

# READER

day, February 26, 1982 Vol. 4, No. 18 LOS ANGELES'S FREE WEEKLY

## Mr. Science Fiction



Ackerman and part of his science-fiction mask collection

The Amazing Story of Forrest Ackerman  
Los Angeles's Curator of Sci-Fi Literature  
(He Even Invented the Name)

# READER

Friday, February 26, 1982 Vol. 4, No. 18 LOS ANGELES'S FREE WEEKLY

By Neil K. Citrin

Yanked into the atomic age when America exploded the first A-bomb, science fiction—a previously scorned and neglected literary genre—achieved instant respectability in the eyes of a curious and suddenly science-minded world. Only twenty years earlier, in April, 1926, a German immigrant named Hugo Gernsback started a magazine called *Amazing Stories* that provided a focused market for fiction that Gernsback at first called "scientifiction." For the next two decades, science fiction had as much social value and acceptance as Christianity did in Rome around 1 A.D. But science fiction survived those formative times and later survived the convulsive changes of the nineteen-fifties and sixties to become a recognized legitimate field of literary endeavor, complete with its own historian and curator: Forrest Ackerman.

Forrest Ackerman, known to his friends as "Forry," has watched his beloved genre grow, and, while he may not have always approved the changes, he kept track of everything. At the age of sixty-five, he still finds it difficult to believe that his hobby has become so immensely popular.

**W**hen I was a kid and had been collecting for a few

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received copies of *Dianetics* when it first arrived in Los Angeles in 1950. At the time, public debate centered upon whether Hubbard had anything valid to say or was simply a fraud. Van Vogt and his wife read the book twice in one evening, and then experimented on a visiting relative. Using techniques mentioned in the book, they took her back to the moment of her birth. The Van Vogts decided that Hubbard was important and asked Ackerman to participate in a simple experiment, but they had to assure him that no hypnosis was involved.

"Hubbard had a reputation as a master hypnotist," Ackerman said, "and I wanted nothing to do with that. I agreed to the experiment. I blanked my mind. At first I saw nothing, but then two disembodied eyes like Peter Lorre's appeared. I started saying 'popping eyes,' then shortened it to 'pop eyes,' and finally to 'poppies.' From there I went directly into a famous World War I poem that began 'In Flanders's field the poppies grow, by the crosses row-by-row ...' and then I was standing by

years I had about twenty-six magazines," Ackerman said, peering at me through black-framed glasses that seemed nearly as thick as my own. "My mother worried that if I continued at that rate I would have over a hundred magazines by the time I reached adulthood." He laughed, and I found it difficult to resist joining him. This roundish man with the bad eyes, a man known around the world as Mr. Science Fiction for his devotion to the genre, seems a lot younger than most people a third his age. Surrounding us were some of the talismans that kept him young: paintings by professional artist Frank R. Paul, and others by writers such as Ray Bradbury and Robert Bloch. Paul gave Ackerman his first sense-of-wonder jolt one afternoon in October of 1926. Ackerman recalls that day clearly.

"I was walking along Santa Monica Boulevard near Western Avenue and saw that month's issue of *Amazing* on a newsstand," he said. "I had just visited the zoo and seen giraffes and boa constrictors for the first time. Paul's cover illustration seemed as alien to me as the zoo animals had."

Ackerman didn't realize he could get his sense-of-wonder fix monthly; he let six months go by before he bought another issue, but he quickly

made up for lost time. He began buying everything he could lay his hands on, and soon began writing to the genre magazines. This introduced Ackerman to the disorganized world of science-fiction fandom. Frederik Pohl, now a respected writer, anthologist, and critic, chronicles this subculture in his book *The Way the Future Was*. Before Gernsback formed the first official fan organization, the Science Fiction League, in 1934, Ackerman had his own group—The Boy's Scientifiction Club. "Girls were as rare as pterodactyl's teeth among my correspondents," Ackerman explained. "I think I had only one."

A good student (he would later enter college at the age of sixteen), Ackerman didn't receive as much criticism from his parents about his hobby as other boys did. Once, though, his mother persuaded him to sell his collection to a neighborhood boy. Ackerman described his resulting condition as "pale, weak, and listless until she relented and retrieved the collection from the boy. I recovered immediately," he added with a smile.

One of the biggest joys he experienced as a fan was the publication of his own fan magazines. These "fan-zines" are as popular within the fan community now as in Ackerman's

time. His first, *The Time Traveller*, published in the early nineteen-thirties, had one of the first known lists of fantasy and science-fiction films. For eight years in the nineteen-forties, he published a fanzine called *Voice of the Imagi-Nation*. Those magazines were filled with Ackerman's playful innovations with the English language. He combined numbers, ampersands, and various abbreviations with a punning style that came to be called "Ackermanese." Though he uses a milder variant of it in his professional magazine *Famous Monsters*, Ackerman gave up the extreme version of Ackermanese more than twenty-five years ago; he found that, after a while, even he could no longer read it.

