

Scientology officials deny charges that it practices 'brainwashing'

Despite its denials, Scientology has long been accused of being a cult that uses "brainwashing techniques" in order to get people to spend thousands of dollars for its self-awareness counseling sessions, called "auditing."

And medical authorities have charged that Scientology allows untrained persons to use potentially dangerous psychological techniques on the public.

The president of the International Church of Scientology, the Rev. Heber C. Jentzsch, mocked charges that Scientology uses brainwashing techniques.

He claimed studies of Scientology members have "proven" that Scientology helped them "increase their IQ's, better their earning power and improve their family life."

A local Scientology spokesman, Glenn C. Currier, also denied that Scientology engages in brainwashing.

"Scientology doesn't brainwash," he said. "It's helped me."

Michelle Sudz, president of the Michigan Church of Scientology, said Scientology's auditors are well-trained people who know what they are doing.

Sudz also denied that Scientology is a cult.

"MY DEFINITION of a cult is some secluded group that keeps itself quiet for a selected few," she said. "Anyone can come in (to a Scientology church) and read Scientology."

Jentzsch said Scientology is a growing religion because the public will not be misled by the "screaming attacks" of critics.

He said the church is in the midst of record expansion for its third year in a row. And he estimated there are about 3.2 million active in the church worldwide.

That claim, however, has been disputed. Time magazine, in a recent edition, quoted defectors as saying Scientology had at most two million active members during its peak period in the 1970s, but now

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has only about 100,000 active members in the U.S. and perhaps the same number abroad.

The Church of Scientology and its founder are reported under investigation in several countries, including the United States.

A court in Australia has revoked Scientology's tax-exempt status as a religion, according to the recent article in Time magazine, and a French court has convicted Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, in absentia, of fraud.

IN EARLY MARCH, more than 100 police officers in Toronto raided national headquarters of the Canadian branch of Scientology and seized thousands of documents under the authority of a 15-page search warrant charging consumer fraud, conspiracy and tax evasion.

The IRS in this country, according to Time, has demanded \$6 million in taxes and penalties from Scientology for four years in the early 1970s, charging the money was not used for church purposes.

And in January, a federal court sent the wife of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard and 10 other top Scientologists to prison for their role in a conspiracy to burglarize several federal offices in Washington.

The government charged the 11 were attempting to get inside information about several government investigations into Scientology.

Hubbard himself is the object of a lawsuit in California, where his eldest son is trying to prove that Hubbard is dead or mentally incompetent to take care of his estate, valued at more than \$100 million.

Court officials there have provided documents and letters that experts say they believe were written by Hubbard, but so far Hubbard has not shown up in court to prove he is still alive.

— Graham

\$2,500 refund paid family of Dr. 'Smith'; more due?

By DAVID V. GRAHAM
Journal urban affairs writer

The family of "Dr. Jane Lord Smith" has been refunded \$2,500, and the president of the Michigan Church of Scientology has said the family appears to be entitled to a total of at least \$4,000 in reimbursements.

Dr. Smith is the pseudonym being used for a Flint physician who suffered brain damage in a suicide try on New Year's Day after turning to Scientology here in an effort to overcome depression.

According to Michelle Sudz, who heads the 3,000-member Scientology church in Michigan, a preliminary investigation has led her to the conclusion that the family is entitled to at least \$4,000 in reimbursements of the more than \$10,000 Dr. Smith paid to the local mission.

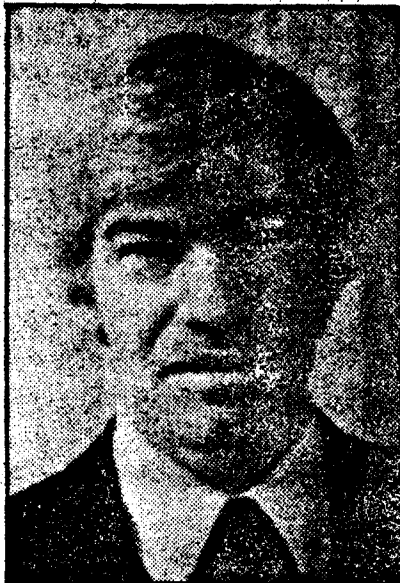
A spokesman for the Flint mission had said earlier that Dr. Smith got her money's worth.

