

Scientists sue UCLA professor

By Pat Alston
STAFF WRITER

The Church of Scientology, bristling from public criticism by a nationally recognized psychiatrist and UCLA professor, has sued the outspoken educator and the university.

In a lawsuit filed this week in Santa Monica Superior Court, two student followers of the controversial church claim that Dr. Louis J. West has waged a smear campaign of religious intolerance and hatred on university time.

The verbal attacks by a representative of the state university system and his alleged "anti-religious activity" are violations of state law and the education code, they say. No way, West responded Friday. "This is a free country."

West, 68, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, said he feels "fully justified" in speaking out against the church and its founder's "so-called science," which West described as pure "science fiction."

"My concern is not their doctrine," West said, "but only the harm I see they have done to people."

The Church of Scientology, which was founded in 1954 by the late science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard, is a religion "in the

University is also named a defendant

most traditional sense," which helps to deal with man as a spirit and help him "shed the trauma and guilt (sin) which encumber him," according to its printed catechism.

Adherents of mainstream religions have labeled it a cult, however, and accuse its leaders of using brainwashing techniques to ensnare the gullible and ensure unquestioned devotion from its flock.

"As a physician, my job is to take care of the sick and call attention to the environmental factors that contributed to their symptoms," West said.

"If I see cults, like the Church of Scientology ... operating in such a way so that people come to harm," he added, "then as a physician and an educator, it is my duty to say something about it, and to communicate those ideas ... to the public."

The church calls the psychiatrist's persistent verbal attacks a violation of both the U.S. Constitution and state statutes. Such religious persecution is against the

law, church leaders say. And taxpayers are paying a hefty price for it, they say.

West, whose salary is paid by the state of California, wastes no opportunity to sling mud at the Scientologists, said Linda Simmons Hight, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles-based church.

In a speech the doctor gave in November in Westchester, for instance, he compared Hubbard to Adolf Hitler, she said.

In effect, the university system is "subsidizing his attacks on religion" by paying him a salary while he's engaged in inflammatory conduct and activities intended to fan the flames of public fears about supposedly "dangerous groups," she said.

"Where does it come off that it's OK for the state of California to support someone who attacks new religious movements, where no one would give it a second thought to tell him to knock it off if he were attacking Jews or Catholics?" she asked.

Kendrick L. Moron, the attorney who filed the lawsuit Wednesday on behalf of UCLA students John Van Dyke and Mario Majorski, said "major First Amendment concerns" are at stake. It is illegal to discriminate against someone because of race, sex or religion.

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Clergy attack scientologists

WORRIED town clergy have issued a warning on the controversial church of Scientology.

More than 2,000 leaflets have been sent out with parish magazines warning people to be wary about scientology and dianetics.

And clergymen say they are available for help and independent advice on problems caused by the cult.

Felbridge vicar the Rev Stephen Bowen said the leaflet had been a co-operative effort by several of the town's churches because of concern over the effects of scientology.

He said: "I think it does have significance here, because East Grinstead is an international centre for scientology. It is right and essential we take some action."

The leaflet contains information on scientology and dianetics taken from East Grinstead writer Jon Atack's book *A Piece of Blue Sky*, published in the USA.

It warns people to beware of the controversial Say No to Drugs campaign, run by the church of Scientology, and other off-shoots such as Narconon, and Criminon.

But scientology spokeswoman Rose Tinklenberg said: "Most of the stuff in the leaflet has been disproven many times. If someone has a problem they should come to us. How can anyone else sort it out for them?"

"If you had wanted information on Christianity in 30AD would you have gone to a Roman soldier? The real way for people to find out about scientology or dianetics, of course, is to read one of L. Ron Hubbard's books or speak to a member of the church. People are welcome to come to Saint Hill and see for themselves."

'Scientology is my tool' to survival

SCIENTOLOGY has long been surrounded by controversy. Despite criticism from many, a large number of local people embrace it. This week, the Courier gives a local businessman the chance to explain what it means to him personally.

AFTER 19 years of living and working in East Grinstead, it never ceases to amaze me to see the mystery that manages to collect around Saint Hill, Scientology and Scientologists.

I walk down London Road at various times of the day and night and see Scientologists busy in all walks of life and yet generally, few people locally have a real idea of why someone becomes involved with Scientology and studies and uses it.

Part of this fog is simply the difficulty that there will always be in getting someone to understand something for which he has no easy comparison.