**A**ckerman continued to rise in the fan community, establishing himself as a literary agent in 1947. One of his most famous clients, a man not normally associated with science fiction by the general public, is Scientology guru L. Ron Hubbard. Now seventy-one years old and celebrating his fiftieth year as a published writer, Hubbard is returning to science fiction with two novels in the works.

Ackerman and his close friend, science-fiction writer A. E. Van Vogt,

"grave with my only brother lying in it." Ackerman stopped for a moment and leaned back on the couch, staring at the ceiling. When he continued, his voice had softened.

"My brother died on New Year's Day of 1945 at the Battle of the Bulge. I had always figured that when a loved one died I would break down and weep and wail and be of no use to anyone. I didn't break down over my brother's death until that night."

"Grief discharge," as Ackerman called it, was a favorite procedure used by the early groups of Dianetic's enthusiasts. During the early fifties, Ackerman worked with Hubbard as a reporter, observing many of the meetings. As his time became more precious, and as Dianetics gradually became what is now Scientology, Ackerman left the Hubbard organization.

"Dianetics was devised to help people lead a life without aberrations," he said. "It helped people to be in better physical and mental control of their lives. Scientology went into the wild blue yonder with UFOs,

reincarnation, out-of-body experiences, and other things in the metaphysical plane."

**A**ckerman also became disenchanted with his beloved science fiction. He described the emergence of the so-called "new wave" in the early nineteen-sixties with distaste. The movement had actually begun in the nineteen-fifties as a protest against the rigid taboos and strictures of the "Golden Age" of science fiction, a period between 1938 and 1945. The new breed of writers wanted to experiment with mainstream notions of style and form as well as upgrade the overall quality of writing in the genre. A representative sample of the new-wave stories can be found in two anthologies edited by Harlan Ellison, one of the movement's most visible practitioners: *Dangerous Visions* and *Again, Dangerous Visions*. To the old guard, these stories were dull and uninteresting. Ackerman tried to give the new wave a listen, but found few stories that had any science or speculation that would qualify them as science fiction to his way of thinking.

"Science fiction should staple a reader's mental powers to the page," he explained. "The new writers seemed to be throwing away their intellect, writing whatever came to mind. New wave seemed too similar to what novelist William Burroughs did, tossing his manuscript in the air and publishing it in the order it came down."

Ackerman also found the attitude in fan circles to his word "sci-fi" distressing. He created it late in 1954 and began using it in professional magazines early the following year. His red Cadillac proudly bears the words SCI-FI on its license plates. Many nonfans use the term in all innocence, but to many fans sci-fi has come to stand for Flash Gordon, Godzilla, Buck Rogers, and similar fare that is no longer representative of the genre. Ackerman insists that he did not create the term as a put-down.

"If people feel they need a word for things like Godzilla they should create one, like 'skiffy' [a word coined by Harlan Ellison], and leave my word alone," he said, gazing at me

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"I read an article recently that was written in 1929," Ackerman said.

"The writer was protesting the use of the word *talkie*. I always thought it was nice to have a choice between *talkie* and *silents* and *cinema* and *motion pictures* when talking about film. If you're writing about science fiction and have to refer to the genre fifty times, it gets boring to use only 'SF' or 'science fiction.'"

Ackerman does not let his distress with the current state of science fiction prevent him from adding to his collection. He reads the monthly newsmagazines (*Locus* and *The Fantasy Newsletter* being the most important) and *Publisher's Weekly* in search of material that belongs in his collection. He wishes that publishers, writers, artists, and studios would provide him with more material so he wouldn't have to purchase quite so much. He also finds it a bit irritating that the Science Fiction Writers of America have selected the University of Kansas as a repository for manuscripts and other material.

"It seems vast foolishness to start another collection at this late date and hope to create the equal of what I took fifty-six years to collect," Ackerman said with a sigh. "Still, it's worthwhile to have collections in other parts of the world in case California cracks off in a big earthquake, becoming the new Atlantis."

Ackerman's greatest fear is that his collection will go to ruins when he dies. About fifteen years ago the city of Los Angeles was planning to create a Hollywood Museum with a science-fiction/special-effects wing. Despite strong support by special-effects people like Merian C. Cooper and Marcel Delgado (the original King Kong) the project failed. Ackerman also shudders at the thought of what happened to the collection of a wealthy Australian science-fiction fan named Ron Graham.

"There is a book called *The Four-Sided Triangle* by William F. Temple that I like to give to people I think will appreciate it," he said. "Many years ago I gave Graham a copy and signed it. Several years after his death I ordered a copy of the book from England and I was horrified to find it was the same copy I had given to Graham."

