

Los Angeles Times

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Church Seeks to Rename Street After Hubbard

■ **Hollywood:** City Council committee supports Scientologists' effort to change Berendo Street to honor its controversial founder.

By DUKE HELFAND
and JODI WILGOREN
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

What's in a name, anyway?

To some neighbors, Berendo Street in Hollywood is about as good an address as any.

But to leaders of the Church of Scientology that is located there, "L. Ron Hubbard Way" is much better.

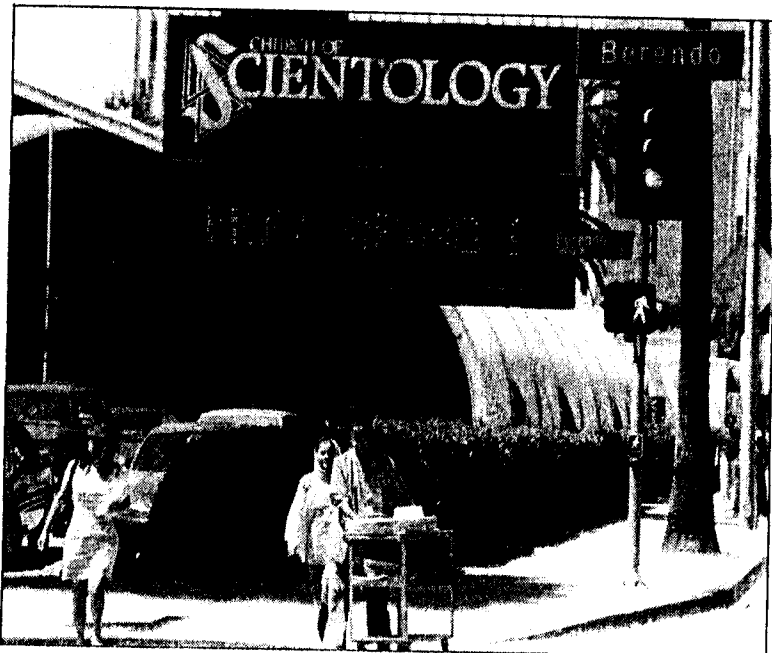
In honor of their charismatic founder—a man adherents call "one of the greatest visionaries of the 20th century" and critics call a fraud—the church has quietly sought a name change from the city of Los Angeles.

Just this week the church won an initial endorsement at City Hall, a move supported by the city councilman who represents the area but opposed by critics who see the controversial church stretching its wings a bit too wide.

"People live on the street and if they don't want to be associated with the Church of Scientology, they shouldn't have to live on L. Ron Hubbard Way," said Carla Robinson, a neighbor who successfully fought a similar effort by the church two years ago to name a nearby street after its leader. "I don't think it's appropriate."

But believers say that opponents miss the point.

"I think it's a fabulous idea," said Patricia Castelli, who manages a boardinghouse for church students



RICK MEYER / Los Angeles Times

The Church of Scientology wants to rename Berendo Street in Hollywood, where many adherents live, to "L. Ron Hubbard Way."

across the street from the complex of blue buildings. "He should be remembered for all that he's done to help people. He's given everybody a road to freedom."

Scientology has weathered controversy practically since its inception in 1954.

Critics accuse the church of being a high-pressure business masquerading as a religion. Yet the church has no shortage of celebrity defenders, including Tom Cruise, Priscilla Presley and John Travolta.

The name change sailed through the City Council's Public Works Committee with barely a wink Wednesday despite a report by a city engineer that said it violates a city policy that recommends against changing the names of portions of streets.

The committee's chairman, Councilman Richard Alarcon, said he gave the matter little thought, approving the name change as a routine item partly because Council President John Ferraro, who represents the area, has endorsed the idea.

A spokeswoman for Ferraro said the councilman favored the change because of the broad support in the immediate neighborhood, which is home to many church members. After receiving the church's petition, the city distributed notices of the proposed name change to

neighborhood residents. Of 192 letters received in response, 183 supported the change, only nine opposed it. The proposal will go before the City Council in about two weeks.

