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CONVICTION UPHELD IN EXTORTION CASE

A US appeals court has upheld the conviction of a reputed organized crime figure found guilty of extorting \$33,000 from the Church of Scientology and attempting to extort an additional \$67,000. George T. Kattar, 69, of Methuen, is serving a six-year sentence in the case. He was convicted in December 1986 of one count of extortion and acquitted of several lesser charges, including fraud and receiving stolen goods.

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East Grinstead Cult 17p

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FAX EG 410736

TEL: EG 323652

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Cult targets MPs in expansion drive

The controversial 'church' of Scientology is poised to launch a series of campaigns to rally politicians and influential people to its cause.

The cult has set up a special group to expand Scientology influence in politics, arts, business and the media, through a series of social campaigns aimed at improving its image.

Its main aim is to "help expand Scientology through rallying opinion leaders in political, media, arts, business and social spheres."

The Safe Point UK group, based at the cult's headquarters at Saint Hill, is aiming to "gain friends for Scientology" among decision makers and leaders of opinion both in the town and the country as a whole. The cult wants to rally 150 MPs to its cause through a series of campaigns on social issues.

The project is designed to "reach" into the field of arts and business and "develop and secure friends for Scientology".

The first of these campaigns is expected to promote the cult's opposition to drug taking. It will be aimed at showing that Scientology is concerned at drug abuse, crime and violence.

The cult, once described as being "corrupt, sinister and dangerous" by a High Court judge, wants to heighten awareness in politics, media, the arts, business, and "broad public."

The campaigns are being coordinated by a group of senior Scientologists including a leading local property developer, an accountant and two financiers.

Scientology members are currently being re-

cruted to mount a sustained campaign by writing and phoning MPs and by arranging weekly meetings at the House of Commons. Others will be asked to orchestrate campaigns and to "handle" the media.

This is the latest in a series of attempts by the church to expand. Two years ago they launched a campaign to make East Grinstead Britain's first Scientology town, but attempts to recruit young people in the High Street caused a storm of opposition.

Since it was founded by science fiction writer Ron Hubbard in 1954, the church has been behind a number of campaigns which were masterminded originally by its Social Coordination Bureau, and since last year by the Association for Better Living and Education.

These have included Narconon, an organisation

which aims to get people off drugs through the use of Scientology auditing and a strict 'Purification Run Down' involving rigorous exercise and large doses of vitamins.

The cult is also actively involved in the Citizens Commission for Human Rights, a group set up to expose what it sees as the excesses of the psychiatric profession. It is strongly opposed to many current psychiatric practices and of the use of drugs and electroconvulsive therapy to control mental illness.

In January the cult completed work on Saint Hill Castle, at their headquarters. The project, which started in 1965, is reputed to have cost many millions of pounds and the "church" plans to use it as a conference centre.

Blasphemous arguments: A case of religious offence

John Sweeney

A MAN of no fixed abode — albeit a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature — took up the attention of a battery of lawyers last week in the High Court. They were watched over by a number of sad-eyed Muslim priests with an unprecedented and laughably over-done security screen of bored policemen in attendance.

Vagrancy, however, was not the issue in hand. At the centre of the proceedings was the weightier matter of blasphemy, and the writer Salman Rushdie, described in the sober words of his counsel, Mr Geoffrey Robertson QC, as being 'at present of no fixed abode as the result of a terrorist threat'.

The tortured courtesies and dreary 'formularies' — an archaism promiscuously cited in the hearing — of the English legal system did much, in fact, to draw the blood from the *fatwa* of Qom.

Mr Rushdie's absence deepened the lack of drama until there were times when the on-looker struggled to stifle not a book, but a yawn. There were even those — dulled by the 'formularies' or anaesthetised by the sub-tropical central heating of Court Number Six — who nodded off. Yet the substance at the centre of debate was electrifying.

The case was brought by Mr Abdal Choudhury of the Muslim Action Front, who sought to overturn an earlier ruling by a London magistrate that Mr Rushdie and his publishers, Viking Penguin, could not be charged with blasphemy for writing and publishing his novel, *The Satanic Verses*.