To prevent his collection from suffering a similar fate, Ackerman has been working closely over the past year with Ethel Narvid, executive secretary to Mayor Tom Bradley. Narvid, along with the mayor and the

heads of the library and cultural affairs departments of the city, visited the museum a few months back and came away impressed. They have no location as yet, but Narvid has been working with the city attorney's office to draw up a document outlining the conditions of acceptance that will state the conditions under which Ackerman will give the city his collection, and the conditions

under which the city will accept it. Narvid hopes the city can finance the museum through a special support committee made up of prominent names in the science-fiction/fantasy field. She would not commit herself on the names of those who had responded to her inquiries.

Ackerman told me that those asked to serve on the committee so far include film makers Steven Spielberg and George Lucas, and writers Ray Bradbury and Isaac Asimov. The grandson of Edgar Rice Burroughs has promised to donate a selection of first-edition manuscripts, foreign editions, and other items.

At the present, Ackerman is still in control of the museum. He prefers that people visit on Saturdays between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., and, though he has never turned anyone away, he suggests calling a day or two in advance; he often goes out of town on business.

**T**he drive up to what Ackerman calls the Son of Ackerman mansion takes visitors past some of the nicest homes in Hollywood. Drive north on Vermont past Los Feliz and turn left on Cromwell. After crossing Vermont on Cromwell, make a sharp right on Glendower and follow the curves up to 2495 Glendower. A sign on the side gate informs visitors that they are entering the Sci-Fi Ville in the land of Karloffornia.

Once by the gate, a short path leads to a backyard dominated by what looks, at first glance, to be a giant prehistoric fish: It is actually a model used for the George Pal film *Atlantis*. The first part of the museum, the Rainbow Room, is out back, and contains a variety of posters from films familiar and unfamiliar. More posters, as well as paintings, lobby cards, and stills greet visitors at the entrance to the main museum. Ackerman's paperback books are there, too. It is this section, right at the beginning, that enchanted me most. Sensual women and haunting aliens from the mind of the gifted and sadly neglected Virgil Finlay beckon in both black-and-white and color; I

came back to this section often during my three visits to the Son of Ackerman museum. Ackerman also has a special section for his early favorite, Frank R. Paul, on the opposite side.

Ackerman does not catalog his material, but he does keep things in a certain order. Hardcover books by authors prominent over the past twenty-five years comprise one section, books with numbers in their titles (such as *2001: A Space Odyssey*) another, and lost-continent books yet another.

"I've also got a section for books written more for their social and political ideas than fiction (Jack London's *Iron Heel* and Edward Bellamy's *Looking Backward*), and for books that only old-timers like myself would recognize," Ackerman said.

In a room down an aisle that runs behind Finlay's work, Ackerman keeps the majority of his movie stills, as well as models from films like the original *King Kong* and *Twenty Million Miles to Earth*. Scattered around the books are more pictures and other items that create an almost claustrophobic atmosphere.

Ackerman maintains this fascinating clutter with the aid of several assistants. The two most visible are Harvey Clarke, who arrived in Los Angeles a year ago from England, and Brian Forbes. Forbes has been a semipermanent fixture at the museum since arriving from Detroit to attend school four-and-a-half years ago.

"After he'd been working here a while, I began to get embarrassed," Ackerman admitted. "Brian was doing as much work as my other assistants and he wasn't getting paid. One Saturday I called him over and gave him a \$100 bill. He looked flabbergasted for a moment; then accepted it and walked around and then handed it back to me. 'Mr. Ackerman,' he said, 'I would like to make a donation to your museum.' After six weeks it became apparent he wasn't going to accept any payment, so I left off making the gesture and each week added \$100 to the board where I list all my donations. So far," Ackerman added, "Brian has contributed close to \$12,000 of his time to the museum."

**L**istening to Ackerman talk about his museum, and watching him deal with visitors and explain the history of its different items, I wondered how he could give it all away. He had, he explained, tried to find a successor but couldn't find anyone with his single-minded devotion to science fiction. That was

what prompted him to turn over his collection to the city.

"It hurts me to stop," Ackerman admitted, "just as it hurts anyone to stop a hobby he's been absorbed with for so many years. I won't be giving it all up, though. I'm giving the city some 300,000 pieces, which is quite enough. Once they take it over, I hope to be the mastermind behind spending the money that is allocated to maintain it."

"I enjoy giving information to the world," Ackerman said, "and I feel that my mission was to create the most complete collection of science fiction and fantasy items that I could and leave it for posterity."

