



Lee Riley

Cult has my son

A BRISBANE father fears he has lost a battle to wrench his son away from the religious cult of Scientology.

Stuart Riley yesterday said he was near the end of his tether after months of fighting the cult and trying to bring his son Lee, 27, back to Brisbane from the group's military-style HQ in Britain.

In London, he said that desperate talks with Lee over the past two weeks had broken down and he would return to Australia.

"Don't underestimate the paranoia of Scientology. They teach members that everyone is out to get the cult," he said.

However the Church of Scientology yesterday denied claims that it used mind control techniques to prevent members contacting family individuals hostile to the group.

Spokeswoman Virginia Kee in Sydney said there was a strong policy to encourage and maintain family contact.

She said Lee and his father should be left to work out their differences without interference from anti-cult groups.



EXCLUSIVE

**BRISBANE
MAN'S PLEA**
Pages 4,5

Heartbroken father Stuart Riley in London ... "Don't underestimate the paranoia of Scientology"

CULT TOOK MY SON FROM ME

Brisbane man 'brainwashed'

THE modest British town of East Grinstead is the unlikely setting for a Brisbane father's heartbreaking battle to wrench his son away from the mesmeric influence of one of the world's strangest religious cults.

As the inhabitants of the town, an hour's drive south of London, went about their unexceptional business this week, Stuart Riley was painstakingly trying to win back his son Lee.

Stuart Riley lost one son to a car crash four years ago. Now, he said, he fears he is losing another.

He is so angry at the prospect of losing Lee that he has given up the anonymity of a private family crisis to publicise his fears about Scientology.

He says his tactics have been forced on him by the military zeal with which the Scientology cult clings to its members.

Less than a minute after this journalist and a photographer arrived at the front gate to Scientology's European headquarters on the town's outskirts, black-paramilitary uniformed and menacing Scientology guards crawled out of the hedges and from behind fences.

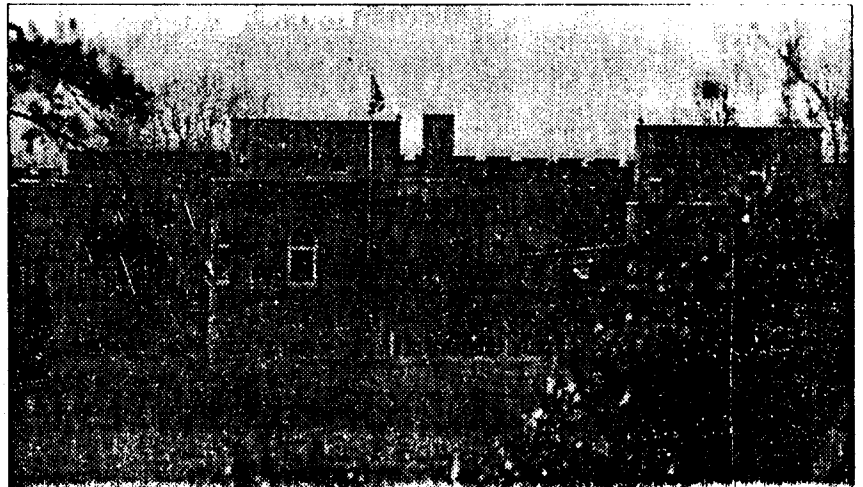
When their efforts at intimidation failed, four or five cars full of cult members, possibly their secretive "OAS" security officers, followed our vehicle in a cops-and-robbers chase through the quiet streets of East Grinstead.

"That is typical, I still have trouble coming to terms with this organisation and the way they treat any outsider as a threat," Mr Riley said.

Scientology preaches a bizarre litany of "personal development" and reincarnation preached by its founder, former American sailor and science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard. Hubbard, now dead, called his cocktail of science and spiritualism Dianetics, and claimed it cured him of war wounds, among many other wonders.

Stuart Riley is near the end of his tether after months of fighting the cult and trying to bring Lee, 27, back to Brisbane.

Lee came under the in-



The Scientology headquarters in East Grinstead, Britain, which Lee Riley attends

By MALCOLM HOLLAND
in London

fluence of the cult in Brisbane early in 1992 after he had gone through a period of personal doubt and difficulty, his father said.

Within a few months, Lee had walked away from the shop he and his brother, 25, were running. He came to Britain, but after difficulties living with the family of his girlfriend, by whom he has a baby boy, Lee had fallen totally into the grasp of Scientology.

