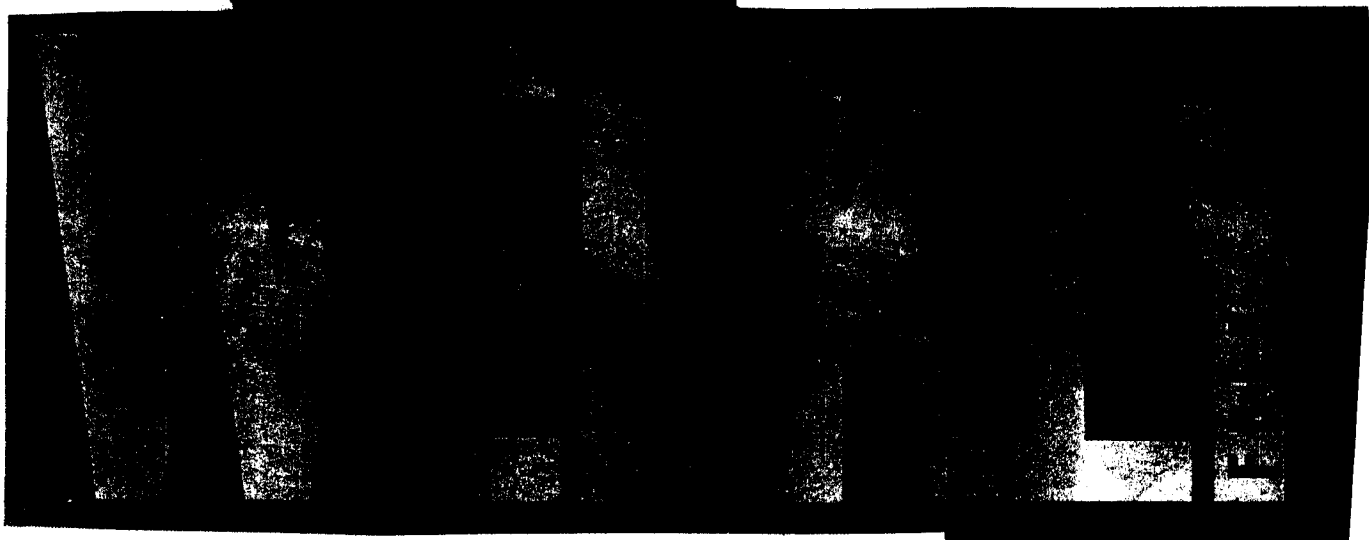


# LA



# Letters

## NET SCAPE

DEAR EDITOR:

I was surprised and dismayed to see the books editor, Judith Lewis, take on the subject of intellectual-property rights on the Internet, and then fail to be sensitive to the needs of authors of that property ["The

DAT, the Net and the Dead," December 13-19]. As one aware of the needs of authors — and I would assume the publishing industry — I find it an odd point of view to side with thieves who seek to destroy both.

I get her point that innocent "buzz" by fans, which is basically word of mouth, and a phenomenon that goes with any effective creative effort, generates the very folklore that eventually belongs to all the people. But such should never work against the artist, creator or inventor that caused it. That robs the artist of his livelihood and is destructive to the ability of all artists to survive as artists.

As regards the violations of copyrights of the Church of Scientology, the truth is that there is not one iota of material that has been posted on the Net that was not stolen — maliciously and for personal gain. The sad fact that the thieves passed on their contraband before they were caught only means that there are now others who are guilty of the same crime. It has nothing to do with the phenomenon of word of mouth, nor even criticism of the church, which consistently has traced lies told by people seeking to hide their own crimes. I am very sorry that Lewis takes issue with the church's efforts to protect itself from bigots and thieves through the court system of the United States, where religious freedom has enjoyed a long and happy history.

—Cat Tebar  
Community Affairs Director  
Church of Scientology

# Los Angeles Times

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 1997  
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## German Policy on Scientology Attacked

By MARY WILLIAMS WALSH  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

BERLIN—A running battle between German government officials and the Church of Scientology escalated this week, with 34 prominent Americans from the entertainment industry denouncing Germany for allegedly treating Scientologists as it treated the Jews in 1936, and the German foreign minister accusing the celebrities of "falsifying history."