Mr Ali Azhar, counsel for Mr Choudhury, argued that Muslims had lived peacefully in Britain for 150 years, but had now gone on to the streets in their thousands to protest at Mr Rushdie's 'deeply-insulting' book. He argued that the common-law offence of blasphemy could cover Islam, because of the shared heritage of the Christian, Jewish and Islamic faiths.

He asked: 'Islam being so closely related, my question is why cannot the same protection



From top: Abdal Choudhury of the Muslim Action Front; his counsel, Ali Azhar, and Geoffrey Robertson QC.

be accorded to the *Holy Koran*? Any insult to the *Koran* or any denunciation of it, he said, 'strikes at the root of Muslim society.' To which Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Roch, got to the nub of the case when he asked: 'You can criticise, can't you?'

Mr Azhar: 'There have been many books criticising the *Koran* in all languages. Muslims do not pay any attention to it, but when it is vilified in a scurrilous form, then it hurts.'

The judge commented: 'It would be absurd to suggest that nobody could criticise the *Koran*, and equally absurd to

suggest that nobody could criticise the Old or New Testament.'

Mr Azhar's line of argument certainly exposed the depressing lack of knowledge about Islamic belief around the court. The judges appeared surprised when he handed them a chart logging the prophets, from Adam to Abraham, and Moses to Jesus, who were revered by Muslims as well as Christians. At one point Lord Justice Watkins asked: 'You don't mean to say Islam believes in the Virgin Birth, do you?' Mr Azhar replied: 'My Lord, yes.'

The all-comers' prize for unintended hurt, however, was taken by a newspaper journalist, who referred to 'Allah and his wives' in a report on the first day of the case.

Both Mr Robertson and Mr Anthony Lester — QC for the publishers — argued that English law was pretty clear: you could blaspheme only against the established church, which meant the Church of England.

Mr Robertson acknowledged that this was 'a sad anomaly', but added: 'It is Christianity alone which the law of blasphemy evolved to protect and that is because the Anglican religion was the religion of the State.'

A legal 'quagmire' would be created if the judges widened the scope of the common law, he said, in which the Moonies, and the Church of Scientology would also become protected. Would it be safe to lampoon the practices of Rastafarians or write a satirical sketch about Judaism, he asked.

If the laws were extended, it would cause 'great problems' for literature: victims might include Dante's *Divine Comedy* and Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*. At this, the thoughts of observers turned again to the man of no fixed abode.

At one point Mr Robertson pulled off a minor *coup de theatre* when the three judges called for English translations of the *Koran*. He provided them, apologising that they were, 'unfortunately, Penguin editions'.

The judges have reserved judgment on the case.

Sophie Grillet

MARCH 7, 1990

St. Petersburg Times

Florida's Best Newspaper

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SECTION: CLEARWATER TIMES

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CALIFORNIAN BUYS GRAY MOSS INN CLEARWATER HOTEL SOLD FOR \$1.65-MILLION

The Gray Moss Inn, a turn-of-the century downtown hotel, has been sold to a California lawyer for \$1.65-million.

The hotel at 215 S Fort Harrison Ave. is across the street from another landmark Clearwater hotel: the Fort Harrison. The Fort Harrison Hotel is owned by the Church of Scientology, which has its worldwide spiritual headquarters in Clearwater.

The buyer of the Gray Moss is Los Angeles lawyer Bert B. Babero.

The sale was handled by state Rep. Gerald S. "Jerry" Rehm, R-Clearwater, who is also a real estate agent. Asked if Babero was a Scientologist, Rehm said, "Never asked him."

He previously had said the Church of Scientology, which also has a large facility in Los Angeles, expressed no interest in buying the property. Several of the first-floor retail stores at the hotel cater to the Scientologists.

Rehm referred additional questions to a local lawyer who had done a background check on Babero on behalf of a client who had a first mortgage on the property. The lawyer could not be reached for comment. Nor could Babero, or a spokesperson for the Church of Scientology.

Barbara Holland, a real estate agent who handled the sale with Rehm, said her understanding was that Babero would apply for city or county grants that help provide affordable housing for the poor. The grants would be used to renovate the building, which has about 90 rooms, she said.

"It'll definitely be remodeled for housing, and that's about all I know," Ms. Holland said.

In an interview last September, Ms. Holland had said the asking price was \$1.5-million. The hotel is assessed for tax purposes at \$414,700. The previous owners are John and Darlene Van Harlingen of Sherman Oaks, Calif.

