

Scientology? No way, send me \$200,000

Look, all you have to do is pull out your checkbook and write a check for \$200,000.

Oh, and make it out to me. No strings attached. That should give you the inner peace you have been searching for.

In return for your donation, you'll receive absolutely nothing, and I'll never ask you for a donation again.

True, if you do this, I will lose my job. However, if only five of you send the money, I'll be able to retire.

And you can get on with your lives without expecting false promises to come true.

It's a real bargain and quite ethical when compared with the tactics of some pray, pay and obey outfits that operate under the guise of faith-filled evangelistic movements, or self-improvement churches.

Mind you, I'm not suggesting that all evangelistic efforts are bogus. On the contrary, most evangelistic efforts, especially



**KIM SUE LIA
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Republic
Religion Editor

those supported by mainline denominations, are honest and ethical endeavors.

They are easy to recognize; they rarely ask for donations from those they are evangelizing. Instead, members of the denominations foot the bill through monies allocated on the church's administrative level.

Evangelistic movements are usually obvious, but self-improvement churches, such as the Church of Scientology, are not always as easy to recognize.

You know Scientology, or at least you know founder L. Ron Hubbard's famous book *Dianetics*.

Do you know Sterling Management, Narconon, the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, Applied Scholastics or the Way to Happiness Foundation?

They are all Scientology, too.

In an expose about the church, the May 6 issue of *Time* magazine reports it costs from \$200,000 to \$400,000 for the average person to go through all the stages of Scientology.

Aggressive response

Ever since that story hit newsstands, the church has been firing off press releases to religion writers around the country. The releases are not designed to discredit the magazine article as much as they are to try to promote Scientology as a community-concerned church with a philosophy that changes lives for the better.

The church has embarked on an aggressive national advertising campaign in newspapers and on television. The campaign is so aggressive that it looks like an act of desperation.

The Internal Revenue Service has been trying to take out Scientology, so far, to no avail. Scientology claims the IRS has a bias against it and is out to get the church even though its taxes are aboveboard. I'm sure the IRS does have a bias against Scientology just as it had a bias against Al Capone.

Whenever the government cannot acquire concrete criminal evidence against a suspected fraudulent organization or organized-crime boss, it does the next best thing: It follows the money trail through IRS investigations.

But the difference between Scientology and crime figures is Scientology is a church, and this entitles it to all the First Amendment protections other churches enjoy.

In search of power

An October 1990 news release from the church said Sen. John McCain and Reps. Jon Kyl, John Rhodes, Bob Stump and then-Rep. Morris Udall had written to the IRS asking it to explain why it was targeting Scientologists. I find it hard to believe that these guys didn't have a clue. Then again, God hasn't blessed us with the brightest politicians.

Scientology owns several businesses and organizations that draw people into the fold unwittingly and, according to *Time*, bilk them of their money.

Another cult church involved in this type of operation, whereby it owns multiple business operations and organizations that are not readily identified as adhering to a particular religious philosophy, is the Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church.

I'm sure everyone remembers Moon's much-publicized prison term in the 1980s, when he was convicted of tax evasion.

Neither Scientology's leaders nor the Moonies seem to be as interested in religion as they are in obtaining power to take over the world. You can laugh, but I'm serious.

The point is, if you want to throw your money away on these groups, you might as well cut a check to a perfect stranger.

At least that way, one person's life will improve.

Scientists file 11 suits to get access to IRS audit records

By TOM BRENNAN
Tribune Staff Writer

TAMPA — Scientists filed 11 federal lawsuits Wednesday against the Internal Revenue Service seeking information about agency audits of them.

The group claims the IRS has ignored its requests to obtain the records filed under the federal Freedom of Information Act and is asking the court to force the agency to turn over the documents. Among the things the lawsuits

are seeking are the IRS audits and any instructions, memorandums or directives by the agency relating to the treatment of Scientologists.

The lawsuits are the outgrowth of an attempt by the IRS to enforce a 1989 subpoena for 47 categories of an elite division of the Church of Scientology — Flag Service Org Inc. — to determine if it was entitled to tax-exempt status.

U.S. Magistrate Elizabeth A. Jenkins ruled in April that the church had to turn over extensive financial

and organizational documents. But she refused to allow the IRS access to everything it sought, saying some of the information was unnecessary and would intrude on the privacy of church members.

During the hearings on the controversy, an IRS agent testified he obtained the personal income tax returns on between 80 and 100 members. Such personal returns were among the items the magistrate said did not have to be released.