"It's out of the question that there's persecution of Scientology in Germany," Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told the newspaper Bild in a front-page article printed Friday. "When Scientology compares its

Please see **BATTLE**, A12

### Continued from A1

treatment in Germany to the Holocaust, it's falsifying history and offending the sensibilities of the victims of Nazism."

Kinkel and a number of other German politicians were responding to an open letter to Chancellor Helmut Kohl published Thursday as a full-page advertisement in the New York Times and the Paris-based International Herald Tribune.

The letter, signed by such film stars as Dustin Hoffman and Goldie Hawn, television host Larry King, and novelists Mario Puzo and Gore Vidal, accused the German government of such "disgraceful" acts as excluding children from public schools because their parents are Scientologists.

Scientologists have been under fire in Germany in recent months. A youth wing of Kohl's Christian Democratic Party made an unsuccessful attempt to boycott the film "Mission: Impossible" because its star and co-producer, Tom Cruise, is a Scientologist. Two German banks announced that they would no longer accept accounts in the name of the Church of Scientology, and existing accounts in several towns were closed. And the southern state of Bavaria began to screen all applicants for civil service jobs—the most secure and benefit-rich jobs in Germany—for membership in the Church of Scientology.

In their open letter to Kohl, the Hollywood group wrote: "In the 1930s, Hitler made religious intolerance official government policy." The letter recalled that as a result, Jews were at first discriminated against, "then vilified and ultimately subjected to unspeakable horrors."

"The world stood by in silence," the letter continued. "This time, voices will be raised."

Thursday, in one of his periodic news conferences in Bonn, Kohl responded to the open letter the way he characteristically answers attacks: by dismissing it as wrong-headed and ignorant.

"They don't know anything about Germany, and they don't want to either," Kohl said. "Otherwise, they wouldn't have talked such rubbish."

The German counterattacks did not end with Kohl's put-down. Bild, a down-market tabloid that is the most widely read newspaper in Germany, collected reactions not only from Foreign Minister Kinkel but also from the labor and family affairs ministers and the parliamentary leader of the Social Democrats, Germany's largest opposition party.

"To compare our monitoring of Scientology's wheelings and dealings with the methods of Hitler shows a great tastelessness with respect to the victims of Auschwitz," Labor Minister Norbert Blum was quoted as saying. "This only demonstrates how unscrupulously Scientology manages its affairs."

In Los Angeles, Scientology President Heber C. Jentsch defended the group's claim of reli-

## BATTLE: Celebrities Defend Scientologists

gious persecution. He said that as recently as November, the Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Commission condemned the German government for, among other things, denying civil service jobs to Scientologists.

Jentzsch noted that Adolf Hitler issued a decree on April 7, 1933, denying civil service jobs to non-Aryans. "Kinkel's perception of history has no rearview mirror," Jentzsch said.

The open letter's signatories wrote that they are not Scientologists but could not "just look the other way while this appalling situation continues and grows."

The ad was paid for by Los Angeles entertainment lawyer Bertram Fields, one of whose clients is Cruise. Field said he became concerned about Germany's treatment of Scientologists in August, when members of Kohl's party tried to organize the "Mission: Impossible" boycott.

Reached Friday afternoon at his Century City office, Fields said his prominent client had nothing to do with the letter.

"I didn't ask him to sign the letter," Fields said. "I didn't even discuss it with him."

"We're not advocating Scientology; not one Scientologist signed that letter. We're just concerned about what's happening."

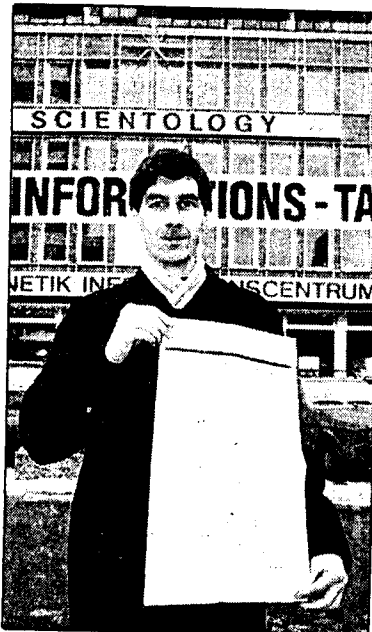
In response to the reaction from German officials, Fields said: "Even though they use a lot of terms like 'rubbish,' not one single fact is stated denying the factual allegations in our letter. They can't deny them because they are true."

