

COMMUNITY FORUM

COMMUNITY FORUM RUNS THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS • WRITE TO: PILOT LETTERS, 330 W. BAY ST., COSTA MESA, CA 92627 • FAX TO: 646-4170 • READERS' HOTLINE (CALL-IN COMMENTS): 642-6086

Fred attends an orgy in Newport Beach

My wife and I went to an orgy the other night and... WOW! There we were, 16 of us going at it hot and heavy for three hours, right in Christa and Gerry Long's living room. OK, so it wasn't *that* kind of orgy. What it was was a binge of conversation — which is alive and thriving at Gerry And Christa's monthly salon.

The more erudite reader will know at once that this kind of salon is not where one goes to have one's hair bobbed or toenails clipped. Rather, it is an ancient institution where people of varying interests and backgrounds come together regularly to discuss, converse, exchange ideas and entertain.

We were certainly a mixed bag:



Fred Martin

On the Coast

Teachers, writers, real estate brokers, homemakers, musicians (Gerry is a former professor of music and a director of the Pacific Symphony, Christa was a professor of dance) — a remarkable cross-section of citizens.

Half a dozen of us sat on the longest sofa I've ever seen, the rest in chairs and love seats that completed the conversational circle. In the middle was an

enormous table packed with fresh popcorn and a three-foot-wide bowl filled with high-class beers, designer waters and exotic soft drinks. Not a proletarian Pepsi in the lot.

We ranged in age from late 20s to early 60s and seemed to cover the full spectrum of political belief — all the better for good conversation.

As best I could figure, the common denominators were reasonable intelligence, intellectual curiosity, civility, a keen interest in people and a spirited — sometimes slightly perverse — sense of humor.

Courtesy was a given. These people actually listen to one another. No one interrupts. No one steps on a punch line. No one jumps in with, "Oh, that's nothing. I remember when..."

The group has been conversing monthly since summer of 1992 and my wife and I were new kids on the block. It must be some measure of how much we enjoyed the evening that we can remember the names of almost all the 14 people we met.

After marking three birthdays with Gerry's clarinet chorus of the usual tune and a spectacularly wicked cake, Christa suggested NAFTA as a conversational opener.

We couldn't get beyond the Gore-Perot debate, though. Especially the Rosster. Even the two among us who had voted for the little man had to admit that he appears to have moved to a planet no one else has ever visited.

Christa then guided us into performance art, setting the pace reading her own poetry. One saga hilariously described a salon member's search for her fifth husband; another poem was personal and poignant.

Robert Vaughn Young distributed copies of his just-published magazine article, "Scientology from the Inside Out." He and his wife Stacy recently escaped Scientology after 20 and 15 years, respectively, and they told stories that shivered our timbers.

On a significantly lighter note, Vaughn presented a multiple-choice, interactive play about Cirista's adventures with, among other characters, Bela Lugosi, Rush Limbaugh and the Newport Beach Police Department.

The group also discussed rap music, education, the NRA and the profound question, "How do we keep from having a government?"

We also examined the Zen approach to nude dancing but I'm afraid that's far too complex to discuss here. Besides, I'm already in enough trouble with John Hedges.

Fred Martin's column runs every Thursday and Saturday.

St. Petersburg Times

Florida's Best Newspaper

NOVEMBER 21, 1993

LETTERS

Scientology should be taxed

Editor: I am a taxpaying business owner who has been at the same location in downtown Clearwater since 1982. The building I am renting has four businesses in a total of 11,000 square feet.

When I first moved here I occupied 1,700 square feet and have since tripled my space. I have three full-time employees who among them have three wives and three children. I pay my share of their Social Security tax, as well as their share, and the withholding tax. This tax amounts to an average of \$1,700 each month, and although I don't always pay it on time, I do pay it every month. I also pay a sales tax on the rent that is \$85 a month. Of course, I also generate some sales tax revenue from the small percentage of retail sales that I do.

I spend a lot of money in the Tampa Bay area and my community. The problem is, I have no community.

Especially with the recent decision by the Internal Revenue Service, Clearwater's downtown never will have a community. The "cult of Scientology" intends to own the whole downtown area. An excellent case is our city block, once known as Magnolia Park.