The hotel has been used as a low-cost residence in recent years. More than 108 residents were evacuated from the building after an April fire that caused between \$50,000 and \$100,000 in damage.

KEYWORDS: BUILDING SALE

Editorial Opinion

HAROLD'S JOURNAL

By RWL

New Kirk Herald Express
March 8, 1990

Premonitions...

Since last we visited on the subject, Narconon and it's progenitor Scientology, have been staying out of our spotlight. This week, however, they have resurfaced with predictions that they will be open in a couple of months. So, to bring you up to date on what's been happening in the weird world of Operating Thetans, here are bits of a few of the tales we've uncovered recently:

☆ We have talked with several former Narconon employees who all tell of being required to study Elron's Organization Executive Course material... and when they elected not to, were somehow discredited and fired within a few weeks. The Organization Executive Course is a massive collection of "Official Policies of the Church of Scientology." It says so on every page.

☆ One individual tells of being ordered to set beer cans inside the living quarters of another employee whom they wished to find a reason to terminate. He was later terminated himself amid a flurry of police activity that resulted in lots of intimidation but no charges being filed because all of the allegations against him were so obviously phony. He was not drunk. There was no hostage. The gun was his .22 rifle that was unloaded in the gun rack in his vehicle where it had been since he went to work there months earlier. Police released him immediately, and within a half hour, he was trying to contact me to tell his harrowing story.

☆ Another former employee says he found himself on the way from his assigned living quarters at Chilocco to jail in Pawnee on what he says were trumped up charges... and they obviously were, because he is out free now with nothing filed and no court date. Just released. And told not to set foot on Chilocco again. I don't think they let you out that easy if you've really pulled a knife on someone and threatened their life, and that's what he tells me they were accusing him of.

☆ It appears that if you don't want to study the policies of the Church of Scientology, you won't have a job for long at Chilocco. Even subcontractors working out there have been encouraged to take their courses.

☆ On a broader scale, Scientology made news again in California in January, where police found a Scientologist who was "teating" his mentally ill wife according to the tenants of his "religion" by keeping her locked up in her bedroom with only a mattress on the floor. The windows were boarded up, according to the news report, and she was fed through a slot in the door. No charges filed. Police were studying the tenants of the "religion" at last report. The wife, however, was reported to be recovering nicely in a real hospital.

☆ Scientologists in Clearwater, Fla. who run a currency exchange and gold bullion business were busted by federal agents in the middle of December for allegedly operating a money laundering scheme. No word on whether they think Scientology is suspected of being directly involved or not. Hard to tell the bad apples from the bad apples, I guess.

☆ American Airlines received so many complaints that it announced in December that it would no longer carry Scientology ads in its monthly in-

flight magazine, *American Way*. The ads were apparently part of a huge PR campaign by Scientology that is running in such magazines as *House and Garden*, *Discover*, *Business Week*, and *Newsweek*. Over \$300,000.00 has been spent on Newsweek alone, according to published reports.

☆ The IRS suspects that the Church of Scientology of Clearwater, Fla. has violated it's tax-exempt status, and wants to study 47 categories of Scientology documents for the years 1985 thru 1987, according to a January report.

☆ About a week ago, a former Scientology lawyer, Joseph A. Yanny, who left the organization after allegedly being asked to perform illegal tasks for the cult, won a \$154,000.00 judgement. A jury felt he had been a victim of Scientology's "Fair Game" policy which allows Scientologists to trick, sue, lie to, or destroy their enemies. The judgement was the largest the judge would allow. Scientology had sued Yanny for allegedly padding his bills to them while he was still in the cult, but the jury found no evidence of that whatsoever.

☆ On March 23 of this year, a former Scientologist named Lawrence Wollersheim will have his day before the Supreme Court of the United States. Wollersheim was also a victim of the "Fair Game" policy according to a jury which was so outraged that it awarded him a \$30,000,000.00 verdict. That's \$30 million. The award was reduced on appeal to \$2,500,000.00, which is still a tremendous amount of money.

Wollersheim contends that Scientology makes a mockery or counterfeit of religion by such tactics as the "Fair Game" policy, and should be once and for all exposed and the abuses ended. His appeal before the Supreme Court may accomplish that.