After the ruling, according to the lawsuit, more than 100 church members were told their tax returns for years 1986 and 1987 were being audited. This is the action that spurred Wednesday's lawsuits.

The lawsuit contends the IRS refused to provide the bulk of the information the members wanted, saying its release would compromise ongoing investigations or the information was exempted from the act.

NEWS

'Time' squabble

Scientology adds WPP units to attack

By Gary Levin

NEW YORK—WPP Group's Hill & Knowlton, the giant public relations agency charged with generating favorable images for clients, is having public relations problems of its own.

The latest controversy surfaced last month, when the agency was forced to resign the \$2 million Church of Scientology International account a week after a May 6 *Time* cover story labeled the church a "cult of greed" that had bilked its followers of millions of dollars.

The church quickly began an ad campaign in *USA Today* attempting to discredit *Time*, culminating in a 28-page magazine-style insert June 14 (AA, June 3).

For some time, Scientology has been attacking drug marketers and Eli Lilly & Co. in particular for anti-depressant products like Lilly's Prozac, which the church claimed could drive users to homicide and suicide.

J. Walter Thompson Co., which like Hill & Knowlton is owned by WPP Group, counts Lilly as its most important healthcare client and pressured WPP to force the PR agency to give up the Scientology account. Lilly represents a significant share of the JWT Healthcare unit's \$40 million in billings.

In the insert, the church claimed WPP Chief Executive Martin Sorrell "found himself wedged between JWT's losses of major client accounts [referring to the period shortly after WPP's 1987 takeover of the agency] and Lilly's demands that Hill & Knowlton abandon its account with the Church."

The ad, created in-house, said *Time*'s story was motivated by a desire to protect WPP's healthcare advertiser clients, and therefore *Time*'s own revenues. The insert claimed "perhaps 15%" of the magazine's ad revenues, or "an estimated \$57 million," come from companies "controlled" by London-based WPP, and implied those reve-

nues could have been jeopardized if *Time* hadn't come to Lilly's rescue by discrediting the Scientologists.

"Lilly, through its advertising connections and media influence, has attempted to silence the Church in order to salvage and protect its billion-dollar Prozac empire through the *Time* article," the ad said.

"I'm not sure quite honestly I understand the connection they're drawing between Lilly, WPP and *Time*, but the idea that W had any hand in the story is ridiculous," said Robert Pondiscio, a spokesman for *Time*. He said the newsweekly stands by its article.

Frank Mankiewicz, Hill & Knowlton chairman, described as a "logical fallacy" that the Lilly conflict led to the Scientology resignation, saying it was the agency's own decision. Other Hill & Knowlton sources disputed that assertion; WPP declined comment.

Meanwhile, SmithKline Beecham Corp., which had assigned Hill & Knowlton a deal similar to Prozac less than a week before the *Time* story appeared, pulled the account three days later but left its overall business intact. SmithKline wouldn't comment but is said to have been unaware that the agency even represented Scientology and learned of it only from *Time*.

Top executives were said to be "uncomfortable" with the Scientology account but didn't want to give up it up at a time when business is slumping.

Many observers trace Hill & Knowlton's appetite for touchy issues to Bob Dilenschneider, the agency's flamboyant president-ceo. He declined to be interviewed for this article but has been the subject of earlier, unflattering magazine profiles.

"I think of it as Dilenschneider's style and the nature of his perception of where money can be made in PR," said Laurence Goldberger, analyst at Shearson Lehman

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H&K

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Bros., who follows WPP. Under Mr. Dilenschneider, the agency has been embroiled in controversies involving the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Citizens for a Free Kuwait.

"The perception was Hill & Knowlton was an old gray lady," said one executive at the agency. "What [Mr. Dilenschneider] wanted to do was wake it up and bring it to the forefront."

A spot check of other clients didn't turn up any major concerns about the controversy.

"Our view of that kind of thing is that's Bob Dilenschneider's problem," said Wright Elliott, executive VP-director of corporate communications at Chase Manhattan Bank. "If they were taking a position on bank deregulation, that's one thing. But I don't think that ought to get into our relationship."

"They've done a very good job for us, and we don't tell them how to run their business," said Donna Galotti, publisher of *Ladies' Home Journal*.

Gary Gerdemann, public relations manager at Pepsi-Cola Co., said its relationship with Hill & Knowlton was unaffected.

"Clearly, we wouldn't be involved with a public relations agency that we didn't think brought value to our relationship," he said. □

Scott Donaton and Alison Fahy contributed to this story.

