

Towson State

Cult Deception Examined

by Stephen Hyde

The following article first appeared in the Oct. 9 TOWERLIGHT of Towson (MD) State University, to whom we are grateful for permission to reprint it here.

"And if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or prophets will arise and show signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect."

— Mark 13:21-22

Quasi-religious cults use sophisticated thought reform techniques in recruitment; techniques that weaken a person's critical and analytical capabilities. Hypnosis is another recruitment tool in some cults, and public misunderstanding of the nature of hypnosis calls for a simple, concise definition: a state of highly increased suggestibility, often involving a more or less obvious trance state. Trance states can be induced by concentration, chanting or by uninterrupted interpersonal eye contact. Cults also use deceit for recruitment and fundraising; sometimes as misrepresentation, other times as distortion of an intentionally altered Biblical "quote."

Money is the heart of any cult's power. The financial empire of Sun Myung Moon, for example, has an estimated worth of several hundred million dollars, accumulated from many sources. Street sales of flowers, candy and literature have an outrageously high profit margin. Deceit often plays a part here, as members sell candy or flowers, purportedly to raise money for the mentally retarded, drug abuse programs, starving children, or any other cause which will appeal to gullible people.

These "white lies" as they are called by the Moonies themselves, are part of the doctrinal practice of "heavenly deception." Page 72 of the Unification Church's *120-Day Training Manual* reads, in part, "When green bills are in the hands of fallen men, can they (the bills) be happy? Why don't you make them happy? ... They (the dollars) are all destined to go to Father... Christians think the Messiah must be poor and miserable. He did not come for this. Messiah must be the richest." Moon is Father and Messiah to his cult followers.

The balance of revenue comes from companies owned by Moon which, out of necessity, have no obvious connection to him: FIRMS MANUFACTURING MUNITIONS, TITANIUM PRODUCTS, GINSENG TEA, PHARMACEUTICALS, ETC. Service companies like travel agencies, printing companies, carpet cleaning services (contracts have included FBI offices in Sacramento and McClellan Air Force Base) and others. A burgeoning fishing industry that spreads along the East Coast & Gulf from Massachusetts to Alabama.

Moon's church's tax-exempt status, and the fact that the church is not required to make financial disclosure statements to any governmental body in this country make for a convenient financial management plan. It is a shell game of moving money in either direction between the "non-profit" Unification Church and Moon's businesses. Money, money, who's got the money? Try to pick up the shell that the cash is underneath. The cult is quicker than the eye...

Earlier this year, one of Moon's companies (U.S. Foods Corp. of McLean, Va.) provided the funds to start a chain of convenience stores, similar to 7-11, but named Go 'N Joy, in the Seattle area. Moon intended to enter the store-front church game. When the Washington State Liquor Control Board received the Go 'N Joy liquor license application, the board asked for background information on Bo Hi Pak, the president of U.S. Foods. Pak is Moon's chief aide and translator. Rather than provide the information, Pak sold his controlling shares of the store chain to a more legitimate businessman, Henry Hurt of Towson, Md.

Hurt is a 72-year-old insurance man and a self-professed "life member" of the Unification Church. According to the *Seattle Herald*, Hurt paid one dollar per share, giving him administration of a 1-5 million dollar loan for \$80 (he bought 80 shares). Hurt is now president and chairman of the board of Go 'N Joy. In a September 24 interview, he told me that he had no day-to-day control of the stores; that management was handled by U.S. Foods. He went on to say, "I bought the stock from U.S. Foods, and if they wanted me to sell it tomorrow, I'd sell it. So in that respect, I was a front for them in this business."

So who really owns the Go 'N Joy Stores? Simple: Moon, through Pak, through Hurt. Any profit from the stores (which are presently floundering because of picketing by anti-cult groups) will not go to the president and chairman of the board, but to Father.

Cult members constantly complain about negative coverage by the news media, yet in one instance, the medium of commercial television was taken advantage of by the Church of Scientology, an international cult founded by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard.

Several weeks ago NBC presented programming worth 5 million dollars of air time around the theme of "Get High On Yourself." The project was the brainchild of producer Robert Evans (doing probationary penance for a cocaine conviction), and Cathy Lee Crosby (Pepsodent-smile host of "That's Incredible" and a Scientologist). The idea, on the surface, was to keep kids off of drugs, to get them high on themselves. Criticism of that sentiment would be akin to slapping babies in the face, but there was more behind it all. Every celebrity/Scientologist (Crosby, John Travolta, Henry Winkler, et al.) was on the tube that week, along with other luminaries like Bob Hope and Paul Newman, all telling America to get high on itself.