News of the name change began to circulate through the church grounds Thursday. Members cheered and said the honor was long overdue.

"He did so much for the city. I have seen many miracles—getting people off drugs, cleaning up neighborhoods," Marcello Segal, 38, said of Hubbard, who died in 1986.

Still, longtime Scientology critics such as Priscilla Coates see it differently. "Hubbard certainly wasn't any Martin Luther King," Coates said. "Everything that he said and wrote and spoke is considered sacred scripture. I consider it unintelligible."

Some businesses in the vicinity said they did not mind the change. They said that the church's presence has helped clean up a community that otherwise would have been overrun by graffiti and crime. And its thousands of adherents shop in local stores.

"We survive on the church," said Flint Hutchinson, a clerk at a convenience store. "It's a good little economy source. So if they want to make that slight change, why stop them?"

Germany finds Scientology to have menacing mission

■ Lawmakers are looking at barring its members from teaching, police work, other government jobs.

By Barbara Demick
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

HAMBURG, Germany — As the politicians see it, Germany is being threatened by an evil plot to infiltrate business and government.

"A giant octopus . . . that will stop at nothing in its desire to spread its blind ideology" is how Labor Secretary Norbert Blum has described the plot against Germany.

Claudia Nolte, another member of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Cabinet, warns, "They aim at world domination and the destruction of our society."

What's engendering all the panic? Communists? Neo-Nazis?

No. It's the Scientologists who are the bugaboo of the moment in Germany.

Not even going to the movies is safe, some Germans warn. On Aug. 8, the opening of *Mission: Impossible* prompted a protest by the youth wing of Kohl's Christian Democratic Party, angry about actor Tom Cruise's membership in the Scientology Church.

"Stop Scientology. Save our Democracy" read pamphlets that protesters handed out to moviegoers in Berlin and other cities.

The Church of Scientology, based in Los Angeles, certainly draws its share of criticism at home, but nothing remotely resembling the near-hysteria that is sweeping Germany.

On television and radio talk shows, and in newspaper editorials, politicians and pundits talk about the menace of Scientology. In city halls and regional parliaments, legislators are weighing drastic measures, such as barring Scientologists from teaching, police and other government jobs.

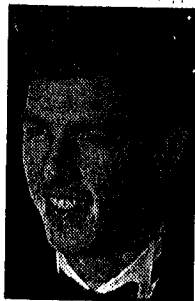
Staunchly conservative Bavaria forged the way Aug. 8, when it became the first German state to require civil servants to sign sworn declarations that they are not Scientologists.

The result is a no-holds-barred religious war between Germany and the church.

Church's counterattack

For their part, Scientologists are mounting a well-financed counter-attack against the Germans.

Since last September, they have



Tom Cruise's Scientology membership drew protests at the opening of his *Mission: Impossible* film.

spent nearly \$1 million on full-page newspaper advertisements in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* comparing their treatment to the persecution of Jews and Jehovah's Witnesses in Adolf Hitler's Germany.

"Helmut Kohl has a duty to stop the hate crimes being perpetrated by his party and his government underlings. He needs to be reminded this is 1996, and not 1936," the Rev. Heber Jentzsch, the Church of Scientology's president, complained recently.

The Scientologists' public relations staff has compiled newspaper clippings dating to the 1930s to counterattack the Germans.

One 1989 story about Scientologists has the same headline as a 1936 article from the anti-Semitic *Die Stuermer*: "Their God Is Money."

Founded by sci-fi writer

Scientology was founded in the 1950s by L. Ron Hubbard, a prolific writer of science fiction and inspirational self-help books. The church now claims 8 million members in 107 countries and does a thriving trade in books, tapes, videos and seminars that promise professional and personal success through spiritual training.

Although it often has been accused of exploiting members and harassing critics — and of outright quackery — Scientology has gained a patina of respectability in the United States with its stable of Hollywood celebrities. They include John Travolta, Kirstie Alley and Lisa Marie Presley as well as Nicole Kidman, Cruise's wife.

In 1993, the Scientologists won a decadeslong dispute with the Internal Revenue Service to be recognized for tax purposes as a legitimate church.

