff and use Scientology methods: HealthMed Clinic offers a drug treatment developed by Hubbard called the Purification Rundown, the Gentle Birth Center offers a Scientology-compatible quiet birthing technique, and the Delphian School and Apple Academy use his "study tech." Then there's the Foundation for Advancements in Science and Education (FASE), which used funds from the U.S. departments of Energy, Education, and Labor—as well as IBM, ARCO, and the National Science Foundation—to produce a PBS motivational

math series that featured Arnold Schwarzenegger, Leonard Nimoy, Ted Koppel, and Edward James Olmos. FASE has also promoted Hubbard's Purification Rundown. Some are run by Scientologists and may have no other connection to Church of Scientology activities, such as the Shaw Health Center and *American Premiere* magazine, which is distributed free to all members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. (For the record, *PREMIERE* and *American Premiere* were in a trademark litigation several years ago. The dispute was resolved.)

And Scientology's celebrities work for their church. When one stage of a court case in Oregon went against Scientology, Travolta flew up to speak at a news conference. Alley is the international spokesperson for Narconon International, a Scientology-inspired drug rehabilitation program, which she promotes through interviews, speeches, and public appearances. Magazine covers of Cruise, Travolta, Archer, and others are displayed outside one of Scientology's New York centers, along with the slogan: I AM A SCIENTOLOGIST . . . COME IN AND FIND OUT WHY. Travolta's films have been made available for Scientology benefits: *Chains of Gold* premiered—at the Directors Guild—for Scientology's Ability Plus schools. *Look Who's Talking Too* raised a reported \$100,000 for Narconon. In 1991 Black lent her name to a benefit for the Gentle Birth Center. Celebrity Scientologists frequently extol the benefits of Scientology courses in *Celebrity* magazine, which is distributed free at Celebrity Centres: "It was just after auditing that I got the role in *Fatal Attraction*," says Archer. "The tech that has helped me the most in acting has been Mood Drills and TRs," says Alley. "I guess you could say that is my acting technique." Hubbard's name even made the 1975 Oscars, when producer Bert Salzman said in his acceptance speech, "I want to thank . . . [my] dear friend, and [a] wonderful human being, and a man who helped me pull it all together, Mr. L. Ron Hubbard."

While many Scientologists are certainly sincere idealists—even the most bitter ex-Scientologists say there are many fine people in the group—there is no doubt that Scientology has mastered the art of associating with good causes. Case in point: The Earth Communications Office (ECO) is Hollywood's leading environmental group, with a

board that has included such luminaries as Schwarzenegger and Michael Keaton—as well as Rogers, Alley, Preston, and Cruise. R. Michael Wisner, a FASE official and administrative director of HealthMed, was also on the board. Alley helped arrange a premiere of *Look Who's Talking* to benefit ECO. Scientologist members suggested that Author Services develop an environmental booklet for ECO. The booklet, called *Cry Out*, ended with a poem Hubbard had written before he died in 1986.

The association between ECO and its celebrity Scientologists began to backfire: When the Sherman Oaks Elementary School planned a program of skits and songs based on *Cry Out*, complaints from worried parents and administrators about the Scientology connection became so strong that the school canceled the event. Soon afterward, ECO founder Bonnie Reiss brought up her growing concerns with ECO's Scientologists, at which point Cruise and Alley left. But before they did, Alley appeared under ECO auspices on *The Arsenio Hall Show* with fellow Scientologist Edgar Winter, who performed Hubbard's *Cry Out* for an audience of millions.

Since he went public, Cruise has been Scientology's most glittering advocate. He says Scientology helped him with his learning disability, and he also reportedly urged studio executives to rent an expensive sound machine developed by Scientologists; it was used on *Far and Away*. (Some associated with the production later noted it did prove useful.) And he has introduced major Hollywood players to church leaders, in one case flying producer Brian Grazer and screenwriter Bob Dolman by helicopter to Scientology's desert complex for a story meeting. Director Ron Howard was waiting there with Cruise. "The surreal thing about it is it's in the desert, and part of the office is built as the replica of a ship," Dolman says. "And the idea of going to a place that has its own compound in the desert and being flown in a helicopter is exotic."

Dolman found his hosts "so security-conscious, so military—there was a car waiting for the helicopter, people wearing brown khakis." At the end of the story meeting, he walked Scientology leader Miscavige to shake hands. Miscavige also came to the *Far and Away* location for Cruise's birthday. "I know he's one of Tom's closest friends," Dolman says.

AT FIRST, NONE OF THE WELL-KNOWN SCIENTOLOGY celebrities would agree to be interviewed for this article. Cruise's publicist, Pat Kingsley, insisted that writing an article about someone's religion was "un-American." Alley faxed this response: "If I ever met a journalist who I felt had the intention of representing this religion in its true vein, I would not hesitate to do the interview. My instincts tell me you're not the one. Pass-adena."

Scientology leaders later agreed to a two-day interview with this reporter, which they began by saying they weren't surprised that no Scientology stars would talk to PREMIERE because Cruise's former publicist, Andrea Jaffe, said "you wanted to get some 'juicy stuff' on Scientology." PREMIERE interviewed Jaffe shortly after she left her job with Cruise to become head of marketing at Twentieth Century Fox. She denies saying anything like this but admits following up her interview with calls to both Cruise and Scientology spokesman Mike Rinder.

Subsequent to an interview with the Scientology leaders, we received letters from several actors: "Scientology is a brilliant technology that I have used for many years to make my life more insightful and

richer," Archer wrote. "As an artist I have felt more and more creative and find myself constantly expanding. Those things that one wishes one could change about oneself just fall away and there you are—more truly yourself."

Priscilla Presley wrote: "Scientology is the only religion I know of that still maintains integrity, values, and delivers what it says it will. I have had tremendous gains from applying Scientology philosophy to my life, and things have changed for the better as a result. . . . People who drop out of Scientology or have a problem with it obviously can't maintain the ethics involved, which is the same reason why our society is in the condition it's in. If we don't have a sense of ethics in our lives and get back to the basics, where is the future for our children?"

