

GOOD NEWS!

The AO has arrived in Edinburgh. The excellent newspaper coverage which appeared on 24th July 1968 in "The Scotsman" is a warm validation and acknowledgement from this historical city.



EDINBURGH. WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 1968

Aboard the good ship Scientology

Moored at South Bridge, Edinburgh, everything aboard the "ship" was Bristol fashion yesterday. Communications, and people, flowed quickly and smoothly.

The "vessel" is actually a converted hostel—Suttie's Hotel, 20 South Bridge—bought from the Y.M.C.A. In May, after redecoration and recarpeting by scientologists themselves, it became the Hubbard College for Personal Independence and the world centre for administration of, and instruction in, scientology's advanced courses.

As befits the Sea Organisation, as the Advanced Organisation is known, the college has the air of a ship of the line, with a commanding officer, various executive officers, a master-at-arms and an international crew of 30 staff members.

GRAPHS

When I walked up the two-storey spiral gangplank and was greeted with a firm handshake and ever-ready smile of greeting, none of the executives was available, but the blue-mini-skirted public officer, Laurel Watson, a Canadian and 19 today—"but age doesn't matter in Scientology"—conducted me round the ship's vitals.

Everywhere were graphs, charts and name-tags—all the trappings of modern office efficiency.

By Our Own Reporter

At any one time, she said, the advanced college had about 130 students from all parts of the world.

Just to prove that students do graduate in their courses, a young-woman shouted: "Now hear this. Now hear this. Sheila Marsh. Passed O.T.4." A burst of cheering from those people standing about greeted the new graduate.

COST

Scotland had been chosen as the home of the Advanced Organisation because the nation's mood mirrored the aspirations of Scientologists.

"Scotland is interested in independence and in freedom; interested in loosening up; interested in freeing things and having things prosper," she said.

She was less than precise about the cost of courses. Certainly, those advertised in "Scientology," the field staff member magazine, range from a few pounds to over £100.

How much would it cost to start at the very beginning and take every course available?

Miss Watson replied: "How much would it cost to go to university and take every degree? It's the same thing."

Without paying for a course at

the Scientologists' new academy for beginners in Queen Street, Edinburgh, or buying books from the organisation's publications division in nearby Thistle Street, it would be rather difficult to grasp what Scientologists talk about. It became rapidly clear yesterday that they have a language all their own.

Scientology itself is variously described in its official glossary of terms as "an applied philosophy, the technique of how to change conditions" and "The road to Total Freedom."

The same glossary is sprinkled with such terms as "Beingness—the assumption or choosing of a category or identity"; "Clear—a person who can be at cause knowingly and at will over mental matter, energy, space and time as regards the first dynamic (survival for self)"; "Mind—a control system between the thetan (the person himself) and the physical universe—not a brain."

MILLIONS

Since it was founded 15 years ago by the American writer and philosopher, L. Ron Hubbard, Scientology claims to have spread all over the world and numbers its students in millions.

Miss Watson said that not many students at present came from Edinburgh, but the numbers were beginning to come in.

With a little-exploited market before it, the good ship could be on the crest of a brainwave.

Edinburgh has witnessed impressive events in the history of this planet. Now it is seeing the beginning of Mankind's most important era. The popularity of the AO in Edinburgh speaks highly of the Scots. The AO belongs in Edinburgh.