But not in Germany. Here, Scientology is deemed by law to be a business, and by consensus to be a cult — a most insidious one that brainwashes its members into antisocial behavior.

Germany takes cults far more seriously than the United States and devotes considerable resources to fighting them.

In Hamburg, where the Scientologists have their German headquarters, the city set up a full-time task force in 1992 with the sole mission of investigating Scientologists. Its four employees work behind a sheath of bulletproof glass in a well-guarded office building.

"Before I got involved in this project, I used to have the U.S. perspective on all this. I thought, 'Well, if you are stupid enough to believe in Scientology, that's your problem,'" said Ursula Caberta, director of the task force. "But now I truly believe if you analyze Hubbard and his writing, you will see that he is promoting the idea of a totalitarian state and of the *Urbemensch* — the superman — except that instead of talking about Aryans like Hitler, he is talking about Scientologists."

"Because of our history in Germany, we have to be much more careful about this kind of thing spreading," Caberta added.

Critics allege that Scientologists have infiltrated key industries, particularly computers and publishing, and especially real estate. In Hamburg, they say, there have been disputes between Scientologist landlords and renters.

Uneasy history

The Scientologists have operated uneasily in Germany since the 1970s and now claim 30,000 members in the country.

Tensions with authorities have flared periodically through the years. The Christian Democrats have barred Scientologists from joining, as have most of Germany's major political parties.

Well before the Tom Cruise controversy, American jazz pianist Chick Corea had to cancel some concerts in Germany because of his affiliation with Scientology.

Some politicians in Germany have suggested an outright ban on Scientology — such as exists against neo-Nazi and terrorist organizations. But law enforcement authorities say there is not enough evidence that there is really anything criminal going on.

"We haven't been able to prove that Scientology asks its members to commit crimes. Sure, we've arrested individual members who are criminals, just like we've arrested individual Catholics or anybody else," said Hartmut Wulf, the chief prosecutor in Hamburg. "About all I can say about Scientology is that I'm glad my kids aren't members, but as far as criminal law goes, we don't have anything against them."

The New York Times

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Printed

C2 2

Behind an Internet Message Service's Close Pressure From Church of Scientology Is Blamed for the Shutdown

By PETER H. LEWIS

Pressure from the Church of Scientology International was at least partly responsible for the recent shutdown of a well-known Internet messaging service based in Helsinki, according to the Finnish operator of the service.

The service, known by its Internet address, anon.penet.fi, was used by hundreds of thousands of people worldwide to send and receive electronic messages without divulging their true identities. It was the best known of a small, global network of special computers known as remailers, whose legitimate users include political dissidents, people with medical or drug ailments and others who want to communicate anonymously.

Although previous news accounts had reported that the service was shut down because of accusations that it was a primary conduit for child pornography transmitted on the Internet, police investigators in Helsinki dismissed those accusations as groundless.

The real reason for terminating the service, according to its founder and operator, Johan Helsingius, was a recent Helsinki court ruling that ordered him to reveal the true name of one of his system's users to the Church of Scientology. The judge held that under Finland's current telecommunications laws, Internet electronic mail does not carry the same privacy protections enjoyed by postal mail or telephone calls.

The church, which in recent years has been trying to protect its copyrighted scriptures by trying to block their dissemination over computer networks, said an unknown person or persons had used the anon.penet.fi computer to illegally publish copyrighted church documents on Usenet, the global electronic bulletin board.

Mr. Helsingius, a 35-year-old computer networking expert, has not yet revealed the name sought by the Scientologists, and said he planned to appeal the court ruling. But he said the court ruling opened the door for future subpoenas seeking the real

names of anon.penet.fi users, and that he would rather close the system than spend all his time in court.

Mr. Helsingius has operated anon.penet.fi for more than 3 years, handling over 7,000 messages a day.

"In a sense I've done my pioneer work and it is now up to others to carry on," Mr. Helsingius said.