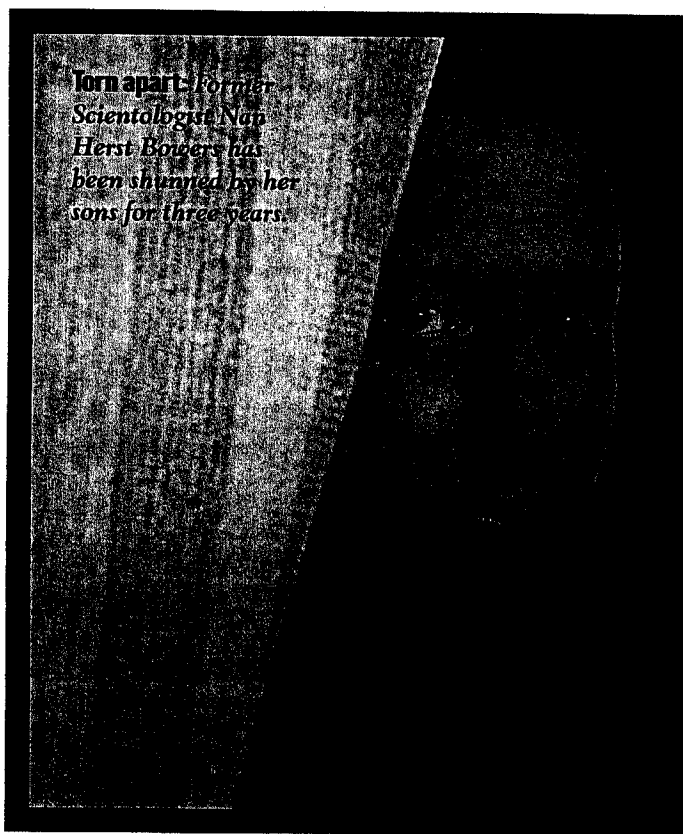
Finally, just before this story went to press, actor Michael D. Roberts called and offered—demanded, actually—to be interviewed. "I've had many wins in Scientology, and I've been a member for twenty years," he said. But he insisted on meeting face-to-face and said he wasn't available for "several weeks," repeatedly refusing to be interviewed on the phone right then and there.

Ex-Scientologists were also reluctant to talk—out of fear. "I have kids, I have an ex-husband who is still way, way involved," said one. "Everybody I know has been investigated." A Hollywood publicist also refused: "I don't have the lawyers or the bodyguards." Emilio Estevez was reported to be the target of a Scientology recruitment attempt; he said he supported PREMIERE's efforts but declined to be interviewed: "I just don't want to end up with my phones tapped."

Such fears have considerable foundation. The worst incidents come from the '70s: Scientologists are known to have framed the mayor of Clearwater, Florida, in a trumped-up hit-and-run accident. They also framed a journalist named Paulette Cooper, alleging a bomb threat, and sued her seventeen times. Hubbard's wife, Mary, and ten other leading Scientologists were sentenced in 1982 to five-year terms in federal prison for breaking into government offices and stealing thousands of official documents about Scientology. During their trial, several Scientologists leaked damaging information to the press about the presiding judge's sex life. In a 1977 raid on Scientology's Los Angeles offices, the FBI found lock picks, pistols, ammunition, knockout drops, a blackjack, and bugging and wire-tapping equipment, as well as church memos on how to launder money, tail enemies, and blackmail people.

The current leaders of Scientology insist that the acts of Mary Hubbard and her coconspirators represent a dark side of Scientology that is all in the past. They dismantled the unit that was responsible for these activities, and attack a reporter as "a bigot" for raising the issue. But they admit without hesitation that they still use private detectives to investigate their enemies, including Bowers—they even provided documentation of Scientology detectives secretly videotaping a sting operation against a hostile former church member. "I have no problem with that," says Marty Rathbun, president of the church's Religious Technology Center.

To this day, people who tangle with Scientology find themselves subject to aggressive efforts at intimidation. Mike Farrell, who played B.J. on the television series *M*A*S*H*, crossed paths with the church when he contacted the Cult Awareness Network for information on a film project about child abuse. After gaining great respect for their work, he attended a fund-raising event at a private home in Beverly Hills, where he was confronted by angry picketers. "There were people taking photographs, being very obvious, getting video footage of the



Torn apart: Former Scientologist Nap Herst Bowers has been shunned by her sons for three years.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAMES FRESHOUTING STAR

CRUISE CONTROL

Tom Cruise refused an interview with PREMIERE. When we presented our fact-checking questions, we received this response.

[To the editor:] I got Tom Cruise to answer the questions and I offer them to you on one condition.

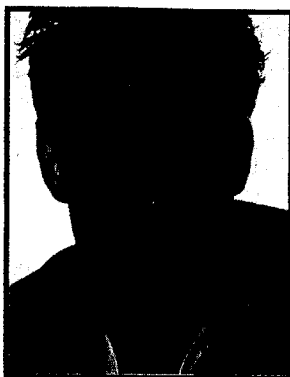
The condition is that you use the questions exactly as they were asked and use the answers exactly as they were given.

We have agreed that if any changes are contemplated by PREMIERE we can then withdraw all of the material and nothing can be printed without our specific approval.

With that in mind I send these sheets on to you and would appreciate hearing from you once you have an opportunity to look at them.

Sincerely, Pat Kingsley

[Tom Cruise's Publicist]



LANCE STAEHEL/ONYX

5) That his staff have been invited to Scientology offices to take courses.

I have never heard of this and don't even know what it means.

6) His near constant companion is DM.

My near constant companion is my wife, Nic. Dave Miscavige is a good friend of mine and while we both wish we could see each other more often, due to my schedule and his we rarely ever see each other. This question is just off the wall. We are friends. And how is this relevant to anything? It's offensive that I should even have to answer this question.

7) Nan Herst Bowers—was a

Scientologist who was separated from her children by the church. She wrote a letter to Tom saying the church is protecting him from the fact that she "outed" Tom as a Scientologist and that the church broke up her relationship with her children. (Her letter to Tom was asking him to help her.)*

I don't know Ms. Bowers. I have never heard of her. Nor has anyone in my office. I have no idea what this is about except it is bizarre as nobody "outed" me as a Scientologist, and the implication that one would be "outed" as a Scientologist is insulting.

Finally, I have no idea why my religion, or anybody's, would be the subject of an article in PREMIERE and that is why I have refused to participate in any interview. These questions indicate my original feelings about this story were accurate. I have taken the time to answer your questions in such detail, so that there can be no question about their inaccuracies.

I make movies. And when PREMIERE wants to talk about the movies I make, I have been and will continue to be willing to discuss such at length.

But these questions indicate that a reporter is stuck on some preconceived notion as to what Scientology is or how it relates to people's lives. I have gained a lot from Scientology. I know what it is and how it can help people from my own personal involvement and study of the subject. Not one of these questions has anything to do with that. The reporter's angle is clear. The Church of Scientology doesn't run my life or career. By being asked to answer these questions I'm perceived as having to defend my religion or Church and by having to deny accusations a false negative impression is created. This is not what freedom of religion is about. My friends in the church don't regularly visit me on the set. But so what if they did? Years ago, a friend of mine sits at my table at a party and now it's an issue with PREMIERE?

I know the inference as I have seen it in other articles. The problem is it's wrong. This line of questioning shows a lack of interest in learning what the Church of Scientology represents. I know more about Scientology and the Church and its staff than any reporter I've ever met or whose articles I have read. I know the good work they do. I shouldn't be subjected to an inquiry on my religion. Likewise, my Church shouldn't be subjected to press disparagement because I'm a member.

