

by Richard Palmer

POLICE are investigating complaints that private investigators employed by the Church of Scientology, the cult created by L Ron Hubbard, have intimidated witnesses and plaintiffs in forthcoming court cases.

The cult, which claims to have 300,000 members in Britain and 8m worldwide, has attempted to undermine its critics after coming under severe financial pressure in this country. It is anxious to protect its funds, which are set to be drained further by a series of expensive civil actions brought by former members.

Some of them are seeking damages or the return of thousands of pounds from the cult, which uses controversial techniques to recruit people.

The cult's response has been to target those taking legal action and others who are helping them, accusing them of conducting a vendetta against their religion. Last week police in East Grinstead, West Sussex, sent a file to the Crown Prosecution Service after incidents during six days of demonstrations by scientologists outside the house of one witness, Jon Atack.

Atack, a former scientologist, has devoted the last 10 years to helping victims of the cult, which was branded corrupt, sinister, dangerous and immoral by a British judge in 1984. At present he is acting as an expert witness in 80 cases, including libel actions and criminal conspiracy cases.

Atack, who claims that at least 80 scientologists have committed suicide, knows more about the cult than most people, but he was not prepared for the ferocity of the onslaught of the past few weeks.

In an attempt to discredit him, scientology representatives distributed defamatory leaflets to his neighbours, accused him of being a drug dealer and told members of his family that he was going to prison.

He has also learned that someone has obtained confidential details of his bank statements. "I am frankly in fear of my life and I am frightened for my children," he said. "This has ruined my health and left me with very little money for 10 years now, but I am determined I will fight them to the death."

He is not the only victim. Sussex police are investigating complaints from Beverley Ryall, a solicitor in Chichester representing several former scientologists who are trying to retrieve subscriptions. She was woken at home at 12.15am two weeks ago by two unidentified officials from the cult's Bournemouth organisation who falsely accused her of possessing stolen documents. "These are intimidation tactics. They just want to make me feel bad about criticising them and representing former members," she said.

Gary Fry, 26, from Blandford, Dorset, was also visited. He left scientology two years ago and has helped others wanting to leave the cult's Bournemouth mission since he won back the £22,000

he paid out in fees over a two-month period. Martin Francis, from Bristol, who left only a few weeks ago, was also harassed.

Much of the harassment has been carried out by Eugene Ingram, an American private detective flown in from Los Angeles by the cult's head office in the United States, to target Atack and others involved in legal actions against the cult. Ingram, according to statements given under oath by a key witness in an American court case, has boasted of "turning" a Los Angeles judge by setting him up with a prostitute and videotaping them having sex. Garry Scarff, a former member of the cult's paramilitary Office of Special Affairs, has testified that Ingram was also involved in a conspiracy to murder an opponent of scientology. The allegations are the subject of American police inquiries.

In 1987, Ingram was involved in a scientology campaign to try to discredit and prevent publication of an unflattering biography of Hubbard, a science fiction writer, by Russell Miller, a Sunday



Atack: targeted by church

Times journalist. Miller was harassed for months and an attempt was made to frame him for murder.

Last week Ingram said he was investigating Atack as part of a criminal inquiry. One interviewee was even led to believe that Ingram was an FBI agent. "I am astonished that the police cannot protect a British subject from such an undesirable alien," said Atack.

When he was finally traced to a hotel in East Grinstead, Ingram was characteristically hostile: he even complained about being telephoned at his hotel. "I have never done anything illegal," he said. "I don't intimidate. I cannot discuss the nature of my business in this country, which is confidential to the client."

The complaints about the behaviour of scientology representatives have followed a series of financial and legal setbacks for the cult. In the last few weeks, it has been forced to pull out of two high-profile court cases and lost a third in the United States, where a court ordered it to pay \$2.5m damages to a former member who complained of false imprisonment and alleged that scientology had ruined his business and his mental health.

However, Sheila Chaleff, the cult's spokeswoman, insisted it was scientologists who were being harassed: "Enough is enough. They just want the freedom to be able to practise their religion in peace," she said.

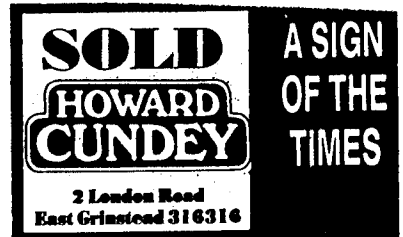


THE SUNDAY TIMES

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Cult accused of intimidation

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CULT MAN'S PALTRY POCKET MONEY

CLAIM

A SOLICITOR defending a member of the cult Church of Scientology told Mid Sussex Magistrates his client received only £25 a week "pocket money".

