

betekenen. Het ging om een eenvoudige penning, een souvenir".

Over het misbruik van drugsgegevens zegt hij het volgende: "Wij zijn slechts een doorgeefluik en hebben geen enkele invloed op wat de politieorganisaties in de lidstaten met de informatie doen. Jammer genoeg zijn er landen waar corruptie in het politie-apparaat regelmatig voorkomt. Daardoor kunnen gegevens over drugstransporten in verkeerde handen komen en de informatie op een andere manier worden gebruikt dan waarvoor ze zijn bedoeld. Wij kunnen daar niets tegen doen. Corruptie is niet te vermijden. Misbruik van informatie valt niet te voorkomen".

Het comité in Amsterdam is daarvan niet overtuigd en meent dat Interpol er wel degelijk voor kan zorgen dat gegevens niet in verkeerde handen terecht komen. De organisatie beschuldigt Interpol er zelfs van dat zij daar bewust aan meewerkt. Vanwege het Nazi-verleden van de internationale politieorganisatie heeft het comité weinig vertrouwen in de leiding van Interpol. Het wijst er onder meer op dat de inlichtingenofficier van de Nazi's Paul Dickopf van 1968 tot 1972 president van Interpol was.

Het wantrouwen van het comité wordt nog versterkt door de onschendbaarheid van Interpol, waarvoor de huidige president van Oostenrijk Waldheim in 1984 als secretaris-generaal van de Verenigde Naties voor zorgde. "Gezien zijn connecties met de Nazi's destijds is ook hij niet helemaal zuiver", aldus de woordvoester, "Door deze immuniteit is Interpol volkomen ongreepbaar. Geeneenkele regering kan controle uitoefenen op de activiteiten van de politieorganisatie. / (ANP) - Voorts maakt het comité zich ernstig zorgen over de gegevens betreffende personen, die bij Interpol in Lyon zijn opgeslagen en voor de burgers ontoegankelijk zijn.

Niemand weet wie eventueel de beschikking heeft of kan krijgen over prive-gegevens van mensen. Wij maken ons vooral zorgen, omdat ook landen die de mensenrechten duidelijk met voeten treden, zoals Iran, Chili, Libie en China, bij Interpol zijn aangesloten", aldus de woordvoester.

De politieorganisatie weigert volgens het comité dossiers in te laten kijken. Correcties op foute gegevens zijn niet mogelijk. "Dit laatste bleek onlangs, toen Susanne K. uit Munchen meerdere malen werd gearresteerd als gevolg van een naamsverwisseling in de stukken van Interpol. Zij werd verward met de terroriste Susanne Albrecht. Pogingen om de fout in de archieven te herstellen, liepen op niets uit", aldus het comité.

Interpol in Lyon geeft toe dat zij mensen niet zonder meer in hun dossiers laten kijken. Er bestaat volgens Schlanitz wel een mogelijk een beroep te doen op een onafhankelijke commissie, die kan beoordelen of iemand inzage in de stukken mag hebben. Het comité ziet dit als een wassen neus, omdat de betrokken commissie teveel banden met Interpol heeft en het predikaat "onafhankelijk" niet verdient.

Het comité heeft schriftelijk een beroep gedaan op de regering van de Sovjet-Unie haar aanvraag voor het lidmaatschap van Interpol opnieuw te overwegen en uiteindelijk in te trekken. "Interpol kan zijn eigen corruptie niet bestrijden. Daarom moet er een nieuwe coördinerende, internationale politiemacht komen met volledig veilige en betrouwbare informatielijnen", aldus woordvoester van het comité. / DEN HAAG (ANP) - De Amerikaanse Commission on Law Enforcement and Social Justice, waarvan het Comité voor de Naleving van de Wet en Sociale Rechtvaardigheid onderdeel uitmaakt, is een mantelorganisatie van de Scientology Church. Veel van hun beschuldigingen aan het adres van Interpol zijn "aperte onjuistheden". Dat zegt mr. J. de Waard van de Centrale Recherche Informatiedienst CRI maandagmiddag in een reactie op de aantijgingen. De CRI vervult in ons land de Interpoltaken.

Volgens De Waard beweert het pas opgerichte comité dat Interpol de aangevoerde feiten niet ontkent, maar dat is volgens hem onzin. Interpol ontkent juist met klem dat het berichten in het wilde weg rondstuurt waardoor ze in verkeerde handen kunnen vallen. "Berichten worden alleen gestuurd naar die landen waar we ze willen hebben."