My work speaks for itself. It's on the screen for everyone to see. And as far as PREMIERE is concerned that should be the end of the matter.

*Editor's note: PREMIERE presented this as an allegation. This question contains factual inaccuracies that have been corrected in the text of the article.

1) At a birthday party at DC3 David Miscavige and Paula Wagner sat at Tom's table. Is that true?

I never had a birthday party at DC3. A post-wedding party was given me by CAA, specifically my agent Paula Wagner and Mike Ovitiz. Several hundred people were in attendance. At dinner I did sit with David Miscavige, in addition to Paula, Mike and at least 10 other individuals. What's the point?

2) He joined the church via Mimi Rogers. Is that true?

I became a Scientologist while married to Mimi Rogers. No, I didn't join the Church via Mimi or anyone else. My involvement in Scientology at that time was my own as it currently is. The question indicates some built in misunderstanding or intentional misconception as one doesn't "join the Church" as you must already know.

3) Scientologists regularly visit Tom on the set of his movies. Is that true?

No this isn't true. I am occasionally visited on the set by industry people, business associates and people who are all my friends. Some are Scientologists and some aren't. To ask me if I'm visited regularly is like asking a Catholic actor if he is visited regularly by Catholics. However, so as to have no misunderstanding, I assume the question is whether Scientologists who are Church staff or officials regularly visit me. The answer is no. As a matter of fact, during the shooting of my last three films, I was visited a total of one time during the shooting of one of these films by friends of mine who are also church staff. They saw me for about one hour over lunch.

I have heard this allegation before, indicating I have "handlers" and find it repulsive. I wish I could see my friends more often, but they are as busy as I am.

4) That Tom frequently spends weekends at a Scientology retreat at Gilman Hot Springs.

This is false. Although I have been there, I haven't EVER spent a "weekend" at the Scientology property (it isn't a "retreat") in Gilman Hot Springs. In the last 2 years or so, I only remember going to the Gilman Hot Springs location once, for a day and a half. And it was not in the middle of the week. My free time, what little I have, is spent with my family at home. And in any event, I have never spent time in any Scientology location for recreational purposes.

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[guests] as they went in and out—obvious harassment,” he says.

Farrell says he asked one of the pickets if he was a Scientologist, and the man said yes. In an effort to be fair, Farrell had lunch with Reverend Heber Jentzsch, president of the Church of Scientology International, and investigated Scientology's charges against CAN. The actor says he found them to be based on “sham, invective, and distortion.” Later, at a CAN convention near the L.A. airport, Farrell encountered more angry Scientologists. “Not only did they picket, but they sort of get in your face and give you this loud and incessant spiel that doesn't allow for dialogue—it's just a kind of attempt to intimidate.”

In the last few months Farrell has gotten numerous strange phone calls, one telling him (falsely, as it turned out) that an old friend had died. There have been so many that now when he gets calls after midnight at his home, he answers, “Hubbard was crazy.” Sometimes, he says, there's a long silence before the caller hangs up.

SCIENTOLOGY'S MEAN STREAK

is deeply rooted in church doctrine. Founded by pulp novelist Hubbard in the 1950s, Scientology promises to heal the psychic scars caused by traumas in present or past lives through auditing, a therapy aided by a simplified lie detector called an E-meter. Excited by the rapid progress stimulated by the E-meter, many students eagerly begin the climb “up the bridge,” course by course (costs range from \$30 for introductory audio tapes to more than \$14,000 for the Hubbard Key to Life/Life Orientation Course special package). According to former members and press reports, the few who attain the highest level of instruction learn the following secret theology: 75 million years ago a tyrant named Xenu imprisoned other aliens near volcanoes on Earth and then nuked them, leaving their spirits, or “thetans,” to wander the planet and attach themselves to humans—to be purged through further courses. While Scientology officials dispute this account of their beliefs—spokesman Rinder calls it “garbage, completely untrue”—they refuse to provide a more accurate version, saying upper-level church beliefs are for insiders only.

What distinguishes Scientology is Hubbard's bile and paranoia, which is clearly demonstrated in much of his writing. Representative is this “policy letter” written in 1969: “We must ourselves fight on a basis of total attrition of the enemy. So never get reasonable about him. Just go all the way in and obliterate him.” There are many other examples.

Furthermore, one of the central tenets of Scientology philosophy is that 20 percent of mankind is “suppressive,” a Scientology term that seems to mean “evil” and “meanspirited.” Of that 20 percent, Hubbard wrote, 2.5 percent are “truly dangerous.” Such people, Hubbard wrote, “should not have, in any thinking society, any civil rights of any kind. . . .”

As a consequence, Scientologists are always on the lookout for suppressives. “When we trace the cause of a failing business, we will inevitably discover somewhere in its ranks the antisocial personality hard at work,” Hubbard wrote—and to Scientologists Hubbard's writings are considered scripture. “Where life has become rough and is failing, a careful review of the area by a trained observer will detect one or more such personalities at work.”

As Cruise has told *Entertainment Weekly*, “I look at certain people that aren't doing well and say, ‘Well, who's around him? Do they want to see this person do well?’ And often I might find one person that really doesn't want to see this guy succeed.”

Hubbard left little doubt about how suppressives were to be treated.

Consider rule number twelve in Scientology's official code of honor: “Never fear to hurt another in a just cause.”

And Scientologists take their code of honor very seriously. “I remember having a choking anger against anyone who ever said anything against Scientology,” says actress Diana Canova (*Soap*), a former member. “I would get crazy. I was just so angry. I would have done anything for them.”

SOME OF SCIENTOLOGY'S MOST FERVENT EFFORTS seem to go toward preventing—or quashing—bad publicity. In 1990

Universal Pictures made a film with John Candy called *Delirious*, directed by Tom Mankiewicz and produced by Richard Donner, director of the *Lethal Weapon* series. In it, Emma Samms mused to her screen brother about Candy's “strange power” over her. “It's like I don't have a will of my own,” she said. “Do you think he's a Scientologist?” the brother asked.

“After the first rough cut Tom and I started getting letters and phone calls,” Donner says. “They were saccharine, but there was an underlying threat.”

