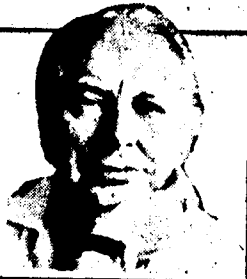


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## Scientology's Controversial Policies

Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard gave his group some strange advice. Were his policies just jokes? Or sinister suggestions for repressing opponents?  
See story on page 8.



# Scientology Versus the Merchants of Chaos

by Dennis Wheeler  
Fifth in a series

Throughout its nearly 30 years of existence, the Church of Scientology has had problems with its image in the media.

Newspaper articles have called it a "bizarre brain-washing cult" founded by a former science fiction writer. Television coverage of recent hearings in Clearwater, Florida — home of the Church's U.S. headquarters — emphasized testimony that the group's founder, L. Ron Hubbard, is in hiding and, according to his son, might even be dead. And the *Reader's Digest* recently printed two controversial stories, which, according to one source, have slowed the Church's growth.

Scientology literature, on the other hand, is replete with numerous newspaper and magazine stories which portray the group in a favorable light. These stories cite the Scientology drug control program, Narconon; the countless "Success Stories" written by people who say they have benefitted from Scientology; and endorsements by celebrities such as John Tavolta, John Brodie, and Cathy Lee Crosby.

Hubbard himself claims that much of the bad publicity haunting Scientology is generated by "Merchants of Chaos," whom he describes as "the politician, the reporter, the psychiatrist with his electric shock machine, the drug manufacturer, the militarist and arms manufacturer, the police and the undertaker, to name the leaders of the list...even individuals and family members can be Merchants of Chaos.

"As truth goes forward, lies die," Hubbard says in *Scientology: A New Slant on Life*. "The slaughter of lies is an act that takes bread from the mouth of a Chaos Merchant. Unless he can lie with wild abandon about 'how bad it all is,' he thinks he will starve. The world simply must not be a better place, according to the Chaos Merchant. If people were less disturbed, less beaten down by their environment, there would be no new appropriations for police and armies and big rockets, and there'd be not even pennies for a screaming, sensational press."

To help counter its increasingly negative image in the media, Scientology established its "Guardian's Office" in 1966. Although critics of the organization claim the Guardian's Office acts as a secret-police force, the Church simply calls it "the administrative bureau for the Church. It handles public relations, finances, legal and social matters and is active in defending and seeing to the viability of the Church."

Some of the first policies of the Guardian's Office were extremely controversial, as related in the accompanying story. These policies have been discontinued, say current Scientologists.

Representatives of the Guardian's Office in San Francisco have supplied the *News-Herald* with a great deal of written information about the Church, but so far they have refused numerous requests to be interviewed on the record. Representatives of the Scientology mission in Santa Rosa also have indicated they do not wish to be interviewed by the *News-Herald*.

In other cases, nevertheless, the Guardian's Office has been extremely aggressive in its dealings with the media. Following is a brief look at some of those cases.

- In 1977, the *San Diego Union* was hit by a Scientology lawsuit asking \$10,000 in damages for invasion of privacy when a *Union* reporter signed up for a Scientology course, intending to write a story about it. Church officials offered to drop the suit if the article wasn't published, but when it ran anyway, the damage claim was increased to \$900,000, and charges of fraud and deceit were added.

The case, however, was dismissed on summary judgment.

- A book, called *The Scandal of Scientology* and written by Paulette Cooper, a freelance writer from New York, drew a powerful response from Scientologists.

Even before the book's release in 1971, Cooper says she was harassed by Scientologists who knew she was researching their organization. And following publication, she claims Church agents stole her stationery, sent themselves a bomb threat, reported it to the FBI, and had her indicted by a federal grand jury on criminal charges. Two years later, after she'd spent more than \$20,000 in legal fees and

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L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology and writer of many of its controversial policies.

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\$6,000 for psychiatric treatment of a nervous breakdown, Cooper was cleared of the charges by undergoing a court-supervised, sodium pentothal "truth serum" test.