Dat het wantrouwen van het comité nog zou worden versterkt door de "onschendbaarheid" van Interpol, noemt De Waard een aperte onjuistheid. Hij wijst erop dat Interpol een volkenrechtelijke status heeft en dat alleen de secretaris-generaal een diplomatische status heeft. Mensen die voor Interpol werken hebben een dergelijke status niet.

Dat Interpol onderscheidingen zou uitdelen aan mensen als Noriega klopt volgens de CRI-woordvoerder al helemaal niet: "Interpol heeft geen decoratiestelsel."

De CRI heeft vorig jaar bezoek gekregen van vertegenwoordigers van de commissie. Die stelden De Waard toen een hele reeks vragen over het functioneren van Interpol. Niet al die vragen kon hij meteen beantwoorden. Maar naar de antwoorden heeft de commissie volgens hem nimmer meer navraag gedaan. Toesturen van de antwoorden was niet mogelijk omdat de commissieleden zeiden nergens bereikbaar te zijn. Navraag leerde toen dat ze nauw gelieerd waren aan de Scientology Kerk.

281706 mei 90

Opé 2 Aantal docs: 1
DATUM : 90/04/04
KBP : Na de klap
BYLINE : HUBERT SMEETS
TEKST : "Opgebrand" staat er deze week pontificaal op het titelblad van Voorwaarts, het 'opinieblad' van de PvdA. Dat lijkt een aardige samenvatting van het voorafgaande. Maar helaas, het slaat op het welzijnswerk. De redactie van Voorwaarts, onlangs na een intern conflict op het partijbureau onder een Engelse naam geprivatiseerd, is in haar reflectie op het debacle overgegaan op de modernste vormen van communicatie. Een analyse? Dat zou te veel gevraagd zijn. Een commentaar? Te gevaarlijk. Wellicht een interview? Maar met wie dan? Nee, twee columns en een prijsvraag, dat is de nieuwe stijl. Het hoofdstedelijke gemeenteraadslid Annemarie Grewel stelt in haar column vast dat ze die "bejaarde zogenaamd socialistische intellectuelen" die het op haar partij gemunt hebben de "komende vier jaar niet meer wil horen". "Je hoort je partij trouw te blijven." Grewel spiegelt zich aan Ron A. Hubbard en diens Scientology Church. De buurtpoliticus Stephan Steinmetz, sinds twee weken deelraadslid in de Indische buurt in Amsterdam, vindt de "oorvijs opvoedend" maar voor het overige wenst hij zich toch vooral te verbazen over het succes van de "club van ringbaarden en ribbroeken" (lees: D66), die "sliert rook uit een aangeklede pijp". En het sinds twee weken ontdekte principe 'terug naar de basis' (Sint) krijgt vorm via een quiz. Bezinning? Ben je gek. De lezers moeten gewoon een 'leuk' stukje schrijven "over de rellen en de nieuwe koers, over de gebeten honden en de beste stuurlied". "De aardigste, slimste, meest eigene, inspirerendste en leukste bijdragen" worden in het 1 mei-nummer (ooit de Dag van de Arbeid) gepubliceerd. "Dus als u rept over de saaiheid van Kok, de arrogantie van Etty of de tas-met-de-stenen-van-Dales is de kans" daarop niet zo groot, laat Samson Abel bussiness publishers bv (inderdaad, de redactie van het sociaal-democratische opinieblad) op voorhand reeds weten. Ziedaar de PvdA-cultuur anno 1990.

21-5-91

Neue Zürcher Zeitung

Aus dem Obergericht

Verschärfung der Urteile gegen Scientology-Mitglieder

(sda) In der Berufungsverhandlung im Zürcher Scientology-Prozess hat das Obergericht die Urteile der Vorinstanz deutlich verschärft. Vier Scientology-Mitglieder wurden wegen Betrugs zu 2 Monaten Gefängnis bedingt verurteilt, jedoch vom Vorwurf des Wuchers und des unlauteren Wettbewerbs freigesprochen. Die vier hatten im Winter 1987/88 einer jungen geistig behinderten Frau Kurse, Bücher und Kassetten für über 12 000 Franken verkauft. In der Begründung stützte sich das Obergericht weitgehend auf diejenige des Bezirksgerichts Zürich. Als «absolut unverständlich» bezeichnete es jedoch das Strafmass der Vorinstanz von 14 Tagen Gefängnis. Die Verteidigung bezeichnete das Urteil als «nicht akzeptabel» und kündigte an, kantonale und eidgenössische Nichtigkeitsbeschwerde einzulegen.

