

Opinion

Scientology hurts Clearwater, writer says

Editor: Apropos of the baseball season I am reminded of the poem about Casey at the bat. It can be paraphrased, "There was no joy in Clearwater" after seeing the headlines in the Oct. 13 *Times*. I am sure that I am not alone in a state of shock.

Certainly the powers-that-be in Clearwater did little to stop the takeover by the Scientologists, but I had expected more from our government, though many times their judgment is faulty.

The Scientologists' claim of bringing so much money into Clearwater has always baffled me, (when) there was very little evidence of its use. I was interested to read Scientology spokesman Richard Haworth's statement that about \$113-million was brought in by 12,000 visitors per year. Add to this the 750 staffers who are paid \$50 to \$100 (way below the minimum wage). Roughly and in rounded figures that means the 20,000 people are contributing \$113-million. Wish I could juggle my household monies to paint such a rosy picture! Wonder if that includes the \$24.3-million transferred to Los Angeles?

Downtown looks like a disaster area and I, for one, am violently opposed to spending any more money for outside planners to come in and tell us what to do. Let the 12,000 visitors come here, see our ghost town and ask what happened. The answer is obvious: Scientologists.

Having lost the one hope that the government might help us, we should be realistic and admit that a smart, money-making cult has taken over and will expand so widely that eventually the name Clearwater will be lost for another — Hubbardville.

A gracious gesture on the part of this group would be that they forgo the expenses for this long struggle and not insist on payment from Clearwater. Haven't they ground us deep enough?

Mrs. Donald S. Abejio
Clearwater

Don't let IRS ruling end

fight against Scientology

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES 10/23/93
Editor: So the IRS, after being sued into submission, has given up its battle with Scientology. That may be an example of our federal government in the '90s, but I hope that Pinellas County and the city of Clearwater haven't given up.

What I want to know is, what responsibility is the city of Clearwater going to take to ensure its citizens and visitors are not being taken by the Scientologists?

Does Clearwater want to be known as a city that allows a cult to dupe hundreds of victims of their money in the name of religion?

According to Scientology, the only unforgivable sin is running out of money. I just hope it's not at the expense of innocent people.

David Rodman
Dunedin

Scientology has \$297-million growth plan

■ A new six-story training and counseling center is planned for Clearwater.

By DAVID DAHL
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Hoping to expand to "every city on earth," the Church of Scientology plans to spend \$185-million during the next five years to renovate and acquire properties, plus another \$112-million on a campaign to spread its message around the

world.

The Scientologists' spiritual headquarters in Clearwater would get the biggest chunk of construction money over the next few years, the Church of Scientology said in documents filed with the Internal Revenue Service in 1992.

In all, the church told the IRS that it expects to spend \$38.82-million on construction in Clearwater. That includes building a new six-story counseling and training center in downtown Clearwater that the church projects will cost \$24-million, less than earlier

estimates.

The documents do not indicate that the church has any plans to expand beyond its 11 properties in the Pinellas County area. (See related story.)

Elsewhere around the world, the organization plans to spend \$15.5-million on property renovations and acquisitions in the Los Angeles area, which has the largest concentration of Scientologists; \$25.9-million on a complex in Riverside County, Calif., that includes its film production operation; \$66-million for new church buildings; \$20-million to retire mortgages; and millions more for work on Scientology properties in Australia, Latin America, Africa and Europe.

Among the more novel projects: renovating a 300-year-old, six-story building in the center of Copenhagen that Scientology papers say requires "extensive renovation due to its age."

The costs of spreading the church's religious message include disseminating books and videos featuring the works of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, seminars to attract new members, mass mailings to 100,000 public opinion leaders in the U.S. and special events for "major Scientology holidays."

The organization wants to make sure, for example, that every Scientology church is listed in the local Yellow Pages.

"The Scientology scriptures mandate the rapid expansion and growth of the religion," the church explained to the IRS. "... We have made a determined effort to attract large numbers of new members and to broadly disseminate the teachings of Mr. Hubbard

The church's bold plans were outlined more than a year ago in documents filed in Washington to persuade the IRS that Scientology was a bona fide religion that deserved tax-exempt status. On Oct. 1, the IRS ended years of dispute by granting the tax-exempt status to 153 Scientology churches, missions and corporations. The tax agency then made public nine boxes of its examiners' questions and Scientology's answers in connection with the tax dispute.

The church's spending plans were outlined in response to an IRS inquiry about the Scientologist's reserve account. Along with continuing to build up its reserves for a rainy day, the church said it has specific plans to spend \$432-million on renovations, property acquisitions and dissemination of Hubbard's works.