Scientology doesn't want the case to go that far. They have offered, in writing, to pay him off with \$4 million rather than go to the Supreme Court. When he refused that, they made him a verbal offer of \$6 million to settle. Which he also refused. This man must have gone thru terrors unknown to turn down \$6 million dollars just to take a chance on a court decision.

☆ In another pending case, a former very high level Scientologist is accusing the organization of ordering her to a "Rehabilitation Project Force" where she was forced to run around an orange telephone pole every day from 7 am until 9:30 pm for about 120 days, with minimal break periods. Her husband, during one period of his tenure with the "church", says he also fell into disfavor because his construction project was not proceeding fast enough, and was forced to work without pay from 9 am to 12 midnight without any days off, to sleep outdoors, and to eat only rice and beans.

These are premonitions of just some of the things to come if Narconon is allowed to open at Chilocco and Scientology is allowed to get a foothold in our state. Send this column to Secretary of State Hannah D. Atkins, Room 101, State Capitol Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73105, and ask her to see to it that there is a Public Hearing in Newkirk before Narconon is licensed to operate in Oklahoma.

Sunday: Doberman named Xenu reported lost. Is 8 months old and wearing a brown collar.

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COIN DEALERS CLAIM IRS SINGLED THEM OUT

Three men accused of money laundering in a Clearwater rare-coin dealership claim they were unfairly singled out for prosecution because they are Scientologists.

They claim the Internal Revenue Service had no evidence of criminal activity when it began an investigation of the coin dealership, Bernstein, McCaffrey & Lee. Instead, the three accused men charge that they were "targeted for investigation and prosecution solely because they are Scientologists," and say the case against them should be dismissed.

They claim another example of this allegedly selective prosecution is the ongoing IRS inquiry into the tax-exempt status of the Clearwater-based Church of Scientology Flag Service Organization.

Scientologists follow the teachings of L. Ron Hubbard, the late science-fiction writer who founded the Church of Scientology. The organization has its worldwide spiritual headquarters in Clearwater.

The IRS says it began the investigation because the coin dealership advertised that coins could be "bought and sold with cash, without a paper trail."

But the defendants' motion says there is nothing necessarily illegal about buying and selling coins with cash, without a paper trail, and says the ad was not the real reason behind the investigation. Because an agent said they had arranged to sell a man \$100,000 in gold bullion and to keep any record of the transaction secret, because the cash was the untaxed proceeds of an illegal gambling operation. The staff allegedly agreed to sidestep federal regulations requiring financial disclosure forms for cash transactions of more than \$10,000.

The man posing as the buyer actually was an undercover IRS agent. Grant Boshoff, 19, Lawrence Spencer, 43, and the company's owner, Ronald W. Bernstein, were arrested and charged.

Now those three say, in a motion filed in federal court last week, that they are being victimized because the IRS has targeted Scientologists for selective enforcement for the past 30 years.

Spencer, one of the accused, says in an affidavit that, shortly after his arrest, an IRS agent peppered him with questions about possible connections between the business and the Church of Scientology. The agent asked whether the Church of Scientology owned the coin dealership or the building, whether Spencer was a Scientologist, whether he had been a Scientologist before he started working for the coin dealership, and why so many Scientologists worked for the business. Spencer's answers were not included in the motion.

The motion also points out that an IRS agent testified in the tax case that the agency is investigating whether businesses owned by former Scientology officials are funneling money to Scientology churches.

The coin dealership has offices on a portion of western Cleveland Street in downtown Clearwater where many businesses run by Scientologists are located. Most of the business owners say the Church of Scientology has no formal connection to their businesses.

A spokesman for the IRS declined to comment on the defendants' motion. A spokesman for the Church of Scientology could not be reached this week.

SUBJECT: RELIGION PROBE PROTEST

"It shows that if you want to, you can stir up a lot of interest on a subject," a grim Gates told the gathered throng, which peppered him with questions. "[But] on this . . . [the attention] is probably very well justified."

Media members raised questions not only about King's beating, but about a number of incidents involving officers and blacks over the years. Gates was even asked to comment on the widely publicized 1979 shooting death of Eulia Love, a 39-year-old black woman who was gunned down by officers as she appeared ready to throw a knife at them. Officers had gone to her home after she reportedly struck a gas company employee who was shutting off service because of an unpaid \$22.09 bill.