Geistige Beschränktheit erkennbar

Nach Ansicht des Obergerichtes war für die vier Mitarbeiter der Scientology Church die geistige Beschränktheit der Geschädigten deutlich erkennbar. Das Gericht wirft ihnen vor, sie hätten der 24-jährigen Frau *arglistig eingeredet*, die verkauften Kurse und Lehrmaterialien seien geeignet, ihre persönlichen Probleme zu lösen. Die Angeklagten hätten in professioneller und systematischer Weise die Unterlegenheit der Geschädigten ausgenützt, um ihr möglichst viele Unterlagen verkaufen zu können, meinten die Richter. Allerdings betrachten sie auch die Scientologen selbst in einer gewissen Art als Opfer, indem sie dem Druck der streng hierarchisch und autoritär aufgebauten Organisation ausgesetzt gewesen seien. Sie seien dadurch in ihrer Zurechnungsfähigkeit leicht eingeschränkt gewesen.

Gegen das Urteil der Vorinstanz legten sowohl die Verteidigung wie auch die Staatsanwaltschaft Berufung ein. Die Verteidiger der vier Angeklagten hatten zudem – erfolglos – eine Aufsichtsbeschwerde gegen den Bezirksrichter eingelegt, in der sie ihm «krasse Pflichtverletzungen» vorwarfen.

Die Angeklagten, drei Männer und eine Frau im Alter zwischen 27 und 33 Jahren, hatten der Behinderten zwischen dem 5. November 1987 und dem 16. März 1988 Kurse und Lehrmittel für rund 12 000 Franken angedreht. Vor Gericht bezeugten sie ihre gute Absicht. Sie hätten die Materialien in der Überzeugung verkauft, die Käuferin profitiere davon.

Verteidiger plädierten auf Freispruch

Die Staatsanwaltschaft beantragte bedingte Gefängnisstrafen von vier Monaten. Der Geschädigtenvertreter forderte eine «angemessene Bestrafung». Er wollte sich nicht auf ein Strafmass festlegen, betonte aber, das Urteil müsse «klar und deutlich ausfallen», um den «ausbeuterischen Verkäufen» und den «aggressiven Verkaufsmethoden» der Glaubensgemeinschaft Einhalt zu gebieten.

Die Verteidiger plädierten auf Freispruch. Sie warfen dem Geschädigtenvertreter vor, seine Strategie richte sich nicht gegen die Angeklagten, sondern gegen die Scientology-Kirche als Organisation. Die Obergerichter erachteten den *Strafstatbestand des Betrugs für erfüllt* und werteten das Verschulden für «nicht leicht». Auf Grund des Deliktsbetrags sei eine bedingte Gefängnisstrafe von zwei Monaten bei einer zweijährigen Probezeit angemessen.

COVER STORY

The Thriving Cult of Greed and Power

Ruined lives. Lost fortunes. Federal crimes. Scientology poses as a religion but is really a ruthless global scam—and aiming for the mainstream.

BY RICHARD DENAR

By all appearances, Noah Lottick of Kingston, Pennsylvania, had led a normal, happy 24-year life. He was looking for his place in the world. On the day last June when his friends drove to New York City to claim his body, they were nearly catatonic with grief. The young Russian-studies scholar had jumped from a 10th-floor window of the Milford Plaza Hotel and bounced off the hood of a stretch limousine. When the police arrived, his fingers were still clutching a \$1 million check, virtually the only money he had. It was turned over to the Church of Scientology, the self-help "philosophy" group he had discovered just seven months earlier.

His death inspired his father Edward, a physician, to start his own investigation of the church. "We thought Scientology was something like Dale Carnegie," Lottick says. "I now believe it's a school for psychopaths. Their so-called therapies are manipulative. They take the best and brightest people and destroy them." The Lotticks went to sue the church for contributing to his son's death, but the prospect had been extinguished. For nearly 40 years, the big business of Scientology has shielded itself exquisitely behind the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment as well as a battery of high-priced criminal lawyers and shady private detectives.

The Church of Scientology started by American science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard to "clear" people of unhappiness, portrays itself as a religion. In reality, the church is a hugely profitable global racket that survives by intimidating members and critics in a Mafia-like manner. At times during the past decade, prosecutions against Scientology seemed to be curbing its men-

ace. Eleven top Scientologists, including Hubbard's wife, were sent to U.S. prisons in the early 1980s for infiltrating, burglarizing, and wiretapping more than 100 private and government agencies in attempts to block their investigations. In recent years, hundreds of longtime Scientology adherents, many charging that they were mentally or physically abused, have quit the church and criticized it at their own risk. Some have sued the church and won; others have settled for amounts in excess of \$300,000. In various cases, judges have labeled the church "schizophrenic and paranoid" and "corrupt, sinister and dangerous."