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES 1982 MAR 5  
FLORIDA

## **Scientology Victims Fund**

From the St. Petersburg Times Mar. 5

Some of the secrecy is beginning to dissolve around the Scientology Victims' Defense Fund in Clearwater. Because of information filed with the state, three names have become public. The fund is sponsored by a citizens' task force of business leaders who say they intend to raise money to "educate the public..." A document filed with the Charitable Solicitation Section of Florida's Department of State indicates that the group is being led by Robert Bickerstaff, seven-time unsuccessful candidate for the Clearwater City Commission, Patricia Winston, an account executive with a stock brokerage firm, and Ronald Wulfeck, president of the Dunedin firefighters union.

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**Scientologist's Convictions Upheld**

From AP

A federal appeals court on Mar. 5 upheld the convictions of two members of the Church of Scientology convicted in 1978 of engineering a break-in at government offices to steal documents about the church.

The three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals unanimously upheld the guilty verdicts of Jane Kember and Morris Budlong.  
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**Scientologist's Convictions Upheld**

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who had occupied high positions in the church in England.

They appealed on technical grounds, saying the lower court erred in not sending the case to the District of Columbia court because the charges were local rather than federal and in admitting evidence that had not been submitted to British courts during extradition proceedings.

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## COMMUNITY

**Michael Flynn**

### *Clearwater Hires Lawyer to Battle Scientologists*

by Laurie Hollman

*This story first appeared in the Mar. 5 ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, to whom we are grateful for permission to reprint it here.*

Clearwater city commissioners formally agreed Thursday night to hire a Boston lawyer to assist them in conducting public hearings on abuses allegedly committed by the Church of Scientology.

But the commission refused to pay an estimated \$106,275 for the church to present its side of the case.

Commissioners said the organization is welcome to testify at the hearings, tentatively scheduled for mid-April. The offer should quell possible charges that Clearwater was trampling on the church's right to be heard, said City Attorney Tom Bustin. But the commission said no to a church request that the city pick up the tab for the Scientologists to hire their own consultant and bring witnesses.

The Church of Scientology was not happy with the commission action. Talking to reporters outside the commission chambers, church spokesman Hugh Wilhere denounced the decision, saying "They have embarked down a very dangerous path." He likened the proposed hearings to a witch hunt, a Star Chamber and a kangaroo court.

The church's position, contained in a letter written by church attorney Peter Martin and read to the commission by Wilhere, is that Clearwater should be responsible for the costs involved in having both sides make presentations.

But even if it did agree to the church's money request, Clearwater would still be susceptible to another charge, according to Martin's March 4 letter: "...We maintain the position that any of the activities undertaken by the city directed against the Church of Scientology constitute a violation of civil rights laws."

Thursday night marked the first time an official from the church has publicly commented on the proposed public hearings. After the decision, Wilhere said he will have to consult with attorneys about the church's next move.

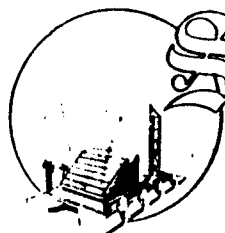
The hearings are to focus on whether the Church of Scientology has violated state and county charitable solicitation and consumer fraud laws.

Commissioners formally agreed to hire Boston attorney Michael Flynn as a consultant to assist the city in preparing for and conducting the legislative hearings. Flynn is the author of a report chronicling alleged church abuses and recommending Clearwater enact charitable solicitation and consumer protection ordinances to curb them.

Hiring Flynn is expected to cost about \$70,000.

Clearwater City Manager Tony Shoemaker has estimated that consultants' fees, witness expenses and an analysis of the hearings will cost the city approximately \$110,000 in all. The money is expected to come from funds the city obtained in a one-shot windfall that resulted in a change in Florida Power Corp.'s payment procedures.





# St. Petersburg Times

## clearwater times

EDITION

Belleair, Dunedin, Largo, Palm Harbor, Tarpon Springs, Safety Harbor, Oldsmar and all Upper Pinellas.

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### The **ADVISOR**

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#### **Grand Jury Investigation**

## **Supreme Court Won't Hear Scientologists' Appeals**

by John Harwood

*This story first appeared in the Mar. 9 ST. PETERSBURG TIMES, to whom we are grateful for permission to reprint it here.*

Mitchell Hermann and Francine Vannier now have a choice: They can talk to a federal grand jury about the Church of Scientology or they can go to jail.

The U.S. Supreme Court Monday declined to hear appeals by the two Scientologists of their contempt of court convictions. The contempt finds were issued in June 1981 by U.S. District Judge Ben Krentzman in Tampa after Hermann and Mrs. Vannier refused to testify before the grand jury about the church's activities in Clearwater.

With their appeals now exhausted, Hermann and Vannier can decide for themselves whether to testify or serve their jail sentences of up to 18 months.

Said U.S. Attorney Gary Betz: "Basically, they have the keys to the jail cell.

"If they testify, they'll purge themselves of contempt," Betz explained.

Mrs. Vannier has been free on bond since being held in contempt last June, but Hermann is already in jail in southern California — serving a four-year sentence handed down in 1979.