“It was clearly orchestrated,” Mankiewicz recalls. “One letter to Dick, cc: Tom Mankiewicz. Then the next day, one to Tom Mankiewicz, cc: Dick Donner. Then two a day. They never stopped; they got worse. The tone got angrier, to the point of ‘How would you feel if he was a Jew?’ ”

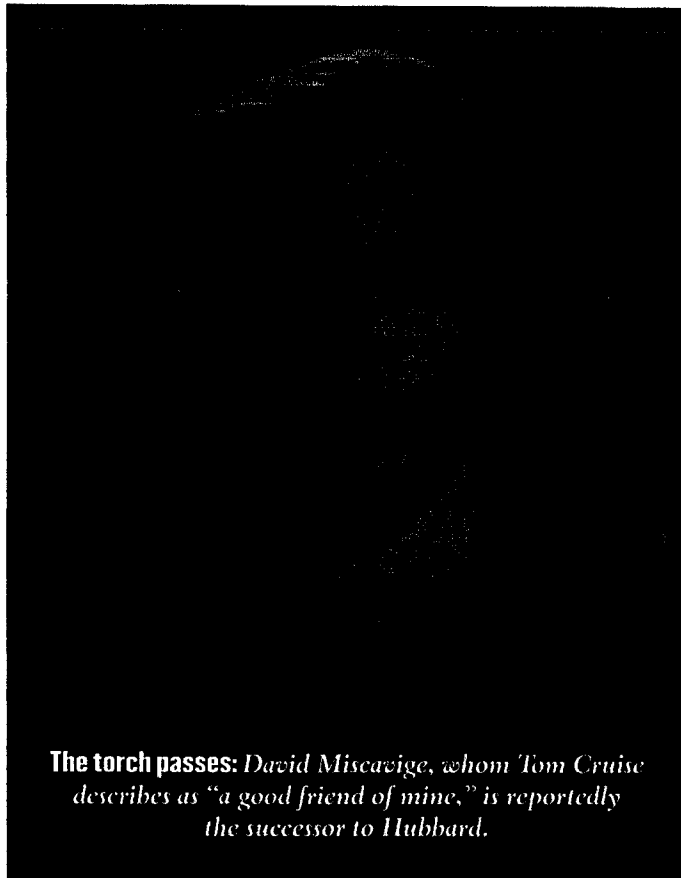
Donner has a few of the letters still in his files. “You may be aware of some of my books on films and the film industry,” one begins, “including *Directing the Film* and *Selling Your Film*. Also, I have been directing my own pictures for twenty years, including the upcoming PBS twelve-part series *Futures* featuring Jaime Escalante. I'm writing to you because

I've heard that in your new production, there is a reference to Scientology, my religion, which is derogatory.” The letter ends by invoking the names of Scientology celebrities: “I'm sure my colleagues—Kirstie Alley, John Travolta, Milton Katselas, Floyd Mutrux, Anne Archer, Chick Corea, and others—will join me in thanking you for taking this step on behalf of intellectual honesty. Sincerely, Eric Sherman.” The other letters are strikingly similar. One from Moe Howard's grandson Jeffrey Scott (who helped develop *Jim Henson's Muppet Babies*) begins with this introduction: “You do not know me directly, but indirectly I am responsible for approving the use of Three Stooges clips in your *Lethal Weapon* series. . . .”

“It finally got to be something really strange—they just wouldn't stop,” Mankiewicz says. And when he and Donner ignored the letters, there was concern about a lawsuit. “The lawyer said, ‘They have no case, but the chances are fifty-fifty they'll take you to court. How important is this to you?’ ”

Donner and Mankiewicz still stalled, testing the film, feeling “First Amendment outrage.” But gradually things began to escalate, initially with threatening, anonymous phone calls—“then Tom's house was broken into,” Donner recalls. “Nothing was taken, but things were moved around, drawers turned upside down. It was, like, ‘We can get into your house.’ He went to the police, told them about the threats, but there was no way of pinning it down.” Mankiewicz refuses to comment about either the threatening phone calls or the break-in, saying there was no evidence to link them to Scientology. But Donner and Mankiewicz decided to lose the gag.

“We all felt a little cheaper for having cut the line,” Mankiewicz says now. “It was such an innocuous little joke—a tiny pinprick. God help



The torch passes: David Miscavige, whom Tom Cruise describes as “a good friend of mine,” is reportedly the successor to Hubbard.

you if the Catholic church felt like that and you made *Sister Act*."

The *Delirious* campaign was not an isolated incident. When *L.A. Style* magazine ran a small item listing Scientology's Hollywood Boulevard Christmas display under the heading "Things We Hate," the magazine was the target of regular calls and visits from outraged Scientologists—for the next three months. "It was intimidating," says reporter Richard Natale. And recently, Scientologists picketed outside the Hollywood branch of the Jewish Federation, which runs a cult clinic. The head of the clinic, a woman named Corey Slavin, has been named in nine lawsuits brought by individual Scientologists—and therefore says that, on the advice of her lawyer, she cannot be quoted in this story. (Scientology leaders dismiss Slavin because she is a CAN board member.)

When *Time* magazine's Richard Behar wrote a highly critical story in 1991, calling Scientology the "cult of greed," Scientology sued not only *Time* but seven people who spoke to *Time*, as well as its own (former) PR firm, the company that owns the PR firm, even the CEO of the company that owns the PR firm. When *Reader's Digest* reprinted the article, Scientology sued the *Digest* in five countries. Scientology official Marty Rathbun denounces Behar as "a criminal of the lowest order" for referring people to the "kidnappers" at CAN. *L.A. Times* reporter Robert Welkos says that while he and colleague Joel Sappell were reporting their impressive 1991 series on Scientology, they were the targets of a variety of dirty tricks, including investigations by "three separate teams of private investigators" (Scientologists admit to only one) and a lawsuit for false imprisonment by a church paralegal that was later dropped. Former Scientologist Hana Whitfield wrote a letter to *PREMIERE* saying that after an interview with this magazine, she'd been followed by private detectives for three months, 24 hours a day. Rathbun and Jentsch responded by calling Whitfield a CAN operative and an accomplice to a 30-year-old murder, a charge *PREMIERE* could find absolutely no evidence to support. "It's totally bogus," says Whitfield's lawyer, her voice trembling with outrage. "They know it's false."

THE ADS APPEAR REGULARLY IN *VARIETY* AND *THE Hollywood Reporter*: "Want to Make It in the Industry? Learn Human Communications Secrets in the Success Through Communications Course." "Can Toxins Destroy Creativity? Attend a Free Lecture." The ads rarely mention Scientology itself, instead steering readers to a place called Celebrity Centre International, a lavish multimillion-dollar training complex on Franklin Avenue in L.A. Restored with 1 million man-hours of labor to a rococo finish heavy on gold leaf and trompe l'oeil paintings, the CC offers elegant suites, luxurious theaters, and state-of-the-art music facilities. Love flows like warm maple syrup the minute a person walks in the door. Life there seems to be much like the CC's elegant restaurant: The food isn't much, but the service is great. During her seven years in Scientology, Canova experienced the Celebrity Centre from both sides of fame. "When I started, I wasn't in television yet. I was a nobody—I'd done some TV, but I was not one of the elite, not by a long shot—until I did *Soap*. Then it became . . . I mean, you really are treated like royalty."