NBC and a cast of superstars were used to create a positive association with the name of the "Theme Week." Crosby, the driving creative force, is associated with Narconon, an alleged anti-drug Scientology front group which has been trying to get a federal grant to take their campaign (and allegedly, Scientology) into federal prisons for the benefit of the inmates. Last week, when Scientology headquarters in California was contacted about a relative with an urgent drug problem, the caller was put through to an extension which was answered by a voice saying "Get high on yourself." That's incredible.

Surely this incident and the entire NBC campaign bears further exploring. As they say, you read it here first.

Here on the TSU campus, the Moonies, like Lone Strangers, ride again. CARP (Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles) is the college recruiting wing of the Unification Church. They have been repeatedly denied recognition by the TSU Student Government Association since 1976. This semester, CARP Moonies have represented themselves as members of "an international student group" in conducting "surveys on current social issues" with students at random. The surveys were a screening process, to determine the suitability of each student for membership in the Unification Church. Dominique Lavoie, head of the CARP chapter at TSU, has visited every student religious organization recognized by the SGA in an attempt to set up speeches to their members and/or "religious dialogues."

Like the rest of us, the members of CARP once had freedom of thought, but no longer; no matter how much they insist that they are not controlled absolutely by Moon. They believe that they can save the world by bringing each and every one of us into their movement. Every CARP member and every other Moonie has a nice wide smile, but then so does a bear trap when it's set correctly. *Caveat emptor* (let the buyer beware).

The Collegiate
ADVISOR

APRIL/MAY 1982

Scientology-Narconon Link Protested

The Toronto Globe and Mail of Oct. 13 reports that Alderman Susan Fish will demand her name be removed from the list of advisors to Narconon, a drug rehabilitation agency, because the organization was not candid with her about its link to the Church of Scientology, the controversial cultic organization.

Fish had been assured by a Narconon representative that the agency was not connected to any church or creed when she questioned references to the fact that Narconon used the techniques of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, and that Hubbard had an interest in religions.

The Globe and Mail reports that "When Narconon started in Toronto its connection with Scientology was concealed and then played down when inquiries were made to staff members, all Scientologists." "But," the story goes on, "documents from the cult's files in Canada and the United States show otherwise... Narconon was on a cult list of groups it had set up as apparently independent corporations, but which were used to further the work of Scientology through public relations, recruiting or propaganda..."

Twin Cities Reader

The News, Opinion & Entertainment Weekly

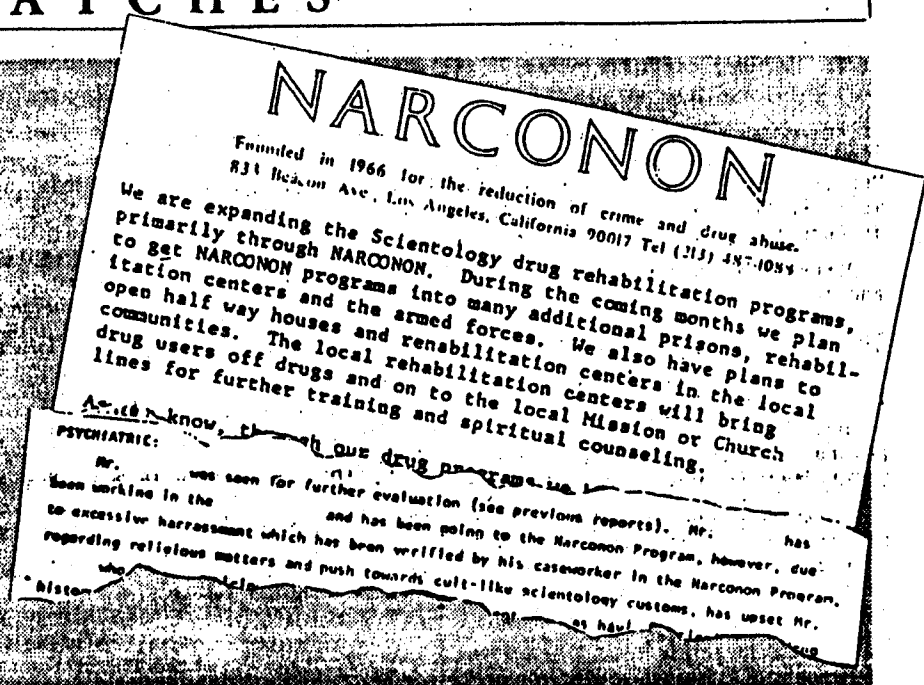
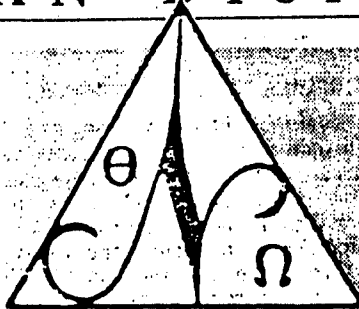
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1-7, 1981

URBAN DISPATCHES

The Narconon Sting:

SCIENTOLOGY'S MINNESOTA DRUG SCAM.