Yet this outrage and inflation have failed to quench Scientology. The group, which boasts 200 centers in 40 countries, threatens to become more insidious and pervasive than ever. Scientology is trying to get serious about the lawsuit that has sparked a nationwide environmental campaign against the church. Many of the group's followers have been accused of committing financial scams, while the church's main revenue—the money that flows through a wide array of front groups in such businesses as publishing, consulting, health care, and even medical education.

In Hollywood, Scientology has assembled a star-studded roster of followers by aggressively recruiting and regally pampering them at the church's "Celebrity Centers," a chain of clubhouses that offer expensive counseling and career guidance. Adherents include screen idols Tom Cruise and John Travolta, actresses Kirstie Alley, Mimi Rogers and Anne Archer, Palm Springs, California, mayor and performer Sonny Bono, jazz musician Chick Corea, and even Nancy Cartwright, the voice of cartoon star Bart Simpson. Rank-and-file members, however, are deaf to the church's claims.

According to the Cult Awareness Network, whose chapters monitor more than 200 "mind control" cults, no group



L. Ron Hubbard, 1911-86: the cult's founder and continuing inspiration

prompts more telephone pleas for help than does Scientology. Says Cynthia Kisser, the network's Chicago-based executive director: "Scientology is quite likely the most ruthless, the most classically terroristic, the most litigious and the most lucrative cult the U.S. has ever seen. No cult extracts more money from its members." Agrees Vicki Aznaran, who was one of Scientology's six key leaders until she bolted from the church in 1987: "This is a criminal organization, day in and day out. It makes Jim and Tammy [Bakker] look like kindergarten."

To explore Scientology's reach, TIME conducted more than 150 interviews and reviewed hundreds of court records and internal Scientology documents. Church officials refused to be interviewed. The investigation paints a picture of a depraved yet thriving enterprise. Most cults fail to outlast their founder, but Scientology has prospered since Hubbard's death in 1986.

In a court filing, one of the cult's many entities—the Church of Spiritual Technology—listed \$503 million in income just for 1987. High-level defectors say the parent organization has squirreled away an estimated \$400 million in bank accounts in Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Cyprus. Scientology probably has about 50,000 active members, far fewer than the 8 million the group claims. But in one sense, that inflated figure rings true: millions of people have been affected in one way or another by Hubbard's bizarre creation.

Scientology is now run by David Miscavige, 31, a high school dropout and second-generation church member. Defectors describe him as cunning, ruthless and so paranoid about perceived enemies that he kept plastic wrap over his glass of water. His obsession is to attain credibility for Scientology in the 1990s. Among other tactics, the group:

- ▶ Retains public relations powerhouse Hill and Knowlton to help shed the church's fringe-group image.
- ▶ Joined such household names as Sony and Pepsi as a main sponsor of Ted Turner's Goodwill Games.
- ▶ Buys massive quantities of its own books from retail stores to propel the titles onto best-seller lists.
- ▶ Runs full-page ads in such publications as *Newsweek* and *Business Week* that call Scientology a "philosophy," along with a plethora of TV ads touting the group's books.

▶ Recruits wealthy and respectable professionals through a web of consulting groups that typically hide their ties to Scientology.

The founder of this enterprise was part storyteller, part flimflam man. Born in Nebraska in 1911, Hubbard served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and soon afterward complained to the Veterans Administration about his "suicidal inclinations" and his "seriously affected" mind. Nevertheless, Hubbard was a moderately successful writer of pulp science fiction. Years later, church brochures described him falsely as an "extensively decorated" World War II hero who was crippled and blinded in action, twice pronounced dead and miraculously cured through Scientology. Hubbard's "doctorate" from "Sequoia University" was a fake mail-order degree. In a 1984 case in which the church sued a Hubbard biographical researcher, a California judge concluded that its founder was "a pathological liar."

Hubbard wrote one of Scientology's sacred texts, *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*, in 1950. In it he introduced a crude psychotherapeutic technique he called "auditing." He also created a simplified lie detector (called an "E-meter") that was designed to measure electrical changes in the skin while subjects discussed intimate details of their past. Hubbard argued that unhappiness sprang from mental aberrations (or "engrams") caused by early traumas. Counseling sessions with the E-meter, he claimed, could knock out the engrams, cure blindness and even improve a person's intelligence and appearance.