"They're just politicians spouting the party line. No one has compared this to Auschwitz. We're talking about what happened to Jews in the early part of the Nazi regime, when they were barred from public life. That's just the kind of thing that is happening to Scientologists today. We're not saying they're sending people to death camps; we're saying let's not let it get started."

Unlike the United States, which guarantees religious freedom in part by strict separation of church and state, Germany formally registers churches and their members, even collecting their offerings for them through payroll deductions. The Church of Scientology doesn't qualify for official recognition and therefore is excluded from Germany's constitutional protections for religious freedom.

In December, the Kohl government said it was setting up a central office to coordinate federal and state efforts against Scientology. Interior Minister Manfred Kanther has asked that the church be put under surveillance as an extremist organization.

Federal and state officials argue that Scientology needs to be controlled because it is at best a business masquerading as a church, at worst a dangerous cult.



Associated Press

Frank Busch of the Church of Scientology in Hamburg with letter signed by U.S. film stars.

They say the church set up at least 20 real estate brokerage firms in Berlin after the fall of the Berlin Wall to exploit skyrocketing property values when Western capital began to pour into the former East Berlin.

The Scientologists, critics allege,

have pressured unsuspecting former East Germans into buying apartments at predatory prices, then pumped the money back into the church.

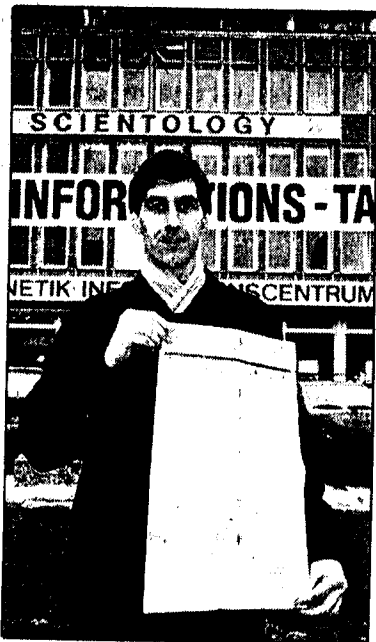
From its inception, Scientology has been controversial. The U.S. Internal Revenue Service did not agree until 1993 that it can be considered a religious organization. Disaffected former Scientologists and others consider it a cult and say that members can spend huge sums as they follow Scientology principles. Devoted followers, however, say that it has changed their lives for the better.

Developed by the late L. Ron Hubbard, Scientology is what its adherents call an applied religious philosophy that holds that humans are basically good. It offers various techniques and principles that Scientologists say enable followers to improve their lives.

Cruise has said that Scientology's techniques helped him overcome dyslexia. Other celebrities who have been associated with Scientology include John Travolta, Kelly Preston, Priscilla Presley, Lisa Marie Presley, Nicole Kidman, Mimi Rogers, Kirstie Alley and Anne Archer.

Times staff writer Larry B. Stammer in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

## BATTLE: Celebrities Defend Scientologists



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# 1997 HOROSCOPE

**NATIONAL**  
**Examiner**  
January 14, 1997  
AMERICA'S FAVORITE FAMILY WEEKLY

\$1.39/\$1.69 CANADA

**Lucky Numbers**  
**Money Love**

**LISA MARIE**  
**'EXORCISM'**  
**DRIVES**  
**OUT**  
**JACKO**  
**DEMONS**



**SHE'S THE MOST HATED**  
**WOMAN IN SHOWBIZ**



**REGIS**  
**CAN'T**  
**SAVE**  
**KATHIE**  
**LEE'S**  
**JOB**

**NEW TRIAL BOMBSHELL**  
**OJ ditched bloody**  
**clothes on plane**

- LAWYER CHARGES



\$1.39 / \$1.69 Canada



# Lisa Marie in 'exorcism' to cleanse herself of Jacko demons

■ TROUBLED Lisa Marie Presley underwent a wacky "exorcism" to rid herself of emotional demons from her failed marriage to Michael Jackson, say insiders.