And it wasn't until 1977 that documents uncovered in FBI raids on Scientology offices revealed an "Operation Freakout" which concerned "getting PC incarcerated in a mental institution or jail, or at least to hit her so hard that she drops her attacks."

Operation Freakout also called for sending a bomb threat to an Arab embassy after getting Cooper's fingerprints on the notepaper used for the threat. Cooper says there's evidence the Church assigned members "to date me to try to get information about me"; she also says smear letters have been sent to the other tenants in her apartment building, alleging she's a prostitute and has venereal disease.

Scientology literature calls the allegations in Cooper's book "outrageous and susceptible to exposure as falsehood." Cooper's publishers were sued, and agreed to withdraw the book from the market. Included in the settlement, according to Scientology literature, was "a full, signed retraction of a very large number of false statements made by the author."

But the battle between Cooper and Scientology continues. The writer, now 40, claims that since publication of her book she's been served with 18 lawsuits filed against her by the Church, and that she currently has two suits pending against the Church and one countersuit charging

Scientology with harassment. A Scientology press release received by the *News-Herald* last September says the Department of Justice is investigating allegations that Cooper "compromised the security of Grand Jury proceedings by suborning federal agents, illegally obtained secret government information, perjured herself in legal deposition, and engaged in the use of sex to gain favors from government employees."

• Articles on Scientology in the *Clearwater Sun* and the *St. Petersburg Times* in Florida prompted a \$1 million suit against the *Sun*, and threats of a suit against the *Times* in 1976.

The Scientologists had asked the *Times* to balance its coverage with positive aspects of the Church "rather than focus on isolated instances from the past."

The *Sun*, however, countersued and the *Times* sued for an injunction barring the alleged harassment of its reporters. Scientology thereupon dropped its suit against the *Sun* and didn't follow through on its threat to sue the *Times*; the *Times* went on to win a Pulitzer Prize for its investigation of the Church.

Both papers successfully sought the release of more than 48,000 documents seized in the 1977 FBI raids. According to the *Times*, these documents show that Scientologists anonymously sought to defame the husband of a *Times* reporter by falsely implying he was guilty of financial misconduct as director of the local Easter Seal Society; that a Church agent obtained a job in the *Sun's* newsroom for

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the primary purpose of surveying the paper's activities; that Scientologists spread rumors linking *Times* officials with the FBI, the CIA, and the Communist party; and that Scientologists harassed its reporters.

• Two of the few books sold in Scientology bookstores that are *not* products of the Church's own publications department are *The Hidden Story of Scientology* and *Playing Dirty: The Secret War Against Beliefs*, both by freelance journalist Omar Garrison.

*Hidden Story* is touted as "the first full-length presentation of the investigation into Scientology by a distinguished non-Scientologist writer." The book investigates charges that there exists a worldwide secret alliance with interlocking national organizations whose common goal is the establishment of a strictly controlled, one-world society. Scientologists, according to the book, claim they're being "subjected to relentless attack by this 'global conspiracy' because the Church has challenged their aims and exposed their methods." *Playing Dirty* focuses on the Scientology burglaries of federal offices and plots to bug Internal Revenue Service offices in the mid-'70s — all of which Garrison calls a "caper" — and the 1977 FBI raids.

*Hidden Story* is available in the Sonoma County Central Library in downtown Santa Rosa; both books are sold at the Scientology mission at 721 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa.

• In 1980 Scientology allegedly launched a global campaign to prevent publication of a *Reader's Digest* story entitled "Scientology: Anatomy of a Frightening Cult" which eventually appeared in the magazine's May, 1980, issue.

According to the writer, *Digest* Senior Editor Eugene Methvin, the Church hired a detective agency to investigate him. *Reader's Digest* offices in six countries were picketed or bombarded with nuisance phone calls. And in Denmark, South Africa, and Australia the Church unsuccessfully sued to prevent publication.

