

1986 file photo

The *Freewinds* is a 500-passenger ship bought in 1986 by the International Association of Scientologists. It was previously berthed in St. Petersburg as the cruise ship *Boheme*.

## Dozens of groups operate under auspices of Church of Scientology

By STEPHEN KOFF  
Times Staff Writer

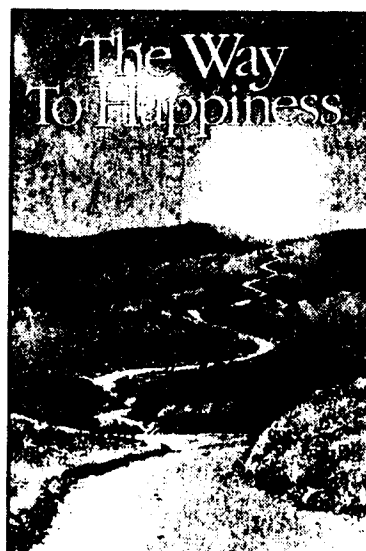
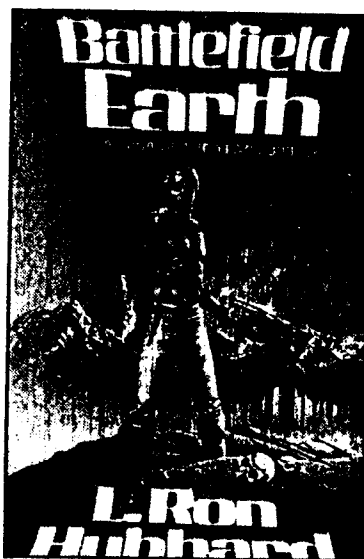
Operating under auspices of the Church of Scientology are dozens of groups, many of them separate legal entities. Untangling Scientology's lines of organizations can be difficult; even the sect's own charts that have been used in court cases are complex. Here are some of Scientology's organizations.

**Flag Service Organization** — The legal name of Scientology's Clearwater operation, which serves as the sect's spiritual headquarters. Before 1981 the organization was part of the Church of Scientology of California, and Pinellas County officials contend that Flag is still an "alter ego" of the California church. The distinction could be worth millions of dollars in tax exemption, and Scientology lawyers deny the Pinellas claim.

**Sea Org** — Short for Sea Organization, a corp of dedicated Scientologists who wear navy-style uniforms and sign billion-year loyalty contracts. (Scientologists believe in reincarnation.) Before Scientology's move to Clearwater in 1975, members of the Sea Org served with sect founder L. Ron Hubbard aboard ships roaming the globe.

**International Association of Scientologists** — A group formed by church leaders in 1984 to combat "external" threats to Scientology such as lawsuits and critical media coverage. Membership in the association makes one an official member of the church, according to association publications.

**The Freewinds** — A 500-passenger ship bought in 1986 by the International Association of Scientologists. Previously berthed in St. Petersburg as the cruise ship *Boheme*, the *Freewinds* was renovated and now is based in the southern Caribbean, where upper-level Scientology training is offered. Among those who have cruised are Lisa Marie Presley, the daughter of Elvis, who took a honeymoon trip on the ship in October.



Times files

L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of the Church of Scientology, wrote the *Battlefield Earth* science fiction series and *The Way to Happiness*, among other works.

**Bridge Publications** — Publisher of L. Ron Hubbard's works, including his *Battlefield Earth* science fiction series and the seminal Scientology work *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*. Bridge is a for-profit company.

**Concerned Businessmen's Association of America** — A Glendale, Calif.-based group of Scientologists that promotes drug-free living through its "Way to Happiness" book and like-named campaign, targeted to school-age children. The association's Intertribal Council brought American Indian leaders to Scientology's Clearwater headquarters in February to talk about drug treatment programs. A related group, called the Hubbard Foundation, did detoxification on the Blackfeet reservation in Montana "for a while," said Jim Ferres, Blackfeet treatment services director. "They don't do it anymore. . . . I view alcoholism as a disease, and don't believe in this guru kind of stuff."

**Narconon** — A Scientologist-run drug education and rehabilitation program based on a regimen of megavitamins and saunas. Narconon boasts an 80 percent success rate, but health

officials and former Narconon employees dispute that claim. Narconon offices were among those raided in the Spanish investigation of Scientology in November.