BY PAUL FISHMAN MACCABEE



"Narconon is the ONLY successful drug rehabilitation program on the planet."

**L. Ron Hubbard,
Founder of Church of Scientology**

"Narconon was definitely a con. It was bullshit. Those guys were forcing guys into Scientology."

**Narconon graduate
St. Cloud Prison, Minnesota**

AS WITH MOTHER NATURE AND THE I.R.S., it's not nice to fool around with Narconon. Mike Rezendez of Boston's *Community News* learned that in 1978, as a cool-headed reporter with a hot tip. He'd heard of a novel drug rehabilitation clinic called Narconon, which boasted a miraculous 85 percent cure rate for heroin addicts.

But Rezendez also heard that Narconon was hiding links to Scientology, a religious cult whose devotees include John Travolta and pianist Chick Corea. Intrigued, Rezendez scheduled a meeting with Narconon publicity officer Dan Barber.

There, according to Rezendez, the Narconon official warned the newsman, he was "a small fish in a big sea with a lot of f-cking sharks" and that he was dealing with "an inter-

planetary organization." Barber allegedly promised to come after Rezendez with "hob-nailed boots," and said "I will kick your ass up into your throat if I ever catch you f-cking around with Narconon."

Now, a surprise raid on Narconon-Minnesota's \$30,000 drug program in the St. Cloud Reformatory has ignited shockwaves reaching from Narconon's California headquarters to their operations in Minneapolis, and from the Hollywood studios of NBC-TV to, incredibly, the office of U.S. Senator Rudy Buschwitz of Minnesota — who unwittingly provided Scientology with seed money for Narconon.

Confidential Scientology memos, released to *TCR* by former church members, suggest that for three years Narconon has deceived major Twin Cities foundations like General Mills and the McKnight Foundation, as well as the Minnesota Dept. of Corrections and dozens of Minneapolis businesses, into funding a covert recruiting arm for the Church of Scientology.

Narconon was founded in 1966 by ex-heroin addict William Benitez. Since then, Narconon surfaced in prisons from Vacaville in California to Meynard Prison in Missouri.

Narconon-Minnesota describes its program as a "purification rundown" process which

involves vitamins, exercise and saunas to "sweat out impurities in the cells." But members readily admit Narconon's bedrock is the philosophy of L. Ron Hubbard, a former science-fiction writer who confessed: "Writing for a penny a word is ridiculous. If a man wanted to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start a religion."

Narconon, while Lotte Seidler insists that Narconon, official adapting Hubbard's ideas, is completely separate from the Church.

Minnesota has been kind to Narconon. It profits from two locations — a 1427 Washington Ave., Mpls street clinic and a unit in the St. Cloud Reformatory for Men. From 1978-80, Narconon-St. Cloud received \$6,200 of Minnesota state funds and over \$55,500 in federal funding to support their drug rehabilitation and communication courses.

But Narconon's appealing menu is not entirely kosher.

Narconon claims to get referrals from local hospitals. Yet, curiously, Narconon seem to be an utter mystery to every major drug clinic in the Twin Cities.

Dr. George Mann, director of St. Mary's Hospital Chemical Dependency Unit in Minneapolis, has never heard of Narconon. Nor has Harry Swift, administrator of Hazeldon's Chemical Dependency section. Nor have the

drug abuse units at St. Joseph's Hospital, St. John's, Abbott-Northwestern, Golden Valley Health Center or the Metropolitan Medical Clinic had contact with Narconon.

The mystery deepened when TCR contacted the Minnesota Chemical Dependency Association, which lists the state's 800 certified chemical dependency practitioners. Certification is based on 1,000 hours of experience and completion of a certified chemical dependency program. According to the Assn., virtually none of Narconon-St. Cloud's "counselors" nor the officials at Narconon-Minneapolis are certified.

William Gonnson, vice-president of Narconon, once the executive director of Narconon-St. Cloud and a former sheet-metal worker, is not listed.