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Court Acquits Some Scientology Followers, Convicts Others

MILAN, Italy (AP) <--> A Milan court has acquitted 67 Scientology followers of charges ranging from criminal association to tax evasion, but it convicted six others of deceiving confused people.

While not ruling that the group is a church, as Scientologists contend, the court said Wednesday that it is a non-profit organization and thus need not report to the Italian tax office.

The trial was brought after a five-year investigation into activities of Scientology centers in Italy after disenchanted followers filed lawsuits.

The six who were convicted of deceiving confused or weak people were sentenced to prison terms of one to two years.

The prosecutor appealed the acquittals.

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Living Section Editor Cynthia Takano, 241-4141. Ext. 210

Auction delivers for birth center

By P.H. West
Glendale News-Press

The Gentle Birth Foundation hopes that by Sunday night it will be able to deliver a lot of money to the Friends of the Gentle Birth Center.

The foundation, led by actress Karen Black and Richard C. Wallace, founder of the International Artists' Guild, is sponsoring "Invest in the Best Celebrity Art Auction and Show" to benefit the Glendale birthing center, which has been under investigation by the state medical board since January.

Local authorities have charged that non-certified midwives were delivering babies there and that other medical emergencies were improperly handled.

"Right now, I can't tell you the status of the investigation. We've heard nothing since January," said Tonya Brooks, founder and director of the center.

"I really think things like this are politically driven," she added.

The Friends of the Gentle Birth Center, beneficiaries of the

auction, was started three years ago by parents who supported the center. The non-profit group raises money to help pay for equipment and supplies for the center.

"The center serves a wide variety of clients," Brooks said. "We have a fair number of parents who are affluent and educated . . . we even have some second-generation home-birthers . . . and two medical students."

Black, who has appeared in many films, is a parent whose daughter was delivered at the center and recommends it "only if you want a private, one-on-one birth experience and close communication with a woman whose expertise is worth depending on."

Midwives have delivered 3,000 babies at the center since it opened in 1984, Brooks said.

The center only handles clinically low-risk pregnancies — "one baby, head down, two weeks on either side of birth date," Brooks said.

"Unlike most hospital care," Brooks said, "midwives attend to

the birth from the onset of labor through delivery, regardless of shifts. A midwife's time is not as

quacies, she said, "We don't abandon medical protocol, it's just in the background."

The center serves as an office for Dr. William Hayling, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology through the UCLA and Charles Drew Medical schools.

Brooks said that since the announcement of the auction, "people have been coming out of the woodwork."

"We are getting a lot of support from artists, I think because, more than other people, they understand the emotional aspects of things," she said.

London-based operatic soprano Susan Todhunter, Grammy Award-winning singer and composer David Pomerantz and jazz musician Glen Zatorla will be featured.

More than 30 visual artists are contributing original paintings and sculptures and will be present for a reception after the auction.

The event will be at the Universal Sheraton Hotel on Sunday.



Tonya Brooks
Gentle Birth Center

taxed as a doctor's. They can sit there and hold your hand. And to the charges of inad-

Lawyer claims Scientologists kept him from daughters

By THOMAS C. TOBIN
Times Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — A Los Angeles lawyer alleged in a lawsuit filed Monday that the Church of Scientology has inhibited him from visiting or talking on the phone with his teen-age daughters who are members of the sect.

Kenneth Wasserman, a former Scientologist, also claimed the sect owes him more than \$15,000 for counseling sessions he paid for but did not use. The lawsuit — filed in Clearwater, the spiritual home of Scientology — seeks repayment of the money, plus \$5-million in damages from the sect.

Scientology spokesman Richard Haworth responded to the lawsuit, which is filed in Pinellas-Pasco

Circuit Court, with a written statement.

"There is obviously no limit to the lengths that some people will go to to sensationalize in an effort to distort," the statement said. "As an attorney, Mr. Wasserman should know better. This filing is a prime example of trying a suit in the press. . . . Mr. Wasserman has no intention of trying to convince a court of law of the truthfulness of any of his outrageous allegations."

Wasserman, 42, said in an interview Monday that he was a Scientology member from 1971 to 1985. He said his daughters by his first marriage were staying at his home about every other night when he told them in 1989 that he had left the organization.

"The next day they took their stuff and haven't

spent a night in my house since," Wasserman said. His former wife, the girls' mother, also is a Scientologist, he said.

The girls are 14 and 17 years old and also live in California, according to the lawsuit.