For three months I have been trying to obtain a loan to hold on to the building I have been leasing for 12 years. I have not been successful, nor am I too optimistic. Seven banks have turned me down and every private investor I have spoken to has told me he would not invest in downtown Clearwater, for the obvious reason that it is a loser.

The banks have turned us down for another reason, too, which is not unique for a small business. The business over 12 years has not built any equity, and the majority of this building was built 60 years ago, so this is not an attractive loan.

So, some of you say, we should think of relocating. We should face the facts that Scientologists have money, they don't need to apply for a loan since they make so much money from their tax-free enterprise, and they can buy this property as well as many others as time goes on. With the recent IRS decision giving legitimacy to the cult, it does seem futile to stay in Clearwater, but I am not sure I can afford to do it all again.

additional \$10,000 a year off the tax register, all the good people I am supporting have to find new jobs, and I have to find a future. All because the cult of Scientology has official clearance to buy all the property it "needs" and it automatically becomes tax-exempt. Clearwater will become Hubbardville.

Let us face some facts about Scientology. L. Ron Hubbard was a science fiction writer. He developed a fondness for naval uniforms. He wrote a book called *Dianetics* as a last-ditch effort to make some money and notoriety. He hit the jackpot.

I've never been associated with the cult, but I was approached by it many times back in the early '80s when the renovation of the Fort Harrison Hotel was under way. One time it was necessary for me to go into the Fort Harrison to measure for an installation of one of the dozen or so jobs the cult had me bid, but never gave to me, and I saw all I needed to know.

The office where this bookshelf was to be installed had many desks with many phones and many people speaking foreign languages, and the huge chart on the wall said it all. London, Paris, New York, Los Angeles, etc. — all the big cities of the world — and above each city were two red lines: recruits and revenues!

Recruits and revenues clearly spell out the difference between religion and business. Scientology is a business, and it should be taxed accordingly, as my business is and all legitimate businesses are.

F. Gordon Charles
Clearwater

THIS JUST IN ...

News and comment from all over

P.S.

Postscripts from the edge

Did he have Scientology in mind?

Intrigue is where you find it, and the spy novels of John le Carre sometimes seem to harbor even more of it than the author intended.

In his latest bestseller, *The Night Manager*, more than one British newspaper discerned suspicious parallels between its fictional plot, about a fabulously wealthy but utterly soulless arms merchant, and the real-life sale of British armaments to Iraq before the Persian Gulf war. The *Observer* went so far as to compare dialogue from the book with verbatim transcripts from a government hearing on the scandal.

An even closer reading turns up a mystery closer to home.

As always with le Carre, his villains include the bureaucrats who manipulate field agents. In *The Night Manager*, a nasty cabal of them form an elite organization code-named *Flagship*.

Flag Ship happens to be the code name for the site (an actual ship) where the tip-top executives of Scientology gather to obtain secret training. After receiving it,

they become members of *Sea Org*, short for organization.

Le Carre's elites call each other "Mariner."

Alas, the author himself says there's nothing to it, just as there was nothing to the perceived allusions to the Iraq deals.

"I am afraid that the similarity between my jargon and that of the Scientologists is entirely coincidental," le Carre said in a letter to the *Times*. "It appears to me to be just one of those eerie coincidences."

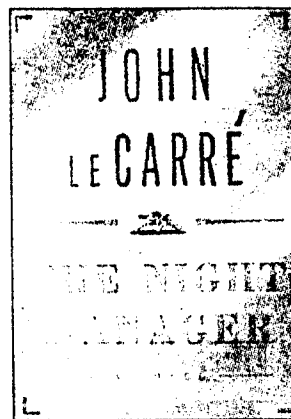
Eerie . . . and elusive. Few organizations have a longer record of seeing conspiracies that turn out not to be there than does Scientology. But if they spied one in his book, the followers of L. Ron Hubbard kept its author in the dark.

"I have heard nothing from the Scientologists," le Carre said.

- KARL VICK, *Times* staff writer



SOUNDS FAMILIAR: Similarities between Scientology and his novel are coincidental, says John le Carre.



THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

NOVEMBER 21, 1993

12-North Pinellas

Pinellas Letters

ions have burdened taxpayers and society for centuries. It's time they all paid their fair share.