Jon Reisdorf, once the Narconon teacher at St. Cloud and a former dry-cleaning manager, is not listed.

Rick Johnson of Minneapolis, a Narconon senior supervisor and a former draftsman, is not listed.

And what of the Narconon organization itself? The Chemical Dependency Programming Office of Minnesota licenses 76 out-patient clinics in Minnesota. Narconon is not among them.

In addition, the Minnesota Dept. of Welfare licenses 47 local out-patient chemical dependency programs. Surprise — Narconon isn't listed there either. Unless Narconon-Minnesota claims one of several exemptions (such as treating fewer than five addicts at one time), State Licensing Consultant Michael Clawson believes "they would have to get a license." Clawson remembers Narconon-Minnesota officials visiting his division in 1980. They didn't bother to apply, perhaps because licensing would require submission of detailed program descriptions.

"Either they're totally ignorant of custom and law," says Clawson of Narconon, "or they're trying to pull something."

If Narconon is not a licensed clinic, and its "counselors" remain unaccredited with the Chemical Dependency Assn., just who is Narconon?

One thing is certain — the Church of Scientology has more control of the Minnesota drug program than they wish to publicly admit.

Narconon-Minnesota's incorporation papers list their first corporate address as the Grand Ave., Mpls apartment of Narconon official Rick Johnson. According to a 1973 issue of the Scientology magazine, *The Auditor*, Johnson is a "Clear" (Church parlance for a Scientologist who has been "freed of his chronic mental and physical difficulties.")

Johnson's partner on the Narconon board was Lottie Seidler of Minneapolis, a former UPI reporter and admitted Scientologist.

Both Narconon-Minnesota vice-president William Gonnson and Narconon-St. Cloud teacher Jon Reisdorf are listed in the June And both Narconon treasurer Ken Turner and his wife, Narconon president Michele Scalzo, are dedicated Scientologists.

The reason for Narconon's hiding its Scientology links is explained in an astonishing series of internal Scientology memos released by Lorna Levett, for six years the director of a Canadian Scientology mission. A Nov. 23,

1971 letter from Narconon Director Mark Jones talks of "getting Narconon programs in prisons and working to get them in the armed forces. A little later we will start Narconon drug rehab centers in the local communities and route the people on Org or Center lines when we get them off drugs." Org means Scientology organization, and center is a Scientology mission.

Jones urges Scientologists to "emphasize that Narconon is *not* Scientology."

Levett also received a letter from Narconon supervisor Artie Maren, which claimed: "We are expanding the Scientology drug rehabilitation programs, primarily through Narconon. The local rehabilitation centers will bring drug users off drugs and on to the local Mission or Church lines for further training and spiritual counseling." The Church says the letter is a forgery. Levett says, in a sworn affidavit, it is authentic.

Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard himself, in a August 29, 1972 letter, candidly explains that the Scientology "Guardian's Office has been running the Narconon program all over the world." According to Scientology files seized by the F.B.I. in 1977, it was the Guardian's Office — Hubbard's "dirty tricks" branch — which coordinated a national harassment campaign against critics of the church. That campaign, which included burglaries, forging of bomb threats, and eavesdropping on U.S. government offices, led to the conviction in 1978 of nine top Scientology officials.

The best example of Scientology's use of Narconon as a propaganda tool is a memo sent by Narconon official Nancy Batchelder. Titled "Narconon: A Vanguard for Scientology," the memo urges: "O.K. mock up a map of the U.S. (or look at one) and then one by one mock up a little Narconon symbol appearing in the center of each state representing full state support of Narconon. Did you do that? Good! How does that feel, to totally handle the drug problem in the U.S.?"

"Narconon has no competitors," Batchelder says. "In Narconon, we're sort of like pioneers and scouts clearing the way for Scientology tech in the wildest, darkest wilderness, prisons, criminals, drug addicts... the ruins of society. The success of this program will mean a tremendous amount for the rapid expansion of Scientology tech in the world."

In Minnesota, Narconon's obsession with Scientology's "rapid expansion" in the St. Cloud prison, rather than drug rehabilitation, quickly bubbled to the surface.

In an Oct. 22, 1979 report, St. Cloud official Cliff Posthumus noted "a serious incident this quarter regarding Narconon staff getting into side conversations about Scientology." Internal prison memos indicate a Narconon student was removed from the program when "he became steadily more depressed and confused" over Scientology teachings. A case-worker wrote that the inmate "was not deriving any benefit from the program and in fact I believe he was regressing in his ability to think clearly and in his self-image."