The devout Scientologist flew to the church's center in Clearwater, Fla., where she underwent intense monitoring to cleanse her mind of all negative thoughts.

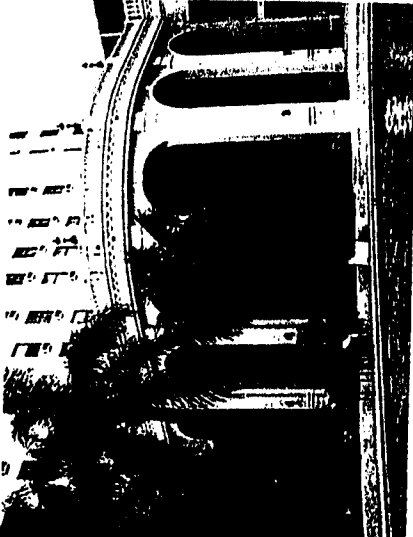
"Lisa Marie was there for 'auditing,' a process designed to rid her of any demons left over from her marriage to Michael," says an insider.

According to the church, auditing "deletes those things which have been added to a person's re-active mind through painful experiences."

It also improves a person's ability to confront and handle the negative factors in his or her life.

The costly cleansing session involves a highly trained church minister asking Lisa personal questions — with no-holds-barred — about things that are upsetting to her.

"The auditing process is like an



Michael's bad and Lisa Marie knows it — that's why she spent thousands being cleansed at Scientology's Clearwater, Fla. headquarters (left)

## Deep down, she was angry and disgusted by Michael's antics

active feelings. She rid herself of the dangerous emotional and mental toxins she encountered during her struggles with Michael.

"Lisa believes she always comes out stronger with Scientology on her side."

After her surprise marriage to the King of Pop on May 26, 1994, Lisa Marie learned that life with Jacko was even wackier than she could have imagined.

During their brief and bizarre union, which ended last August, Michael maintained his fascination with little boys and even flaunted his relationships, traveling to Europe with his young pals Eddie and Frank Casco.

When he collapsed and was rushed to a New York hospital following a rehearsal in 1995, Lisa was crushed when her then-husband asked to see his little friends

at his bedside, and not her. Lisa, 28, also claims that throughout their bizarre marriage, Michael refused to remove his makeup and always talked about having a baby, but never acted on the idea, say sources.

Even though Michael's married again and about to be a father, Lisa is still linked to her ex-hubby.

She's demanding a copy of the reported \$20 million settlement with the young boy who accused Michael of molestation, because they're both being sued by the boy's father for allegedly violating the agreement by talking about it on TV with Diane Sawyer.

Lisa told a pal: "Until I know everything, I won't be able to close this ugly chapter in my life."

Lisa Marie said good riddance to Michael and his demons

## 'Mission' a German Hit Despite Boycott

■ **Movies:** The success of the film, targeted by conservatives because it stars Scientologist Tom Cruise, eases studio fears about releasing other films featuring members of the movement.

By JUDY BRENNAN and MARY WILLIAMS WALSH SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Despite the much-publicized boycott in Germany of "Mission: Impossible" because its star, Tom Cruise, is a Scientologist, the film grossed about \$24 million, considered a huge success for the important German market by Hollywood studios, and ranked eighth in Germany for 1996.

The results could help assuage the Hollywood studios that are preparing for the German release of Cruise's current hit film, "Jerry Maguire," and of "Michael," which stars another noted Scientologist, John Travolta. Hollywood considers Germany one of the top two movie markets in the world outside North America. Depending on the film, Germany can surpass even Japan, studio distribution executives polled said.

## GERMANY

Continued from F1  
signatories noted that they are not Scientologists, but could not "look the other way while this appalling situation continues and grows."

The Christian Democrats, in general, oppose the Scientology movement in Germany because there is suspicion among some German authorities that it is a business masquerading as a church. Scientologists are said to open real estate offices, buy up apartments, use strong-arm tactics to pressure the residents out, then resell the apartments at a profit, especially in Hamburg and Berlin, two of the city-states where the Junge Union tried to boycott "Mission: Impossible."

There were no such boycotts for previous Cruise films such as "Interview With the Vampire" and "The Firm," or previous Travolta films like "Get Shorty" or "Pulp Fiction," all of which were hugely popular in Germany.