When you talk about a practical religious philosophy that is not based on any worship but on a vast number of practical tools, such as communication and understanding that help people improve survival, you are talking about something to which most people just cannot relate.

The other part of the aura of mystery is the result of deliberate efforts by some with other interests to serve.

Scientology and Scientologists have never shrunk from controversy in condemning the growing chemical nature of society and rampant drug abuse.

They have taken on major vested interests by condemning physical psychiatric abuses such as

chemical straight-jackets, electro-shock and psychosurgery. Other opponents are motivated by the money they receive for their efforts.

The tactic of creating mystery, mistrust and hatred towards a minority group is not a new one in history.

Such attacks seek to create an atmosphere in which it becomes acceptable to attack members of such a group.

Hitler's Nazi Germany took this to a very high level of success in its persecution not only of Jews but various other minority groups.

Despite the efforts of vested interests and rumourmongers, Scientology continues to expand in the UK and internationally because it is effective and provides people with the tools that assist them to survive better.

At 44 years of age, I work locally as a financial adviser. I have an honourous degree from university and various profes-

sional financial qualifications.

I work frequently with other Scientologists in my activities — professionals in their own fields such as solicitors and accountants.

When I am doing an evening or weekend course at Saint Hill, I come across people from all walks of life that have come there to learn tools they can use to improve their lives.

I have yet to meet John Travolta or Karen Black there, but I have chatted with Chic Corea and many other celebrities in their own fields — opera singers, artists, professional sportsmen, as well as other businessmen, builders, teachers, mothers and housewives, secretaries, taxi drivers and so on.

They have come there a few miles or thousands of miles because they believe there is something practical to learn from Scientology, that they can use to improve their lives and their ability to survive.

In my own case, my involvement with Scientology goes back 23 years to when an old school mate simply suggested I read the book *Dianetics* by Ron Hubbard.

At that time, I had just finished university and despite my excellent academic results, I was interested in very little other than a '70s type of happy-like existence.

After getting involved with Scientology, my life took quite a turn.

I used what I had learned from Scientology to obtain an excellent job and acquire skills that eventually enabled me to establish and manage a business.

From absolutely no interest in marrying or a family life, I married and 15 years later have three great children.

Where before I had little or no interest in the community or Government, I found myself taking more active and responsible positions in the groups I involved



Tom Shuster and his family, wife Marion and daughter Kathleen, 11, son Jon, nine, and son Benjamim, five

myself with. So the tools that Scientology have given me I consider very valuable indeed.

Scientologists come in all varieties and with all possible interests. What all have in common is an optimism for the future with the knowledge that there are tools they can use to help improve their survival, the survival of their family, and the survival of their friends, the community and mankind generally.

Scientologists are good neighbours to have.

They will respect your right to your beliefs and expect the same respect for theirs.

Saint Hill Manor is open for tours every afternoon for those who want to know more, or who are just curious.

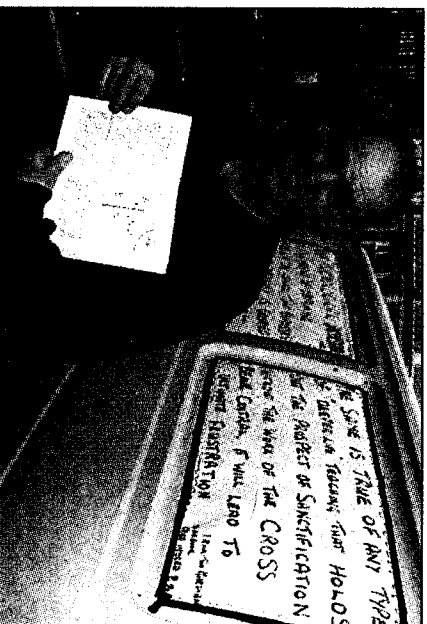
Tom B. Shuster

Friday, April 23, 1993



Scientologists celebrate the opening of the new Hubbard Dianetics bookshop in East Grinstead

Photo number 68380/29



Graham Threlfall had his own personal message for both sides in the dispute

Photo number 68380/32



Protestors held a vigil outside the new bookshop and distributed leaflets in which they denounce Scientology

Photo number 68380/26

Protest marks opening of town's new Scientology bookshop

LOCAL CHURCH leaders have spoken out against the opening of a Dianetics bookshop in East Grinstead. The bookshop opened in London Road, on Saturday afternoon, where Videographic video rental used to be.