Helena Kobrin, a Church of Scientology official, said the complaint against anon.penet.fi was just one of several actions the church had taken against the operators of remailer computers in Europe and the United States. She said the church has five lawsuits pending in the United States against remailer operators and us-

A Finnish judge says different rules apply to E-mail.

ers of remailers.

"We have actively been in communication with various remailers about postings that have gone through their systems," said Ms. Kobrin, general counsel for the Religious Technology Center in Los Angeles, which is responsible for protecting the copyrights and trade secrets of unpublished Scientology scriptures.

Earlier this year, another remailer, known as hacktic.nl, in the Netherlands, was shut down under pressure from the Scientologists.

Unlike many other churches, the Church of Scientology, founded nearly 40 years ago by the science fiction author L. Ron Hubbard, regards its gospel as copyrighted material and a trade secret. Several courts have upheld the validity of the copyrights.

Foes and critics of the church have used the Internet to publish the church documents, as well as other documents the church contends were stolen from its computers.

The Religious Technology Center has also tried unsuccessfully to shut down a Usenet forum,

alt.religion.scientology, where many of the copyrighted documents are published.

A series of recent news articles in The London Observer newspaper among others had linked the anon.penet.fi computer to accusations it was a conduit for child pornography.

Mr. Helsingius, who has denied that his system is a conduit for child pornography, declined to speculate on the motives of the accusers. The accusations of child pornography first appeared several days after Mr. Helsingius declined to turn over to the court the name sought by the Scientologists.

The London Observer quoted Toby Tyler, identified as an adviser to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as saying anon.penet.fi was the source for up to 90 percent of the child pornography on the Internet.

But Richard P. (Toby) Tyler, a sergeant in the San Bernardino, Calif., County Sheriff's Department who said his involvement with the F.B.I. was minimal, said he was misquoted by the newspaper. Mr. Tyler, who has investigated pornography trafficking in cyberspace, said that most child pornography on the Internet did not pass through remailers. He did say, however, that of the small portion that does, 70 percent to 90 percent passes through anon.penet.fi.

"I think that's a shame," Sergeant Tyler said upon learning that anon.penet.fi was closed. "I personally view its closing as a loss of freedom. I did not like the abuse of the remailer for child pornography, but I felt it served a necessary political purpose in this world."

Ms. Kobrin of the Religious Technology Center said that despite its legal actions, the Church of Scientology does not oppose the operation of remailers, which are also known as anonymous servers.

"We were not opposing the existence of his server," Ms. Kobrin said. "We have no opposition to there being anonymity for private, consensual communications. What we oppose is using anonymous servers for the purpose of permitting criminal or other unlawful acts. There has to be responsibility and accountability."

LETTERS TO THE TIMES

Renaming Berendo
to Hubbard Way

■ The article regarding the renaming of Berendo Street to L. Ron Hubbard Way (Aug. 23) omits the reason that Hubbard should be honored and the reason the church initiated the petition over a year ago. The man is being honored for the work that he did as an educator, his breakthroughs in the field of drug rehabilitation and his other contributions to mankind. The Los Angeles Church of Scientology is making this request after celebrating our 40th anniversary and completing a full restoration of the original Church of Scientology.

We know that our neighbors benefit from the perimeter of safety the church provides them. The church has enjoyed its relationship with our neighbor to the north, Kaiser Permanente, and we have worked with the other two neighboring hospitals on disaster strategies, including countywide disaster drills. Our staff has reached out to neighborhood children with weekend programs and we continue to work to ensure the area is cleared of criminal elements.

CORY BRENNAN
Director of Community Affairs
Church of Scientology of L.A.

■ What's in a name anyway, asks your article. The address 415 S. Berendo St. represents lovely lawns and flowers surrounding a lovely building with four large three-bedroom apartments in which my mother, brother, my stepfather and I finally found the beginning of the American dream in May 1949. We were survivors of the Shoah and although we arrived in America in late 1947, it took that long to find a home for all of us at a time of housing shortages and kickbacks to apartment managers.

Berendo Street is my friends' street, learning English, playing kick-the-can, buying ice cream bars from the Good Humor man and warm glazed doughnuts from the Helms man! Don't take away this name, which means something that should remain in many people's memory, even a segment of that street should not change name! Religion should be expressed in spiritual endeavors.