Although current Scientology leaders insist the Celebrity Centre is nothing more than a clubhouse cum church for show-biz members, Hubbard himself was more straightforward: "The purpose of Celebrity

Centre is to: Forward the expansion and popularization of Scientology through the Arts."

Begun in the late '60s, the Celebrity Centre started in a rented building at 1809 West Eighth Street, with five or six staff members headed up by a charming Australian named Yvonne Gillham. One of the early converts was Bobby Lipton. At the time his sister Peggy was the hot star of *The Mod Squad*, and at the Celebrity Centre he definitely felt "the reflected glory—I was the brother of . . ." To alleviate the expense of taking courses, Lipton says he was pressured to proselytize—including to his sister. "Yeah, they were after her," he says.

Screenwriter-director Ernest Lehman was another early student, drawn to the group after directing Karen Black in *Portnoy's Complaint* and finding himself impressed at how imperious she was during tough spots in filming. At that time, the Celebrity Centre "was like the Friars Club, with cocktail parties, art exhibits," he recalls. "If you had nothing to do, you'd drop in. It was more of a social thing than anything else."

Lehman found the Scientologists refreshing. "It was nice being around a lot of people who felt it was bad form to be gloomy and self-absorbed," he recalls. "They were very cheerful, upbeat, which is not something you see much of in the film community."

Screenwriter Floyd Mutrux wandered into the Celebrity Centre in the early '70s after reading Hubbard. "I thought, this guy's writing is terrific, this might be it," Mutrux says. Still a Scientologist, he found auditing immediately useful. "I was able to find things that completely freed me from conceptions and concepts," he says. "I discovered points of view that were completely senior to any that I'd had before and took command."

Mutrux brought in producer Don Simpson. Then writing a screenplay, Simpson plunged into the tech. "I'm chagrined to say I almost went clear—did the E-meter, the whole thing," Simpson says.

Because Scientology helps people overcome doubt and ignore rejection, it is a belief system almost tailor-made for actors. "Before Dianetics [a philosophy of Hubbard's from which Scientology evolved], if people said negative things to me or about me, I would cave in easily," Travolta told *Celebrity* magazine. "Being a man, that wasn't a very appealing quality. Some people would say, 'The boy is too sensitive.' But many times I had suppressive people around me who would cave me in on purpose. I was sort of like a minefield."

By 1974 the Celebrity Centre was a lively concern. Everyone hustled to bring in the famous or the someday-to-be-famous. "A friend of mine I got in was Michael D. Roberts, who was on *Baretta*," says Ken Rose, who joined the CC staff that year and left in the late '80s. Beyond idealism, there was another strong motive to spread the word: "You get 15 percent of all the money your recruits spend in the church," Rose says. "There's nothing better than a rich selectee."

(Church officials say the maximum commission is 15 percent and is only for the specific course sold. They also say Rose is a CAN member. Since his interview with *PREMIERE*, Rose has left the country. He was unavailable for comment.)

"There was always pressure to get other celebrities in," agrees Canova. "Once I got a call from this guy at Celebrity Centre at 6 in the morning. He says, 'Diana, you've got to get over here to the hospital, Freddie Prinze has just shot himself.' I used to date Freddie. This guy is freaking out. 'You got to come over, and you got to get me in to see Freddie. If I can get in to see Freddie, I can save his life. I'll tell him to get back into

"I'D GET A CHOKING
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I WOULD HAVE DONE
ANYTHING FOR THEM."

—DIANA CANOVA

his body.' That was such a weird thing to me, the ultimate dissemination. Wouldn't it have been a coup—Scientology saves Freddie Prinze?"

"When I was a student at the Celebrity Centre," says Lisa Halverson, a former Scientologist who was with the Los Angeles church for fifteen years, "sometimes uniformed personnel would come into the course room and ask us to write down names of what they call in Scientology 'opinion leaders,' heavy hitters of some sort in whatever their sphere of activity might be—in business, politics, and arts and entertainment." It was common knowledge, she said, that the names would be put on a recruitment list.

Canova found the Scientologists straightforward in their desire for lucre. "The first time I walked in those doors, they said, 'Just give us all the money in your bank account. You'll get it back tenfold.'" When she joined, auditing prices were about \$25. "It went up to about \$175 in the early '80s," she recalls. "That was shocking to me. I was beginning to wonder, Is it really worth it? They're telling you, 'Don't spend \$100 an hour on a shrink's couch, it'll ruin your mind.' Auditing is so much better?"

One route to the Celebrity Centre is via acting teacher Milton Katselas. As Archer told *Celebrity* magazine: "I was having problems with my marriage, and my career wasn't going well, so one evening Milton said, 'You have six weeks to solve your problems.' I ended up at Celebrity Centre. I had enormous wins right away from the auditing. I feel my life broke open in the first six hours; it was just remarkable."

Cartwright also credits Katselas with getting her back into Scientology when she drifted away. "One day he invited me to a barbecue at his place, and I noticed that all eight of the people there had things in common," she said in *Celebrity*. "They were all Scientologists. They were all doing well in their careers, they had good relationships, and they all had Milton in common. To make a long story short, I made the decision to get back into Scientology because of these observations. I called up Gary Imhoff and went to the CC Int. I then started the Purification Rundown and my life took off completely."

Actor Peter Horton (*thirtysomething*) didn't respond in quite the same way. For him, Katselas's class "felt very controlling and, I guess, culty," he says. "In an acting class, there's a real tendency to build an image of a teacher as someone who can give them attention and love. So when someone comes along who happens to be a great acting coach—which Milton is; he's phenomenal—but actually has a connection with a system of self-help that verges on a cult, it's very easy for people to be manipulated."

In 1975, the Celebrity Centre landed Travolta, its biggest fish up to that time. "There was tremendous excitement about him," recalls Rose, who says for a time he was Travolta's case supervisor (Scientology officials deny it) and that the star was a jealously guarded church asset. "He's been very disaffected at times, and it took a great deal of work to get him back in," he says. "At one point, it was rumored that J.T. was gone, was no longer a Scientologist, and had made public statements. And then a bunch of people went and held his hand, and evidently he was gotten back in." Travolta seems to be solidly in the church now, having married fellow Scientologist Kelly Preston.

Romance and Scientologists seem to go hand in hand. Prior to marrying Travolta, Preston had lived with Charlie Sheen, reportedly the target of a Scientology recruitment attempt. (Sheen was sufficiently disturbed by his contact with his former girlfriend's religion that he refused an interview with *PREMIERE* but offered this quote: "I have no involvement in that form of silliness.") Cruise got in after marrying Mimi Rogers, and Brad Pitt took his courses while dating Juliette Lewis. This seems to be something of a tradition. As Rose describes the early Celebrity Centre, there were always "a lot of women around. It was probably a great draw in those days, for my generation of Scientologists—it was a great place to get laid."