"He borrowed money off his girlfriend, off me, and it went on Scientology... he wanted \$A3000 to become what they call a life member," Mr Riley said.

Mr Riley, 49, and his wife Jackie, 50, desperate to help their son, contacted anti cult groups in Australia, and began learning about Scientology, and the methods used to help people leave the cult.

But Mr Riley's biggest shock came not from reading about Scientology.

"Soon after, I found myself at a cult awareness meeting in Brisbane which I was covering as a professional capacity as a freelance photographer. I was on the phone to Lee in Britain and he

was really angry that I had been talking to certain people," Mr Riley said.

"But I had not told him and I firmly believe that I, or the meetings, were under surveillance by Scientologists in Australia who reported back to Britain.

“
Scientology is different. It has changed Lee out of all recognition, and it will not let go
”

"Don't underestimate the paranoia of Scientology. They teach members that everyone is out to get the cult, so they are water-proofed against criticism even by their closest friends or family."

After months of fruitless calls (\$850 was one quarter's phone bill) to his son, who was, Mr Riley said, acting increasingly erratically, he made the decision to come to Britain.

Through the groups that had been helping in Brisbane, Mr Riley was

greeted by a husband and wife "exit counsellor" team in East Grinstead.

Bonnie and Richard Woods devote most of their life to investigating Scientology.

Bonnie is well placed to talk of the cult. She was a senior member, in its Californian world headquarters, for eight years.

"You would have difficulty making up stuff stranger than Scientology. Its senior inner sanctum wear strange military-naval uniforms, it uses mind bending techniques, it has set up very sophisticated money-making businesses and it has perfected manipulation of its members," Bonnie said.

"They say they can make your dreams and ambitions come true, and they have all these small businesses, so, say in Lee's case, he wanted always to be in the music business. They have a small music business in Britain, so they could say to Lee, here you are, what you always wanted."

Mr Riley added: "But you look closer and their 'music business' is a bunch of members with a Yellow Pages doing telephone sales of the most crappy music you could imagine, and getting paid only about \$A30 a week to do it."

Outside the Woods' modest house, as Mr

January 16, 1994

CULT TOOK MY SON FROM ME

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Riley talked of his heartache, a car full of young men with short hair was positioned at either end of the street.

“No doubt it is them. I had hoped they had not found out where we live,” Bonnie said.

Mr Riley claims Lee has been “virtually brainwashed” by Scientology. “It is a devastating thing to admit, but I trust total strangers, like Bonnie, more than I trust my son now,” he said.

Since arriving in Britain late last year, Mr Riley has slowly been trying to engage his son's trust through countless telephone calls and meetings, never pushing, always just saying he is there just to help.