Sudz told The Journal Dr. Smith apparently did not receive the complete course from the local mission before she left Flint to enter a New York clinic. She returned to Flint after two weeks and tried to kill herself.

SUDZ ALSO said it appears that a former local Scientology minister, the Rev. Enid Vien, was not following proper Scientology procedures when she acted as an "auditor" for Dr. Smith.

The local mission closed suddenly in late February and Vien and two other staff members resigned, a situation that hasn't been fully explained by area Scientologists.

"I can only assume that she wasn't practicing standard technology," Sudz said of Vien. "Why else would she up and leave the area without any advance notice — it



Glenn C. Currier (left) refused to provide any information about where Enid Vien could be contacted, or even to relay a message to her. He also refused to discuss Michelle Sudz' criticism of the local mission.

could be related to this controversy."

Sudz said that although she does not have concrete evidence that Vien did anything wrong, she said it appears that Vien contributed to Dr. Smith's problems. She insisted that, if that proves to be the case, the Scientology church itself should not be blamed for the suicide attempt.

"If a trained doctor starts deviating from what he was trained to do and a patient has side effects, who are you going to blame — the doctor or the trainer?" she asked.

Sudz described Vien as being a "nice lady up to this point" and said she has never had any complaints about her ministry here in the past. She said she has been unable to contact Vien, who reportedly quit her job in order to travel.

DESPITE REPEATED efforts, the latest on Friday, The Journal also has been unable to contact Vien, who did authorize the \$2,500 check to Dr. Smith's family on March 26, according to a note the family received from her with the check.

A local church spokesman, Glenn C. Currier, however, insists Dr. Smith got her money's worth and that Scientology isn't to blame for Dr. Smith's suicide attempt.

Currier refused to provide any information about where Vien could be contacted, or even to relay a message to her. He also refused to discuss Sudz' criticism of the local mission.

"I'm out of the answering business," he said.

Sudz said she is investigating the entire Dr. Smith matter, including the fact that she went for scream therapy, had a history of being emotionally unstable, and may have been using or abusing prescribed and "street" drugs.

Family members denied that Dr. Smith was using any type of drugs at the time of her suicide attempt.

Sudz also implied to The Journal that she has received little cooperation from the local mission.

"Let's say that the Smith cycle is very touchy and I haven't been able to get all the information," she said.

Scientology and Dr. 'Jane Smith' The case of a physician and her suicide attempt

By DAVID V. GRAHAM
Journal urban affairs writer

A Flint-area physician who once had a promising career is now in a Colorado rehabilitation center, unable to take care of herself or communicate, the result of a suicide attempt.

Her doctors report she may have suffered permanent brain damage from a self-administered overdose of insulin.

Family members, her psychologist and her associates say she had been emotionally unstable for some time. They contend the local Church of Scientology and the Michigan Purification Project, a detoxification program, aggravated her condition.

Glen C. Currier, a local Scientology spokesman and owner of the Purification Project, denied that Scientology or his business had anything to do with her problems.

MICHELLE SUDZ, president of the Michigan Church of Scientology, however, says she has some doubts about the quality of the treatment the doctor received at the Flint Scientology mission. (See story on Page A9.)

In the three months before her attempted suicide on New Year's Day, the doctor's fi-

nancial records show, she paid more than \$10,000 to the mission and \$700 to the Purification Project.

Relatives, attempting to recover some of the money, have been given back \$2,500, with promises of more to come.

The doctor, in her 30s, spent thousands of dollars for Scientology's "auditing" program,

The doctor's records show she paid more than \$10,000 to the Scientology mission and \$700 to the Purification Project.

which some describe as using "brainwashing" techniques.

In auditing, persons are asked questions about their private life while hooked up to a lie detector-type device called an "E-meter" that measures emotional reaction. They are questioned about what bothers them until all of their problems are "cleared."

The Federal Food and Drug Administration in 1963 accused Scientology of making false claims that the E-meter would improve health, intelligence, ability and behavior, according to the St. Petersburg Times.

A judge who reviewed the FDA's claims said in 1973 there was "absolutely no scientific or medical basis in fact for the claimed cures attributed to E-meter auditing."

THAT JUDGE RULED that the church could no longer advertise its services as a scientific cure of disease, that it must label its E-meters as ineffective in treating illnesses and that it could only use the meters in "bona fide religious counseling."

Because the federal judge ruled that Scientology was entitled to First Amendment protection as a religion and could use the meters, the church halted his decision as a victory, the Florida paper reported.