Hollywood producer Jim Jacks says one night when he was depressed over the collapse of a relationship, he was approached by a show-biz friend in Scientology. "It will solve your woman problem," Jacks recalls his friend saying. "I think he was just trying to help, but I wasn't interested."

BREAKING UP WITH SCIENTOLOGY CAN BE VERY HARD TO DO. "It took me years before I decided to quit," says Canova. "I guess finally I was so fed up with being afraid. You've heard all these horror stories... I believed them."

"The party was over for me in 1971," Bobby Lipton says. "I remem-

ber going to a rally at the Shrine or some big hall, at a time when the press was first starting to get after them, and there were people marching around with banners and signs and screaming about getting the press. It was kind of scary, talking about targeting different people. I thought, gee, this isn't what it was about."

But when he tried to leave soon after, Lipton was accused of telling the secrets of Scientology's upper-level courses to outsiders. "The last thing they said to me is, 'If you did reveal them, you are going to die,'" he recalls. "I don't think they said 'die,' but that's the inference I took. I said, 'Is that a threat?' I think he said, 'Take it any way you want.'"

Simpson says he lost interest after spending \$25,000 on Scientology courses without seeing much improvement. "I had a meeting with Yvonne [Gillham], and I said, 'I've now almost gone clear, why aren't I happier?'" he recalls. "She said, 'Things will be okay when you go through OT3 [a higher-level course].'" At that point I realized it was a con." But when he left, he took a warning with him. "Heber Jentsch called me into the Guardian's Office and implied that I was making a grave error," Simpson says. "The implication that I took away was that I would be on their enemies list."

Jentsch says it is an "absolute lie" that he threatened Simpson in any way and says that Simpson was bounced for ethics violations he could not reveal because of his "privilege as a minister."

THE LEADERS OF SCIENTOLOGY INSIST THAT MUCH of the organization's bad press comes from psychiatrists who are angry that Scientology is encroaching on their turf. They point to their fights against psychiatry and drug abuse as evidence of a beneficent side of the religion that the press ignores. "We're helping celebrities," says Jentsch. "We service them—to be more capable, to be more ethical, to be more able.... Scientology celebrities are successful, and they're not messed up! They're not messed up!"

"There's a long list of celebrities who have been devastated by psychiatric activities and psychiatric assault," Jentsch continues, citing the case of Frances Farmer: "Psychiatrists would take her out and use her for big parties, sex parties, and stuff like that."

PREMIERE checked into this: According to William Arnold's heart-wrenching book on Farmer, *Shadowland*, it does seem that *orderlies* at a Seattle mental institution allowed soldiers to have sex with her—but then we noticed that Arnold's list of acknowledgments makes special mention of the emotional and research support he got from Heber Jentsch and the Citizens Commission on Human Rights. He doesn't mention their connection to Scientology.

But the Scientologists have other good press they can point to. During an interview, they proudly cited this quote Rob Reiner gave to *GQ*: "I don't know anything about Scientology, but if Scientology means you're the way Tom Cruise is, then everyone should be a Scientologist."

Perhaps. Maybe Scientology has emerged from its dark past. But if that's true, then why the use of intimidating private detectives, why the ugly attempts to smear their critics, why the barrage of legal threats, why the badgering by belligerent Scientology officials who fight over the simplest questions? There is a meanspiritedness so pervasive that we finally became convinced that when they can't discourage it altogether, Scientology leaders want bad press, the better to justify their own vindictive gospel.

Now when we call Bowers, we wonder if someone, somewhere, is listening. She has moved to another city, and we worry that her address will slip through our fingers and into the fingers of Scientologists. And we listen to Canova when she warns us: "They're capable of doing a lot of things."

Like many of the people quoted in this article, all of whom are well aware that people who were interviewed by *Time* are currently being sued, Canova says she spoke up because she thought it was important. "I see some of my friends having to keep their mouths shut for personal reasons, for business reasons," she says. "I don't believe that's right. If it's going to be termed a religion, or a church, then those kinds of fears have no business being there. Nobody should be afraid. And you can quote me on that."

Senior writer John H. Richardson's novel, *The Blue Screen*, which is currently being serialized in *PREMIERE*, will be published by William Morrow in the spring.



Scientology Responds

Last month we published an article by PREMIERE senior writer John H. Richardson that carefully examined the growing influence of Scientology in Hollywood. The Church vehemently protested the article, and we have given David Miscavige, the head of the Church, the right of reply. —Ed.

IT IS AN UNFORTUNATE FACT THAT late in the 20th century, I find myself defending my religion between these covers. It is, however, a necessity, for if truth is not presented, then untruths become accepted as fact.

It's a simple fact that prominence generates media coverage and, in turn, media coverage generates even greater visibility. But an inherent tension underlies that situation. The press lives on controversy. In fact, the media need controversy the way that people need oxygen, and since survival depends upon that basic need being met, there is no guarantee that any reporter will write the pure and simple truth about anything. That has certainly been the case with Scientology.

This is not just my opinion. Tom Maurstad in *The Dallas Morning News* said the recent PREMIERE article on Scientology ["Catch a Rising Star," September] was "written in classic conspiracy-theory fashion—full of vague, threat-filled innuendo." He also noted that "unsubstantiated rumors are treated as authoritative" and "normal facts are presented as abnormal."

PREMIERE's prejudice against my religion is so transparent that, substituting Judaism for Scientology in the lead paragraph of the article, PREMIERE would find it somehow sinister that at a party celebrating the marriage of a Jewish couple, there "were two full tables of Jews."

That sort of prejudice permeates the article.

Even when given the opportunity to find out what Scientology really is, PREMIERE chose not to. PREMIERE's writer had unparalleled access to top Church officials, conducting four days of interviews and tours of Church facilities. Yet he quotes only 77 of their words in his 8,700-word article, and even those were out-of-context responses to wild allegations. Instead, he relied on the words of people who were either never in the Church or had not been involved for years, some for two decades!

All manner of negatives have been written about Scientology by the media. Not one of them is new. A result of laziness, faulty research, or more vindictive motives, these misstatements of fact are invariably lifted from earlier stories, dusted off, sometimes reworded, and used again.

Yet in spite of this recycling of tired ideas, Scientology continues to grow. That's an undeniable fact. How can this be?

If one tenth of what has been written about Scientology in PREMIERE and elsewhere were true, Scientology wouldn't exist. Nobody

would be involved. Nobody would want to be. But that isn't the case. Scientology continues to grow, and it's that very growth that generates media interest in the first place.

It's only logical to assume, then, that there must be something more to Scientology than what is portrayed in the pages of the press.

That something more begins with L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of Dianetics and Scientology. The media, which can count among their faults the urge to simplify things to the point of incomprehensibility, also like to categorize people and things as part of this process. Yet Mr. Hubbard's accomplishments

best-seller lists 43 years after its publication with over 16 million copies sold.