That sentence was in connection with an extensive conspiracy to burglarize government offices and steal government documents. Eight other Scientologists also received prison terms in the case.

Lawyers for Hermann and Mrs. Vannier could not be reached Monday on the U.S. Supreme Court decision.

The Tampa grand jury investigation, nearly a year old, reportedly centers on the church's alleged attempts to harass and silence its critics — including former Clearwater mayor Gabriel Cazares and the *St. Petersburg Times*.

After hearing of the Supreme Court's ruling Monday, Betz said in a telephone interview from Jacksonville that "We will vigorously go forward" with the investigation.

(Meanwhile, another long-standing investigation into church activities is also continuing — this one by Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney James T. Russell. "We're still involved," Russell said Monday. "That's all I can say.")

Hermann and Mrs. Vannier likely will be brought to Tampa sometime in the next few weeks, Betz said. Assistant U.S. Attorney Terry Bostic said he thinks Mrs. Vannier is currently in the Los Angeles area.

If Hermann continues to refuse to testify, he could serve his contempt sentence either in Tampa or in California, Bostic added.

Hermann, once the southeast U.S. secretary for the church's information bureau, has based his refusal to testify on the assertion that the questions were the result of illegal electronic surveillance by the FBI.

Mrs. Vannier, who is alleged to have infiltrated Cazares' 1976 congressional campaign, invoked the right of a wife not to testify against her husband. Her husband Merrill Vannier, a former Clearwater attorney, has been accused of functioning as a Scientology spy while representing Cazares in litigation with the church.

At church headquarters in Clearwater, Scientology spokesman Hugh Wilhere had little to say about the Supreme Court's ruling. Neither Hermann nor Mrs. Vannier are currently employed by the church, Wilhere said, so, "It would be inappropriate for me to comment."

"This is sort of something that's coming back from the past," he remarked.

— Information from the Associated Press was used in compiling this report.

THE IV

## *Judge Restricts Scientology Documents*

### Press Report

Judge Aubrey E. Robinson, Jr. of the U.S. District Court in Washington, ruled on Feb. 17 that documents seized from the Church of Scientology by the FBI and made public in 1979 cannot be disseminated by private parties unless prior approval is obtained from the court.

The decision would seem to restrict the right of news organizations, which obtained copies of thousands of the documents, to publish information about their contents, according to the *St. Petersburg Times* (Feb. 20).

However, in a seemingly contradictory footnote to the opinion, Robinson said his order "makes no decision" on the "ultimate right" of individuals who obtained copies of the documents "to make use of the documents." This question is pending before the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Robinson stated.

But Boston attorney Michael Flynn said the appeals court ruled on Jan. 19, denying a church motion that would have required private individuals and news organizations to return copies of the documents to the court to be sealed. "Robinson apparently was not aware of that decision," Flynn said.

Robinson's decision resulted from petitions by Flynn, who sought limited access to some documents on behalf of a

client, and the IRS, which sought access to one document in connection with a tax case against the church.

Robinson granted both petitions, but stipulated that all other future interested parties would have to seek similar court approval before disseminating copies of the documents.

Flynn termed Robinson's ruling "the most incredible decision I have ever heard of. How can you seal millions of documents that are disseminated all over the United States?"

The documents in question were the basis of the convictions of 11 ranking Scientologists on charges of conspiracy and theft of government documents. The release of these documents three years ago had revealed a variety of church plots to discredit its critics and to infiltrate government agencies and news organizations.

Robinson's ruling strictly curtailed dissemination of the documents by "third parties" who obtained copies of the documents before they were sealed. Robinson did not consider the possibility that "third parties" might disseminate the documents in a limited matter.

A Scientology spokesman in Washington could not be reached for comment on the ruling.



# The ADVISOR

Journal of the *American Family Foundation*

Informing the Government and Public on Cult and Family Issues

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## Scientology Split-up Reported

### Rebels Confirm Critics

From Press Reports  
by Joan Guberman

The Church of Scientology is facing an internal crisis. Dissidents report unrest and demands for reform in local organizations across the nation.

Local missions are breaking away in Orange County and Riverside, California, and "The northwest is on the edge of rebellion" according to Ford Schwartz, program coordinator of the Freedom Counseling Center in Burlingame, California.

In the northeast, F. Brown McKee, senior executive of two reform-minded Connecticut missions, charges the national church of Scientology with betraying its philosophical teachings and bleeding its members financially. "The Waterbury and New London, Connecticut, missions have become the first church units in the nation to sever ties with the parent organization," said McKee. Meanwhile, the mission in Rochester, N.Y., is also breaking with church leaders, according to its director, Dale Grady.

McKee told the *Hartford Courant* (Jan. 29), that, "Scientology has gone from an informal group of people with a philosophical bent . . . to a miniature Nazi, Germany, a military type of organization." McKee has been involved with Scientology for 23 years.