"It is the express policy of the church to disallow any communications between their members and ex-Scientologists," the lawsuit states. "It is believed" the sect ordered Wasserman's daughters to stop all contact with him.

The lawsuit claims that Wasserman has had limited contact with his daughters since leaving the Church of Scientology, has not seen his daughters since February, "and has had only one telephone conference with one of his daughters despite continuous attempts."

The Church of Scientology is considered a bona fide religion by its members. It was founded by L. Ron Hubbard, the science-fiction writer who wrote *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*.

However, Scientology's critics view it as a harmful cult or a money-making group.

Regarding the \$15,000, Wasserman said he paid the money to the Church of Scientology, but "subsequently determined that I no longer wished to be involved."

"The merits of the refund claim can be determined and worked out separately," Haworth said in his statement. "Mr. Wasserman knows his other claims are outrageous and have no factual basis."

opinion

Civic group objects to labeling incident 'racial'

Editor: I am writing on behalf of the North Greenwood Association in reference to the article, "Under block-throwing was racial incident," police say."

First of all, the North Greenwood Association would like to go on record indicating that we are in full support of enforcement and apprehending the youth involved in this incident. However, the association feels that this incident should not be labeled as a racial incident until further investigation has been conducted with the persons actually charged.

Whenever an incident occurs in the North Greenwood community involving circumstances that involve races outside of African-Americans, it is labeled "a racial issue." We would like to see newspapers take a different approach in writing articles such as these until further evidence is available.

Another point that failed to emerge was the absence of law enforcement personnel. It has not gone unnoticed by our organization that in other more affluent areas, when traffic or any other atypical situations occur, the Police Department is quick to respond.

It seems somewhat perplexing that the area you have designated as "crime-sensitive" receives so little

attention from the agency that supposedly enforces the law.

Yacub B. Biall, president
North Greenwood Association Inc., Clearwater

Don't use religion politically

Editor: I am responding to Gabe Cazares' bizarre letter to the editor that appeared on June 28.

Free press and freedom of religion alike are both cornerstones of this country's greatness. That is why the *Times* prints letters like Mr. Hoth's, which slyly criticized fanatic Cazares' tactics. It is under the same principle that Gabe Cazares got his letter of June 28 printed in your newspaper.

There is, however, another basic point here. Any one in his right mind would come to the conclusion that Mr. Cazares has gone off the deep end. His letter reflects the image of a man who is not able to separate the past from the present, fact from fiction or differentiate between his own misguided desires and the true conditions of reality.

One wonders, however, whether such a degree of incomprehension is indeed possible or if it isn't simply a ploy to keep himself at least in the shadows of the political limelight.

No politician is well-served by trying to play political football with race, religion or national origins.

The dustbin of political history is testament enough to that.

Change only the name of the religion and you have the earlier unfortunate tirades against the Mormons a century ago and later the Jews. Yet who can deny the contributions of the members of these groups to this great country?

So, too, has the Church of Scientology contributed by freeing more than 100,000 people from life-crushing drug and alcohol addiction, educating more than 2-million black South Africans who had traditionally been denied the opportunity to learn, earning certificates for community outreach activities in Orlando, Los Angeles, Seattle and other major cities throughout the United States, and spearheading a massive national anti-drug campaign called "Lead the Way to a Drug-Free USA."

Where does this motivation to attack moral-religious ideals of this kind come from? I'll tell you.

National religious leaders deny the tactics of a group characterized by U.S. Holocaust Committee member Dr. Franklin Littell as "emittered individuals with sour love affairs, anti-religious psychiatrists and ambulance-chasing lawyers."

The group? The present-time specialists in spiritual McCarthyism: the Cult Awareness Network (CAN). These advocates of criminal bigotry are a throw-

back to earlier barbarous times where emotions of innocent people were inflamed and twisted to further hate. Today's depersonalizing, known as "deprogramming," is the forced conversion of beliefs through physical and mental duress.

Anti-religious hate groups such as CAN — a Cazares favorite — are blind to the argument that we have done just fine in this country for hundreds of years under the First Amendment's guarantees of religious freedom without them and their ilk.

Richard Haworth
Church of Scientology, Clearwater

Gay activism, suicides linked?

Editor: John C. Roth wrote a guest column, *Gay letters are driven to suicide by a hostile environment*.

Without addressing all the points he made, the thought occurred that the environment may be so hostile because of the efforts by gay rights activists and all the publicity given these efforts.

Certainly homosexuals have sought and received more publicity in recent years. It would be interesting to know if the incidence of gay teen suicide has increased during this same period of increased gay activity.