EVELINE COHEN LEISNER
Los Angeles



Agence France-Press

Chun Doo Hwan

U.S. in Korea

■ Re "U.S. Role in Kwangju and Beyond," Commentary, Aug. 29:

The death sentence for former South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan, who as a general had bloodily seized power with tacit American endorsement and harshly ruled the South Korean people with open U.S. blessings, is being widely cheered by Koreans in general. Meanwhile, the South Korean government had to resort to extreme paramilitary operations to suppress the demonstrating students demanding the withdrawal of American forces and the conclusion of a peace agreement between North Korea and the U.S.

The growing unpopularity of the U.S. among South Koreans, except for the ruling elites, largely stems from the presence of U.S. soldiers who, while causing all sorts of nuisances, constitute a main hindrance to a peaceful reunification of the peninsula.

The U.S. should, before it becomes too late, devise a new formula in which the American forces in Korea are pulled out and yet the mainstay of its interest is secured.

One way of doing this would be the abrogation of the present defense treaty with South Korea in favor of a new international arrangement under which 1) a unified Korea with reduced military capabilities is realized, 2) the neutrality of unified Korea is guaranteed by the U.S., China, Russia and Japan, and 3) a peripheral region of the unified Korea is leased to the U.S. for its military use in order to meet the U.S. desire to play peacekeeping roles in East Asia.

Drunk Drivers
and Prop. 213

■ Your article describing the tragic death of the Guth family by a suspected drunken driver is a poignant reminder of how irresponsible and dangerous drinking and driving can be ("A Bitter Irony," Aug. 28). Unbelievably, some drunk drivers break the law and then believe they should also be entitled to compensation for their "pain and suffering."

Current law allows drunk drivers to sue law-abiding citizens for huge monetary awards in addition to being compensated for medical and out-of-pocket expenses after an accident—even in cases where they also caused the collision.

This November, voters will have an opportunity to put a stop to this abuse by voting for Proposition 213, sponsored by California Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush. Proposition 213 will thwart the efforts of these lawbreakers to get pain-and-suffering awards for their crimes, while still protecting their right to be compensated for medical and out-of-pocket expenses.

In 1995 alone, 1,343 people lost their lives to drunk drivers and another 36,961 suffered injuries in collisions involving drunk drivers. It is imperative that Californians not allow themselves to be victimized by drunk drivers.

LINDA OXENREIDER
California State Chair
Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Child Care

■ This letter is in response to Aug. 22 column by Caryl Rivers and Rosalind Barnett, who propose a national task force to provide more resources for day care because parents want "secure, good, affordable care for their children."

They reminded me of two custodians I knew in my former life as a teacher. Our day custodian also held down a part-time job at Disneyland so his wife could be at home with their children. Often he told me how happy he was to see the stability she provided in their lives. Our night custodian's wife baby-sat so she could be at home with their baby. He worried about the children she cared for, especially the ones that called him Daddy. These two men, earning slightly above minimum wage, managed to have the ultimate in secure, good child care—parents.

National task forces and state

FOLLOW-UP

A Return Visit to Earlier Stories

Storm Brewing Offshore?

Affinity Entertainment seems to be doing a quiet foreign deal; shareholders beware

SHAREHOLDERS IN AFFINITY ENTERTAINMENT might want to pay close attention to their investment for the next few weeks. A dealmaker in Europe says the company has raised \$40 million by selling common stock to offshore investors under Regulation S, a rule added six years ago to the Securities Act of 1933. As we reported in a cover story last April 29, such "Reg S" deals often trigger a decline in the issuing company's shares.

Affinity won't comment, but judging from a reported increase in the number of shares outstanding, it appears a Reg S deal took place sometime between June 30 and Aug. 6. During that period, Affinity's shares outstanding increased from 7.2 million to 12.2 million, and no registration statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission to account for the added shares.