**WISE** — An acronym for World Institute of Scientology Enterprises, the sect's division that teaches "Hubbard management tech" to businesses and professionals. Among the Scientologist-run consulting firms licensed under WISE are Singer Consultants (specializing in chiropractors), Sterling Management Consultants (dentists) and Uptrends (computer professionals). Anywhere from 20 percent (a Singer estimate) to 50 percent (an Uptrends figure) of WISE clients wind up taking Scientology courses or buying Hubbard books.

**Citizen's Commission on Human Rights** — A Scientology division that crusades against many applications of psychiatry, particularly the use of Ritalin, a drug used to control hyperactivity in children. Scientology has a distinctly anti-psychiatric, anti-medical bent, which psychiatrists say is a result of *Dianetics* being shunned by organized medicine.

# St. Petersburg

Florida's Best Newspaper

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# Times

## Changing strategy

Scientology now steps right up to controversy

*Second of two parts*

■ *Xemu's cruel response to overpopulated world, 10-A*

By **STEPHEN KOFF**  
Times Staff Writer

**CLEARWATER** — After years of sparring with the townsfolk and veiling itself in secrecy, the Church of Scientology has succeeded in turning Clearwater into its spiritual mecca. Scientologists quietly run teen nightclubs, schools, day-care centers, management consulting firms and other businesses, records and interviews show.

Now the strategy of the organization, longtime observers say, is to confront controversy, gain converts and make money — lots of it. Scientology's Clearwater operation brings in \$1.5-million to \$2-million a week, say church watchers who include Clearwater police, former Scientology security chief Richard Azneran and former Scientologist-turned-author Bent Corydon.

Fee schedules show how the dollars add up: 12½ hours of basic Scientology counseling in Clearwater costs \$8,000, not counting

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# Scientology

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meals and accommodations.

Scientology brochures boast that Clearwater has the "largest community of Scientologists in the world," with more than 1,000 Scientologists served by "several hundred" staff members.

Authorities cannot confirm those numbers, but the claim itself is a dramatic change from the secretive Scientology of 1975, when the organization used an assumed name — United Churches of Florida, Inc. — to buy the Fort Harrison Hotel for \$2.3-million in cash. Armed guards ringed the downtown hotel, and for weeks the church would not reveal its true identity.

The stealthy move was followed by deep suspicion between the Scientologists and community leaders. Church documents seized by the FBI later would show that Scientologists tried to frame then-Mayor Gabe Cazares with a hit-and-run accident, and Bette Orsini, a *St. Petersburg Times* investigative reporter, was targeted as a Scientology "enemy" and harassed.

But some things have changed in 13 years — among them, the way Scientology presents itself.

"It's obvious that there's some effort to be less visible, in terms of either making attacks on people or in terms of making more of a splash around here," said Jim Sheeler, Clearwater's community development manager.

"They want to be part of the community," said C. David Carley Jr., chairman of the Citizens Bank of Clearwater. "And you cannot blame them for that."



**Spokesman Richard Haworth is frequent guest on radio shows.**

Scientology officials, most notably spokesman Richard Haworth, are frequent guests on local radio shows and a prime-time staple of Vision Cable's community access channel. "They have a public relations campaign to present themselves as the person you work with, your friend, or the person next door," said Randy Kabrich, programming director

for Q105-FM, a station on which Haworth has denounced Scientology's detractors. "And I am not aware of any other religious group, cult or non-cult, that has gone to that extent."

Scientology officials and their lawyers would not comment for this series of articles. Asked again for comment on Thursday, after the first story in this two-part series ran, chief Scientology counsel Earle C. Cooley of Boston said, "The article that appeared today . . . is the most vicious and malicious perversion of the truth that I have seen in 32 years."

