SCIENTOLOGY: CHURCH, CULT OR CON?

BOTH!

'PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW THERE'S A WAY OUT'

Glen entered the trap willingly and, for a while, he didn't even realise that he'd been caught

Glen McClelland has the look of hate in his eyes as he remembers what he's just been through. Now 28, Glen spent four years as a convert to the Church of Scientology. For him, this wasn't so much a religion as a way of life. And it nearly cost him his family and girlfriend, his sanity – and bank balance, too.

The story starts in a crowded Sydney city street when Glen was first approached for a "free personality test", but it soon took the McClelland family from Sydney to Los Angeles and London in a desperate bid to save their son.

"I'd met a few friends in town to see a movie. We had time to kill, and I ran into some guy who offered me a free personality test," Glen says. For Glen, it started off as just a bit of fun. At first, no mention was made of the Church of Scientology. Just the promises ... promises that it would find the sources of all his unhappiness, and "clear" them from his life. Through Scientology, Glen would be able to find his eternal salvation. But it was not to be an easy road to that salvation. Glen at first was sceptical, but soon the church had his interest. He started to be "audited" (see right). "It was just like I had this existence before ... it was very traumatic ... quite disturbing."

That glimpse into the secret world of Scientology enticed Glen further and further down the road. He became convinced that only through Scientology would he understand himself and the world around him. This was to be done through a series of complicated study courses, called The Bridge. Only by completing each "step" of The Bridge could Glen learn the secrets. But it would cost ... and cost dearly! Soon Glen was borrowing money from wherever he could get it ... and it all went to the one place – the Church of Scientology.

Glen, finishing his electrical engineering degree at university, was spending more and more time within the close circle of his new "friends". His parents, Tony and Joan McClelland, are still visibly upset at what Scientolog to their boy.

"I noticed Glen's attitude towards people change," recalls Joan. "He referr people as 'dogs', if they were not S tologists." She is slightly embarrassed a thinks back to how Glen spoke about outside the church. "They were known as meat'," Joan says.

"Glen believed the organisation was lible," Tony McClelland adds with an desperation. This father of five has now m from panic and despair to anger, rememb how his son changed so dramatically i hands of the church. For several years, was incredible tension in the comfort family home on Sydney's upper north s Glen was changing, and changing drama ly ... it appeared that, somehow, someon was in control. Glen's friends dropped aw be replaced by those who believed in the dom of founder L. Ron Hubbard. If you not a Scientologist, then you just didn't c

One person, though, who still did c was Glen's English girlfriend, Lyna Sas who was in Sydney at this time.

"He was going to the meetings every n and talked about it all the time," says I As she found out more of what Scientology all about, her worries increased. She w leave Sydney to fly home to England, and had planned for Glen to join her overseas L. Ron Hubbard came between them.

"I told Glen that if he was going to come to Englan would have to leave Scientology forever. It was a terrible t she recalls. It was no better for Glen. "I was between a and a hard place; I didn't know where to go." But he mad decision. Lyna came second. Though devastated, she re to give up and determined to find out all about Scientol she was losing Glen, and Tony and Joan McClelland losing their son, to a cult they were not permitted to ques

Meanwhile, Glen was pressuring his parents to guar huge loans he was taking o pay for his courses. In the Glen handed close to $25.0 the Church of Scientolo everything he could beg, bo and scrape together.

Joan McClelland was nea her wits' end. "Physically, looked gaunt," she recalls. had dark circles under his he was a lot thinner and

What is it?

Scientology is registered as a religion. It was started 40 years ago by American science fiction writer, L. Ron Hubbard. A recluse for many years, he died in 1986. The central aim of the Church of Scientology, it claims, is to remove unhappiness from people ... to "clear" them. But this isn't easy. It requires hours of study, centred on "auditing", a process which involves a senior church member hooking the person being "audited" to a crude lie detector-like device, an "e-meter". Probing personal questions are asked, to get to the seat of all personal unhappiness. The sessions can go on for hours. As well as such sessions, Scientologists must undertake complex studies of the "Thoughts and Writings of L. Ron Hubbard". These studies take years, and can cost huge amounts of money. It is not uncommon to pay $300 an hour.

What do they believe?