This would be typical for a deal done under Reg S because the SEC does not require companies to disclose such offshore deals. Why not? The original idea was to allow U.S. companies to issue shares abroad without any hassles. In recent years, however, the regulation has been used by many a fledgling company to raise cash quickly and quietly by selling shares at discount prices to offshore investors. After a 40-day waiting period, the overseas holders can sell the shares back into the U.S. at full price. It's usually an automatic windfall for the offshore folks. Just to make sure, some foreign investors lock in their profits by selling shares short in the U.S. at the same time they buy their Reg S shares.

Unsuspecting American holders aren't so lucky. They often know nothing of the Reg S deal until after the offshore shares flow back into the U.S. and drive down the share price.

Affinity Entertainment is a small television and film production company based in Tampa, with production facilities near Los Angeles. It began life in 1983 as Computerized Buying Network, a company that provided a group of members with access to price quotes on 60,000 consumer products. After undergoing a reverse merger and changes in its core businesses, the company in May of this year was given its current name.

Now Affinity owns 79% of a television series called *EdenQuest*, a one-hour show that "transports the viewer to an exotic location with a marquee hostess and six international swimsuit



models as they explore paradise," according to the company's quarterly filing with the SEC.

In August, Affinity hired Hollywood producer William J. MacDonald as its president and formed a subsidiary to produce full-length feature films. MacDonald, a former executive of the Robert Evans Co. at Paramount, developed the film, *The Two Jakes*, starring Jack Nicholson and Harvey Keitel, and co-produced *Sliver*, starring Sharon Stone — an actress with whom he was romantically linked.

A quick review of Affinity's financial statements suggests why the company may need infusions of cash under Reg S. For the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1995, Affinity lost \$600,000 on revenues of \$1.2 million, or 19 cents a share. Since then, revenues have increased thanks in part to *EdenQuest*. But the company is still unprofitable. For the nine months ending June 30, 1996, Affinity reported a loss of \$1.4 million, or 20 cents a share, on \$2 million in revenues.

Prices of Affinity stock, which trades on the Nasdaq system, have ranged between a low of \$4.50 a share and a high of \$10. Last week, it was trading at 8%.

Affinity certainly knows its way around Reg S. The company did its first \$40 million Reg S deal in June, selling four million shares outside the U.S. at \$10 apiece to a virtually unknown outfit located near Ontario, Canada, and doing business under the name Baron Banker Ltd. In the subsequent \$40 million deal, which apparently took place in July or early August, it looks like Affinity sold five million shares at about \$8 each.

On each of these deals, the discounts below the prevailing market prices

September 16, 1996

would appear to be slim. But on the June deal, and perhaps on the subsequent deal as well, the buyers got another benefit: They were allowed to pay for the Affinity shares with an 18-month interest-free promissory note. Thus, even if the buyers managed only to resell their shares at cost, they would still get to use as much as \$80 million interest-free for months.

As for Affinity's U.S. holders, if these deals go like a lot of other Reg S issues, they could see the share price gradually erode as the offshore shares drip back into the domestic market. Of course, if for some reason the foreign investors don't make good on their promissory notes, look out below. Affinity's director of communications said she wasn't sure what recourse Affinity would have if Baron Banker were to default on its note.

—Jaye Scholl

L. Ron Hubbard Way endorsed Council backs request to rename street in front of church

By Patrick McGreevy
Daily News Staff Writer

L. Ron Hubbard, the 1950s science fiction writer who founded the controversial Church of Scientology, will soon be the name of a Hollywood street.

After some heated debate, the Los Angeles City Council voted 8-3 Tuesday to preliminarily approve renaming a stretch of Berendo Street, which runs in front of the church's landmark building, as L. Ron Hubbard

Way.
Council members Marvin Braude, Ruth Galanter and Mike Feuer dissented and some residents objected to the name change, saying the church uses heavy-handed methods to gain members.

"L. Ron Hubbard's ways are not American ways. They are about enslavement," Graham Berry told the council. "Don't shame L.A."

Church supporters dismissed the critics as "bigots," and argued Hubbard and the church have

had a positive impact through literacy, drug rehabilitation and other community programs.