## Surprised by sponsor

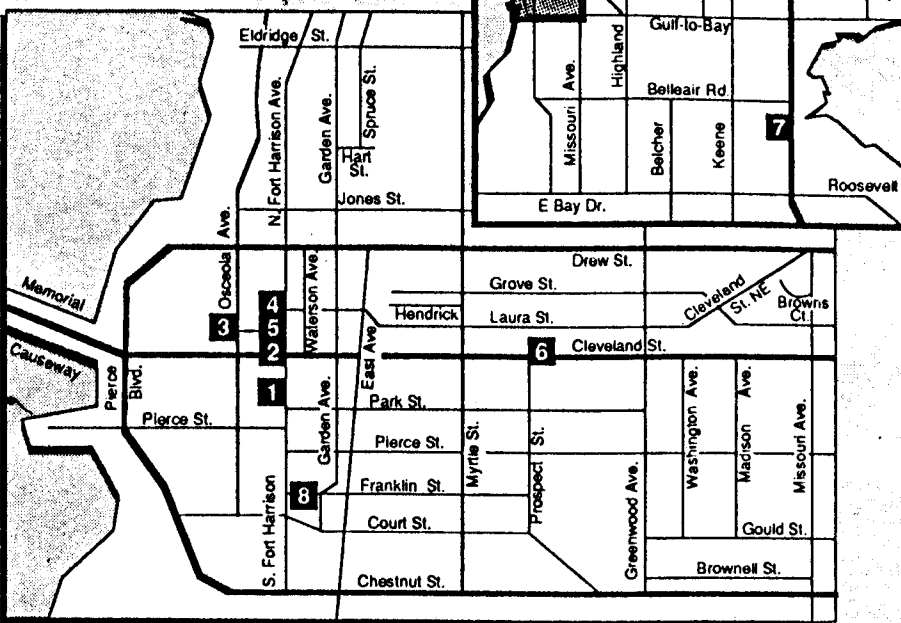
Sometimes, it's hard to tell when the Scientologists are involved in an event or promotion. Some visitors say they were invited to Clearwater by innocuous-sounding groups that turned out to be promoting Scientology principles or programs.

For instance, leaders of American Indian tribes were brought to the Fort Harrison in February by the Concerned Businessmen's Association of America. Their invitations mentioned programs for drug and alcohol abuse prevention, but said nothing about Scientology, according to Indians who received them.

The Concerned Businessmen's Association, based in Glendale, Calif., is a group of Scientologists.

# A taxing argument

Since moving to Clearwater in 1975, the Church of Scientology has purchased 12 parcels of property on 9 sites, and leases several others.



## Here are the group's Pinellas properties

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1) Fort Harrison Hotel<br/>210 S. Fort Harrison Ave.<br/>Purchased in 1975 for \$2.3-million.<br/>1988 Assessed Value*: \$9.4-million.</p> <p>2) Former Bank of Clearwater Building<br/>500 Cleveland St., 15 and 25 N. Fort Harrison Ave.<br/>Purchased in 1975 for \$550,000.<br/>1988 Assessed Value: \$733,400.</p> <p>3) Sandcastle Motel<br/>200 N. Osceola Ave.<br/>Purchased in 1979 for \$2.27-million.<br/>1988 Assessed Value: \$2.27-million.</p> <p>4) Old West Coast Building<br/>118 N. Fort Harrison Ave.<br/>Purchased in 1979 for \$765,000.<br/>1988 Assessed Value: \$717,800.</p> <p>5) 109 and 111 N. Fort Harrison Ave.<br/>Purchased in 1979 for \$130,000.<br/>1988 Assessed Value: \$150,400.</p> | <p>6) Heart of Clearwater Motel<br/>1024 Cleveland Street<br/>Purchased in 1979 for \$950,000.<br/>1988 Assessed Value: \$840,000.</p> <p>7) Former Quality Inn<br/>2056 U.S. 19 S.<br/>Purchased in 1979 for \$1.8-million.<br/>1988 Assessed value: \$1.8-million.</p> <p>8) Former Elks headquarters<br/>516 Franklin Street<br/>Purchased in 1983 for \$240,000.<br/>1988 Assessed Value: \$238,600.</p> <p>9) Hacienda Gardens Apartments<br/>551 N. Saturn Ave.<br/>Purchased in 1986 for \$4.6-million.<br/>1988 Assessed Value: \$5.2-million.</p> |
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\* Value assessed by Pinellas property appraiser for tax purposes. Assessed value is generally below market value.

Times art — ANNE HAND

"I thought it was going to be a group of concerned businessmen who had money to help Indian tribes," said Raymond Reyes, then executive director of the Coeur d'Alene tribe in Idaho and now director of Indian education at Gonzaga University. "I thought it was going to be a group of fundees who could meet funding sources. Instead, it was all this L. Ron Hubbard stuff."