L. Ron Hubbard tells his followers that 75 million years ago, the galaxy was ruled by a tyrant named Xenu. One day, Xenu rounded up various wrongdoers and imprisoned them in volcanoes on earth ... which was then called Teegeeach. Hydrogen bombs were dropped on them. Then their spirits ... called thetans ... were trapped in humans. And that's the cause of all our sufferings. Only through Scientology can our thetans be cleared. Reincarnation is a part of belief and Hubbard makes the ultimate promise – immortality. A Scientologist is not permitted to know that story of "creation" until he or she has reached a senior level of the church. If they happen upon it before time, they're told they'll die of pneumonia.

Gary and Lyna – together again after the fight for Glen's personal life.

ANDREW SHAW

What is their history?

The Church of Scientology is an organisation that thrives on getting money from its members. L. Ron Hubbard had several commandments; one of the most important was this order to the hierarchy: "Make money." When they had done that, the second commandment came into effect: "Make more money."

Back in the '60s, in Victoria, a Judicial Board of Inquiry labelled the organisation "evil". For a time the Church of Scientology was actually outlawed. In the early '80s, 11 top Scientologists, including Hubbard's wife, went to jail in the US for a series of crimes, including burglary. British and American courts also haven't been kind to Scientology. Criticism has ranged from schizophrenic and paranoid", to "corrupt, sinister and dangerous".

In 1984, in a Los Angeles court, L. Ron Hubbard, the judge decided, was "virtually a pathological liar".

drawn-looking." This physical change and all the money problems finally jolted the McClelland family into action.

"Joan phoned probably 30 different organisations in the US," Tony says, as he recalls the thousands of dollars they spent on phone bills. Through the US Cult Awareness Network, they were put in touch with Jerry Whitfield.

Jerry Whitfield had been a top member of the Church of Scientology in the US for 10 years. Once a true believer, now his full-time job is getting people out of the organisation to which he had devoted his life. Like many ex-Scientologists, he is still angry at what the church did to him.

"I was ripped off by Scientology, I was conned, I was manipulated," Jerry says. "I did things for them I would never have done for anybody else."

He sits in his house in Los Angeles, beside his wife, Hana. Like Jerry, Hana was a soldier for Hubbard – a key officer, working by his side for 20 years, seeing his fetishes.

"Perfume, fancy soaps, aftershave, they were all forbidden," Hana says. "He demanded his clothes be washed 13 times!"

Part of Hubbard's appeal, both Jerry and Hana now agree, was his charisma and the extraordinary past he claimed. If you listen to those who still believe, L. Ron Hubbard was a war hero (the first man wounded in World War II), a nuclear physicist, and many other things besides.

But Hana Whitfield has a different story. "He was none of those things – I've read his diaries," Hana says. She looks back, thinking again of the stories Hubbard would tell.