The doctor's mother told the Journal her daughter said she was prepared to spend at least \$20,000 to "go clear."

On Dec. 14, Dr. Jane Lord Smith (not her real name) entered a New York City mental health clinic. (Because there is a slight chance Dr. Smith may recover someday, her

family does not want her identified in this story. The names of her relatives have also been changed.)

Family members and friends say local Scientology officials made Dr. Smith feel so guilty about seeking professional help that she failed to seek it in time.

On Dec. 22, Dr. Smith wrote a suicide note while she was in the New York clinic, where she was receiving counseling and engaging in scream therapy.

SHE HAD ADMITTED herself to the clinic after relatives and friends became concerned about her talk about suicide. The note makes it clear Dr. Smith felt neither the scream therapy nor Scientology had any value for her.

"The grief (over a former boyfriend getting married that week) becomes worse rather than better with screaming," she said. "My friends & family have been very supportive — my thanks to all."

"The staff at Areba (the New York clinic) has been most professional and very good. No one, however, can help me and I appar-

DR. SMITH

CONTINUED FROM A1

ently can't help myself. I have been in turmoil during the last five years — and I can't seem to stop that turmoil.

"I would like to say that I'm sure medical therapy & Scientology have merit & value with the right person doing the work. At present, I can't assign it any value for me & that might be because I don't have the right tool to work with when working with me. I can't find the stuff inside me to keep going. I have lost the will." (Her emphasis)

On New Year's Day, the day after checking herself out of the clinic, Dr. Smith tried to kill herself.

CURRIER SAYS Dr. Smith was fine until she left for New York. He blamed the mental health profession and her family for her suicide attempt.

"It (the suicide attempt) was a surprise to all of us," he said.

Currier said he believes Dr. Smith got her money's worth from Scientology.

According to Sudz, however, the family is entitled to at least \$4,000 back because Dr. Smith did not receive all of the auditing she paid for. The family has already received a refund of \$2,500.

Currier said he could not explain why the doctor would criticize Scientology in her suicide note when she always said only good things about it to him.

He also denied that the local mission took advantage of an ill woman to get money from her, as contended by members of Dr. Smith's family and her associates.

"Not a chance," Currier said. "I don't know of any Scientologist who would do that."

LAST SPRING, Dr. Smith, described as a hard-working, respected physician with a growing practice, went through a painful divorce.

In the aftermath, relatives and friends said, she apparently felt unloved, and that feeling increased when she experienced another unsuccessful relationship.

Last summer, she started engaging in what family members said amounted to obsessive behavior, such as playing golf and riding her bicycle nearly all of her free time. Her moods shifted up and down frequently, and family members say it was obvious even then that she was mentally ill.

In September, she signed up for a "purification" program at a local health spa under supervision of the Michigan Purification Project, which has since opened an office at 526 S. Saginaw. She wrote a \$700 check to the project on Sept. 18.

The "purification" program claims it can flush chemicals and drugs out of people's bodies using an exercise-sauna-and-vitamin regi-

'Jane had been depressed for some time and she was looking for anything to make her feel better.'

— Her brother

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men invented by the controversial founder of Scientology, L. Ron Hubbard, a science fiction writer.

However, medical and drug abuse authorities interviewed by The Journal for a February article expressed doubts about the purification program and its claims. That same article suggested that such programs are recruiting fronts for Scientology, a claim that Currier has denied.

CURRIER SAID, however, that he did refer Dr. Smith to the local Scientology mission. He said she had complained of feeling depressed about the way a relationship with an old boyfriend turned out.

According to Sudz, Currier was entitled to a 10 percent commission on that referral.

Dr. William Lord (again, not his real name), said his sister told him that she was going through the purification program last fall.

"I told her that I figured it was a bunch of crap," he said. "There's no way spending four or five hours in a sauna and taking all those vitamins is going to get rid of PBB. After I said that, she stopped talking to me about it."

Scientology teaches its members to avoid people who criticize their program.

Asked why Dr. Smith, a medical person with a knowledge of body chemistry, would be willing to go through such a program, Dr. Lord said:

"Jane was in such a poor state of mind — she was grasping for straws. She had been depressed for some time and she was looking for anything to make her feel better."

A SEPT. 21 NOTE addressed to Dr. Smith, signed by Currier, says:

"Congradulations (sic) on a good day yesterday. Here is a book that Enid would like you to read. See you later. Love, Glenn."