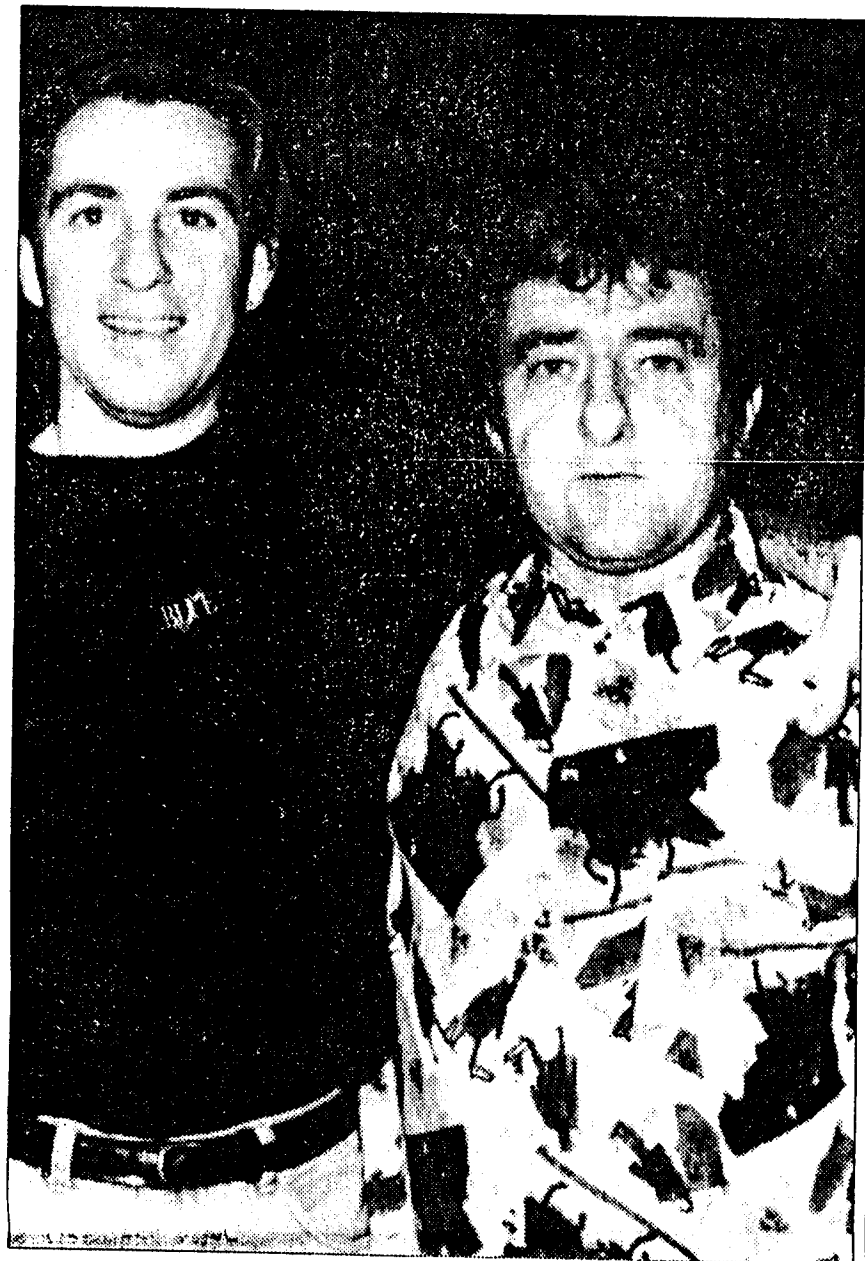
“But you get to a stage where you have to be tough, when your son is saying one thing and doing another,” he said.

And always behind the scenes, in the shadows, according to Mr Riley, have been Scientology members monitoring a father's painful process of reconciliation with a son.

“There always seems to be a Scientologist ‘just passing’ by who looks up Lee.

“We were in Manchester where we have family, hundreds of kilometres from East Grinstead, and I was with Lee and there at the front door is a Scientologist who says he was ‘just passing by’ and asking Lee to go out for a coffee with him. It's bloody infuriating,” Mr Riley said.

Efforts to ask about Lee were met with si-



Happier days . . . Stuart Riley and son Lee in Brisbane

lence when members of the cult discovered a local reporter, who has written several articles about Scientology, was also speaking with Mr Riley.

Leaning out the window of a cult car after another “chase”, an American cult member who had earlier promised an interview screamed: “If you are with him, forget that man, you can forget it.”

Mr Riley said he has so

far spent about \$A6000 trying to bring his son home.

“I have no religious convictions myself, and I am not biased against any type of faith, established or not, but Scientology is different. It has changed Lee out of all recognition, and it will not let go.”

On Friday, after again promising to meet his father, Lee angrily changed his mind, according to Mr Riley.

“There is nothing more that I can do, he seems to be totally disconnecting from anything that is not Scientology,” Mr Riley said.

“I told him I have a ticket for him to come back in my pocket, it is up to him.”

On Tuesday Mr Riley will fly home to Brisbane. Next to him, he now expects, will be an empty seat. A seat he hoped would have been occupied by his son.

The Sunday Mail



CITY FINAL

4

January 16, 1994

WEATHER Brisbane: Morning shower. Forecasts, Page 114.

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Father's letter pleads for a week's dialogue

Dear Lee,

You are my son and there will always be a place for you in my heart. I will always love you and do anything I can to help you.

Nearly four years ago, we lost your brother Adam. I am still not reconciled with my grief at this loss. Since you were recruited into Scientology, I have been losing you, too.