William L. Weaver, Largo

Former member of sect is suing

By KEVIN SHINKLE
Tribune Staff Writer

7/19/91

CLEARWATER — The Church of Scientology is facing another lawsuit in the midst of an expensive nationwide campaign to bolster its image.

The sect, which maintains its spiritual headquarters in Clearwater, has spent millions of dollars in recent weeks for advertising in the newspaper USA Today.

In the lawsuit, a former sect member claims the church is a fraud; owes him money for counseling services he never used; and has cut him off from his two daughters, who still follow Scientology.

Similar allegations have prompted the church to spend the first part of its advertising campaign refuting a highly critical article in Time magazine. Lately, the full-page color advertisements have offered a bit of the teachings of L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of the church.

"It's a lot of basic Scientology," church spokesman Richard Haworth said.

The church will not release the amount spent so far on the advertisements.

Kenneth Wasserman, a Los Angeles lawyer, claims in his lawsuit the church has prevented him from visiting or talking with two daughters who still follow Scientology.

Wasserman further alleges that the church owes him \$15,000 for counseling sessions in which he never participated.

He filed the lawsuit in Pinellas-Pasco Circuit Court in Clearwater and is seeking \$5 million.

Haworth denied the allegations the church has prevented Wasserman's daughters from contacting him.

"Mr. Wasserman has no intention of trying to convince a court of law of the truthfulness of any of his outrageous allegations," Haworth

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Sect faces yet another lawsuit

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said. "As an attorney, Mr. Wasserman should know better."

Wasserman spent 15 years in the church before leaving in 1985. In the lawsuit, he called the church a fraud, claiming the teachings of Hubbard are deceptive and the church's financial practices are corrupt.

Since he told his two daughters, ages 14 and 19, he had left Scientology, the church has prevented them from visiting with him for more than an hour, the lawsuit claims. Wasserman alleges he has not seen his daughters since February. Wasserman is divorced from their mother.

Scientology is based mostly on the writings of Hubbard, a science fiction writer and author of "Diane-

tics: The Modern Science of Mental Health." Hubbard died in 1986.

Practitioners believe negative experiences hinder their personal development on Earth. These experiences, they say, can be overcome through counseling sessions that, when spread out over years, can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Critics — most recently in the Time piece — call Scientology a money-making cult. Since moving its spiritual operations to Clearwater in 1979, the church has been at odds with city leaders and had numerous lawsuits filed against it.

The church also has refused to pay property taxes since 1983, despite Pinellas County's contention Scientology is not a religion and thus is not tax-exempt.

In the spring, the church settled a lawsuit with a Michigan man who

claimed church representatives pressured him into spending \$13,000 for Scientology services.

Details of the settlement were never disclosed. The plaintiff was represented by Palm Harbor attorney Barry Glenn, who now represents Wasserman.

The negative publicity will have no effect on the church's plans to build a \$42 million training center across the street from its headquarters in the old Fort Harrison Hotel, Haworth said.

The proposed six-story, glass-enclosed building will replace the decaying Gray Moss Inn downtown.

Plans first were announced for the building in March, and church leaders had hoped the Gray Moss would be demolished by now. But, obtaining city permits has taken longer than expected, Haworth said.

Parents snatch cult girl to safety

by Kurt Parry and
Oonagh Blackman

A CULT victim was safe with her family last night after a daring rescue.

The science graduate turned to the Church of Scientology — accused of using brainwashing techniques — two years ago after a failed romance. She became addicted to its "hypnosis" teaching methods.

Her parents contacted Scientology expert Jon Caven-Atack when she began to regard everyone outside the church as an enemy.

The parents, who did not want to be identified, are now at a secret address with their daughter after a successful reunion believed to have cost thousands of pounds.

Kidnap

Mr Caven-Atack enlisted former Scientologists Jerry and Hana Whitfield, who flew to Britain from Los Angeles. They claim that from the start they were watched round the clock by Scientologists.

The three met in a small Devon town and prepared a safe house. Devon police questioned them after a tip-off that they were planning to kidnap a child, but the situation was explained.

The girl was lured to a secret address last week to see her family, who told her they wanted to talk about Scientology. Mr Whitfield said: "She was 100 per cent committed to the leader, L. Ron Hubbard. Her mum and dad were very nervous."

After three days the girl questioned Scientology and realised she had been lied to. "The whole family seemed to come together again. She was so shocked these people had deceived her," added Mr Whitfield.