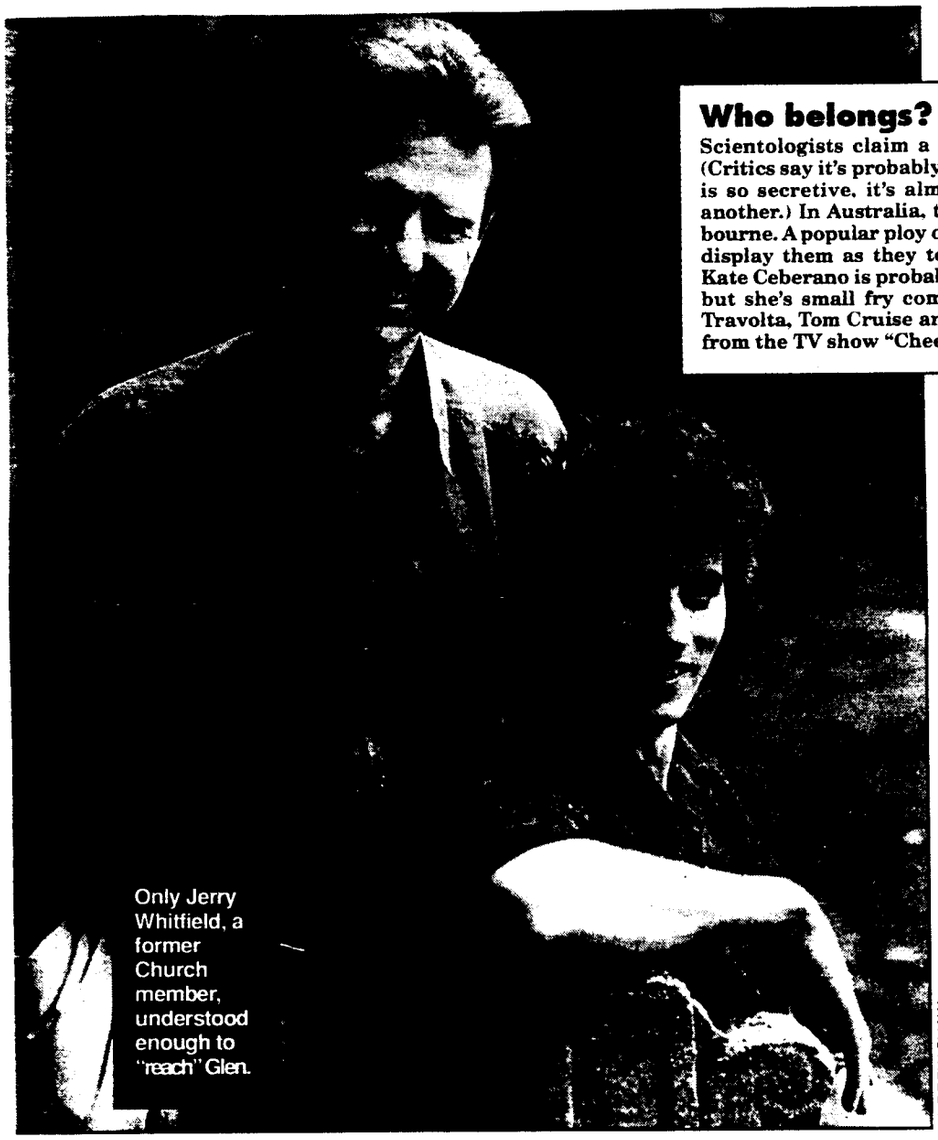
"About the civilisations that are living in the Big Bear constellation right now, the type of people they are, the type of clothes they wear." This is all accepted as part of the great thoughts of the man whom Scientologists the world over regard as god-like.

The Whitfields are walking encyclopaedias on the Church of Scientology. So it was no wonder Joan and Tony McClelland ended up inviting Jerry to Sydney. He would be paid thousands of dollars to get Glen McClelland free of the church, but to the McClellands it was a small price to pay. For them, the job just had to be done.

And the way it was done is like an episode out of a spy thriller. Glen was lured to the family home one sunny Sydney morning. He thought he was meeting with his grandmother. But instead, waiting in the lounge room was Jerry Whitfield. Glen pulled up in his car, but parked it on the street ... something he never did. His parents were struck with panic. Does he suspect? Does he know that Jerry is here? Will he come in? they wondered. Glen walked calmly through the front door.

Cautiously, his father introduces Glen to Jerry, mentioning that Jerry is a class 5 auditor and an OT 3 (an operating thetan, a Hubbard rank). This signifies to Glen that Jerry is no foot soldier. He's impressed. Tony McClelland tries to convince his son that there is a huge problem between him and the rest of the family, and that Scientology is the reason. Joan sees tears in her son's eyes ... it is going to be hard for everyone.

For the next five days and nights, Glen and Jerry are locked ▶



Only Jerry Whitfield, a former Church member, understood enough to "reach" Glen.

ANDREW SHAW

Who belongs?

Scientologists claim a worldwide membership of six millio (Critics say it's probably closer to 60,000, but because the churc is so secretive, it's almost impossible to confirm one way o another.) In Australia, the power bases are in Sydney and Mel bourne. A popular ploy of the church is to recruit celebrities, an display them as they testify to how wonderful Scientology i Kate Ceberano is probably the best-known member in Australia but she's small fry compared to Hollywood catches like Joh Travolta, Tom Cruise and his wife, Nicole Kidman, Kirstie Alle from the TV show "Cheers", and Cher's ex-partner, Sonny Bon

◀ in a battle of wills. The air is thick with discussion and argument ... from the intricate philosophies of Hubbard, to why it is that Hubbard told so many lies. Jerry Whitfield uses books and tapes and videos to try and open up Glen's mind to the possibility that he may have been duped. It's a very slow process. Argument ... counter argument. Jerry is at pains never to attack Glen; he focuses on the ridiculous claims made by Hubbard and the church.