Russell Owen, 29, of Stonelands, West Hoathly, admitted driving charges of having no insurance and no test certificate, after being stopped by police in September last year.

Jim Hinchliffe, defending, said Owen had been insured and had his car tested, but he could not now trace a friend of his who had the documents, and so must plead guilty.

£25 a week

Mr Hinchliffe said his client was a member of the Church of Scientology, and paid all his money to the controversial cult.

"He is given some £25

a week pocket money to spend as he pleases," said Mr Hinchliffe.

Owen was convicted of having no insurance or test certificate at an earlier hearing, but the court heard he had not received the summons.

Stipendiary Magistrate Paul Tain fined Owen £120 and put six penalty points on his licence for having no insurance, fined him £30 for having no test certificate, and ordered he pay £25 court costs.

WORLD EXCLUSIVE

Tom's bizarre cult scream-in



A FEW GOOD DOLLARS: Well, several million actually. Heart-throb Cruise is one of Hollywood's top earners

TOM Cruise was born Thomas Cruise Mapother III in New York in 1961. His family - originally from Louisville, Kentucky - spent the first 12 years of his life regularly moving around the states.

But his parents split up and Tom and his three sisters went to start a new life with their mother and her new husband.

Cruise fell into acting by accident. A keen sportsman, he was injured in a high school wrestling match and decided to audition for the school play while he was recovering...from that moment he was hooked.

At 19, he moved to the

bright lights of New York, shortened his name to Tom Cruise and landed a bit part opposite Brooke Shields in a weepy entitled *Endless Love* in 1981.

Less than a year later, ambitious Cruise landed a leading role in the tough army drama *TAPS*.

His big break came in the hit movie *Risky Busi-*

ness, where he starred alongside Rebecca de Mornay.

The role moved him into the million dollar league and also saw him move in with his co-star.

The relationship broke up because of "career clashes".

Then came the worldwide smash *Top Gun* in 1987. And he same year

he married lifelong scientist Mimi Rogers, a sexy older woman who introduced Cruise to the weird cult.

They split up after less than three years and Rogers later complained that Cruise was celebrate for much of the marriage.

Cruise then met and fell in love with Australian actress Nicole Kidman on the set of *Days of Thunder*. The couple married a few months later in Christmas, 1990.

Cruise is now one of the biggest names in Hollywood. His box office hits include *Colour of Money*, *A Few Good Men*, *The Firm* and *Far Away*.

The Firm believer

They planted a flower meadow for Tom and Nicole to romp in — only to have it dug up again..

T RISES like a mirage from the desert — a bizarre ship with an even stranger crew.

This is the base camp of the controversial Scientology cult — an oasis in the Californian desert where Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise is said to have lived in luxury as guest of sect leader David Miscavige.

The 32-year-old Oscar-winner is alleged to have spent many hours alone there with Miscavige — a mysterious figure who is said to rule the Scientologists with a rod of iron.

The building at Gilman Hot Springs is shaped like a 19th-century sailing clipper and dominates the camp, called Gold, where 750 members of the mind-bending cult live and work.

Now a sworn statement by a former senior Scientologist has painted a vivid picture of the stark gulf between the lifestyles of visiting celebrity guests such as Cruise and the spartan life of toil led by the camp's regular inmates.

The revelations come in a deposition recently made to Los Angeles lawyers by Andre Tabayoyon, a Scientologist for 21 years until less than a year ago.

In it, Tabayoyon, 47, a former head of security for the Scientologists, says Miscavige befriended Cruise in the late Eighties, and they spent many hours on board the Clipper Ship, which has a kitchen, dining-room and bar.

Miscavige guarded Cruise's privacy obsessively and was so keen to keep him happy that he authorised the spending of tens of thousands of dollars on tearing down and rebuilding a new addition to Cruise's luxurious base apartment after the couple disliked the finished colour scheme.

IN ANOTHER big waste of money, Miscavige had an entire meadow planted with flowers so that Cruise and his Australian actress wife Nicole Kidman could "romp" there.

But the result was so awful that Miscavige had it ploughed up.

Few ordinary cult members are allowed to share the Clipper Ship's privileges. It is strictly off-limits to all but the likes of Cruise and the other select celebrity guests — among them John Travolta, Kirstie Alley, jazzman Chick Corea and Priscilla Presley — who have been attracted by the weird sect started in 1954 by American L Ron Hubbard.