But that's not all. He also developed the most successful drug rehabilitation program in the world, with the highest statistical rate of success, which in turn spawned what is now the biggest drug rehabilitation center in the world: Narconon.

Mr. Hubbard researched and discovered the technology of study that is successfully applied by millions today in thousands of schools in countries across the planet. Not just some quick reading system, his technology isolates the barriers to study and provides



LEFT TO RIGHT: DAVID MISCavige, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF RELIGIOUS TECHNOLOGY CENTER, HOLDER OF THE TRADEMARKS OF DIANETICS AND SCIENTOLOGY; THE CHURCH'S CELEBRITY CENTRE IN LOS ANGELES; L. RON HUBBARD, FOUNDER OF DIANETICS AND SCIENTOLOGY.

are so wide-ranging and so numerous that he defies simple categorization.

Mr. Hubbard not only developed Scientology; he was also a highly successful and popular writer. In the 1930s and 1940s, his name on the cover of a magazine virtually guaranteed increased circulation. His association with Hollywood goes back to the 1930s, when he wrote screenplays for Columbia Pictures' first big-screen serials, *The Secret of Treasure Island* and *The Adventures of Wild Bill Hickok*.

His prolific career as a writer spanned more than half a century, during which he produced over 800 written works in a variety of genres—which have sold more than 110 million copies in 31 different languages. In the 1980s alone, he had eleven consecutive *New York Times* best-sellers and, today, he still sells more books than most best-selling authors.

His greatest accomplishments, however, were his discovery and development of the technologies of Dianetics and Scientology, the research for which was financed by the success of his early writing. Dianetics gives a thorough understanding of the human mind, and Scientology offers a thorough understanding of the human spirit. *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health* is the number one best-selling self-help book of all time, still appearing on

methods to make true learning and comprehension possible.

L. Ron Hubbard also wrote an immensely popular nonreligious moral code: *The Way to Happiness*. It promotes 21 precepts based entirely on common sense. Mr. Hubbard wrote this code to fill a void, because no such moral code was previously available. Parents and teachers alike have applauded its value and utility. Literally tens of millions of copies have been distributed and used by people the world over.

Deplorable though it may be in view of these accomplishments, the fact that controversy exists about Scientology and L. Ron Hubbard is not unexpected. Since 1950, when *Dianetics* was first released, there have been thousands of new ideas about man. Most were never attacked. You've also never heard of them, because obscurity is the reward for insignificance. Every significant new idea in history—every idea that truly challenges the way we think—has been attacked.

When Galileo espoused the theory that the planets in our Solar System revolve around the Sun, he was ridiculed and placed under house arrest by the Catholic Church for the last eight years of his life. Later, when Harvey had the audacity to claim that arteries carry blood, not air, he also suffered derision from



the entrenched establishment of the day. And of course, Jesus Christ was nailed to a cross for his ideas and teachings. It is only the great ideas that generate controversy; it is only great thinkers who are the subject of sustained attacks.

PREMIERE made a point that L. Ron Hubbard was a "fiction writer who had founded a religion." The attempted swipe is obvious. But why stop there? He was also a barnstorming pilot, explorer, musician, Marine Corps drill sergeant, naval intelligence officer, photographer, press reporter, special officer of the L.A. Police Department, horticulturist, composer, radio broadcaster, balladeer, and more. He was even a master mariner, licensed to captain vessels upon the waters of any ocean.

The truth is that L. Ron Hubbard was a genius, ahead of his time and beyond simple categorization. And since the media are fixated on categories to fit preconceived ideas, they are generally unable to come to grips with Mr. Hubbard.

Finally, on top of all these accomplishments, Mr. Hubbard was a remarkably caring man whose humor, compassion, and insight deeply affected those around him. And yes, I do know better than those who write about him. I knew him personally; they didn't.

So just what is Scientology? Founded on the principles of the mind and life discovered by L. Ron Hubbard, it is a religion born of the nuclear age, and like its founder, it also defies quick and easy comparison or categorization.

In Scientology, a spirit is not something you possess, it is what you *are*. It is *you*. The basic tenet of Scientology is that man is an immortal spirit who has lived through a great many lifetimes and who has the potential for infinite survival. Although each person has a mind and a body, he or she is a spiritual being who is basically good, not evil. It is each person's past experiences, not his or her nature, that have led to evil deeds or diminished awareness and ability.

The central practice of Scientology—auditing—is a very unique form of personal counseling that helps an individual look at his own existence and improves his ability to confront what he is and where he is. Auditing offers the chance to embark on an adventure of self-discovery unlike any other.

Auditing is not similar to any other form of counseling and certainly cannot be compared with psychology or psychiatry, both of which attempt to *enforce* opinions through evaluation by the practitioner. Nor does it resemble in any way the gimmickry of those motivational fads that perennially pass through Hollywood, where you follow some guru's ideas or strategy, cross your fingers, and hope for the best.

Instead, Scientology provides a path that shows you how to find your own answers so you can think and solve your problems for yourself.

Some people have said they didn't achieve what they wanted from Scientology. They were free to leave and have done so. They travel their own path, while we continue to help those who do wish to participate. But isn't it a little much for a magazine to put my religion to the test of 100 percent satisfaction? What other religion could face and pass that test in these pages?

Without attempting to explain why this is so, PREMIERE makes the claim that Scientology is "making Hollywood its priority." This is false. (We also have large facilities in Florida. Does this mean our priority is beachgoers?) The only source for this allegation is the fact that many famous artists are Scientologists. That popularity is a reflection of the value of Scientology to these artists. Why cast aspersions upon it?

The fact is, the Church of Scientology's Celebrity Centre has catered to people in the arts for more than twenty years. It provides Scientology services similar to all our other churches in Los Angeles and cities across the world. Celebrity Centre offers a safe, peaceful, and private environment in which Hollywood artists and professionals can pursue their Scientology studies without distraction. We think other churches should accommodate their artists too.

As Mr. Hubbard said, "*A culture is only as great as its dreams, and its dreams are dreamed by artists.*"

In today's world, creative people are subject to attack because of their visibility. Standing right on the front lines, they set the standards and tone of society, and where they work to improve the culture we think they should be supported in their efforts. Celebrity Centre does precisely that. And in our rapidly deteriorating society, riddled with scandals, drugs, and moral decline, Celebrity Centre has even more relevance and appeal than when it was first established.

But there are also thousands of non-Scientologists who visit the Church's Celebrity Centre annually and utilize its facilities. It is a cultural and civic hub in the community. Their beautifully restored building with its magnificent grounds and facilities is much admired by all who visit. The *only* person I am aware of who ever toured Celebrity Centre and commented unfavorably about it is PREMIERE's reporter.