"Hubbard says you can heal yourself," Jerry points out to Glen. "If that's the case, why couldn't he fix himself, with all his own medical problems?" Glen doesn't have an answer.

He goes home every night, his mind in total confusion. Who is he to believe? His "minders" at the Church of Scientology, or this American who speaks the same language as L. Ron Hubbard, but warns of what will happen to Glen if he stays a devotee? The practising Scientologist and the ex-Scientologist mind wrestle over Hubbard's quaint policy of "fair game".

This is the ultimate in payback. Any critic of the church, any enemy, is declared a "suppressive person". Once you've got that tag, you may be "tricked, sued, lied to or destroyed". A loyal Scientologist has a duty to carry out this policy.

The days pass. At several stages Tony McClelland gets depressed as he thinks he sees the battle is lost ... the intellectual see-saw keeps tipping one way, then the other. Two steps forward, one step back.

Suddenly, Jerry puts on a video ta It's a television documentary highly cr cal of the church. It shows the similarit between hypnosis and the techniq Scientology uses. But then, it all happe The program is about to explain OT 3 the secrets of what happened 75 mill years ago, when Glen becomes so agita that he demands it be shut off. He's b told he'll die of pneumonia if he hears story before the church says he can.

But Jerry is persistent. Glen hears story, and surprise, surprise, survives

It was the turning point. Quietly, with purpose, Jerry led him further further, to the point where Glen him started to question.

More talk, more books, more analy until Glen himself acknowledged turned the corner. Looking back now he sits in his London flat with Lyna, is not shy about his present feelings Scientology. "The organisation just sti – it's rotten and the guy who set it Ron Hubbard, was basically a con n but a bloody good one."

Jerry puts Glen's case in the top 10 cent of those he has handled all over world. He thinks he "got through" to simply because, as a Scientologist knew the language, the traps, the cor

It took a certain bravery for the people in this story t public. The Church of Scientology does not like to hear sto like this – they want the sanitised Hollywood version, c plete with followers John Travolta or Tom Cruise. But McClellands and the Whitfields want to warn Australians how easy it is to "lose" a son or a daughter.

And Hana Whitfield recalls how easy it is to fall prey. she a fool? "Yes, I was a fool. But an unsuspecting one. doesn't know one is being led into the trap, until you're i and the exit is closed. Even then, you don't know it's a tr

Glen McClelland doesn't mind that people may think simple, or worse, stupid, for joining in the first place. W important to Glen now is that someone else can benefit his mistake. "I want people to understand that it's not freaks who get involved in this sort of thing. I mean, it takes maybe a moment of weakness, maybe not even tha some people. And you can get hooked. And it will do yo you know. I think people need to know about that. But th light at the end of the tunnel and there is a way out. And t what people need to know." – ANTHONY McCLEL

Official comment

The head of the Church of Scientology in Australia is Mark Hanna. approached him to speak about the church, its members and practic but he told us he would only do so if we excluded the story of what curred with Glen McClelland and Jerry and Hana Whitfield.

Scientology fined $250,000 for spying on police

By Bob Brent and Wendy Darroch
TORONTO STAR

The Toronto branch of the Church of Scientology has been fined $250,000 for spying on police and the government during the mid-1970s.

But despite almost a decade of court battles since the largest police raid in Ontario history in 1983, church leaders say they're not about to give up.

The church's odyssey through the courts has spawned a legacy of ground-breaking legal decisions interpreting the ability of the state to prosecute the non-profit church.

Along the way, the founder of the Los Angeles-based church, science-fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, died in 1986 at age 74.

Yesterday's sentencing began the next round. Defence lawyer Clayton Ruby said the church will appeal both the conviction and sentence for breach of trust.

Mr. Justice James Southey of Ontario Court, general division, said the crown's request for a $1 million fine against the church was excessive. But he ruled that other corporations had to be deterred from taking similar actions.

Ruby said the sentence places "a burden on the practice of religion, a constitutionally protected practice."