For some months, I have been finding out about Scientology. I have discovered that Scientology's founder was a pathological liar who made numerous spurious claims about his life. He was not in fact a war hero, an explorer, a student of Asian mystics or a nuclear physicist. Nor did he cure himself of war wounds with the discovery of Dianetics. Factually, Hubbard was a drug addict and a black magician with no concern for anyone but himself. I found that there are no published studies to back up Hubbard's supposedly "scientific" discoveries. I also found that Hubbard had created an ultraloyal paramilitary organi-

sation, members of which were willing to commit criminal acts on his behalf. I could write pages on the information I've seen, but the most worrying aspect of my investigation is the discovery that thousands of lives have been destroyed by Hubbard's monstrous organisation.

Despite your belief that Scientology has helped you, the only evidence I see is of financial and social devastation. Since becoming involved in Scientology you have abandoned responsibilities and become callous towards your family and friends. You have become fanatical and unwilling to even consider evidence that you have been misled. You seem to be under the control of Scientology.

Letters from the Brisbane Scientology Organisation show that before leaving Australia your life was already controlled. I arranged to come to England in December, believing that whatever grip Scientology had on you could be released by our love for one another. A few hours before I flew another, you phoned to say that I had been to a Cult Aware meeting in Brisbane, and had met Jon Attack. I

was shocked to realise that I had been under Scientology surveillance, and even more shocked that you didn't care about this invasion of privacy. While I was on my way, your Mum was subjected to an interrogation over the phone by a Scientologist, who asserted that your safety was at risk. I was outraged that a complete stranger should assert that I would hurt you in any way. Again, you seemed without feeling.

Once I arrived, it was clear that you were checking in to Scientology, even to the point of a Scientologist arriving on the doorstep in Manchester.

I spent two weeks talking with you, and visited Saint Hill several times and the Manchester organisation once. I was alarmed by what I saw, but most alarmed that you saw nothing wrong.

It was obvious that you were phobic about any information which showed Scientology in a bad light. You were determined to hang on to Scientology no matter what. This desperate reaction is frightening.

As I had given two weeks to meeting Scientologists and consid-

ering the Scientology point of view, it seemed fair that you should spend some time considering documentary evidence of Hubbard's numerous lies and crimes, and meet with experts in a friendly environment. After considerable persuasion, you watched a 25-minute video. You were unconcerned that this video showed that we had been lied to at Saint Hill where we were told that Hubbard had only given one television interview. The harassment practices endorsed by Hubbard, and his obvious lies to camera made no impression on you. Having said that you would like to say something to Jon Attack, you went into a paranoid reaction when you were offered the opportunity. It was as if you believed Attack had some weird supernatural power which Scientology cannot resist.

You promised not to call Scientology, but broke your word almost immediately. A squad from the Office of Special Affairs (OSA) arrived to take you from the hotel. The next day, you refused to even look at documents I had brought, even though these were largely documents written by Hub-

bard, and photocopies were offered to you. Later that day, you became extremely interested in seeing the documents, presumably with instructions from OSA.

On Monday, I went through documents which prove without doubt that Hubbard lied about his war wounds, had Scientologists thrown overboard from his ship, initiated harassment campaigns year in, year out, against critics. I showed you that Scientology lies about membership figures, and Hubbard's admission that the techniques you have been subjected to are hypnotic. Hubbard's orders clearly state that opponents of Scientology can be murdered by Scientologists without penalty. None of this had any effect. You said that you are committed to Scientology no matter what — beyond reason and beyond hope.

It is obvious that Scientology has manipulated your desperation. Since joining you have borrowed heavily and messed up your relationship with your girlfriend and your infant son. You have also antagonised friends and family alike with your unreasoning obsession. Scientology has given you a

refuge in world-avoiding euphoria and placed you under hypnotic command.

My request is that we take a week together, with no one else present and no contact with Scientology. During that week we should review the evidence against Scientology. If having considered the evidence you decide to continue with Scientology, I shall not interfere. While you remain impervious to evidence I will do everything possible to expose Scientology.

If I do not have your written agreement to spend a week with me reviewing the evidence, without contacting Scientology, within 24 hours, I shall send this letter to the media.

I have already lost one beloved son. I understand that if I oppose Scientology, you will be forced to cease communicating with me (to "disconnect"), but I will never give up on you. I love you and will always be your friend. With love,

Stuart Riley

It's a lie says sect

CHURCH of Scientology's public relations director in Sydney, Virginia Kee, yesterday said Lee Riley had filed a complaint with police in East Grinstead against a deprogrammer who had been working with his father.