Jack Brighton, a church spokesman in Boston, said the the dispute does not mark a serious division in the church. However, McKee and four other senior Scientologists

### Called "Nazi" by Dissidents

in three states have been suspended for not restricting complaints about church policies and practices to official church complaint boards.

"There've been some upsets with people such as Brown," Brighton said. "We've been going through a period of rapid expansion and there are some bumps along the way."

Dissidents say the protest movement grew out of a December church conference in Clearwater, Fla., where field leaders unsuccessfully pressed the church's executives to allow members to participate in church administration and to turn away from secrecy and the financial exploitation of church members.

McKee said the "horror stories" he heard from church colleagues at the Clearwater conference convinced him and some others that, "All the stories I had heard and put off as government attacks were all true. It's turned into an extremely regimented system . . . you do it one way or your thinking is 'corrected,'" he said.

According to Brighton, McKee and field officials in Dallas and Los Angeles have been suspended. But McKee and Grady said there also is church pressure on dissidents in Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio, St. Louis, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

Brighton said that many within the church agree that some high church officials have

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## Split-up

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made major mistakes, but he said those officials have been removed.

The Waterbury, Connecticut group issued a six-point condemnation of the national organization saying it was leaving the church because "senior managing officials of the church have departed from the original and beneficial form of Scientology."

The Waterbury group has six major complaints. They are: the transformation of management of the church into paramilitary units with naval ranks and the enforcement of orders in a military manner; the orientation of the church toward making money rather than toward providing services; the harassment of individuals who question the policies or practices of the church; the control of Scientology by a secret group called the "Watchdog Committee" that refuses to reveal the names of its members; official pressure to support and defend senior church leaders, including Hubbard's wife, who were convicted in 1979 of conspiracy in the electronic bugging of government offices and the stealing of federal documents; and the refusal of officials to reveal the whereabouts or welfare of Hubbard, who has not appeared in public for several years and who McKee and others believe may be seriously ill.

McKee said that he has been concerned about the organization "for many, many years," but "put up with the stupidities . . . in the hope that the organization would grow up."

Ford Schwartz echoed Brown's comments in his assessment of the causes for the rifts. L. Ron Hubbard, Jr., meanwhile, son of the founder of Scientology, claims that black magic was practiced within the church, especially in the '50s, and that the "OT3 training" in Scientology is really exorcism. Hubbard Jr. further asserts that the church leaders have in the past been involved in sex and drug orgies and the exploitation of women.

# INTERNATIONAL

**British Report Cites German  
Aid for Problem**

## International Cult Conference

*The following is reprinted, with thanks,  
from the February newsletter of F.A.I.R., the  
British cult awareness and education organi-  
zation.*

Press report issued in Bonn on Nov. 24, 1981 entitled 'International Concern Regarding the Growth of Youth Sects.'

The influence and activities of destructive cults (so-called youth sects) have increased considerably, both inland and abroad. This — according to Dr. Karbe, speaking on behalf of the German Association — was the conclusion of an international exchange of experiences, organized by Parents Initiative Groups in Bonn (20-22 November). The deep concern of the participants, who included representatives from USA, France, Spain, Britain, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Holland and Switzerland, was confirmed in lectures given by leading psychiatrists. As the majority of these cults had to be seen as multinational organizations of considerable financial power, reciprocal support and public information across national frontiers was absolutely necessary.

Karbe stressed the point that the financial assistance given to the German Parents Initiative by the Federal Government in the framework of its Youth, Family and Health policy was regarded abroad as exemplary, not forgetting the fact that Government and Opposition were in agreement on this issue. The conference was also supported by the Federal Medical Board, the Federal Association for Health Education and the German Association for Child and Youth Psychiatry. American experts had warned, said Karbe, not to consider control over obscure practices and psycho-techniques as possible infringement on religious freedom. In his opening address, Berlin Senator Dr. Bluem, Vice Chairman of the CDU, asked for a resolute family policy.

Specially appreciated was the presence at the conference of the wife of the Federal President, who as a doctor expressed her concern regarding the fate of affected young people.

### American Psychiatrists

Two FAIR Committee members attended the conference, and found the exchange with over 180 participants most stimulating and encouraging. About 50% represented the medical profession, 20% clergy, and the remainder was made up of ex-members, parents and members of action groups. The opportunity to 'put faces to names' and establish new contacts was much appreciated, and the common concern as expressed in the lectures created a bond. The talks were given in German or English, according to the speaker's nationality, with simultaneous translations available for those not fluent in both languages. The speeches given by Dr. John Clark, Dr. Louis West and Dr. Marvin Galper, all American psychiatrists well known for their research into the effects of cult involvement, will become available later in the year. A full conference report will also be published, but possibly in German only.

