

Sect's circus draws threats of city citations

By MARTY YOUMANS
Sun staff writer

CLEARWATER — If the Church of Scientology holds its circus without first buying a permit, it will be fined, City Manager Tony Shoemaker said Thursday.

The Downtown Clearwater Bayfront Circus is definitely on for Saturday at the Sandcastle Hotel on West Drew Street. There will be elephants and other circus animals, and showmen and clowns from Haniford Circus in Sarasota will give two shows.

Shoemaker said the Sarasota circus group could also be fined.

Church attorney Paul Johnson said Thursday the church doesn't plan to buy a \$375 permit to sponsor the circus, although he isn't ruling it out if the permit will solve the dispute.

A Scientology spokesman said he is expecting 1,500 people to attend the free circus.

Shoemaker, Johnson and Scientology spokesman Ludwig Alpers met Thursday to discuss the issue.

"I'm not encouraging them" to go through with the circus, Shoemaker said afterward. "If they hold it, we'll cite them."

The fine would be up to \$250 for the one-day event.

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(Please see * CIRCUS, next page)

* Circus

(from page 1A)

Shoemaker admitted a city law requiring City Commission approval for circus and freak show events is outdated and should be discarded. The permit should be handled internally by city staff like other requests for occupational licenses.

There would be no problem granting the permit to the Sci-

entologists, providing the church allows for adequate parking and other requirements.

"My interpretation is we don't have to have a permit," said attorney Johnson. He said the church is non-profit and is charging no admission, which exempts it from the permitting process.

Added church spokesman Alpers: "Everything is free — even the popcorn."

The circus' purpose, Johnson said, is to "do something for the kids," not stir trouble.

"I think it's a very worthwhile endeavor," he said. "Part of what they are doing is (trying) to be good neighbors in the community."

VALLEY EDITION

Saturday, February 14, 1987/

Los Angeles Times

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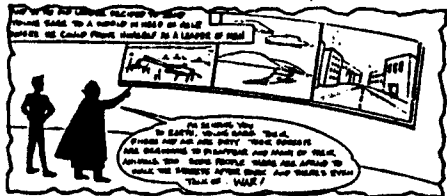
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Among the literature... a comic strip

Children as young as six are being lured by cult with 'hidden message' booklets



Hubbard... church founder

The new menace that waits outside the school gates

THOUSANDS of children are in danger of indoctrination by a sinister cult which has mounted an undercover operation to attract young followers. Children as young as six are being enticed by the Church of Scientology into exploring its founder's bizarre philosophy.

Some have had cult literature thrust into their hands by Scientologists at their school gates. Others have received it through the post. And the campaign has been so disguised that 11 mayors and council chairmen were duped into endorsing it.

At the centre of the deception is the apparently innocent Set a Good Example contest, with the tempting top prize of a trip to Hollywood. To enter, children from six to 18 must read a booklet, *The Way to Happiness*, with their parents' help if necessary. They must then carry out a project which 'sets a good example,' based on what they have learned.

The competition organisers distributing the leaflet are the shadowy Concerned Businessmen's Association, whose address is a Victorian house in North London.

Documents obtained by the Daily Mail reveal that the association was secretly set up by the Church of Scientology, branded 'corrupt, immoral and dangerous' by a High Court judge during a child custody case in 1984.

The author of *The Way to Happiness*, whose name is written in tiny print, is science fiction writer L. Ron

By SEAN RYAN

Worst hit has been West Sussex, home base of the church, where booklets and contest details have been distributed at several schools.

Literature has also been sent to London borough youth officers, libraries and businessmen, and the names of West Country mayors and council leaders have been used in an effort to attract business sponsors to the campaign.

But the civic dignitaries who endorsed it are now withdrawing their support, protesting they had no idea of any connection with the Church of Scientology when they were shown the booklet and asked to sign a scroll.