Hubbard kept adding steps, each more costly, for his followers to climb. In the 1960s the guru decreed that humans are made of clusters of spirits (or "thetans") who were banished to earth some 75 million years ago by a cruel galactic ruler named Xenu. Naturally, those thetans had to be audited.

A U.S. Internal Revenue Service ruling in 1967 stripped Scientology's mother church of its tax-exempt status. A federal court ruled in 1971 that Hubbard's medical claims were bogus and that E-meter auditing could no longer be called a scientific treatment. Hubbard responded by going fully religious, seeking First Amendment protection for Scientology's strange rites. His counselors started sporting clerical collars. Chapels were built, franchises became "missions," fees became "fixed donations," and Hubbard's comic-book cosmology became "sacred scriptures."

During the early 1970s, the IRS conducted its own auditing sessions and proved that Hubbard was skimming millions of dollars from the church, laundering the money through dummy corporations in Panama and stashing it in Swiss bank accounts. Moreover, church members stole IRS documents, filed false tax returns and harassed the agency's employees. By late 1985, with high-level defectors accusing Hubbard of having stolen as much as \$200 million from the church, the IRS was seeking an indictment of Hubbard for tax fraud. Scientology members "worked day and night" shredding documents the IRS sought, according to defector Aznaran, who took part in the scheme. Hubbard, who had been in hiding for five years, died before the criminal case could be prosecuted.

Today the church invents



THE LOTTICKS LOST THEIR SON, Noah, who jumped from a New York City hotel clutching \$171, virtually the only money he had not yet turned over to Scientology. His parents blame the church and would like to sue but are frightened by the organization's reputation for ruthlessness.

THE BRIDGE TO ENLIGHTENMENT

"Flowing up the Bridge" from Personality Test to O.T. 8 will cost the average person an estimated \$200,000 to \$400,000. The steps shown are only a sample of the many courses and treatments available. Also offered: expensive books, tapes, E-meters (for auditing members), alarm clocks, polo shirts, tote bags, stained-glass windows and ceramic mugs, among many other items.

Personality Test

Cost: **Free**

Time required: an hour

A true-false-maybe test to determine whether you need Scientology. Everyone does.

Communications Courses

Cost: **\$250 each**

Time required: a few weeks

Several courses entail repetitive exercises (sitting on a chair for hours without twitching, speaking to people without displaying emotion) that help pacify and indoctrinate the customer.

Regular Auditing, Grades 0-4

Cost: **\$500 an hour**

Time required: indefinite

At graduation, you should be able to communicate effectively, make problems vanish and attain freedom from the guilt of past misdeeds and many psychosomatic ills.

New Era Dianetics

Cost: **\$500 an hour**

Time required: indefinite

Auditing your life (and prior lives) to locate evil intentions and traumatic experiences that left you with psychosomatic ills. At graduation, you have attained the state of "clear."

THE CURRENT LEADER

Obsessed with security, church boss David Miscavige reportedly likes to shoot photos of perceived enemies with a .45 automatic.



costly new services with all the zeal of its founder. Scientology doctrine warns that even adherents who are "cleared" of engrams face grave spiritual dangers unless they are pushed to higher and more expensive levels. According to the church's latest price list, recruits—"raw meat," as Hubbard called them—take auditing sessions that cost as much as \$1,000 an hour, or \$12,500 for a 12½-hour "intensive."

Psychiatrists say these sessions can produce a drugged-like, mind-controlled euphoria that keeps customers coming back for more. To pay their fees, newcomers can earn commissions by recruiting new members, become auditors themselves (Miscavige did so at age 12), or join the church staff and receive free counseling in exchange for what their written contracts describe as a "billion years" of labor. "Make sure that lots of bodies move through the shop," implored Hubbard in one of his bulletins to officials. "Make money. Make more money. Make others produce so as to make money... However you get them in or why, just do it."

Harriet Baker learned the hard way about Scientology's business of selling religion. When Baker, 73, lost her husband to cancer, a Scientologist turned up at her Los Angeles home peddling a \$1,300 auditing package to cure her grief. Some \$15,000 later, the Scientologists discovered that her house was debt free. They arranged a \$45,000 mortgage, which they pressured her to tap for more auditing until Baker's children helped their mother snap out of her daze. Last June, Baker demanded a \$27,000 refund for unused

services, prompting two cult members to show up at her door unannounced with an E-meter to interrogate her. Baker never got the money and, financially strapped, was forced to sell her house in September.