He also was asked about recent incidents involving Hall of Fame baseball player Joe Morgan and former Lakers basketball star Jamaal Wilkes. Morgan was awarded \$540,000 in damages by a federal court jury after he complained that he was roughed up by a police officer who mistook him for a drug courier. Wilkes was pulled over on his way home from work, ordered out of his car and handcuffed by officers who gave him conflicting reasons for having stopped him.

Gates, who noted that the city is appealing the Morgan case, denied that the department exhibited racism in its handling of minorities.

He went on to call King's beating, which has drawn fire from civil rights groups, "a great disappointment," [a] tremendous disappointment," that never should have happened.

While declining to release names of any of the 15 officers at the scene when King was beaten, Gates directed much of his anger at a sergeant whose responsibility, under Police Department guidelines, was to ensure that the emotion and adrenaline of the officers involved in the car chase did not lead to violence.

"We've put into our . . . procedures—and we have over and overstressed it—that we want a supervisor at the end of these pursuits to prevent this kind of thing from happening," Gates said. "That supervisor was there. . . . Unfortunately, we had a total human failure on the part of that sergeant and many other officers who should have intervened."

Gates said the failure to intervene was a "cowardly" course taken by every officer present and vowed to take every possible step to prevent it from occurring again.

"I preach—I mean I really preach—to every single person who graduates from the Police Academy about the law and their need for a reverence of the law," he said. "What they should have done, if they really loved their brother officers . . . [was to] have stepped in and grabbed them and hauled them back and said, 'Knock it off! That's what the sergeant should have done [and] that's what every officer there should have done.'"

At times during the hour-long press conference, questions were shouted all at once. Tempers flared when the Rev. Heber Jentzsch, president of the Church of Scientology International, asked about the Police Department's alleged role in infiltrating citizen watchdog

Continued from B1

*Grim Gates Faces Heated Questions

Media: The chief seems to know that the news conference on police beating might be the most significant of his stormy tenure.

By DAVID FERRELL
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Police Chief Daryl F. Gates arrived 20 minutes late, knifing his way into a warm, stuffy conference room that seemed more like a lion's den, jammed with 17 television cameras and more than 70 news media members.

He appeared ruddy and strained, despite his dapper blue suit and a red tie spangled with tiny American flags.

The news conference Thursday—amid a nationwide uproar over the beating of black construction worker Rodney G. King by several Los Angeles police officers—was perhaps the most

MIXED REACTION
Residents of Lake View Terrace expressed mixed views about the incident that occurred in their community. B3

significant of Gates' stormy 13-year reign and he seemed to know it.

He stepped to a lectern bearing the official department seal and motto—"To Protect and to Serve"—and emphatically announced that three officers will face criminal charges for their role in Sunday's incident. A sergeant, and as many as 11 other officers who stood by and watched the beating, could face administrative charges, Gates added.

Please see GATES, B4



JOE KENNEDY / Los Angeles Times
Police Chief Daryl F. Gates talks about beating incident at tough news conference with more than 70 journalists.

groups after the Eulia Love shooting. Jentzsch described himself as someone who had closely followed the Love shooting as part of a ministers group called The Gather- ing and later noted that he had clashed previously with Gates over the issue.

"How will we be assured [in this case] that the same situation will not [occur]?" Jentzsch demanded of Gates, starting at the floor in obvious annoyance, answered: "Well, much has gone under the bridge. Any other questions?"

As the press conference continued, an angry Deputy Chief William Booth approached Jentzsch off to the side of the room, challenging his assertions about police spying.

"You're really a liar," Booth whispered.

"I'm not a liar," Jentzsch replied. "Yes, you are—the biggest one."

"You're a liar," the Scientology official retorted.

"You're a liar!"

"You're a liar!"

Apparently unaware of the exchange, Gates was asked to comment on City Councilman Nate Holden's proposal for additional training and psychological testing of new officers.

"Once again, this is a model department," Gates insisted. "Everybody's clamoring and saying, 'We ought to do this, we ought to do that.' People across the nation in law enforcement follow what we do. We have psychological examinations. . . . We have a month of cultural training. . . . [and] a long period of training on the use of force."

"This [incident] is an aberration," Gates added. "This is something that should never have happened."

GATES: Chief Knows He's Under the Gun

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