The first article was followed by "Scientology: The Sickness Spreads" in the *Digest* issue of September, 1981. In the second story, Methvin quotes one of Hubbard's standing orders, referring to people who criticize Scientology: "Find or manufacture enough threat against them to cause them to sue for peace. Originate a black PR campaign to destroy the person's repute and to discredit them so thoroughly they will be ostracized. Be very alert to sue for slander at the slightest chance so as to discourage the public presses from mentioning Scientology. The purpose of the suit is to harass and discourage rather than to win."

Next week: An interview with L. Ron Hubbard, Jr. (son of the founder of Scientology) plus an interview with a husband and wife who worked as deprogrammers in the San Francisco Bay Area while actually serving as "double agents" for the Church of Scientology.

## "Attack the Attacker"

by Dennis Wheeler

Several former policies of the Church of Scientology, founded by L. Ron Hubbard, have persistently tainted its public image.

Scientologists say these policies were either "jokes" from the very beginning, or were misunderstood by the public — and in any case they have all been canceled.

Most of these policies involve ways the Church deals with people it has labeled "Potential Trouble Sources" and "Suppressive Persons." The latter are "those who are destructively antisocial" or those who "actively seek to suppress or damage Scientology or a Scientologist by suppressive acts." A Potential Trouble source is simply a "person connected to a Suppressive Person." Both these terms are still used by the Church.

Controversial policies were adopted and subsequently canceled in the late 1960s, when the Church's "Guardian's Office" was formed to deal with the increasing deluge of negative publicity about the organization. Others were never specific, written policies, but according to Scientology critics may still be practiced by the Church.

The policies include the following:

Security checks: For years, the "E-Meter" or "Hubbard Electrometer" has been a controversial part of Scientology.

Church officials insist the machine is simply a religious artifact used in pastoral counseling — that with the E-Meter a Scientology minister can help a parishioner locate and overcome areas of spiritual travail.

Critics of the Church say the E-Meter is a crude galvanometer or lie detector mechanism, used at times by the Church for "integrity processing" and "security checks" (or "sec checks"). Critics claim the sec checks can unmask anyone who has infiltrated Scientology, and that the information gained from members undergoing sec checks is recorded for possible blackmailing purposes in the future.

According to a recent 196-page report on Scientology written by Boston attorney Michael Flynn and six other lawyers, "Numerous Scientology defectors have chillingly described a '1984' type setting in which a person is told to 'pick up the cans' for a 'sec check,' in order to determine if the person has any negative Scientology thoughts, as well as having engaged in any anti-Scientology activities."

But Scientology officials claim it's impossible to use the E-Meter as a "lie detector" — that the standard lie detector or polygraph consists of a blood pressure meter, a respiration recorder, and a galvanometer, whereas the E-Meter only measures "mental resistance."

Freeloader's Debts: Critics of Scientology say converts  
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are lured into the organization by free personality tests, pay a small fee to take a "Communications Course," and then are pressed to pay large amounts for "auditing" and various Scientology courses — sometimes spending thousands or even hundreds of thousands of dollars. If they eventually run out of money or lose their jobs, they're then induced to become staff members with paid salaries.

And if staff members later decide to leave the Church, critics say they may be threatened with a Freeloader's Debt for services rendered them while on staff. The Freeloader's Debt allegedly is designed to keep people within the organization, to prevent potential lawsuits, and to prevent exposure of illegal or unethical Scientology practices.

**Disconnection:** Established in a Hubbard Command Office (HCO) policy letter of December 23, 1965, this policy required Potential Trouble Sources to cut off all ties to Suppressive Persons, even if the latter were spouses or close relatives.

Critics of Scientology say Disconnection severed people from friends or relatives who might have enlightened them about the true nature of Scientology. Also, critics claim, in many instances husbands or wives disconnected themselves from non-Scientology spouses, sued for divorce, and in the divorce proceedings obtained as much money as possible to turn over to Scientology.

Current Church literature, however, states that "Disconnection was the action of helping persons to become exterior from circumstances or people that suppress them...It was not fully understood that disconnection was usually a temporary handling, to give the person a 'breathing space' from a problem, while they found the true source of it." Disconnection, according to Scientology, has been replaced since 1968 by "ethics counseling."