Dr. Patrick Stokes, a St. Paul psychiatrist, confirmed in a memo Narconon's "excessive harassment which has been verified by his caseworker in the Narconon program, regard-

ing religious matters and push towards cult-like Scientology customs." Nor was this an isolated case — a memo to St. Cloud's superintendent says that the chaplain discovered "Narconon students in his bible study class have mentioned similar complaints regarding discussions about reincarnation and Scientology."

Martin Carr [his name has been changed here] is a St. Cloud inmate who graduated from all seven Narconon courses. "Narconon is definitely a con," says Carr. "It's a bunch of bullshit. No way it would keep inmates off drugs. They were hiding from the staff and the institution that they were having people read Scientology books."

Carr says Narconon members obscured the word 'Scientology' in prison texts with white-out fluid, and then typed the word 'Narconon' over it.

While Narconon's Lottie Seidler says the group actually "discourages inmates from joining Scientology," Carr insists they "tell inmates they've got programs when you get out. And they'd mention Scientology freely."

"If I yelled that those guys were forcing people into Scientology, an investigation would have gotten started," says Carr. But for many inmates, Narconon was part of a Mutual Agreement Programming contract with the prison. Leaving Narconon on bad terms could add months to their sentence.

Finally in mid-August, St. Cloud officials raided the Narconon office and found, say prison sources, "more than they wanted to know about Scientology literature." An investigation began on Aug. 28, 1981, and by Aug. 31 at 1:30 p.m., a prison meeting was held to deal with Narconon's links to Scientology. St. Cloud officials had had enough. Two weeks ago, Narconon-Minnesota's contract with the Minnesota Dept. of Corrections was terminated and the program kicked out of the prison on 30-days notice.

Narconon's defeat in St. Cloud will come as a shock to over 42 Minneapolis/St. Paul businesses who donated funds for the program. Did the Narconon fundraisers mention their ties to Scientology? "If they had," says the manager of Deakne Hardware, "I wouldn't have agreed to contribute."

The owner of Ideal Sandwich shop says, "There was no mention of Scientology. I had the impression that Narconon was similar to Alcoholics Anonymous." And the manager of Campus Travel in Minneapolis seethes. "No mention was made of Scientology. Hey, I'm against things like the Moonies and mind-control. I didn't know Narconon had anything to do with religion."

But Campus Travel was small fish compared to the General Mills Foundation, which awarded Narconon a \$1,500 grant for St. Cloud. The Foundation was never told about Scientology. Nor was the Curt Carlson Foundation (\$200) or the American Lutheran Church Women (\$2,500).

But Narconon's biggest score was the plywood tycoon who contributed their seed money. That donor was U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota.

Boschwitz's Senate office confirms he donated \$200 for Narconon in 1976, with an additional \$940 over the next two years. Nar-

conon fund-raiser Lottie Seidler remembers Boschwitz's generosity. "Rudy Boschwitz was my first cash contribution. He sent the check with a note. 'Here's my contribution for Narconon. And here's a list of people you might ask for contributions. You can say I suggested it. If there's anyone on the list you don't have the courage to call,' he wrote, 'call me and I'll ask them for you.'"

Boschwitz, reached at his Washington office, insists that Narconon never told him of their link to Scientology. "It would have affected my decision, yes."

Said Boschwitz legislative aide Tom Mason, "Who was aware of Scientology in 1976? You're not going to get Rudy to back Scientology." Mason notes the Narconon donations were a very small part of Boschwitz's estimated \$56,000 gifts to charity in 1976.

Of course, Sen. Boschwitz has the right to support any charity he pleases, whether it be Muscular Dystrophy or the Sacred Cult of the Divine Grape. But the impact of Boschwitz' donation was far out of proportion to its size.

Narconon mentioned Sen. Boschwitz's donations in their grant requests to both the McKnight Foundation and H. B. Fuller of Minneapolis. Neither company was told of Narconon's link to Scientology. McKnight gave \$3,000. H. B. Fuller gave \$2,500.

Most frighteningly, Boschwitz's donation may have protected the St. Cloud program from criticism. Says one prison official, "the staff of St. Cloud thought they might have potential trouble if they kicked Narconon out of their institution, because they thought Rudy Boschwitz supported it."

As a result, an unaccredited drug program featuring unaccredited chemical dependency counselors operated at St. Cloud prison long after its ties to Scientology surfaced.

Narconon's effectiveness in St. Cloud is difficult to determine. Astonishingly, no records were kept on the use of drugs by Narconon students. And Crime Control Board reports show Narconon-St. Cloud attendance often falling "far below" the contracted goals of the program.