— BRENT YACIW
Seminole

I find it absurdly ironic that of all people, Fred Thomas is talking about a Scientology "takeover" and turning Clearwater into "Scientology U.S.A." or "Hubbardville." After all, Fred Thomas has for years been trying to turn Clearwater into "Christiansanity, U.S.A." or "Thomasville," a land where Fred's army enforces laws as he sees fit and Fred himself fills the role of big brother.

Equally absurd are the defenses of Richard Haworth, who whines that "the IRS investigation of the church proved conclusively that it was a legitimate religion." How's that? Because it was based on claims that no rational person could believe with no valid scientific support, and therefore must be a religion? All the IRS proved was that Scientology is no nuttier than any other faith-based belief, something I'll go along with.

A cult is a cult is a cult. Whether the founder was Jesus, L. Ron or "Pinchology" Fred, these organiza-

NAFTA: The Sell _____ Vote, Pages 10 and 11

THE SPOTLIGHT

"The mind once expanded to the dimensions of a larger idea never returns to its original size."—OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

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Swiss to Prosecute U.S. Sect

Unreported in the Establishment media, officials of the Church of Scientology in Europe have been indicted.

By Peter Wilcox

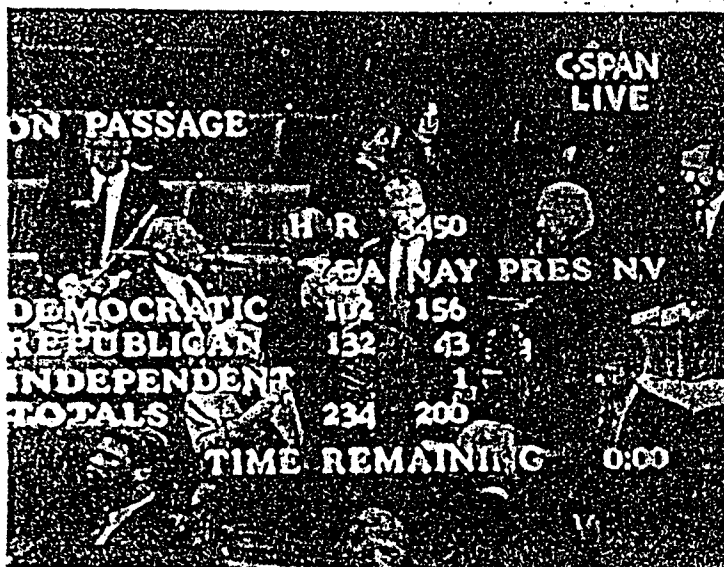
GENEVA, Switzerland—Three heads of the Church of Scientology have been indicted on charges of usury, fraud, coercion and extortion in a Swiss court on November 11, 1993. All counts are in violation of the Swiss Penal Code.

The case has created headlines in the European press and is being closely followed by other European governments dealing with similar charges for imminent indictment. Charges of fraud, usury, duress, coercion, manipulation, racketeering and extortion have been made throughout the world over many years since the sect's founding in the sixties by science fiction writer Lafayette Ronald Hubbard, resulting in numerous prosecutions and outright ban by the authorities.

SERIOUS CHARGES

Swiss prosecutors led by State Attorney Bernard Bertossa—a redoubtable no-nonsense prosecutor famed for never having lost a case—intend to prosecute the Scientologists to the fullest extent of the law on the current charges which are believed to represent only "the tip of

(See SWISS, Page 3)



The vote on the North American Free Trade Agreement appears on a television screen as the House voted 234-200 to pass the pact.

Criminal Trading Partners

Now that NAFTA has passed the House, and looks likely to pass the Senate, it's time to take a closer look at just what sort of criminals and gangsters we'll be doing business with in Mexico.

EXCLUSIVE TO THE SPOTLIGHT

By MARTIN MANN

With Congress bowing to pressure from the big banks and approving the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), this treacherous treaty leaves them in a soiled partnership with the "murderous gangster regime" of Mexico's real rulers.

That harsh indictment comes from no less an authority than Prof. Mauricio Delgado Benavides, a noted Mexican sociologist and former senatorial candidate who was interviewed by The SPOTLIGHT in New York, where he visits periodically as a consultant to the UN Human Rights Commission.