The Concerned Businessmen's Association did not respond to repeated calls and a letter from the *St. Petersburg Times*.

U.S. Rep. Floyd Flake, D-N.J., accepted a trip to attend a black history and arts seminar at the Fort Harrison last year. He said he thought the sponsoring group was called Celebration of the Arts.

"We did not know it was Scientology," said Flake's press aide Edwin Reed, who also attended. "We didn't really realize that, but with L. Ron Hubbard (pictures) all around, (we thought), 'What in the heck is this?'"

## Taxes and public relations

That's a question many Clearwater residents are still trying to answer, despite Scientologists' attempts to fade into the mainstream. Former mayor Cazares said, "Just the fact that they're quiet doesn't mean that they're not active. The nature of

the beast has not changed."

Longtime residents "still believe that something is going on," said current Mayor Rita Garvey. "The general public is still leery and would like to see them out of town, which of course is not a reality, but the public's still concerned."

So are Pinellas government officials. The City of Clearwater and the church are in the midst of a five-year legal fight over an ordinance that, if enforced, would require Scientology to disclose extensive information about its finances. The church says the law is unconstitutional.

Then there's Scientology's tax bill; with more than \$21-million in assessed property, the Church of Scientology is the biggest property owner in downtown Clearwater. Since moving to Clearwater, the organization has assembled 12 properties on nine parcels of land. It hasn't paid property taxes since 1981, and its tax bill to date stands at \$2.84-million, said O. Sanford Jasper, Pinellas tax collector.

Pinellas Property Appraiser Ron Schultz argues that Scientology should have to pay the taxes. To that end, County Attorney Susan Churuti said in court documents that the church's Clearwater operation is merely an "alter ego" of California-run Scientology operations — which, according to a federal judge, helped enrich



The Scientologists bought the Fort Harrison Hotel, left, for \$2.3-million in cash. The teen nightclub Off Limits, right, is owned and operated by a partnership of at least two Scientologists.

the group's founder, L. Ron Hubbard. The Pinellas tax battle may be settled in court in 1989, said Circuit Judge Howard P. Rives.

Several years ago, the church offered to pay its tax bill in a display of public spirit — as long as the money was considered a "gift" rather than a tax. But Schultz said he was in office to assess taxes, not gifts. He declined the offer, and insisted on calling taxes just that: taxes.

### Community influence

While the church presses its tax case in the courts, it continues to extend its influence in the community and court public opinion. The church's own publications reinforce the church of a community-minded public relations strategy.

The Scientology magazine *Impact* recently recycled this message from group founder Hubbard: "Hit for the key spots by whatever means, the head of the women's club, the personnel director of a company, the leader of a good orchestra, the president's secretary, the adviser of the trade union — any key spot. Make a good sound living at it, drive a good car, but get your job done, handle and better the people you meet and bring about a better earth."

Scientologists hold key spots in a variety of ventures around Pinellas, and several private businesses in Clearwater — Snow Software, Arlene's Childcare and Making Magic, Inc., a distributor of velvet art, among them — are run by church members, according to a Scientology directory. These businesses' owners would not talk to a reporter, saying their religion has no public relevance.

Three Clearwater enterprises, however, have stronger ties to the church: True School, Jefferson Academy and Singer Consultants.

True School, at 1831 Drew St., and Jefferson Academy, 1740 N. Highland Ave., are private "Hubbard Method" schools that use an approach developed by Scientology's founder.

Vivian Godfrey, one of two teachers at Jefferson, said that "Hubbard educational technology deals only with education . . . The school has absolutely no connection with the Church of Scientology." Ms. Godfrey and the other teacher, Sandy Mesmer, are listed as "participating members of the Church of Scientology" in *Who's Here?*, a directory of church members around Tampa Bay.

As for True School, an advertisement in *Who's Here?* lists "child auditing" among the school's programs. Auditing, a form of counseling, is the basis of Scientology practice. True School officials did not respond to a reporter's requests for an interview.

Singer Consultants, 1001 S Myrtle Ave., is a management consulting firm catering to chiropractors. Like California-based Sterling Management Consultants (dentists) and Uptrends of New Hampshire (computer professionals), Singer is licensed by Scientology to teach Hubbard "management technology." Marketing, billing and staff development are emphasized, and clients say Scientology is touted as a self-improvement option.