"Scientology is a young and rapidly growing religion," with its first church founded in 1954, so it needs to preserve what it has and continue expanding, Scientology told the IRS in June 1992. Scientology says it has 8-million members worldwide, including 5-million in the United States, and branches in 78 countries.

"The purpose of these funds is to guarantee survival of the religion in the event of an external catastrophe such as nuclear fallout, civil war or insurrection, or natural disasters such as earthquake, fire, flood, etc."

It goes on to say that the "church has extensive plans to acquire, construct and renovate church facilities around the world to enable it to meet the increasing demand for Scientology services from parishioners, both old and new."

individual Scientology churches are not simple buildings, the IRS was told. The churches often provide housing for members of Scientology's elite Sea Org division, a chapel and rooms for courses and films.

Film rooms must be built to specifications detailed in the Scientologists' scriptures to remove "visual distractions that would prevent the student from fully grasping the contents of the film," the IRS was told.

And, as part of a Scientology drug "purification program" for the public and parishioners, all churches "must have their own sauna," the documents say.

More space is needed for auditing, which is the Scientologists' form of evaluation that is supposed to clear parishioners of bad memories. Auditing requires small rooms for one-on-one counseling. Parishioners pay as much as \$800 an hour for auditing.

"The rooms must be soundproofed, able to be heated or cooled as needed and otherwise free of potential distractions," the Scientology filing said.

A normal-sized Scientology church has 20 to 30 rooms for auditing. At the Church of Scientology's Flag Land Base, as its spiritual headquarters in Clearwater is known, a new building is planned to accommodate at least 1,000 students and provide auditing to 200 people at once.

Scientology literature heavily promotes Clearwater as a destination. One advertisement offers several simple steps to travel — beginning with calling a Scientology consultant, then making a donation to the organization, buying a ticket and arriving at Tampa International Airport.

For months, the Church of Scientology has been raising money for what it described as a \$40-million, six-story building in downtown Clearwater. The building will offer "Super Power," a new form of counseling. However, the church told the IRS that the new building will cost \$24-million.

St. Petersburg Times

Florida's Best Newspaper

NOVEMBER 3, 1993

Clearwater to see changes

its request for a tax exemption, the church in 1992 told the IRS of its plans to spend \$38-million on renovations and construction in Clearwater.

Here's a look at what the Church of Scientology says it will spend on its Clearwater properties:

- \$24-million to construct a new "Super Power" counseling and training center on Fort Harrison Avenue across the street from the Scientologists' main local property, the Fort Harrison Hotel. Previously, Scientology fund-raisers told potential donors that the building would cost \$40-million.

- \$1.6-million for renovations to provide staff dining and a study in the former Clearwater Bank building at the corner of Cleveland Street and Fort Harrison Avenue in downtown Clearwater. Staff dining is now provided in a soon-to-be-demolished building on the site where the new Super Power building will be constructed, Haworth said.

- \$4.2-million on renovations already under way at the Church of Scientology's Hacienda Gar-

dens property at 551 N Saturn Ave. Haworth says preliminary work was done last year, but the bulk of the planned landscaping and renovations on the property's 19 buildings remains undone. Staff and students are housed on the property.

- \$8-million spent on recently completed renovations of the former Fort Harrison Hotel at 210 S Fort Harrison Ave. Workers built counseling rooms, a lounge for parishioners and additional administrative space, according to Haworth.

- \$450,000 for ongoing renovations to the church's property on Cleveland Street that formerly housed the Heart of Clearwater hotel at 1024 Cleveland St. Haworth says these renovations started about two months ago.

- \$575,000 for renovations of office properties the church owns on N Fort Harrison. Some of the money, Haworth said, has gone toward repainting the exterior of the former West Coast Building at 118 N Fort Harrison Ave. and resurfacing a nearby parking lot.

THE NEWS ANN ARBOR

Weather: Tonight, mostly cloudy.
Low 32. Wednesday, clearing.
High 48. Details on back page.

35¢
Tuesday
November 9 1993

Talk show host may testify here in Scientology suit

■ Woman charges Sally Jessy Raphael's airing of a conversation filmed here violated her privacy.

By CHONG W. PYEN
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

On a warm June Sunday two years ago, Dorothy Jean Dickerson was teaching a Sunday school class when she had a surprise visit from her two grown children.

They walked over to a little park in downtown Ann Arbor and talked about her religious life and how she had been out of touch with her chil-

dren.