But in Michigan, where Corrections Dept. psychologist John Hand called Narconon "so misleading as to be termed a 'con,'" a 1980

prison study concluded "graduates of the Narconon program do not do as well as our population in general."

Palo Alto, California's 1977 evaluation of Narconon pointed out the program's staff had failed to accompany addicts to hospitals as required, did not collect urinalysis when required by contract, never submitted follow-up reports, "did not provide access to client files," and did not "establish any sort of working relationship" with other drug abuse clinics. The Report said other drug counselors had "serious doubts about the competency of Narconon Palo Alto."

Still, Narconon Palo Alto charged fees called "probably prohibitive," averaging \$50/hour for the 75-125 hours spent on the "purification rundown." Fees reached as high as \$1,495 per addict. Other agencies didn't refer clients to Narconon due to the "relationship between NPA and the Church of Scientology." Citing a "low level of performance," the city terminated Narconon in 1977.

Narconon literature calls their Purification Rundown process, available in Minnesota for approximately \$1,102, "like a cleansing flow of pure spring water." But an evaluation of Narconon's LA. program conducted by Dr. Forest Tennant, PhD. for the California Dept. of Health found otherwise.

Dr. Tennant charged that Narconon's detoxification procedures "are without proper medical supervision and may be dangerous." He called claims for an 86 percent cure rate "misleading" and "simply not true."

Former Narconon students say the rundown involves massive doses of niacin - often as much as 2,000 to 5,000 milligrams per day. Health agencies note the recommended daily allowance of niacin is 17 to 21 milligrams. Dr. Tennant told the Health Dept. that Narconon's megavitamin detoxification of addicts "may be hazardous and, in some cases, lethal."

Yet Narconon's plans for growth in the Twin Cities continue. A recent Narconon-Minnesota newsletter notes "the school year is about to begin again. If you are a parent that would like to see a drug education lecture given, perhaps this is something you would like to bring up at a PTA meeting." The newsletter says Narconon presented a project for

Idaho high-school students. "The probable result will be that Narconon will then be put into the whole public school system at Idaho. Let's try to make Minnesota the next state to do this."

The loss of Narconon's showplace in St. Cloud, and the federal and state funds that went with it, has wounded Scientology and its hopes for a "drug program." But while Narconon may have lost the battle in Minnesota, they're winning the war in Hollywood.

Last month, NBC-TV devoted \$5 million worth of network airtime for the anti-drug campaign, "Get High On Yourself." Filmed by producer Robert Evans, the Campaign featured celebrities like Henry Winkler and Cheryl Tiegs.

But there are disturbing hints that the "Get High" campaign is being exploited - some say controlled - by Scientology for its own ends.

The chairwoman of "Get High" is actress Cathy Lee Crosby, described as the hostess of TV's "That's Incredible." But the Sept. 1979 issue of Scientology's *Auditor* magazine lists Crosby as a Scientology "Clear." Last year, Crosby testified before the U.S. Senate committee on Narcotics Abuse to extol the virtues of a "purification program" she had taken, called Narconon. "I did the program myself and it was so fantastic. I wanted to get it out into the world," says Crosby.

Press queries to NBC-TV are referred to Crosby's agent Kathie Wasserman, described as the executive director of the Get High On Yourself Foundation. But Wasserman has other responsibilities. The June 1977 issue of the *Auditor* lists her as a Scientology student in Los Angeles' Celebrity Center. Scientology critics fear that the estimated \$6 million raised by "Get High" may be nourishing Scientology's power rather than drug programs.

The tragedy of Narconon and "Get High" is that, in the words of Dr. Forest Tennant, "public money is being used for purposes other than drug rehabilitation" while vital medical care for drug abusers "may be gravely delayed or omitted." □

NBC - GET HIGH ON YOURSELF

NBC says they were unaware of any connection between Get High on Yourself and Scientology. Rona Barrett on the Today Show commented on the connection and quoted a statement made by Paulette Cooper. That evening NBC "handled it" on That's Entertainment. They, NBC, would never knowingly have given free time to publicize and promote any political, philosophical or religious group. See related article Narconon Sting.

READERS DIGEST ARTICLE RESPONSE

The Readers Digest article Sept. 1981, Scientology: The Sickness Spreads has generated about 400 inquiries. Many who write or call are wives of Scientologists. They say their husbands have given money, saved for specific needs, to Scientology for training. The fanatical desire to continue Scientology courses and the alienation, if the partner disapproves, is destroying many marriages.