Ruby had sought a nominal fine against the church after entering unaudited financial statements into evidence to show the church is $8.8 million in debt.

"We're just going to continue on," church vice-president Earl Smith said yesterday. "Our whole membership is being asked to pay for something they didn't do. I think that's completely unjust."

The church and lawyer Morris Manning already must pay a $2.1 million libel award — the largest in Canadian history — to Crown Attorney Casey Hill for remarks Manning made at a 1984 news conference while representing the church in its criminal case.

In June, the Toronto church was found guilty of two counts of breach of trust for operating a spy ring that infiltrated the Ontario attorney-general's ministry, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Three former members were convicted for their part in the spy ring.

Jacqueline Matz, a so-called case officer, was convicted of two counts of breach of trust and was fined $4,500.

"Plants" Janice Wheeler and Donald Whitmore were fined $2,000 for one conviction of breach of trust.

During the trial, the jury was told they operated as spies for the Guardian's Office — a separate intelligence arm of the church — to obtain unauthorized copies of government and police files.

As part of their investigation of the church, the OPP seized more than 2 million documents from the church's Toronto offices in March, 1983 — the largest raid in Ontario history.

A year and a half later, the OPP charged the church and 19 members with theft, breach of trust and possession of stolen property. Five people eventually stood trial after a preliminary hearing in 1988.

Ruby said the church's fight to have the search declared unconstitutional will have a lasting impact on all Canadians. Mr. Justice Ted Matlow of Ontario Court, general division, declared the seizure illegal last fall, saying it violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

CLAYTON RUBY: Says church will appeal conviction and sentence.

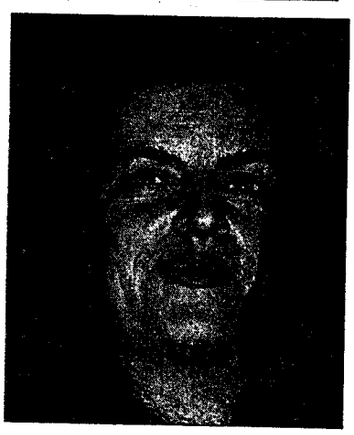
DUVET
BACK TO SCHOOL DUCK DOWN DUVETS $99 ANY SIZE
SALE ENDS SEPT. 13/92
WHITE CANADIAN GOOSE DOWN FILLED
260 COUNT SUPER PERCALE • 100% COTTON
• 4 WAY BAFFLED BOX CONST.

GLOBE

15 SEPTEMBER 1992

Shocking way Cheers gal shaped up for the

KIRSTIE'S SECRET SWEATBOX DIET



★Star melts off 35 lbs on bizarre sect's red-hot program

★She roasted 4 hours a day and fasted on water & vitamins

KOOKY Kirstie Alley used her own special version of a bizarre diet concocted by the Scientology sect to slim down before hosting the Emmy Awards, says a source close to the Cheers star.

For four weeks, hefty Kirstie drank gallons of water laced with vitamin B3 and spent four hours a day roasting in a suffocating sauna!

"Kirstie's weight ballooned to 180 pounds this summer, and she knew she had to lose weight before the show," says the source.

Special dry sauna

"She's a Scientologist, and the diet she chose is her version of the sect's Purification Program.

"It worked, too — she lost 35 pounds in four weeks!"

In his book, Clear Mind, Clear Body, Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard devised a three-week diet that requires running for a half-hour a day, followed by sitting in a sweatbox for at least four hours.

"Kirstie had a special dry sauna built into her property in Encino just for the program," says the source.

"The sweatbox is inside her pool house."

Kirstie told a pal: "I did aerobics instead of running. After my half-hour workout, I jumped into the sauna, where I stayed for four to five hours. The temperature soared to 180 degrees.

"I got bored stiff inside the box, so I had a small portable TV set installed."

While she was in the sweatbox, she downed huge jugs of ice water laced with about 3,000 milligrams of vitamin B3, says the pal. "That's an incredible amount, and it has strange effects on the body."

Taken in proper doses, the vitamin — also called niacin — is supposed to be good for the circulation and the skin and lower cholesterol.