**Attack the Attacker:** This policy allegedly was used to keep disaffected staff members in line, and to keep non-Scientologists from writing articles critical of Scientology. It's outlined in the HCO policy letter of December 25, 1966, and states as follows:

"This is the correct procedure:

"(1) Spot who is attacking us.

"(2) Start investigating them promptly for felonies or worse, using our own professionals, not outside agencies.

(3) Double curve our reply by saying we welcome an investigation of them.

(4) Start feeding lurid, blood, sex, crime, actual evidence on the attackers to the press.

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

**Fair Game:** Any Suppressive Person who's labeled Fair Game "may be deprived of property or injured by any means by any Scientologist without any discipline of the Scientologist. May be tricked, sued or lied to or destroyed."

The wording of this policy, say Scientology critics, is very clear, and the policy is still being used against enemies of the Church, critics claim.

Scientologists, on the other hand, say the Fair Game policy was canceled in a policy letter of October 21, 1968. While not quoting the actual wording of the original policy, a Scientology rebuttal of criticism of the Fair Game policy says, "The term, 'Fair Game,' even when it was in use, did not have the meaning attached to it by critics of Scientology. 'Fair Game' meant that the individual so designated was no longer protected by the codes and

disciplines of Scientology or the rights of a Scientologist." They quote the Creed of the Church of Scientology, which contradicts the Fair Game policy: "We of the Church believe that the laws of God forbid Man: To destroy his own kind. To destroy the sanity of another. To destroy or enslave another's soul. To destroy or reduce the survival of one's companions or one's group."

Hubbard says in an affidavit dated March 22, 1976: "There was never any attempt or intent on my part by the writing of these policies (or any other for that fact) to authorize illegal or harassment type acts against anyone...As soon as it became apparent to me that the concept of 'Fair Game' as described above was being misinterpreted by the uninformed...these policies were cancelled."

**R2-45:** In Hubbard's book, *The Creation of Human Ability — a Handbook of Scientology*, R2-45 is defined as "an enormously effective process for exteriorization, but its use is frowned upon by this society at this time." And in an internal 1968 memo titled "Racket Exposed," Hubbard said of a number of individuals who had been labeled Fair Game: "Any Sea Organization member contacting any of them is to use auditing process R2-45. (The Sea Organization is a fraternal organization of top members of Scientology.)"

Exteriorization in this usage means death, and R2-45 refers to shooting a person in the head, twice, with a .45 caliber pistol. Hubbard's oldest son, L. Ron Hubbard, Jr., says that at a 1954 Scientology meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, Hubbard demonstrated the auditing process by firing a shot into the floor.

There's no evidence, however, that R2-45 has ever been used on anyone, and Scientologists say Hubbard was only joking about it. In a rebuttal to criticism of the policy, Scientology again cites its Creed, and says that the Suppressives Persons referred to in the 1968 memo always had the opportunity to restore themselves to good standing in the Church. "Thus," says the rebuttal, "there is not only a complete absence of evidence to support allegations of malicious intent connected to R2-45, but there is also substantial evidence which refutes the allegation."

The above policies, say Scientology critics and defectors, clearly reveal unethical or illegal aspects of the Church. Although the policies themselves were canceled in the late '60s, illegal activities involving Scientology occurred in the '70s, and it wasn't until the '80s that nine top Scientology officials — including Hubbard's third wife, Mary Sue Hubbard — were convicted of charges of conspiracy, burglary, or theft of secret documents from U.S. government offices in Washington, D.C.

Church critics say that whenever something of this nature occurs, Scientology officials claim it was the work of only a few members, unsanctioned by the Church.

But a "new era" has dawned for the organization, according to a Scientology press release received by the *News-Herald* last October. Several individual executives of the Church, the release says, "had gotten themselves involved in a fight with the government...this was done by a handful of individuals, and was not the Church."

The release quotes Reverend Kenneth Whitman, President of the Church of Scientology of California: "We have started a new era for Scientology. We have a new executive body and a clean slate. It is time our emphasis comes off the past and into the future, and we take our rightful place in assisting society in handling the many social evils that plague the nation and the world."