FROM - Citizens Freedom Fndn.
newsletter - Nov. 1981

former name of
Cult Awareness Network.

FAIR - LONDON STUDENT 1981 NOV 12

Scientology in England

From FAIR

London Student (12 Nov. 81) expresses concern regarding Scientology's 'Free personality tests'. We reported in our October newsletter on these questionnaires being handed out in Tonbridge. The paper quotes this statement by a Professor of Psychology: 'Any inferences based on the Scientology questionnaire are open to grave doubts. The use of such tests is positively dangerous in the wrong hands.' *London Student* sent ten volunteers for a free personality test. All were told that their personalities needed 'urgent attention' and were urged to allow the 'church' to direct their treatment. Failing this, they were advised to buy one of the many books by Ron Hubbard.

Clearwater Sun

Northern Pinellas County's Local Daily

TUESDAY
November 24, 1981

Clearwater
Sun

People



DAVID POST
... security chief

His job not always so 'secure'

David Post has a job that keeps him running and dodging and ducking and, sometimes, hopping mad. Post is security chief at the Church of Scientology's Fort Harrison Hotel headquarters, where just about once a week a heckler, vandal or robber creates a hassle for security guards.

"I'm not saying everyone should agree with Scientology, but you don't break the law to prove a point," says the 19-year-old, who joined the church with his mother in Washington, D.C., five years ago. "I wish people would just talk to us instead of causing trouble."

In his three years on the job in Clearwater, Post has been the target of eggs, bottles and cans; he's been punched and shot at (fortunately, the assailant used a blank gun); and he's chased down suspects "many times." Post says he has assisted police in several prosecutions, including one in which a man was ordered to spend a night with Post "to see the other side."

Post, a high school graduate, heads a team of eight full-time guards and 30 reservists—all Scientologists—who rotate shifts at the church's seven Clearwater properties. He earns \$30 a week, but the church pays for his housing, food, medical bills and Scientology courses.

His outside interests include tap dancing and stand-up comedy, and he believes Scientology will help him in a career in entertainment.

"I haven't been dissatisfied with anything in the church. I've found what I've been looking for."

—Richard Leiby

St. Petersburg Times

Florida's Best Newspaper

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES 1981 Dec 2

(Reprinted in THE ADVISOR 1981 APR/MAY)

Page 2

PRISCILLA PRESLEY A SCIENTOLOGIST

Milt Wolf, a spokesman for the Church of Scientology in Clearwater, Florida, confirmed in early December that Priscilla Presley is a Scientologist.

Craig Robertson, writing in the Dec. 2 St. Petersburg Times, reports that Ms. Presley, widow of Elvis Presley, has visited the Church's Clearwater headquarters on one or two occasions in recent months.

The Scientology statement appears to have been in response to a story by freelance writer Jim McLandish, one of a team of reporters who wrote a feature on Scientology which first appeared in the Oct. 28 issue of the National Enquirer.

The church has severely criticized a statement in the Enquirer story that Ms. Presley has "plunged" her daughter "into the clutches of a mind-bending religious cult, hellbent on using her to get their hands on her father's millions."

The church confirmed, says Robertson, that 12 year old Lisa Presley is a student at a California School which relies on techniques developed by Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard.

Writer McLandish told the Times Robertson that Clearwater City Commissioner Richard Tenny and local church critic Alex Cornell, were helpful in providing background for the Enquirer story and tips on Ms. Presley's connection with the church.

NARCONON

Anti-drug program with roots in Scientology doesn't live up to claims of support, success

A booklet published by Narconon and submitted to Florida authorities makes several claims that are untrue. Narconon officials don't deny that the booklet contains inaccurate and outdated material, but say it was not intended to mislead officials, who granted Narconon a license to conduct anti-drug educational lectures.

By CRAIG ROBERTON
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer
© 1981, St. Petersburg Times

CLEARWATER — Narconon, an anti-drug program based on tenets of the Church of Scientology and now setting up shop in Clearwater, isn't all it claims to be.

It claims high success rates in rehabilitating drug users and wide acceptance by government agencies around the world.

But a *St. Petersburg Times* investigation has turned up evidence to the contrary. For example:

✓ A Michigan prison psychologist charged that Narconon is a "con" to gain money and recruits for the Church of Scientology. A former Narconon consultant with the church agrees.

✓ A California report done for that state's Department of Health said Narconon's use of megavitamins to detoxify addicts is a "hazardous" and "in some cases lethal" practice.

✓ In Delaware, Connecticut and Minnesota, Narconon prison programs were terminated after questions were raised about the program's effectiveness and its ties to the Church of Scientology.