Special thanks must go to Dr. Klaus Karbe and Dr. Ruediger Altmann, the chief organizers, who did a marvelous job in spite of many obstacles and strong opposition of several cults who wanted to see the conference cancelled. Some of this became evident during a preceding press conference which was attended by two U.C. spokesmen. Their attitude was aggressively hostile. Scientologists later handed out leaflets to arriving guests, headed 'Psychiatry Kills' and informing of supposed damage caused by this

branch of medicine, as well as of Scientology's efforts to put things right. Half expected disturbances did not take place, perhaps partly due to the coinciding visit by Brezhnev, which attracted a lot of attention in the form of demonstrations.

Though the conference did not offer any solutions to the problems of cult involvement, particularly as regarding alternatives, helpful suggestions were made for prevention and counselling, and the deep concern expressed by all will hopefully lead to a greater awareness on international level. Dr. Clark urged closer cooperation among researchers. Scholars ought to learn from the experiences of 'front liners', such as counselors and clinicians, and they should all share a workable vocabulary as well as issue a guide derived from combined studies. An afterthought: Dr. Karbe's Parents Association (equivalent to FAIR) receives substantial annual contributions from the Federal Government which also largely financed the conference. In addition to this, the Ministry of Health issued a warning booklet and distributed 200,000 copies throughout the country. Why does our Government not show any interest? How long will they continue to ignore a problem which — according to Dr. West — has reached epidemic proportions?

## ***Son of Scientology Founder Speaks Out***

Press Report

The son of Scientology's founder, L. Ron Hubbard, believes that his father became psychotic in his lust for money and is now dead.

The younger Hubbard, who calls himself Ron De Wolf to avoid "Continuously bumping into the infamy of my father," told *CHIC Magazine* (April, 1982), that the church "is just keeping up the charade (that the founder is alive) . . . It's to their advantage. My father was seen by the church's followers as the only creative force." De Wolf also said, "When my father began making money he became psychotic, always needing more. He

had an insatiable appetite for power, sex and money."

De Wolf stated that his father, leader of an organization claiming 5,000,000 members world-wide, abused drugs and participated in sex orgies where he encouraged others to 'shoot up' "mostly hard drugs such as amphetamines and cocaine."

Currently, De Wolf is writing a book that exposes the corruption existing within the church. He reports that the church has been using "gestapo-like" harassment tactics to try to stop him from writing the book.

SUNDAY  
April 4, 1982

Clearwater  
Sun

# 'Lee' recounts sect horrors

By STEVEN GIRARDI  
Sun staff writer

As the woman they called "Lee" spoke from the church pulpit, the crowd, estimated at 1,000, was deathly quiet, hanging on every word. For most, it was the first time they had heard about the alleged goings-on within the Church of Scientology.

They listened, somewhat in awe, as the 34-year-old Wisconsin woman recounted methodically her 12 years in the church. Then, as she spoke more passionately about the past two years, they heard of her emotional and physical struggle to break away from the sect.

Lee was introduced by local religious leaders, who, apparently, had informed the crowd of the Thursday night meeting at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2001 Rainbow Drive, Clearwater.

Still, the meeting was shrouded in secrecy. The press was told it would not be allowed to attend. Afterward, Dr. J. Jey Deifell, pastor of the church, refused to say who was responsible for organizing the meeting or if the local clergy was handing together.

"We have chosen not to make it public in the ways some others have," he said.

"With all due respect to your profession," he said, "people sometimes tend to read things into it that aren't there."

Lee offered no proof of her involvement with the church, but relayed a detailed story, sometimes quoting from what she contended were church documents, about the travesty she said began in the late 1960s when she was 18.

"I speak not as an expert," she said, "but as a victim."

She spoke of an unhappy childhood and a broken home in Wisconsin she left when she was 13. She drifted around the United States, spending some time as a "hippie." Without a strong family or

religious background, she said she was "a prime person to become involved in a cult."

An accomplished pianist, Lee said she was introduced to Scientology by a California piano teacher. She was taken to a Scientology center.

"I was impressed," she said. "The people were very friendly and gave me a great deal of attention. They were very loving."

"It just seemed to be a happy experience, something I had looked for all of my life."

She said she was told it was a group "far advanced of any on the planet." She was told about people who travel outside their bodies to different planets, stories that "really fascinated me."

Her Scientology training began with auditing, a form of counseling, she said. She sat in a chair, touching knees with an auditor sitting directly across from her, and they stared eye-to-eye for two hours.

She wondered about the exercise, but quickly dismissed her doubts.

"I lost my own will within a very short time," she said. "I became used to doing what I was told."

She claimed the church works on a fear-hope mechanism, first instilling fear in recruits and then offering Scientology as the only cure, "man's one chance." She said she was told the church was the cure for insanity and crime, which it would wipe out when Scientology converts the world to its ways.