Singer managers did not return a reporter's calls, but last year said they don't recruit for the church. However, a recent Singer advertisement in a directory of Scientologists said that "more people have been moved onto and up the Bridge" — a term referring to fulfilling Scientology's goals — "by this group than any other in history, and this is just the beginning."

Elsewhere around Clearwater:

■ Muriel McKay, once a Scientology public affairs official, serves on the executive committee of the Pinellas County Republican Party and represents a Clearwater voting precinct.

"She conducts herself admirably," said Edrie Kennedy, the GOP's parliamentarian. "She is officious, she is not pushy, she is a really good member." Ms. McKay did not respond to several telephone messages from a reporter seeking her comment.

■ The teen nightclubs Off Limits, in Clearwater and Brandon, are owned and operated by a partnership of at least two Scientologists. Off Limits serves no alcohol and "provides a safe place for kids to have fun," said part owner LaVonna Applebaum.

County licenses and state corporate records show that the partnership that owns the clubs is named Tone 40 Limited. "Tone 40" is a term distinctive to Scientology: it is the ultimate level on Scientology's "tone scale" of existence, which runs from 0.1, for dying, to 40, for "serenity of beingness," according to the *Dianetics and Scientology Technical Dictionary*.

"The church has absolutely no connection with the business, just as the Catholic Church has no connection with businesses owned by members of that church," said Ray Cassano, listed on state records as the sole director of Tone 40 Limited.

Richie Stone, 18, is a former bouncer at the Clearwater club, 14100 U.S. 19 S. He said Ms. Applebaum used to tell employees, "Why don't you all go to the classes with us? It's good for your attitudes. It's good for your tempers."

Ms. Applebaum said, "Quite frankly, if I can find a way to help somebody, I try to help — if they ask for it. If they did not ask for help, I would not offer it."

Stone said he did not seek that advice.

# Xemu's cruel response to overpopulated world

By STEPHEN KOFF  
Times Staff Writer

It was like something out of a science fiction script — but L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology, claimed it was fact.

"Xemu," he called the central character. Xemu ruled the 90-planet Galactic Confederation 75-million years ago, when overpopulation was a problem.

So Xemu solved the problem: He trapped selected beings and flew them to volcanoes on Earth, then called Teegeeach. He then dropped powerful H-bombs on the volcanoes.

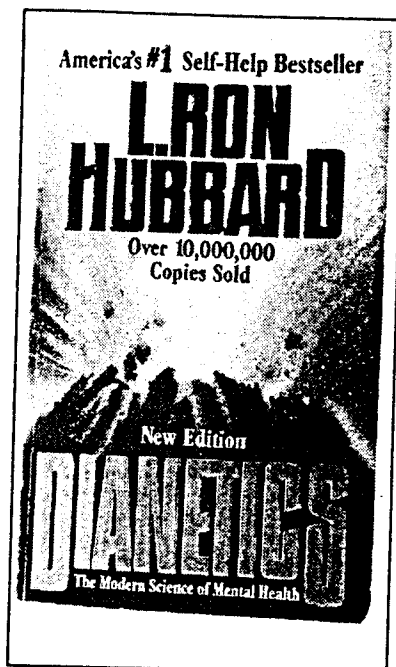
The beings were destroyed in a wall of fire. However, their spirits, or "thetans," weren't. Gathering them into clusters, Xemu trapped the thetans in frozen alcohol and glycol.

Then he finished his cruel plan: He electronically implanted the thetans so they would reproduce in subsequent generations of man and cause sexual perversion and other abnormal behavior.

The implants are in us — each of us — today.

Though such beliefs may seem far-fetched, Scientology documents show they are part of upper-level Scientology training known as OT III, short for Operating Thetan III. OT III is the third of 15 steps on Scientology's advanced ladder, climbed by believers after reaching the state of "clear." OT III training, which is supposed to remove the implants by revisiting the Xemu incident and breaking through the wall of fire, is offered in Clearwater at a cost of \$6,500, according to a fall 1988 rate sheet.