"Phenomenon," which stars Travolta, was the target of an anti-Scientology boycott last year as well, but Carsten Pfaff, statistical director of the Central Organization for Film Economics in Wiesbaden, said it wasn't particularly an issue because the film was generally unsuccessful in Germany, grossing only about \$3.5 million and selling only 450,000 tickets. He attributed the poor showing to the film's story, not the attacks by anti-Scientologists.

Burkhard Remmers, state chairman of the CDU Junge Union for the large northern German state of Lower Saxony, said that his organization got interested in fighting Scientology even before the

"Mission: Impossible" boycott because Scientology seemed to be becoming "more offensive" in Germany, sending direct mailings to households all over Lower Saxony. "We said to ourselves, 'We have to do something.' Then came 'Mission: Impossible.' There was a press conference, and when Tom Cruise was asked about Scientology, he answered, 'This is a personal matter.' I heard this original quote on the radio and I said, 'That's that.'"

During the boycotts—which Christine Loerke, spokeswoman for Junge Union, referred to as an "information campaign" on Scientology—Junge Union activists set up tables in front of movie theaters in the affected states and offered brochures to patrons.

Remmers' organization thinks it's dangerous to brush Scientology off as "a personal matter" because they believe it's a potent political force that is trying to infiltrate German society politically, economically and in the media. Both Remmers and fellow Junge Union official Stephan Lerch insisted that their boycott was successful.

"It was never our concern to keep visitors away from movie theaters," Remmers said. "Our concern was to heat up the whole discussion. The fact that 'Mission: Impossible' got so many viewers meant success for us, too. These people learned more about Scientology by walking by leaflet tables into the theaters.

high-profile movie with a star that is a high-profile Scientologist."

Meanwhile, on Thursday in Paris, film director Constantin Costa-Gavras released a statement saying he had erred in signing the open letter. He said he had not carefully read the letter before signing it, and that, "Only after a careful reading did I realize my error—not that I had defended the principle of civil liberties, which was my sole motive for signing, but that I may have led anyone to believe it was possible to make a comparison between the [situation] in modern Germany and the abominable laws of yesterday which led to the Holocaust."

When it comes to entertainment, Jentzsch and Los Angeles attorney Bertram Fields, who represents both Cruise and Travolta and who wrote the letter that appeared in the ad, said the backlash against Scientologists extends further than the movies. In fact, Jentzsch said the incidents actually started in May 1993 when the concerts of jazz pianist and Scientologist Chick Corea were canceled.

Up until a few years ago, Corea performed a regular schedule of concerts in Germany. But persistent difficulties with German officials—including the last-minute cancellation of concerts at the 1993 World Athletics Championship in the southern German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, and at Burghausen in Bavaria—led Corea to reduce his appearances to only two concerts last year.

Corea protested the cancellation to the general secretary of the Athletic Championships, but the government of Baden-Wuerttemberg replied that contract negotiations for the event could not continue because Corea was a

"known member of the Scientology cult."

In June 1996, Corea was again denied permission to appear at state-subsidized events in Bavaria.

TriStar's "Jerry Maguire," starring Cruise, will be released in Germany on Feb. 27. Although John Calley, president and chief operating officer of Sony Pictures, TriStar's parent company, signed the letter, a spokesman for the company said Calley declined to comment further. He also said the company doesn't anticipate any problems with the Germany release.

The same applies for Warner Bros., which is releasing New Line Cinema's "Michael," which stars Travolta, in Germany on March 20.

Munich-based Joe Fuhrmann, managing director for EDI in Germany, said German exhibitors saw "Michael" during a trade show screening in Munich this week.

"They absolutely loved this picture. This whole Scientology issue was never brought up," Fuhrmann said. "The people in the States need to know that the group causing this trouble is a small group who never had a headline before this and it is not the view of the German people overall. [And yet] people here are very upset about this letter, particularly the German Jewish community. They are outraged that a comparison has been drawn with the Holocaust."

"No one pays attention to those political boycotts. The box-office numbers from here are huge. These movies shouldn't be affected."

Judy Brennan is a regular contributor to The Times; Mary Williams Walsh is The Times' Berlin bureau chief. Freelance writer Don Heckman also contributed to this story.