She said Lee had spent time with his father in England. But on one occasion, when he went to meet his father, a known deprogrammer, Jon Atak, had been waiting to deprogram him. The complaint against Jon Atak had been filed after that incident.

Ms Kee said other people were trying to break up the relationship between the father and son, and there wasn't a problem until Mr Riley met Jon Atak.

"We don't want to blow up this thing between a father and a son. We want them to get back together," Ms Kee said.

She denied claims that the Church of Scientology used mind control or brainwashed people.

She said Prof Ross of the Flinders University psychiatry department had said that a study showed that Scientologists, as a result of their studies, had a raised IQ, were brighter and more able to control their lives.

She also described as "ludicrous" claims about people dressed in paramilitary uniforms at Scientology's Saint Hill estate in England.

She said any security guards were simply to maintain the property and premises.

Church of the stars

SCIENTOLOGY is the religion of the stars. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, Priscilla and Lisa Marie Presley, John Travolta, Kirstie Alley, Sonny Bono and Sylvester Stallone are all members of the controversial church.

In the United States, Scientology is enjoying a revival among laid back Californians who accept the teachings of the late Lafayette Ron Hubbard, while in Australia there are believed to be as many as 200,000 members.

Cruise has said Scientology provided the method by which he could escape the glibness he saw around him and reach "total comprehension". He was introduced to it by ex wife Mimi Rogers and, in turn, made Kidman a believer.

Hubbard founded the religion in 1950.

Uni students get a warning

NEW university students may be about to be targeted by cults operating on campuses, parents and former members of a religious group have warned.

Tony, a former member of the Brisbane Church of Christ, said the group would be vigorously recruiting on campuses.

And Mrs Coral Carmichael, who campaigned last year against the group at the University of Queensland, said she believed it would be targeting new students looking for accommodation.

Bid to rescue teenager

BRISBANE private investigator Keith Schafferius is about to go to Europe to try to bring home a Queensland teenager said to be involved in a religious cult.

Mr Schafferius has been hired by the girl's mother, who has not seen her daughter for three years.

He said the girl, 14, had been taken overseas for a holiday by her father, to visit relatives, and had never returned.

NEWSFRONT

Sunday Herald Sun, January 16, 1994

A religious cult has stolen an Australian man's son. MALCOLM HOLLAND in London visited its headquarters and spoke to a father at war with the sect

Battle to win back a son

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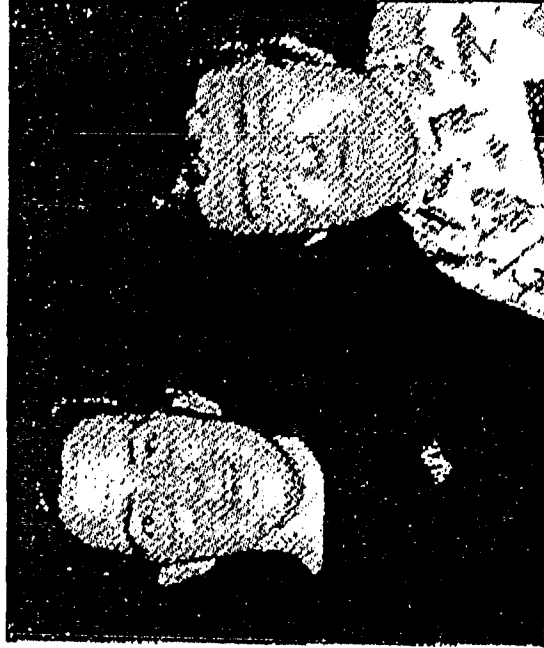
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Lee came under its influence in early 1992 in Brisbane after he had gone through a period of personal doubt and difficulty, his father said.

Within a few months, Lee had walked away from the shop he and his brother were running.

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Hoping for trust: Stuart Riley with Lee.

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ogy. Its senior inner sanctum wear strange military-naval uniforms, it uses mind-bending techniques. It has set up very sophisticated money-making businesses and it has perfected manipulation of its members," she said.

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Since arriving in Britain late last year, Mr Riley has slowly been trying to engage his son's trust, through countless telephone calls and meetings, never pushing, always saying he is there just to help.

And always behind the scenes, in the shadows, according to Mr Riley, have been scientology members monitoring the painful process of reconciliation.

"There always seems to be a scientologist 'just passing' by who looks up Lee," he said.