"The mass media here has been calling Mexico a 'democracy' or even a 'progressive republic' so insistently, people seem to be believing it," the respected scholar cautioned. "My advice is: Don't. The government [of Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari] came into power in 1988 by means of brazen fraud. It has hung on ever since by murder, torture, intimidation and bribery.

MURDER INC.
"Its closest American counterpart is not the Washington bureaucracy, it's Murder Inc."

The unstated corollary to this political corruption is that the regime takes a rake-off from every major foreign commercial enterprise established in Mexico. Nothing can be accomplished without a long series of bribes to officials—*la mordida*, "the bite." It's against U.S. law for American businessmen to bribe foreign officials. But you can't do business in Mexico without bribery.

A month-long SPOTLIGHT investigation (See TRADING, Page 13)

EDITORIAL

BETRAYAL

Despite the overwhelming opposition of average American workers, taxpayers, voters and consumers, the House of Representatives, true to form, bowed to the big banking and commercial interests and the internationalist plutocracy that wields so much power in this country and approved the disastrous North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The most surprising aspect of all this is that lawmakers, usual-

ly adept at assessing their chances for re-election, have completely ignored the political fates of their counterparts in Canada who supported NAFTA. Some 300 of them were booted out of office in the recent election, leaving only two members of the party that had led the country in office.

Are members of Congress who voted for NAFTA so sure that they will be taken care of by the special interests, that they won't suffer a similar fate? Can the special interests be so powerful they can supply such guarantees? We don't believe so.

We believe the voters will vent their outrage at the polls at the next election. NAFTA is not something voters will likely forget about, like they did with the sneaky congressional pay grab last election cycle. Voters will be surrounded by the job loss and economic ruin created by NAFTA, and they will certainly remember who they have to thank for it.

There are no excuses this time. Members of Congress have betrayed America, their constituents and the Constitution. Vote the bums out.

The Inside Story:

NEWS you may have missed. Page 2.

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ELITE POWER MOB includes media. Page 6.

TECHNOLOGY AND LIBERTY. Page 7.

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THE SPOTLIGHT

"The mind once expanded to the dimensions of a larger idea never returns to its original size."—OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

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Swiss

(Continued From Page 1)

the iceberg" reflecting a long-standing and documented pattern of fraud and extortion.

The Swiss authorities have received numerous complaints against the sect ranging from fraud, intimidation, blackmail, psychological terror and manipulation, physical threats including murder threats and outright criminal extortion.

Complaints by former members followed a sad and familiar pattern of being defrauded of all their assets by various psychological warfare methods including the dreaded "auditing" which victims claim leaves them physically, mentally and emotionally wrecked. There have even been reports that members who are suspected by Scientology enforcers to seek police protection or medical care are further terrorized by special goon squads into desisting.

The Swiss authorities take a dim view of such practices being inflicted on their citizens and intend to give no quarter on this case.

The victim, Jean-Luc Barbier, a Swiss citizen, testified that he lost \$135,000 over a ten year period to the Scientology Church through a series of "purification" courses. The money represented his life savings. In Florida the victim was subjected to intense "purification" procedures which have been described as "Jim Jones type of mumbo jumbo brainwashing."

Barbier said he came out of Florida not only penniless but emotionally and physically wrecked. When he attempted to seek medical help, Scientology "auditors" forbade him to see a doctor.

While in Florida each time he parted with substantial sums of money he was given high sounding titles in the Scientology hierarchy, whenever he failed to produce more money he was "flunked" by his "auditors" in the never ending tests of "worthiness" and "purification," a traumatic experience which has been



L. RON HUBBARD
... Founder of Scientology.

Scientologues inculpés

GENÈVE — Michel Novarec

Une femme et deux hommes, tous membres influents de l'Église de scientologie, ont été inculpés hier matin par un juge d'instruction genevois. En vrac

et en multipack, ils tombent sous le coup de quatre articles du Code pénal: usure, escroquerie, contrainte, extorsion. Musicien vaudois, le plaignant fut durant dix ans un fidèle scientologue. Il y a laissé plus de 160 000 francs et dit: "Il s'agit et d'une partie de son âme."
L'inculpation des trois scientologues genevois porte sur une dizaine de griefs. Le juge leur reproche notamment d'avoir exploité l'inexpérience, l'infirmité de caractère, la situation de désarroi et de détresse psychique du plaignant pour l'attirer et le maintenir dans la scientologie. Dans la foulée, il ont ainsi amené à faire des dépenses en disproportion évidente avec les prestations qui lui ont été fournies.