Before Noah Lottick killed himself, he had paid more than \$5,000 for church counseling. His behavior had also become strange. He once remarked to his parents that his Scientology mentors could actually read minds. When his father suffered a major heart attack, Noah insisted that it was purely psychosomatic. Five days before he jumped, Noah burst into his parents' home and demanded to know why they were spreading "false rumors" about him—a delusion that finally prompted his father to call a psychiatrist.

It was too late. "From Noah's friends at Dianetics" read the card that accompanied a bouquet of flowers at Lottick's funeral. Yet no Scientology staff members bothered to show up. A week earlier, local church officials had given Lottick's parents a red-carpet tour of their center. A cult leader told Noah's parents that their son had been at the church just hours before he disappeared—but the church denied this story as soon as the body was identified. True to form, the cult even haggled with the Lotticks over \$3,000 their son had paid for services he never used, insisting that Noah had intended it as a "donation."

The church has invented hundreds of goods and services for which members are urged to give "donations." Are you having trouble "moving swiftly up the Bridge"—

that is, advancing up the stepladder of enlightenment? Then you can have your case reviewed for a mere \$1,250 "donation." Want to know "why a thetan hangs on to the physical universe?" Try 52 of Hubbard's tape-recorded speeches from 1952, titled "Ron's Philadelphia Doctorate Course Lectures," for \$2,525. Next: nine other series of the same sort. For the collector, gold-and-leather-bound editions of 22 of Hubbard's books (and bookends) on subjects ranging from Scientology ethics to radiation can be had for just \$1,900.

To gain influence and lure richer, more sophisticated followers, Scientology has lately resorted to a wide array of front groups and financial scams. Among them:

CONSULTING. Sterling Management Systems, formed in 1983, has been ranked in recent years by *Inc.* magazine as one of America's fastest-growing private companies (estimated 1988 revenues: \$20 million). Sterling regularly mails a free newsletter to more than 300,000 health-care professionals, mostly dentists, promising to increase their incomes dramatically. The firm offers seminars and courses that typically cost \$10,000. But Sterling's true aim is to hook customers for Scientology. "The church has a rotten product, so they package it as something else," says Peter Georgiades, a Pennsylvania attorney who represents Sterling victims. "It's a kind of bait and switch." Sterling's founder, dentist Gregory Hughes, is now under investigation by California's Board of Dental Examiners for incompetence. Nine lawsuits are pending against him for malpractice

Clear Certainty Rundown

Cost: **\$2,800**

Time required: 5 hours

This course ascertains whether you are truly clear. If you are, you get the Sunshine Rundown, in which you are walked around town to reacquaint yourself with the world.

O.T. 1-2

Cost: **\$7,978**

Time required: up to 100 hours

After learning how our perceptions of the world and of people have changed since going clear, you are taught about the ideas that were implanted in man more than 25 million years ago.

O.T. 3-4

Cost: **\$17,010**

Time required: several months

Learn the secret procedures—the story about the galactic river, the volcanic explosions of earth and the implantations of the spirits (body thetans). This level also helps free you from the effects of drugs taken in past lives.

O.T. 5-7

Cost: **\$25,600**

Time required: several months

Finds and releases body thetans (B.T.s), or negative spiritual beings, that have been asleep or unconscious inside you for millions of years. In his later days, Hubbard could be heard screaming at his B.T.s.

O.T. 8

Cost: **\$11,140**

Time required: several months

Learn the secret procedures for everything there are to know about the spirit world. Hubbard could be heard screaming at his B.T.s. In his later days, Hubbard could be heard screaming at his B.T.s.

WHAT THEY THINK

“It [Scientology] just contains the secrets of the universe. That may be hard for people to handle sometimes, hearing that.”

—John Travolta

“It’s not hocus-pocus ... If you can erase engrams, then you can get better.”

—Kirstie Alley

L. RON HUBBARD SPEAKS

“In all the broad universe, there is no other hope for man than ourselves. This is a tremendous responsibility. I have borne it too long alone.

You share it with me now.”

“The law can be used very easily to harass, and enough harassment on somebody who is simply on the thin edge anyway ... will generally be sufficient to cause his professional decrease. If possible, of course, ruin him utterly.”

“All men are your slaves.”

“Don’t ever tamely submit to an investigation of us. Make it rough, rough on attackers all the way.”

(seven others have been settled), mostly for orthodontic work on children.