"We were in Manchester where we have family, hundreds of kilometres from East Grinstead, and I was with Lee and there at the front door is a scientologist who says he was 'just passing by' and asking Lee to go out for a coffee with him. It's bloody infuriating."

On Friday, after again promising to meet his father, Lee angrily changed to his mind, for, according to Mr Riley, no real reason.

On Tuesday Mr Riley will fly home to Brisbane. Next to him, he now expects, will be an empty seat. A seat he hoped would have been occupied by his son.

East Grinstead Courier

Friday, January 21, 1994

Father fails in plea to cult member son

A FATHER flew home heartbroken to Australia this week after a failed attempt to reunite his family. The man's son is a member of the Church of Scientology.

Photographer Stuart Riley, 48, left on Tuesday after travelling 12,000 miles to see his son.

"Lee knows I love him and will do everything I can for him. No organisation can come between us," said Mr Riley.

"All I want him to do is look at all the information on Scientology. He can't say I haven't done my best for him."

Not only did his son decline to study the data. He also lodged an official police complaint against two people



Stuart Riley Photo number 69010/4a

who were with his father and whom he claimed could attempt to brainwash him. Mr Riley had contacted local anti-Scientology campaigners to seek their help.

The Rileys left Britain for Australia in 1973. But later tragedy struck when Lee's brother Adam was killed in a car accident aged 18. "It devastated the family," Mr Riley said.

By David Thompson

The family then took a holiday in England in 1991. Lee, 27, stayed on and met his future wife Kate English, 23. It was then, his father claims, that Lee joined the Scientology cult.

The newly-married couple returned to Australia and lived with Mr Riley and his wife Jackie in Melbourne. Lee, who trained as a nurse, bought a home with a loan from his father and worked in the family fast food business.

At the same time, Mr Riley said he became worried when his son began running up debts and "spending quite a bit of money".

He blames the Scientologists in Australia for his son's money worries, saying: "It was quite stressful." The organisation told Lee to sell his home, Mr Riley says, and claims he has documents to prove it.

The house was sold and the couple moved back to Manchester, where Kate's parents lived, and where Lee had relatives nearby.

Lee, who now lives apart from his family in East Grinstead, works for ARC Music based in the town. His wife and 15-month-old son Jake still live in Manchester. Mr Riley contacted his son to build bridges and "review the evidence against Scientology," but said Lee did not want to see documents about the organisation.

Mr Riley said: "He still hasn't looked at all the information on Scientology."

In a heart-felt letter this week to Lee he said: "You antagonised friends and family alike with your unreasoning obsession ... but I love you and will always be your friend."

Lee Riley told the Courier he will visit his mother and father soon and said: "It was great to see my dad." He added: "It was a nice holiday. When dad went home I did what I always do when we leave each other — gave him a hug."

Scientology spokesman Sheila Chal-eff said: "We've been trying to give them a quiet time together. The plan is for Lee to go home quite soon and sort things out."

East Grinstead Courier

Friday, January 21, 1994

'Perverted' teacher gets five years

A PERVERTED teacher has been given a five-year jail sentence after admitting sexually molesting a string of schoolboys.

Mark Kent, 32, of Lewes Road, Forest Row, committed a catalogue of sexual offences against boys at Greenfield School, Forest Row, where he worked.

Sentencing him Judge John Gower QC said: "The boys and parents put their trust in you. You betrayed it for gratification of your own perverted lust."

Howe Crown Court heard how Kent admitted molesting six boys over a period of years.

Kent, a single man, had a videotape which showed the school fete, interspersed with him in sex acts with boys and covert filming of naked boys showering.

He admitted six charges of indecent assault and one charge of taking an indecent

video. He asked for two similar charges to be taken into consideration.

Richard Cherrill, defending, said: "This is a very sad and anxious case. Mark had been teaching at the school for about 10 years. Nothing untoward occurred for the first five or so years.

"The boys were his life. He spent money on them and that was not to corrupt them. The boys loved and trusted him. He is thoroughly remorseful. The boys are still very fond of him."

Kent was now engaged to Inga Naurus, whom he had met before being arrested. She told the court: "There is no chance of anything like this happening again."

Miss Naurus, of Benchwood Close, East Grinstead, added: "I visit him in prison regularly and he is feeling very guilty."

"We want to get married and have lots of children."