Dans l'aventure, le musicien a claqué 35 000 francs pour diffé-

Geneve: trois fidèles au pilori pour usure, escroquerie, contrainte et extorsion

rents cours, en particulier ceux de "purification". Il a versé ainsi quelque 130 000 francs en faveur d'un séminaire mondial de la secte. En Floride, où des stages étaient proposés, il a payé le haut de la hiérarchie. C'est là qu'il aura dit: "Il me desdoutes, l'ont assailli, l'ont conduit à qu'on s'occupe de lui, comme il dit: 'C'est un scandale, ça'".

Aspirant à Genève par Me Daniel Meyer, le Vaudois se plaint aussi de retomber sur sa tête: il lui était interdit de voir son médecin. Mais son âme, le juge reproche aux thésauriers d'avoir exercé sur lui des pressions, manipulations, contraintes et menaces, qu'il ont mis hors d'état de résister, ce qu'il a finalement plongé dans une dépression. Ces mêmes inculpés, eux, contestent tout.

Above, a story on the indictment of key figures of Scientology as it appeared in a French-language newspaper. Below, a large headline about indictments.



ÉGLISE DE
SCIENTOLOGIE
Trois
inculpés
à Genève

described as "non-stop roller-coaster emotional battering."

Swiss presiding Judge Claude Wenger named the indicted Scientologists as Christian Boseger, Daniel Clinclin and Lethe Girardet. All are known to be among the highest ranking Scientologists in the sect.

Judge Wenger stated, "They had exploited the inexperience, the weakness of character, situational confusion and mental distress of the victim to attract him and keep him in Scientology. He was induced to pay sums in evident disproportion with the courses that were provided for him."

In another statement the judge said that the Scientologists: "had exercised on the victim pressures, manipulations, coercion and threats which made him unable to resist and finally plunged him into despair." The Court's description of Scientologist methods to attract, manipulate, extract money and retain members is the subject of investigation by more than 45 different justice systems worldwide.

Most governments concerned have called on Interpol—the crack crime-busting international organization—to assist them in tracking down what they consider as a violent racketeering syndicate preying on the unfortunate, the weak and the gullible.

Interpol is said to have accumulated the largest dossier documenting the international Scientologist activities deemed criminal by the governments concerned.

The scandal has created headlines mainly due to the status of the persons indicted. They are the highest ranking members of the Scientology sect ever charged on so many criminal counts in Europe. The Swiss police have been put on alert to prevent reprisals against Barbier and prosecution witnesses have been given state protection.

St. Petersburg Times

Florida's Best Newspaper

2 TIMES ■ WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1993 CT

LETTERS

Criticism of Scientology is 'old worn-out record'

Editor: In order to build a better future it often is necessary to let go of the past.

I am referring to the Nov. 17 letter on Scientology by Gabe Cazares, which sounded much like a record stuck in the same groove for far too long.

Mr. Cazares may disagree with the IRS' exemption ruling on the Church of Scientology, however, that decision followed the most thorough and demanding investigation ever conducted of any exempt organization. The result: The IRS granted the church full tax-exempt status as a bona fide religious organization.

Cazares praises city officials for their decision to continue fighting a losing battle and press forward with an appeal of the Charitable Solicitations Ordinance, but does not mention that the city now faces having to pay several hundred thousand dollars to cover the church's legal costs and fees in the case, not to mention the companion suit filed by seven national religious organizations and churches.

The truth is that the Church of Scientology has been part of the Clearwater community for 18 years. Thousands of Scientologists live and work in the area. They raise their families here, send their children to the local schools and you may find many active in the community as members of the Chamber of Commerce and our local merchants' association and in community outreach programs.

An old worn-out record can play in the same groove for only so long, and even neighbors who think the worst of each other mend fences eventually.

All of us are part of this community and can work together to

and a brighter Clearwater.

Richard Haworth
Clearwater