'Three-day fasts'

Kirstie's pal says the star told her: "It gave my body a flush wherever it hadn't been exposed to the sun. This is to signify the release of radiation in the body."

The pal says the program "suggests you eat in the sauna, but Kirstie went on three-day fasts several times during the four-week period."

Although she lost a lot of weight, a Cheers insider says that Kirstie was behaving strangely when the show started taping for the new season.

'Kirstie tore into it'

"She was so edgy that Ted Danson was the only one who was talking to her by the end of the day," says the source.

"At a post-taping party, there was a wonderful spread of omelettes, pasta, salads, fajitas, fruit and other kinds of food.

"Kirstie tore into it as though she was starving — and maybe she was. One of the extras told me that she hadn't eaten anything all day, and she drank only vegetable juice.

"Everyone on the show, especially Rhea Perlman, was whispering about what a witch she's become since going on that diet."

Dr. Robert Stark, a top diet expert, warns that Kirstie's diet program is "absolutely hazardous and ridiculous."

— CLAIRE THOMAS

CONFIDENTIAL GOES TO THE EMMYS, Pages 46-47

Kirstie's slim & trim after her weight peaked at 180 lbs., but she's irritable around her Cheers co-stars, says a source

Observer
17 SEPTEMBER 1992

● Observer reporter BRIAN WARREN investigates Scientology, a religious cult

'It's immoral, sinister and corrupt' says judge

The house in Grove Road, Chichester, where Scientologists meet - Photo sales no. 8668-1.

Scientology, the religious cult that has been widely condemned by judges and leading churchmen throughout the world, is now operating in the heart of Chichester.

It is actively seeking recruits for a movement that a High Court judge, Mr Justice Latey, once called "immoral and socially obnoxious...corrupt, sinister and dangerous."

He added: "It is out to capture people, especially children and impressionable young people, and indoctrinate and brainwash them so that they become the unquestioning captives and tools of the cult, withdrawn from ordinary thought, living and relationships with others."

Scientology became a "church" for tax reasons. It was launched in 1950 by L. Ron Hubbard, a science fiction writer, as a mental science called Dianetics.

Its main belief is that humans are clusters of spirits called "Thetans" who were banished to Earth 75 million years ago by a galactic tyrant named Xenu.

They suffer physical, emotional or mental problems called "engrams" caused by traumas, including ancient alien wars and "implants" by hostile Thetans.

Scientology "auditing" promises to remove the engrams if the new recruit pays out increasing amounts of money for training courses. The full training costs more than £150,000.

It may sound bonkers, but it has proved a very good source of income. The cheerful smiles of the two Scientology workers handing out "free personality analysis" surveys in Chichester mask their determination to snare new recruits.

Young people who complete the forms and post them to Poole, in Dorset, are invited to a house at 76, Grove Road by Jill Longhurst.

They are told which "self-improving" Dianetics course is suitable for them, and then put under pressure to part with their money.

Using a fake name, I filled in the survey's 200 questions, all angled towards negative responses. I was contacted the day after I posted the form and phoned repeatedly until I made an appointment. I was promised a free cup of coffee and a free chat about my survey results.

Jill and a woman called Jo work from the modest house. The T-shirts and shorts they wear in the city centre had been replaced by business clothes, but the attitude was still friendly and welcoming.

Jo, who told me she joined up a year ago and now worked there full-time, went through my results. I was not surprised to find that, according to Dianetics, every aspect of my life was not good enough.

She picked up on every emotional nuance and every opportunity to pick out and magnify a worry, doubt or moment of unhappiness.

When I said I had to leave, after an hour, the 'hard-sell' methods increased and I was told I needed a course on controlling moods.

My response that it "sounded interesting" was like flashing a jugular vein at a vampire. They said I would have to pay £40 initially and they would take cash, a cheque or credit card.

I said I had nothing with me and could not remember my bank account number when asked for it. Jo began to show signs of the pressure she was under to get the money and hurried away for help.

Jill grilled me for another ten minutes, and they wanted to phone me as soon as I got home to get my bank or credit numbers.

I had to reassure them over and over that I would contact them the next day before I could get out.

I walked quickly down Kingsham Avenue, trying to escape the feeling that I was trapped and had a duty to go back.

Churches worried

Christian churches are worried about the growth of Scientology and other religious cults.