The conversation, part of the children's desperate attempt to get their mother out of the Church of Scientology, was secretly videotaped and later broadcast nationally on the Sally Jessy Raphael talk show.

Now, Raphael may have to testify in Washington Circuit Court in a civil suit that pits privacy against free press, sprinkled with all the ingredients of espionage and soap opera, including electronic eavesdropping, cult deprogramming, the threat of kidnapping and a family feud.

Raphael, whose nationally syndicated show is seen on Channel 4 at 3 p.m. weekdays, is one of the defendants in a \$72 million damage suit brought by Dickerson, a member and employee

of the Church of Scientology in Ann Arbor and Oak Park.

Dickerson, 61, claims in her suit that Raphael's airing of the conversation with her children violated her privacy, causing emotional distress, embarrassment and shame, while chilling her relationship with her children and defaming her church.

"The communications with my family have gone downhill," Dickerson said during testimony this morning. "I don't get calls and I get few letters.

"It's not a real family anymore," she testified. "I don't trust people and I'm very cautious because I don't know who knows what. I'm not happy anymore in my classroom (at the Sciento-

logy school)."

The jury trial before Circuit Judge Melinda Morris began last week, with big guns in constitutional issues arguing the right to privacy versus the freedom of press.

In her suit, Dickerson, a former township clerk near Albion, claims her daughter and son-in-law flew from Iowa and, along with Dickerson's son, confronted her over her involvement in Scientology. The conversation took place at a park called "A Little Park for a Little While" at the corner of Main and Ann streets on June 2, 1991. While the daughter taped the conversation on a recorder she had hidden in her purse, a



RAPHAEL

See RAPHAEL, Back Page

THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

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NOVEMBER 9, 1993

RAPHAEL, from A1

Defense lawyers say tape revealed no secrets

hired crew of technicians disguised as garbage handlers videotaped the 45-minute encounter. On July 14, 1991, an edited version was broadcast on a Sally Jessy Raphael show that also featured the Cult Awareness Network, based in Chicago.

Two of Dickerson's daughters appeared on the show and said their mother had changed in recent years, obviously a victim of "empty nest syndrome." They said she uttered "cult lingo" and it was as if someone had "scrambled her mind." On the secretly made videotape, the mother conceded that she was making less than \$5,000 washing dishes for the organization.

The program was intended to "create and foster hatred and fear of the Scientology faith, encouraging viewers to hire deprogrammingers," the suit says.

Shortly after the show's broadcast, Dickerson, a mother of eight grown children, was talked by her

children into taking a vacation to Iowa, which, she said, turned out to be an attempt on their part to submit their mother to deprogramming experts. Following her frantic call back to Michigan, a Scientology lawyer intervened and threatened to file kidnapping charges before she was allowed to leave, the suit says.

In addition to Raphael and the Cult Awareness Network, the list of defendants is long, including the show's producers, the Multimedia, Inc., which distributes the show, and the Oak Park firm hired to secretly tape and edit the family conversation at the Ann Arbor park.

Dickerson joined the Scientology church 22 years ago and most recently worked at the Ann Arbor office, 122 S. Main St., the Hubbard Dianetics Foundation, as a teacher and pastoral counselor. The organization is currently housed at 2355

W. Stadium Blvd.

The Scientology movement was started in the United States in the 1950s by L. Ron Hubbard, who introduced Dianetics, a form of psychotherapy, and later incorporated it into Scientology. Dianetics explains every human experience as a recorded mental image, some subconscious. It has a code trigger irrational behavior later through engrams, part of the subconscious mind. An "auditor" helps remove the engrams to ease pain and regain freedom.

Scientology believes the physical world, composed of MEST (matter, energy, space, time) is governed by the *thetan* (soul, life energy). It also believes in reincarnation. In recent years, it has been accused of occult practices, brainwashing, mind control, mistreatment of members, coercive techniques and profiteering behind its religious front. Time

magazine called it "the thriving cult of greed and power" in 1991, which brought a lawsuit from the church.

Robert F. Logeman, an Ypsilanti attorney who represents Dickerson along with law firms frequently representing the Scientology interests, declined to comment on the case in the middle of the trial.

Dechering, Pappalardo and Mutinich is the firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, one of Michigan's largest. Gregory Curtner, one of the Raphael attorneys, said the suit was "brought by the Scientology using this woman (Dickerson) in order to punish and silence its critics." He said Raphael is on his witness list.

In court files, the defense lawyers argue that the videotape did not invade Dickerson's privacy or amount to eavesdropping, saying the conversation took place in a public park and revealed "no secret or private matters."