Rev Roger Brown, vicar at St Swithun's, told the Courier: "People should be aware of the damage caused to families and communities by Scientology. The bookshop is no more than a public front for the Church of Scientology."

Vicar of Felbridge's St John's church, Rev Stephen Bowen said: "I am concerned that it will become more than a bookshop, and that it will be used as a centre for the so-called personality testing. I believe Scientology has a harmful effect on the community."

And Sackville School Headteacher Clive Brooks also spoke out.

"I am concerned that young people may be asked to do these personality tests," he said. "I am opposed to the methods the church uses."

The opening of the bookshop was also met with protest from a newly-formed group of anti-cult campaigners.

Escape, a self-styled support group for people who have left or who wish to leave the Saint Hill based cult, has recently moved to East Grinstead.

Escape is run by Bonnie Woods, an ex-Scientologist who has just moved to East Grinstead. "If you want to be near the heat, move into the kitchen," Mrs Woods said when explaining why she moved to East Grinstead.

Mrs Woods and her husband Richard were among a group of Christians forming the Christian Vigil Against Scientology handing out leaflets at the opening of the new bookshop on Saturday.

The leaflets, published by Mrs Woods, make a number of claims concerning L Ron Hubbard the founder of the Church of Scientology.

But Scientology officials have angrily hit back at the criticism of the new bookshop.

Spokeswoman Barbara Bradley said critics should be more concerned with the town's drug and crime problems.

"People should be protesting and fighting drugs and crime not innocent religious groups. Rev Brown, Rev Bowen and Mr Brooks are quite welcome to come down to the bookshop and talk to

staff there. We are always open and happy to hear people's views."

But Ms Bradley was scathing in her criticism of Escape and the group's claims.

"These people are waging a Nazi-style hate campaign — their comments about Mr Hubbard are laughable.

"If these people are opposed to what we are doing then they must be for drugs and crime.

"They call themselves Christians but they seek to destroy religion at a time when the world needs more of it. Why don't they do what the bible says and love thy neighbour?"

● *Businessman Tom Shuster talks about what Scientology means to him — see page 13*
● See also letters on page 8

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The Courier, April 23, 1993

COURIER COMMENT

THE OPENING of the Hubbard Dianetics Bookshop in East Grinstead has caused concern in many quarters of the town because of the links with the Church of Scientology.

Two local vicars have spoken out over the move, so has the headmaster of one of the town's secondary schools.

They fear the shop will provide a front to encourage people, particularly the young, to take part in "personality testing" undertaken by the scientologists.

Feelings ran high among campaigners outside the shop on Saturday protesting at the opening of the new premises and members of the Scientology movement have accused them of running a Nazi-style hate campaign.

East Grinstead and its people have a history of tolerance. The town saw the birth of the world famous Guinea Pig Club during the second world war when fighter pilots with horrific injuries underwent pioneering surgery at the Queen Victoria Hospital.

The success of the recovery is often put down to the understanding of the townspeople who welcomed the men and accepted their presence in the community.

It was this acceptance that helped the men on their road to recover. This tolerance and acceptance still abounds. The town has a reputation as something of a crossroads for a variety of groups, religions and beliefs.

But it is essential that this tolerance and acceptance must not be abused. Nor must tolerance be confused with weakness.

Church leaders are right to counsel caution. Of course people have the freedom of choice, whether it is over their beliefs or which shops they choose to visit, but they must also be aware that involvement with the Church of Scientology can lead to the spending of money for various courses on offer.

They must be certain in their own minds it is what they want and what commitment is expected from them.

For more than 30 years East Grinstead has accepted followers of Scientology and their families. Likewise the movement must show deference to the townspeople and like any organisation be prepared to take the rough with smooth. There will always be critics — it is part and parcel of freedom.

Friday, April 23, 1993

Why Christians oppose Scientology...

IT SEEMS to me that those who defend Scientology fall into two categories: first of all, there are the Scientologists themselves, who will naturally present the acceptable face of Scientology; and then there are others, who through your columns have

... and Scientologists avoid religious conflict

JEFFREY Jones' letter (April 16) missed the point. The real point is that the Church of Scientology does not oppose any other religion; on the contrary, it supports other religions.

The planet has suffered too much from religious conflict. Currently, it is sickened by the conflict between Serbs and Muslims. And so it has been down the centuries: Arabs versus Jews; Turks versus Greeks; Protestants versus Catholics; Atheists versus Christians.