Canon Will Pratt, the Church of England's Sussex advisor for new religious movements, said churches, courts and governments were all concerned about Scientology.

"One of the things that concerns my church about Scientology is that it is not always obvious to people what they are being recruited into, the methods being used and the costs involved, both in money and the disruption of their lives. It's not upfront and in the open.

"The particular problem with Scientology is that it latches on to people when they are at their most vulnerable."

Canon Pratt supported the Observer's special report on Scientology. He said information helped people know about the "methods and the way people can manipulate you even if you don't realise you are being manipulated."

Observer

17 SEPTEMBER 1992

Scientology, a religious cult now operating in Chichester

Children are at risk, says help group

Bonnie Woods knows that curiosity is a big help to cults' recruiting techniques.

She joined Scientology in 1976 in St Louis, Mississippi, USA after a friend gave her the Dianetics book and persuaded her to take the personality test.

She climbed on to the Scientology rollercoaster, handed over all her savings within a month and was on the staff until 1982.

"I became critically ill. I was working 70-80 hours a week and the sleep and food deprivation is pretty horrific." She was rescued by friends and left the church.

Now Mrs Woods runs the Christian help group Escape for cult victims with her husband Richard in Worthing.

She warned that any curious young person was potential prey for a cult. "It doesn't have to be someone maladjusted. Anyone's child is just as susceptible."

And Mr Woods said: "If you feel you can dabble with it – you can't."

Audrey Bulman had a chilling brush with Scientology after it tried to recruit her two sons.

Now she works for FAIR, Family Action Information and Rescue, in the Poole area.

Mrs Bulman said each Scientology branch was under pressure to get people to join and part with their money, sometimes by running up debts. If their takings did not rise each week they would be closed.

She said the cult wanted to expand into Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics and needed cash to invest in the new territories.

FAIR runs a helpline on 0482 443104 and Escape can be contacted on 0903 204450.

Jill Longhurst, who runs the Chichester Scientology centre, talks to a shopper in East Street, Chichester.

Photo sales no. 8069-1.

Woman denies critics' charges

The woman who runs the Chichester Scientology centre has defended her "church" from its critics.

Jill Longhurst said it was expanding in the city and everywhere else. "I have been with Dianetics and Scientology in Chichester for eight years. We are doing a lot of work, and that's good."

But she denied people were tricked into joining and then pressured into handing over money. People are given the free personality tests and told they could be given a free evaluation.

Jill said the test papers mentioned Dianetics and Scientology. Anybody who asked about the tests would be told they could take improvement courses which started at £30 or £40.

She denied using hard-sell techniques to get people to sign up and [redacted] when they came for the test evaluations.

"If they don't have the money or want to think about it then that's fine. If we were to put pressure on somebody we would end up with somebody who didn't want to do the courses."

She also criticised the cult help groups. She accused FAIR of "dealing in bad-mouthing" and Escape involved people who had left Scientology.

"If you talk to anybody who has left anything they won't have anything good to say about it," she said.

Anyone who has experience of membership of the Church of Scientology and is willing to speak openly on the subject is invited to contact Brian Warren at the Observer office, 69 South Street, Chichester.

Los Angeles Times

MAGAZINES / BOB SIPCHEN

• This election has taught most everyone the definition of *policy wonk*—a candidate who loves the nuts and bolts of issues.

But how many readers know the meaning of *de-Keatingizing?*

That and other terms in the public relations world's new vocabulary are explicated in the cover story of the September/October **Columbia Journalism Review:** "Is the Press Any Match for Powerhouse P.R."

According to the articles, a few tricks of the public relations trade include:

• Undermining the credibility of journalists who may be critical of your client—a tactic that hotshot firm Hill & Knowlton allegedly used against Time magazine reporter Richard Behar when he went after their client, the Church of Scientology.

• Planting Op-Ed pieces that cast a favorable light on a client—a tactic that seemed to work for Oliver Stone's film "JFK" and the image-anxious government of Columbia.

• De-Keatingizing (named after savings and loan swindler Charles Keating) the elected official your client hopes to co-opt, by either compiling or concocting a body of evidence to convince reporters that his vote is in the public interest.

Read this story carefully, and then read (and watch) everything else accordingly.