When the stars go there, they enjoy an amazing five-star luxury lifestyle in the desert.

Many have had their own apartment cot-

tages built, and they use their own dining-room and cocktail bar — it's called Camelot and features a huge round table meant to look like the mythical table of King Arthur.

Tabayoyon claims that Miscavige used his Hollywood connections to supply brand-new movie releases for viewing in the camp's plush £100,000 cinema.

There are also a fully-equipped film studio, a well-maintained nine-hole golf course, a tennis court and a man-made lake complete with yacht.

Cruise had almost exclusive use of a gym, a sauna and an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

He was given a personal chef when he came visiting, and there was a specially-built

concrete walkway to his apartment so that he did not get his feet dirty.

In a garage once used by Ron Hubbard, Cruise parked two motorcycles, a Mercedes and a large motor home.

Tabayoyon alleges that money used to keep Cruise and other stars in luxury came from funds donated to the church of Scientology.

THE CONTRAST between their cosseted existence and the life of the ordinary cult members is stark.

Just a few hundred yards away from the pampered visitors, dozens of ordinary Scientologists work in fields and vegetable gardens. They live on a

small weekly allowance and wear a "uniform" of tatty blue shirts and trousers. Many rarely venture out in the nearby towns and have to apply for special permission to leave the camp — which is surrounded by metal fencing, video monitors and radar sensors.

They are not allowed to speak to Cruise or



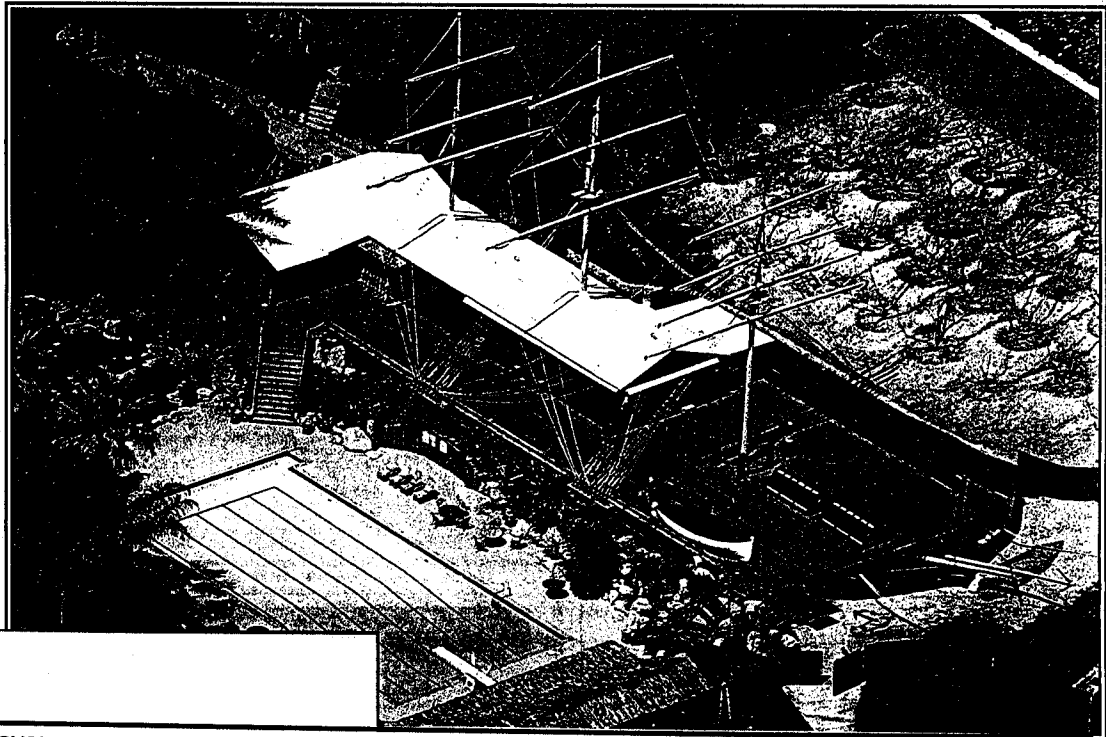
MYSTERY MAN: Controversial cult leader David Miscavige