Morals

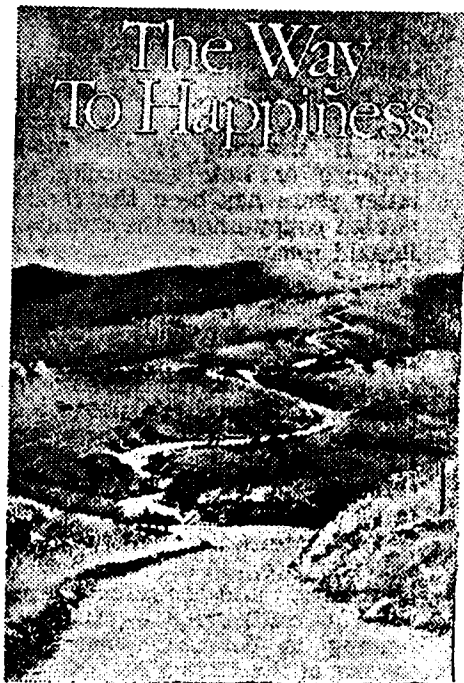
The Way to Happiness, loosely based on six of the Ten Commandments, was described as 'harmless' by the mayors, but 'unsuitable for children' by one education expert who criticised its language and some of its content.

It warns children that promiscuity might lead to 'a knife in the back or ground glass in the soup.'

Among the literature, a comic strip tells of a youngster sent from outer space to earth to 'prove himself a leader of men'.

The door of the Concerned Businessmen's Association's address in Duke's Avenue, Muswell Hill, was opened yesterday by a young woman giving her name only as Sam, who referred inquiries to the Church's headquarters in East Grinstead. It claimed the association was a completely separate organisation.

Mrs Sheila Gaiman, who works for the association, said: 'We are in touch with many groups concerned at the decline of morals in society and with young people. We are getting people being competent, industrious and taking care of their environment.'



What every child entering the contest must read... with their parents' help if necessary

The Way to Happiness



Sam... woman at door

Hubbard, founder of the church.

A spokesman for the cult-monitoring group Family Action, Information and Rescue said last night: 'It's quite appalling to get at children through what is a large-scale propaganda exercise for Scientology.'

The cult, which was badly hit by Mr Justice Lacey's High Court condemnation, and its leader's death last year, is exuberant over the success of *The Way to Happiness* campaign.

Its internal newsletter, the Auditor, says: 'Weekly, thousands of UK children are asking for competition entry forms.'

But many head teachers have been outraged by the Scientologists' approaches to them and their pupils.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Church of Scientology scriptural documents are not a trade secret and can be used in a splinter church's activities. The ruling means that the church cannot legally prevent the Church of the New Civilization from utilizing materials allegedly taken from Scientology's Denmark offices. In 1985, Scientologists sued the Santa Barbara-based New Civilization group in federal court under anti-racketeering statutes to prevent the use of their material. New Civilization denies that the materials were stolen, but its officials contend that founder David Mayo memorized the documents when he was an active Scientologist. Mayo was unavailable for comment.

Los Angeles Times

L. Ron Hubbard Estate Valued at \$26 Million

SAN LUIS OBISPO (AP)—L. Ron Hubbard, the Scientology founder and author who died last year, left more than \$26 million in assets, excluding trust funds, according to documents filed by the executor of his estate.

Total assets listed in the inventory amount to \$26,305,706. They include "\$25 million even" in copyright and trademark materials and \$1,305,706 in oil, gas and business investments, said attorney Charles Ogle of Morro Bay.

The estate documents were prepared in Los Angeles by Norman F. Starkey, the executor of Hubbard's estate. Ogle handled the filing of those documents with the San Luis Obispo county clerk's office Friday.

Hubbard suffered a stroke and died Jan. 24, 1986, on his ranch in Creston. His will, filed in Superior Court the following February, did not detail his wealth. Hubbard signed the will the day before his death.

The listed assets do not include money Hubbard put into trust funds for his wife, four of his five children and the Church of Spiritual Technology. The amount in the trust funds is private, Ogle said.

Among the items filed with the county clerk was a four-inch-thick binder containing lists of Hubbard's copyrighted poems, movies, books, office memos, office rules, music and choreography. There was also a binder listing patents for inventions and additional copyrights, such as for the words *scientology* and *dianetics*.

A statement issued by Starkey's office Friday said: "As per Mr. Hubbard's instructions, ownership of all his copyrighted works will pass to the Church of Scientology."