Many dentists who have unwittingly been drawn into the cult are filing or threatening lawsuits as well. Dentist Robert Geary of Medina, Ohio, who entered a Sterling seminar in 1988, endured “the most extreme high-pressure sales tactics I have ever faced.” Sterling officials told Geary, 45, that their firm was not linked to Scientology, he says. But Geary claims they eventually convinced him that he and his wife Dorothy had personal problems that required auditing. Over five months, the Gearys say, they spent \$130,000 for services, plus \$50,000 for “gold-embossed, investment-grade” books signed by Hubbard. Geary contends that Scientologists not only called his bank to increase his credit-card limit but also forged his signature on a \$20,000 loan application. “It was insane,” he recalls. “I couldn’t even get an accounting from them of what I was paying for.” At one point, the Gearys claim, Scientologists held Dorothy hostage for two weeks in a mountain cabin, after which she was hospitalized for a nervous breakdown.

Last October, Sterling broke some bad news to another dentist, Glover Rowe of Gadsden, Alabama, and his wife Dee. Tests showed that unless they signed up for au-

diting, Glover’s practice would fail, and Dee would someday abuse their child. The next month the Rowes flew to Glendale, California, where they shuttled daily from a local hotel to a Dianetics center. “We thought they were brilliant people because they seemed to know so much about us,” recalls Dee. “Then we realized our hotel room must have been bugged.” After bolting from the center, \$23,000 poorer, the Rowes say, they were chased repeatedly by Scientologists on foot and in cars. Dentists aren’t the only ones at risk. Scientology also makes pitches to chiropractors, podiatrists and veterinarians.

PUBLIC INFLUENCE. One front, the Way to Happiness Foundation, has distributed to children in thousands of America’s public schools more than 3.5 million copies of a booklet Hubbard wrote on morality. The church calls the scheme “the largest dissemination project in Scientology history.” Applied Scholastics is the name of still another front, which is attempting to install a Hubbard tutorial program in public schools, primarily those populated by minorities. The group also plans a 400-hectare campus, where it will train educators to teach various Hubbard methods. The disingenuously named Citizens Commission on Human Rights is a Scientology group at war with psychiatry, its primary competitor. The commission typically issues reports aimed at discrediting particular psychiatrists and the field in general. The CCHR is also behind an all-out war against Eli Lilly, the maker of Prozac, the U.S.’s top-selling anti-depression drug. Despite scant evidence, the group’s members—who call themselves “psychbusters”—claim that Prozac drives people to murder or suicide. Through mass mailings, appearances on talk shows and heavy lobbying, CCHR has hurt drug sales and helped spark dozens of lawsuits against Lilly.

Another Scientology-linked group, the Concerned



HARRIET BAKER, 73, LOST HER HOUSE after Scientologists learned it was debt free and arranged a \$45,000 mortgage, which they pressured her to tap to pay for auditing. They had approached her after her husband died to help “cure” her grief. When she couldn’t repay the mortgage, she had to sell.

SCOTT DOWNIE—CELEBRITY PHOTO; JOHN TRAVOLTA BY EVERETT COLLECTION; KRISTIE ALLEY

MARK RICHARDS FOR TIME

Special Report

Businessmen's Association of America, holds antidrug contests and awards \$5,000 grants to schools as a way to recruit students and curry favor with education officials. West Virginia Senator John D. Rockefeller IV unwittingly commended the CBAA in 1987 on the U.S. Senate floor. Last August *Roots* author Alex Haley was the keynote speaker at its annual awards banquet in Los Angeles. Says Haley: "I didn't know much about that group going in. I'm a Methodist."

Ignorance about Scientology can be embarrassing: two months ago, Illinois Governor Jim Edgar, noting that Scientology's founder "has solved the aberrations of the human mind," proclaimed March 13 "L. Ron Hubbard Day." He rescinded the proclamation in late March, once he learned who Hubbard really was.

HEALTH CARE. HealthMed, a chain of clinics run by Scientologists, promotes a gruel-

ing and excessive system of saunas, exercise and vitamins designed by Hubbard to purify the body. Experts denounce the regime as quackery and potentially harmful, yet HealthMed solicits American unions and public agencies for contracts. The chain is plugged heavily in a new book, *Diet for a Poisoned Planet*, by journalist David Steinman, who concludes that scores of common foods (among them: peanuts, bluefish, peaches and cottage cheese) are dangerous.

Mining Money in Vancouver

One source of funds for the Los Angeles-based church is the notorious, self-regulated stock exchange in Vancouver, British Columbia, often called the scam capital of the world. The exchange's 2,300 penny-stock listings account for \$4 billion in annual trading. Local Canadian journalists and insiders claim the vast majority range from total washouts to outright frauds.