Details of OT III are considered confidential. When church documents describing Xemu surfaced during a 1985 trial in Los Angeles, Scientology lawyers tried unsuccessfully to immediately seal them. Gerald Armstrong, a former Scientologist who discovered that many of Hubbard's credentials and claims were false, described in a court document why the group so



The volcano, which figures prominently in Scientology training, appears on the cover of L. Ron Hubbard's *Dianetics*.

closely guards Xemu.

"In Scientology, people are told that if they read even part of the story before they have progressed through all the various lower Scientology steps, at the cost of tens of thousands of dollars, their subconscious minds will be restimulated, and they will 'free-wheel,'" Armstrong said. "Their mind will go out of control, they will not be able to eat or sleep and they will die."

A Hubbard memo obtained by Clearwater police said pneumonia may also result, as the implants are calculated to kill by pneumonia anyone who tries to "solve" them — sort of like a pharaoh's curse, Hubbard noted. That's why only properly applied training would succeed, Hubbard said.

Armstrong said the Xemu story was identical to the screenplay for *Revolt in the Stars*, a film written by Hubbard. The film never got commercial financing and was not released.

# Common ground for religions: money

By STEPHEN KOFF  
Times Staff Writer

They have little in common with Scientology. Some even acknowledge contempt for the late L. Ron Hubbard's beliefs. But mainstream religions nevertheless have lined up with Hubbard's church on one issue — money.

Consider: Jews buy tickets for seats in synagogues and temples in order to attend high holiday services. Mormons, and members of some other Christian denominations, tithe 10 percent of their incomes to the church. Such costs can be deducted from their income taxes as religious contributions.

What, then, of Scientologists' payments for auditing?

The expensive form of counseling that uses an "E-Meter," an instrument similar to a polygraph, is the basis of Scientology. Auditing is the way a Scientologist "practices."

But the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), arguing that tax exemption should be denied, says auditing fees are simply payment for services rendered, much like paying a counselor for psychological counseling. The IRS also contends the Church of Scientology of California — which its leaders say is a separate legal entity from the Clearwater organization — should be denied tax-exempt religious status because Hubbard personally took millions of dollars from the organization. A federal court is addressing that on a year-by-year basis.

Federal courts have been divided on the auditing issue, and the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to give an opinion this term. The high court's findings could spill over into other religions, which is why groups representing a spectrum of faiths have stood up for Scientology.

"This is an issue of how are churches allowed to raise money," said California lawyer Gerald McNally Jr., a Scientologist who filed briefs on behalf of several groups. "If the only way the churches are allowed to raise money is to hold rummage sales and pass the basket, it kind of ties the churches' hands."

Greg Dixon, a Baptist minister in Indianapolis and director of the American Coalition of Unregistered Churches, agreed, saying: The matter is "a legitimate First Amendment issue."

Some mainstream religious leaders support the *idea* of Scientology getting the same benefits as other religions even as they take exception to Scientology doctrine. They even acknowledge dislike for the late L. Ron Hubbard, who founded Scientology.

Hubbard frequently assailed Christianity, a fact apparently known to few outside the church. These Hubbard bulletins, authenticated by former Scientologists, have gained scant public attention:

■ "The whole Christian movement is based on the victim . . . Christianity succeeded by making people into victims." (1959)

■ "Some churches used a mechanism of confession. This was a limited effort to relieve a person of the pressure of his overt acts. Later this mechanism of confession was employed as a kind of blackmail by which increased contributions could be obtained from the person confessing." (1960)

■ "... It can be shown that Heaven is a false dream and that the old religion was based on a very painful lie, a cynical betrayal . . . New religions always overthrow the false gods of the old, they do something to better man. We can improve man. We can show the old gods false." (1963)

Mark Pelavin, director of policy planning for the American Jewish Congress, which filed a brief in support of Scientology with the U.S. Supreme Court, said Jewish groups "acknowledge their distaste for Scientology." An American Jewish Congress press release called Scientology's beliefs "invidious."

"We filed a brief in support of the principle," Pelavin said, "certainly not in support of the Scientologists."

Dixon, of the independent churches, said he was not aware of Hubbard's views, and claimed Scientologists may have improperly used his organization's name in the brief to the U.S. Supreme Court.

However, he said, "Our position would be that we believe in the First Amendment of the Constitution, and that allows people to practice their faith in the United States — even if that faith is antagonistic toward Christianity and our Lord."



L. Ron Hubbard was critical of Christianity.

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