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Mirror**

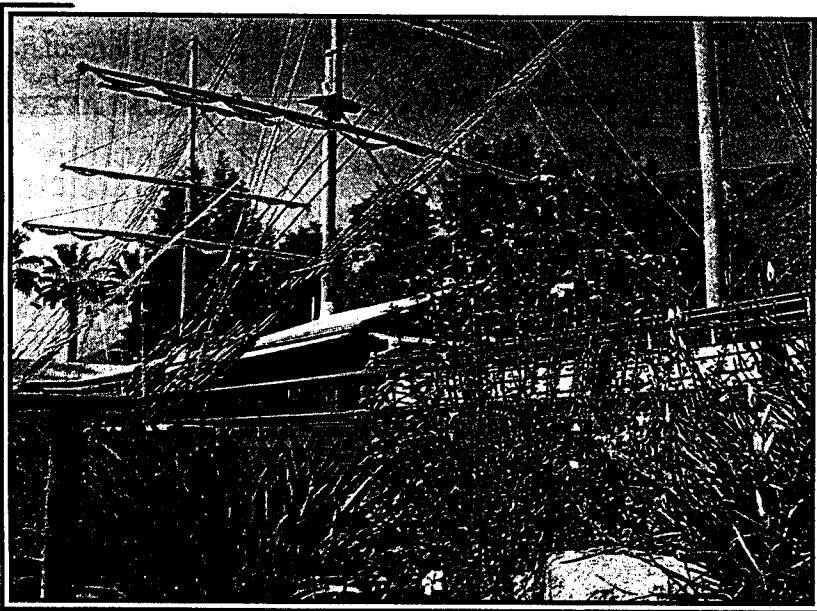
INVESTIGATION

By GREG SINCLAIR

HOLLYWOOD STAR AND THE WEIRD WORLD OF SCIENTOLOGY



CLIPPER CLUB: The desert hideaway where Hollywood stars can play and live a five-star life of luxury



DESERT OASIS: Ordinary cult members toil to keep the camp green

other visiting stars and toil for at least 10 hours a day gardening and maintaining the immaculate grounds.

Thanks to their labours, the camp looks like an oasis in the middle of a desert where temperatures regularly hit 100 degrees F.

THESE ordinary members, says Tabayoyon, were referred to as the Rehabilitation Project Force and virtually used as slave labour.

The workers helped to build Cruise's apartment and repair it

after a mud slide — for a miserable wage of £20 a week.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars has been spent on underground walkways built so that they can cross the main road splitting the base in two without leaving the camp.

According to Tabayoyon, Miscavige ordered the detention of some disaffected members, including one woman he was involved in a power struggle with.

Others were held in punishment camp because they, too, had

upset the cult's hierarchy.

Miscavige — who walks around the base in a naval captain's uniform complete with ribbons — personally beat up a man who tried to escape from the base, alleges Tabayoyon.

CRUISE was persuaded to reveal his innermost feelings in what the cult calls an "audit". He passed it with flying colours, enabling him to get through to the next stage of the sect's hierarchy.

He also took part in bizarre, screaming interrogation sessions with other members as part of the same "training" system.

Tabayoyon also says the actor took part in a "Life orientation course" based on the controversial beliefs of Hubbard — who claimed that aliens invaded the earth thousands of years ago and were

responsible for the current state of mankind.

A specially-appointed "auditor" interviewed Cruise to see if he could pass the test. It is a weird and wacky routine, as Tabayoyon explained.

The aim is to return the person to the state they were in 75 million years before the "aliens" invaded.

For Cruise to have passed this test he would have had to act out "psychosis and general madness", says Tabayoyon, a tough ex-Marine.

"Miscavige and Cruise have developed a special relationship," says his sworn statement.

"One is a world-dominating celebrity.

The other is a young, domineering cult leader who seeks to 'clear' the world and to rule it according to Scientology beliefs and practices."

INVESTIGATION

‘Corrupt and dangerous’

FOUNDED in America in 1954 by science fiction writer L Ron Hubbard, the Church of Scientology openly capitalises on its superstar disciples.

Famous names are used to woo the gullible into the sect.

Hubbard died in 1986, at the age of 75, but thanks to the generosity of its members, the cult is still one of the richest religious movements in the world with a billion-pound global property portfolio.

It claims to have more than eight million members worldwide, including 300,000 in the UK, but established churches say the figure is a “gross exaggeration”.

It has a base in East Grinstead, East Sussex – the sect’s training centre and European nerve centre.

A British judge described the mind-bending religious movement



FOUNDER: Hubbard as “obnoxious, corrupt and dangerous”.

In the 1970s a number of Scientologists – including Hubbard’s wife – were arrested after attacks on people who opposed the cult.

The church rejects the orthodox Christian doctrine as told in the Bible. Members believe man is his own saviour and are banned from going to Protestant or Catholic churches.