Two Scientologists who operate there are Kenneth Gerbino and Michael Baybak, 20-year church veterans from Beverly Hills, California, who are major donors to the cult. Gerbino, 45, is a money manager, marketmaker and publisher of a financial newsletter. He has boasted in Scientology journals that he owes all his stock-picking success to L. Ron Hubbard. That's not saying much: Gerbino's newsletter picks since 1985 have cumulatively returned 24%, while the Dow Jones industrial average has more than doubled. Nevertheless Gerbino's short-term gains can be stupendous. A survey last October found Gerbino to be the only manager who made money in the third quarter of 1990, thanks to gold and other resource stocks. For the first quarter of 1991, Gerbino was dead last. Baybak, 49, who runs a public relations company staffed with Scientologists, apparently has no ethics problem with engineering a hostile takeover of a firm he is hired to promote.

Neither man agreed to be interviewed for this story, yet both threatened legal action through attorneys. "What these guys do is take over companies, hype the stock, sell their shares, and then there's nothing left," says John Campbell, a former securities lawyer who was a director of mining company Athena Gold until Baybak and Gerbino took it over.

The pattern has become familiar. The pair promoted a mining venture called Skylark Resources, whose stock traded at nearly \$4 a share in 1987. The outfit soon crashed, and the stock is around 2¢. NETI Technologies, a software company, was trumpeted in the press as "the next Xerox" and in 1984 rose to a market value of \$120 million with Baybak's help. The company, which later collapsed, was delisted two months ago by the Vancouver exchange.

Baybak appeared in 1989 at the helm of Wall Street Ventures, a start-up that announced it owned 35 tons of rare Middle Eastern postage stamps—worth \$100 million—and was buying the world's largest collection of southern Arabian

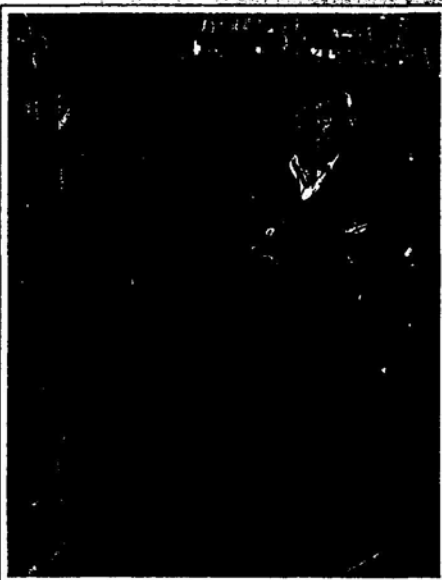
stamps (worth \$350 million). Steven C. Rockefeller Jr. of the oil family and former hockey star Denis Potvin joined the company in top posts, but both say they quit when they realized the stamps were virtually worthless. "The stamps were created by sand-dune nations to exploit collectors," says Michael Laurence, editor of *Linn's Stamp News*, America's largest stamp journal. After the stock topped \$6, it began a steady descent, with Baybak unloading his shares along the way. Today it trades at 18¢.

Athena Gold, the current object of Baybak's and Gerbino's attentions, was founded by entrepreneur William Jordan. He turned to an established Vancouver broker in 1987 to help finance the company, a 1,800-hectare mining property near Reno, Nevada. The broker promised to raise more than \$3 million and soon brought Baybak and Gerbino into the deal. Jordan never got most of the money, but the cult members ended up with a good deal of cheap stock and options. Next they elected directors who were friendly to them and set in motion a series of complex maneuvers to block Jordan from voting stock he controlled and to run him out of the company. "I've been an honest policeman all my life and I've seen the worst kinds of crimes, and this ranks high," says former Athena shareholder Thomas Clark, a 20-year veteran of Reno's police force who has teamed up with Jordan to try to get the gold mine back. "They stole this man's property."

With Baybak as chairman, the two Scientologists and their staffs are promoting Athena, not always accurately.

A letter to shareholders with the 1990 annual report claims Placer Dome, one of America's largest gold-mining firms, has committed at least \$25.5 million to develop the mine. That's news to Placer Dome. "There is no pre-commitment," says Placer executive Cole McFarland. "We're not going to spend that money unless survey results justify the expenditure."

Baybak's firm represented Western Resource Technologies, a Texas oil-and-gas company, but got the boot in October. Laughs Steven McGuire, president of Western Resource: "His is a public relations firm in need of a public relations firm." But McGuire cannot laugh too freely. Baybak and other Scientologists, including the estate of L. Ron Hubbard, still control huge blocks of his company's stock. —By Richard Behar



ATHENA GOLD'S WILLIAM JORDAN
Cult members got cheap stock, then ran him out of the company