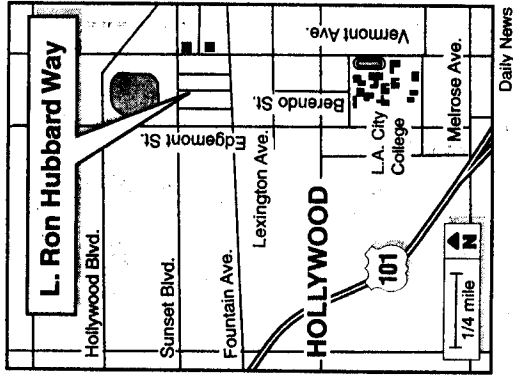
"This is treated like any other request to change a name," said Council President John Ferraro, who represents the area.

The name change was supported by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and 183 residents of the street who sent letters, while only nine voiced opposition. The church owns 63 percent of the property on the one-block stretch of street.

Hubbard, who died in 1986,

had been a science-fiction writer when, in the early 1950s, he published his book "Dianetics, the Science of Mental Health," which became a best seller and later led to the formation of the church. Founded in Glendale in 1954, the church now has about 8 million members worldwide.

Councilman Richard Alarcon said it would be setting a bad precedent to reject a name change that has gone through the proper process and that involves someone who is a recognized community leader.



"Whether or not you support the beliefs espoused by L. Ron Hubbard, I don't think anybody can doubt that he's a significant player," Alarcon said.



NAME CHANGE: A stretch of Berendo Street will be renamed after L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of the Church of Scientology. B12

METRO NEWS

Council Agrees to Rename Street After Hubbard

■ **Government:** Move will honor Scientology founder. Lawmakers vote 8 to 3 in favor, despite some protests.

By JODI WILGOREN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The controversial church that claims Tom Cruise, John Travolta and Priscilla Presley as members now can lay claim to a public street as well, with Tuesday's vote by the Los Angeles City Council to rename a one-block stretch of Berendo Street in Hollywood after L. Ron Hubbard.

Despite passionate protests from a handful of residents who derided Hubbard as a fraudulent, gay-bashing cult leader, the council voted 8 to 3 in favor of the name change, a testament in part to the power of council President John Ferraro, who represents the area and recommended the switch.

Support far outweighed opposition on the block where the Church of Scientology has had its international headquarters for four decades and owns 55% of the property: 183 neighborhood residents

"I believe that L. Ron Hubbard was a manipulative [and] dishonest [man]," Galanter said in an interview after the vote. "He's a cult leader. We don't name streets after cult leaders."

During an hourlong public hearing on the name change, resident Don Slater cited passages from Hubbard's landmark work "Dianetics" that refer to homosexuals as perversities. Slater also described the proposed honoree as a "bigot," a "charlatan" and a "crackpot." Graham Berry, a frequent critic of the church, shared stories of friends who have "escaped from the buildings on Berendo Street," and he begged the council not to change the street's name.

"L. Ron Hubbard's ways were not American ways, they were ways of enslavement," Berry said. "Don't shame L.A."

But council members and name change proponents focused on Scientology's anti-drug and anti-graffiti programs, and tried to downplay the importance of renaming such a small slice of street.

"We have, literally, thousands and thousands of streets named for people, most of whom I have no

idea who they are," Councilman Richard Alarcon said.

Fred Shaw, who described himself as a minister from Compton, said he is involved with a Scientology-backed literacy program that has helped 600 inner-city youths with remarkable success: only four became pregnant, only four went to jail and only one has died.

"When we see the lives of young people restored, when we see the hope back in their eyes, when we see them leading productive lives... we think the work of L. Ron Hubbard should be honored," Shaw said.

The Rev. John Woodruff, executive director of Scientology's Los Angeles branch, called Tuesday's vote a "fantastic victory."

"This is a kind of small thing in a sense. We're talking about 250 yards of street, but it's an acknowledgment of what we've done and what Mr. Hubbard has meant," Woodruff said. "There's controversy in all great things. What we saw today was that the City Council and the general response from the population was overwhelming in favor of what we do, a few naysayers notwithstanding."