Sect members believes the only race is one between Scientology and nuclear weapons, she said.

"That's why Scientologists are so fanatical and dedicated," she said. "They very strongly believe Scientology is the

(\* See HORRORS, page 3B)

# \* Ex-Scientologist recalls horrors

(from page 1B)

only hope any of us have.

"I fell for it and became a very dedicated Scientologist."

The lesson was repeated and reinforced in each of the classes she attended during the next 12 years, traveling to different centers throughout the country, eventually coming to The Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater as she progressed in the church.

Peer pressure mounted, instilling a fear of "expulsion or ostracism" if one doubted the church or its members. "Doubt was never allowed," she said.

Non-Scientologists, intent on impeding the church, were called "Suppressive Persons," unenlightened and unfortunate. Outside institutions—police, physicians, psychiatrists and colleges—were considered "enemies," she claimed.

After 10 years in the church, Lee said she became eligible for advanced "OT level" courses.

Besides great status in the church, OTs or "Operating Thetans," held the powers of telepathy, travel outside their bodies and controlling other people.

"It was the dream of all my friends," she said.

It was September 1979 when she started the course, nervous and excited, cloaked in secrecy.

She carried a locked briefcase, chained to her arm, which contained the documents she would study.

"I walked into the classroom and opened the case," she said, and "took out the secret materials I had been waiting all these years to read. It was the most fantastic story I've ever heard."

She claimed to have read about an overpopulated galaxy a trillion years ago, ruled by a dictator called Xenu. In the story, penned by church founder L. Ron Hubbard, Xenu killed all the extra people and transported them via space ships to two islands on Earth, one being Hawaii, she said.

Once there, terrific explosions were set off and the electronic force packed the "clusters of demons into people."

As a studying thetan, Lee said she was to spend her time exorcising those demons from her body.

"That's all you do," she said. "I wondered, but I had no capacity to question. L. Ron Hubbard was God to me."

She said she practiced the exorcism in California for two months, sitting alone in a small room, her eyes closed as she tried to visualize, telepathically communicate with and destroy the demons.

She did it until she "collapsed. I couldn't go on."

She began feeling ill, paranoid and was haunted by nightmares. "My whole world collapsed," she said. "I was terrified of being alive; afraid the demons would get me."

Not knowing what to do with her, Lee said church leaders sent her to Clearwater and The Fort Harrison Hotel, which she called the "elite" center for advanced OT training.

She invested \$16,000 for another course, financed by an inheritance and by selling her piano, a diamond ring and a collection of gold coins.

entology outlay to more than \$30,000, she said, which she had financed previously through a job as a "top systems analyst for International Business Machines Corp."

After four months in Clearwater, still finding no success with exorcism, she said she was "physically and mentally in bad shape," but afraid to leave the church.

About the same time, in February 1980, she said a Swiss woman and Scientologist in Clearwater leaped to her death from a causeway bridge. The incident caused the church to guard Lee closely, keeping her from outside help to prevent "more newspaper stories on Scientology failures," she claimed.

Lee said she was told to pick a spot in the country where the church would send her, and she, under guard, was flown to her parents' Wisconsin home and "literally dumped on the doorstep."

Having "become 100 percent dependent on Scientology," she has battled for almost two years to readjust to life outside the church.

For 18 months she lived in constant fear. "I believed I would die," she said. She was unable to communicate, having spent 12 years with no one outside the church, was haunted by paranoia, and afraid to be alone or travel even short distances.

Her thoughts were of returning eventually to the church until she "began to emerge from the world of fear I lived in."

She called the transition "terribly overwhelming," saying she still has difficulty relaxing.

Through self-study, she began to de-program herself, reading "four or five books a day" about cults after quitting a waitress job she said she could not handle.

"Finally, something in my mind snapped and I saw I was programmed," she said.

That led her to call an attorney and, in November 1981, she returned to Clearwater to file suit against the church. The suit is pending.

"I was surprised to find out it has a beach," she said of her return to Clearwater. "I was never more than a few blocks from the hotel when I was here."

Hugh Wilhere, a spokesman for the Church of Scientology in Clearwater, declined to rebut Lee's story, but offered a statement.

"The description (of Lee) fits a woman who, because of her erratic behavior, was asked to leave the church premises and was escorted to the home of parents," Wilhere said. "She was not employed by the church and had come to our Clearwater retreat center at her own insistence."

He said all donations she made to the church were returned to her.

"Despite her assurances and written statements that Scientology had helped her," Wilhere said, "we had come to realize that the damage caused by the psychiatric treatment she received prior to joining the church was beyond repair."

"It appears to us she has joined up with Michael Flynn (a Boston attorney who represents several former Scientologists in suits against the church) and is using churches and the media in Clearwater to set the stage for filing a lawsuit in hopes of making a