□ la Repubblica
mercoledì 10 novembre 1993

Milano, dopo due anni la corte d'appello ribalta la sentenza di primo grado

Condannata la "chiesa" di Scientology

dalla nostra redazione

MILANO - Due anni dopo, il colpo di scena: i giudici della terza sezione della Corte d'appello di Milano hanno completamente ribaltato la sentenza che assolveva i 73 membri della Chiesa di Scientology, «inventata» dallo statunitense Ron Hubbard, ex scrittore di fantascienza morto nell'86. Dopo aver ascoltato per oltre undici ore il sostituto procuratore generale Annamaria Caruso, i giudici hanno accolto le sue richieste e condannato gli adepti per associazione a delinquere, estorsione, circonvenzione di incapace, a pene variabili tra i tre mesi e i quattro anni e mezzo. La Corte d'appello ha anche condannato i responsabili dei vari centri territoriali del gruppo per i reati tributari dai quali pure erano stati assolti in primo grado.

Nelle sue 300 cartelle di requisitoria,

il sostituto Caruso ha insistito sul fatto che quello che si stava dibattendo in aula non era un processo ad una religione. «Nessuna crociata - ha detto il pg - qui non si deve processare la religione della Chiesa di Scientology, ma un gruppo di persone che sicuramente era dentro quella Chiesa e che in nome di quella ha commesso dei reati».

«Le idee religiose - ha insistito la Caruso - in questa sede non ci interessano. Ma chi ha professato quelle idee religiose e che adesso si trova sul banco degli imputati ha violato il codice penale. Quello che ci interessa sono le condotte usate per convincere altre persone ad usare i metodi proposti».

Il processo di primo grado, concluso il 2 luglio del '91 dopo oltre due anni di istruttoria dibattimentale, aveva prati-

camente cancellato l'impostazione accusatoria con grande tripudio dei dialettici che avevano accolto la sentenza con canti e grida tipo hooligans. Ma la motivazione - solo 100 pagine, contro i due volumi necessari per riassumere i 45 capi d'imputazione riferibili ai 73 imputati - non ha retto la prova d'appello. E ieri i giudici hanno praticamente cancellato quell'assoluzione accogliendo le tesi del pubblico ministero Pietro Furno prima e della sua collega Caruso poi.

La chiesa di Scientology è una specie di multinazionale religiosa, conta circa settecento sedi in una settantina di paesi con circa otto milioni di adepti. La sua attività è stata spesso al centro di inchieste della magistratura, soprattutto dopo la denuncia di ex fedeli.

LA REPUBBLICA 10-NOV. 1993

Milan, after two years the court of appeal overturns the verdict of the lower court.

Judgment made against the "church" of Scientology

MILAN - Two years later: drama - the magistrate at the Court of Appeal in Milan has completely overturned the verdict which had acquitted the 73 members of the Church of Scientology "invented" by the American L. Ron Hubbard, former science-fiction author who died in 1986. Having listened to the deputy attorney general Annamaria Caruso for over eleven hours, the magistrates acceded to her request and made a judgment against the members who were charged with conspiracy, extortion, criminal action against minors and the infirm, and given various sentences ranging from three months to four and a half years. The Court of Appeal also sentenced various officials of a number of regional centres for tax evasion and who had originally been acquitted in the lower court.

In his 300 page speech the Deputy attorney general Caruso emphasized the fact that it was not religion that was on trial. "This is no crusade" - said the attorney general, "we are not here to put the religious faith of the church of Scientology on trial, but a group of people who were certainly members of that Church and in whose name crimes were committed.

"Their religious beliefs", insisted Caruso, "are of no concern to us here. But those who hold those beliefs are in the dock today because they violated the Criminal Code. What we are concerned with is the conduct and methods used to persuade others to use the very same methods".

On 2nd July 1991, after a 2-year trial at the lower court, the charges against the accused had been virtually dropped, to the great joy of the practitioners of Dianetics who greeted the verdict with hooligan like singing and shouting. The grounds for a judgment, running to just 100 pages, compared with the 2 volumes needed to summarise the 45 charges brought against the 73 accused, did not stand up to the scrutiny of the evidence presented at the appeal court. Yesterday the magistrates overturned the acquittal having listened to the evidence presented by the Public Prosecutor Pietro Forno and his colleague Caruso.

The church of Scientology is a kind of religious multinational with about seventy centres in sixty countries and 8 million members overall. Its activities have often brought it to the attention of the courts, especially following reports from former members.