✓ A 63-page promotional booklet published by Narconon and submitted to the Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) makes several claims that are untrue.

Despite these findings, Narconon still claims to be an effective anti-drug program that, one Narconon official wrote, "has literally saved the lives of countless addicts and drug users around the world, restoring them to their families and communities."

The 63-page Narconon booklet, submitted to HRS in support of Narconon's application for a local operating license, makes a variety of claims, among them:

✓ That Narconon still has a prison program in Connecticut. In fact, the program was terminated five years ago.

✓ That Narconon has a treatment

program at a juvenile detention facility in Colorado. In fact, Narconon pulled out of the facility more than a year ago.

✓ That Narconon runs a successful government-financed drug treatment program in West Berlin. In fact, the Berlin government severed its contract with Narconon two years ago.

✓ That officials of a youth training school in California issued a glowing evaluation of Narconon. In fact, the evaluation was done by Narconon's own staff.

The Narconon booklet also contains several written endorsements on stationery bearing the letterheads of various government agencies. In at least three cases, the endorsements were made by minor officials without authorization of the departments involved.

Narconon officials don't deny that the booklet contains inaccurate and outdated material.

"Granted, there are out-points (mistakes) in the book," said Gary Smith, Narconon's national director in Los An-

geles. "But there are out-points in every program."

Smith said the publication, copyrighted by Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard in 1979, is a "promotional piece" that is no longer used on the Pacific Coast.

He said the booklet was not intended to mislead Florida officials, who granted Narconon a license to conduct anti-drug educational lectures last May.

THESE OFFICIALS said the promotional booklet had no bearing on their approval of Narconon's license.

Charles Britt, district administrator of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, said the book was submitted voluntarily and was considered irrelevant to Narconon's license application.

"It was not required as a condition precedent to licensure," said Florida HRS attorney Barbara McPherson.

See NARCONON, 4-B

NOT SCATTERED

NARCONON! Does it have a group in YOUR area? Copies of the complete article on Narconon are available on request. Do your part to educate your neighbors with some of the facts concerning Narconon.

* * * * *

FROM - FREE MINDS
AFFILIATE of Cult Awareness
in Minneapolis, MN
Feb. 1982 (612) 378-2528

'Climate' hinders Narconon here, spokesman says

By CRAIG ROBERTSON
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — Tampa Bay Narconon was formed last spring with the stated goal of delivering lectures on drug abuse to schools, community groups and professional drug counselors.

Since then, the group has changed executive directors three times and, spokesman Mike Fine says, has met with little success in finding forums for the lectures.

Fine says that the "climate" in Clearwater with regard to Scientology-related activities has hindered his efforts to spread information on the Narconon approach to drug abuse.

HE BLAMES negative media reports about the Church of Scientology.

But Fine says he is doing his best to "provide the true data about drugs" in the community.

For example, Fine recently tried to convince Charles Felton, director of the Pinellas County jails, to let Narconon give anti-drug lectures to inmates and officers at the maximum security center near Largo.

Felton said he turned down the offer, citing reports questioning the effectiveness of the Narconon program in other states.

Fine said he has also met with representatives of anti-drug groups around the state and hopes to start an anti-drug group for parents in Clearwater.

TAMPA BAY Narconon has established a "training center" at a house at 300 S Saturn Ave. in Clearwater and said in a recent press release that it plans to open similar centers in St. Petersburg and Tampa.

The press release said "a whole

range of courses on recognizing, preventing and handling drug abuse" will be available at the Clearwater center.

Gary Lerner, new director of Tampa Bay Narconon, acknowledged that Narconon has made mistakes in the past, but said all large organizations have made mistakes.

"Just remember," Lerner said, "all we are trying to do is help kids, to get them off drugs."

LERNER SAID he does not know why his two predecessors left Tampa Bay Narconon.

Tampa Bay Narconon is not incorporated in Florida, although its local license application said incorporation procedures were in progress.

Through church spokesman Laura Wolfe, Fine said that, as far as he knows, the group does not plan to pursue incorporation.

Defender

"It's just a basic technology whereby a person can get off drugs, back into life and be happy. We don't push it (Scientology) on anybody. We never have."

— Gary Smith, Narconon's national director, who branded Hand's assertion that money in Michigan was "laundered" as "ridiculous."

Critic

"They are phony, a front for the Church of Scientology. We found out in Michigan that most of the money that we were paying Narconon was laundered back into the Church of Scientology."

— John Hand, Michigan prison psychologist.