As for the Hollywood celebrities in Scientology, we don't really comment on them much. Certainly not as much as everybody else does. Our interest is in helping individuals, not using them. In fact, this is where PREMIERE first went off the rails. If using celebrities to hook people was our goal, we'd have had them lined up to be interviewed by PREMIERE. The opposite occurred—a fact nobody disputes.

You may find it unusual to be reading about Scientology in a movie magazine.

Well, so do I. It's strange enough that PREMIERE ran a story on a religion at all. To then challenge its beliefs and efficacy is shameful. Can you imagine an article on the Jews, requiring a response to defend the validity of their beliefs? Or on the Catholics, forcing them to defend the "scientifically impossible" virgin birth? And in a movie magazine, no less?

There are those who believe what they read in the media and then denigrate Scientology or don't want to be associated with us. Sadly, they don't really have any idea who we are or what we stand for. And they would probably be ashamed by their ignorance if they actually knew the truth.

Still, the test of any great innovation or philosophy is its endurance. After more than 40 years of relentless media attacks, Scientology is not only still here but its global presence has increased to more than 1,100 churches, missions, and groups in more than 75 countries that work to achieve the aims of Scientology: "*A civilization without insanity, without criminals, and without war, where the able can prosper and honest beings can have rights, and where man is free to rise to greater heights.*"

Having read this, do you feel you thoroughly understand all there is to know about Scientology?

Of course not.

Scientology is growing because it works. But don't take my word for it. You've heard enough "about" Scientology. Find out what it really is. Get a book on the subject by L. Ron Hubbard. Read it. Try it for yourself. And when it works for you, you'll know what the fuss is all about.

PREMIERE welcomes letters. Send them to: Letters Editor, PREMIERE, 1990 South Bundy Drive, Suite 250, Los Angeles, California 90025. Please include your name, address, and daytime telephone number. You may also fax your letter to 310-820-3192. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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THANK YOU, thank you, thank you for having the courage to print your Scientology story ["Catch a Rising Star," September]. I have lived in California for quite a while now and have seen the Scientology presence grow like a tumor. I have been harassed by the "nice young men" in suits and ties handing out Scientology literature. It doesn't surprise me, considering the number of people that are looking for something to believe in and will pay a lot of money to find it. I am sure Ms. Alley and Mr. Cruise do not see or want to acknowledge the more sinister side of Scientology. If this religion is aboveboard, why are they so afraid of the press?

ANONYMOUS
Sun Valley, Calif.

HHEY, [JOHN H.] RICHARDSON, didn't you leave something out? I told you, I don't know how many times, how back in 1972 I took a communications course at Celebrity Centre for \$20 that taught me how to really listen to people. Then I told you, I don't know how many times, why I had to split the organization: Because their ethics required no alcohol, no sleeping pills, and no telling of lies. So how the hell was I going to exist in the movie business?

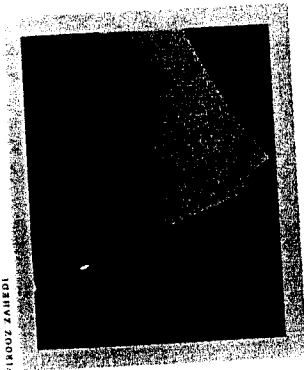
ERNEST LEHMAN
Los Angeles, Calif.

I'VE BEEN A SCIENTOLOGIST for many years, and it has helped me. Scientology auditing has helped me maintain a positive outlook in a world fraught with fear, death, insanity, and injustice. Scientology gives me hope for what can be perceived as a very dim future for the human race.

DAVID BOITO
Los Angeles, Calif.

ISALUTE YOU for the courage shown in your Scientology piece, tepid as it was. If Scientology in Hollywood were no more than a few wealthy stars following a dogma that was part psychology, part science fiction, part psychobabble, there would be no harm. But the Scientologists are cunning; they shield the well-known followers, who are mostly sane, from the loony aspects of the cult that siphon tremendous amounts of money from the gullibles who aren't so sane. And they use the images of the stars, who don't see the most noxious parts of the cult, to win more converts. Again, congratulations; because of your courage, I will never allow my subscription to lapse.

ANONYMOUS
Pasadena, Calif.



I COMMEND YOU on your efforts to risk reprisals and write an article that Scientologists will no doubt find offensive. While I do not doubt that their methods may have helped Cruise, Alley, and others, I have extreme difficulty accepting Scientology as an organized religion. I cannot trust any so-called "church" that actively recruits high-profile members, charges money to learn secretive "revelations," and readily employs antagonism and harassment.

GLENN GILLEN
Falls Church, Va.

TOM CRUISE should do a follow-up to *The Firm* titled *The Church*. It's about a man who joins a prestigious church that promises him wealth and power, only to find out that the church is not all it is cracked up to be. Sounds like a hit to me.

MICHAEL HUGHES
Midland, Texas

I GENERALLY ENJOY reading your magazine, but I may have read it for the last time, having read the piece on Tom Cruise in your September issue. You should be ashamed of yourselves. I think that Cruise responded appropriately and with unnecessary tact to the outrageous questions he was asked about his religion. (Just what does that have to do with anything?) I think we all need an explanation for this. Right on, Tom!

M. ADAM BROWN
Waterville, Maine

I CONSENTED TO giving Mr. Richardson a lengthy interview on the good, the bad, and the ugly of my experiences while involved in Scientology, in large part because I asked and was given assurances by Mr. Richardson on two occasions that it would be a well-rounded and fair representation of my time spent there. Well, he covered the bad and certainly the ugly in my interview—where the hell was the good? When complaining about the misrepresentation to my friends after reading the article, the

Snapshot of the month:

I never thought your magazine would go so low as to "outtie" a person [cover, July]. We're with you, Meg.

MICHAEL N. JOHNSON
Old Bridge, N.J.

consensus was: "What did you expect?" Maybe I'm naive, but I take a person at their word, even if they write for *PREMIERE*. You have a good reputation. It seems that anytime an article on Scientology appears anywhere, editors and writers get into a feeding frenzy, forget understandings, verbal agreements, or best efforts between writer and interviewee.

ROBERT LIPTON
Los Angeles, Calif.

JOHN H. RICHARDSON RESPONDS: Many people wrote in asking what *PREMIERE* was doing writing about a religion. Why not write about Jews in Hollywood, they said, or Mormons? The answer is simple: Scientology's position in Hollywood is unique and visible. It runs the lavish Celebrity Centre, intended as a meeting place for artists. It publishes a magazine devoted to profiling celebrities who stress how Scientology boosted their careers. It advertises regularly in industry publications such as *Daily Variety*. No other religious group does any of these things. If and when the Jews or the Mormons or anyone else takes such an active role in Hollywood, *PREMIERE* will cover them as well. In response to Mr. Lipton, before publication I read him not only his quotes but the surrounding context. I am completely mystified by his letter.

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