The general results of such conflicts have been death, disaster and bruised masonry. Times have got to change; the world is too dangerous a place for such conflicts to continue.

This planet has long since gone down for the third time. Its military arsenal has had, for 40 years, enough nuclear bombs to fry every man, woman and child.

An outsider, looking in on planet Earth, would be justified in thinking that he was looking at a madhouse—a dozen wars raging at any one time in different parts; a planet where the seventh biggest industry was the drug industry; a place where dishonesty was rewarded and crime statistics

pleaded for tolerance and understanding. Taking the second of these, I would point out that Christians, in their condemnation of Scientology, do not hate Scientologists. We hate the evil which the cult enshrines rather than those who are involved with it.

were continuing to climb out of the roof, and a place where the governments of the world had accepted atheist philosophies (psychiatry and psychology) in the name of mental healing; and a place being polluted to such a degree that its survival over the next 100 years must be extremely doubtful.

War, insanity, sickness and starvation have been the lot of this planet, for as long as history has been recorded.

The key issues which have to be tackled to reverse the situation are: dealing with drug abuse, raising educational standards and raising moral standards. These are broad social programmes which are helpful to one and all.

The Church of Scientology has vigorously pursued these programmes over the last three to four decades. They attract and deserve the support of men of goodwill.

Its data is made freely available to others. It is time that religious groups worked together to reverse the downward spiral of planet Earth.

Markland Way
West Park
Uckfield

G.K. TURNEY

Many people are uninformed about Scientology and, whilst it might seem admirable to adopt a live and let live attitude, I think it would be downright un-Christian and irresponsible not to seek by whatever means to prevent others from becoming involved.

On the question of responsibility, may I echo the thoughts of many others in thankfulness for the far and fearless stance of the Courier in allowing all opinions to be expressed.

Beyond the opinions, however, we get to the realm of fact. There is a great deal of evidence to support the fact that Scientology is evil. In the process of trying to achieve total freedom, the

majority of recruits will become enslaved, often becoming physically and mentally ill.

They will be overworked and exploited, they will have been cut off from family and friends, they will get to a point where they no longer have any critical faculties, they will be powerless to make decisions. Is this total freedom? These are facts and this is why Christians will continue to speak out against Scientology.

The first category I mentioned—the Scientologists themselves—is made up of those who have survived.

They are the ones whose motivation is to be "on the bridge"; they are the true disciples of Ron

Hubbard, who incidentally said: "The aim of Scientology is to make money, make more money, and make more money make money".

Ron may be dead, but his teaching lives on, and will no doubt be promulgated by the new Dianetics Information Centre.

There is much more that could be said about Scientology. At the end of it all, people must make up their own minds, but let's make sure that they do know exactly what they are letting themselves in for.

Stephenson Drive
East Grinstead

BETTY HILL

Action needed on doubtful drugs

THERE has been a great deal of attention on the drug AZT, which is apparently not effective in treating AIDS. Yet another blunder, but this is not the first and won't be the last.

There are other drugs that should also be investigated. Prozac was introduced onto the market in 1988 and in America alone the Food and Drug Administration has received over 23,000 adverse drug reaction reports—more than any drug in the 22-year history of the FDA's adverse drug reporting system.

It has been found in many cases that this drug creates intense, violent, suicidal thoughts in persons taking it. In Scotland, Duncan Murchison, who has no prior history of violence, threatened to murder his girlfriend while on a mindless rampage precipitated by his use of Prozac.

During the six months he was on the drug, he became progressively more hostile and aggressive—symptoms which disappeared after he stopped taking Prozac. While on the drug he also attempted to commit suicide twice.

Another, more recent, case was that of a young woman who also experienced adverse reactions to this drug. She was suffering from an eating disorder and was prescribed Prozac. The result—violent outbursts towards her husband as well as allegedly committing armed robbery. (She was acquitted).

These are just two of many cases, and with these statistics

surely something should be done. The Citizens Commission on Human Rights is doing a great deal to expose this drug, but we are not the only ones concerned.

The Department of Health is also concerned and has included Prozac in its publication Current Problems, which reminds doctors to report adverse reaction to this drug.

Yes, there is a problem and we need to do something about it now.

(Mrs) NICOLA ROSS-ADAMS
Executive director
Citizens Commission on Human Rights (Established by the Church of Scientology)
East Grinstead