Enid Vlen was minister of the local Scientology mission and one of the three incorporators, along with Currier and Ellen Edmondson, of the Purification Project.

Several Scientology books, tapes and pamphlets were found inside Dr. Smith's house. A few of the books contain critical references to the mental health profession.

Although the "purification" process is supposed to be a two- to three-week program, Dr. Smith finished the program early.

"She said she was feeling better, and feeling better about herself, but she didn't show any signs of any personality change for the better," her brother said.

Her claims of feeling better "looked to me like a facade, to try to make herself feel better," he said.

DR. SMITH'S sister, M. Loraine Lord, is also a doctor, practicing medicine in another state. She said she frequently talked to her sister on the telephone last fall.

"I noticed personality changes after the purification program. She was more depressed and withdrawn, more focused on her own problems, her loneliness."

On Sept. 27, nine days after she wrote a \$700 check to the Purification Project, Dr. Smith wrote the first of six checks to the Flint mission or its affiliated programs. It was for \$3,562.50.

A letter on Michigan Purification Project stationery, dated Nov. 16, and signed by Edmondson, makes it clear the Purification Project wanted Dr. Smith to function as their staff physician.

The letter reads in part:

"Our Purification center is in need of a doctor that knows and understands our program and can treat clients who need a pre-program physical or need to seek medical care during the course of the program.

"HAVING DONE the Purification yourself, you realize that many physical and emotional phenomena can come up...Because the Purification is somewhat outside the range of accepted medical practice, you can imagine how a doctor who is uninformed might react when presented with a patient who is on the program."

"It is possible that such a physician would advise the person off the Purification, to that person's detriment, as once the program is begun it's essential to continue it."

Although Currier said Dr. Smith never did any work for them, she apparently agreed to do some work for the Purification Project, as her medical colleagues said they did a couple of physicals for the project when she was not available.

Meanwhile, Dr. Smith began auditing sessions, and one of her associates became worried about her.

"I saw her becoming more depressed and inappropriate in her behavior; she was telling complete strangers all about her problems in great detail. She looked physically tired and emotionally flat," the doctor said.

That doctor and another professional colleague said they knew their friend was having some severe problems, and one said he convinced her to see a therapist.

"JANE HAD agreed to see a good therapist, a friend of mine, in Florida for two weeks," he said. "She changed her mind after one night with her Scientology auditor. She told me that her auditor said going to Florida would work against everything they were trying to do for her."

Scientology has long maintained a hostility against the entire mental

Glenn C. Currier blamed the mental health profession and her family for her suicide attempt.

health field, and prohibits its members from engaging in psychoanalysis or psychiatry while undergoing auditing.

On Dec. 5, Dr. Smith paid \$4,750 for auditing sessions. The Scientology mission receipt was signed by Ellen Edmondson, the Purification Project's medical director, who says she is a registered nurse. Currier said Edmondson was at the mission in December doing volunteer work.

In January, Glenn Currier, as owner of the Purification Project, denied in a Journal interview that the project business had any connection with Scientology.

Edmondson, who once also denied to a Journal reporter that she was a Scientologist, was present during that interview. Yet, at one time, Edmondson was assistant minister of the local Scientology mission.

THE LOCAL MISSION, at 3101 Clio Rd., closed in late February for "reorganization" and was to reopen in mid-March but did not. For a time, it was referring questions about that action to Currier.

Family members and friends say they recall Dr. Smith telling them that "Glenn and Ellen" were intending to move in with her and that they were helping her straighten out her finances. The family spokesmen said Dr. Smith later had second thoughts about allowing them to live with her.

Currier claims Dr. Smith wanted them to move in with her. "There was no reason to move in with her," he said.

He acknowledged he and Edmondson had helped her with her finances, but said it was only because she asked for help.

An ex-Scientologist now working against the church, Ford Schwartz, of California, says both of these moves are common Scientology ploys to find out how much money a person has, and then get it.

An undated note, signed "Ellen," was found in Dr. Smith's car after her suicide attempt. It reads:

"DON'T MAKE any plans for tonight — I'll cook dinner for us & we can make plans for going to see your stock broker, accountant, etc. I think you need time to unwind from your trip home before you start being a social butterfly again! And as you know, I am very dull and easy to be around! Besides, Glenn would like to see you. So, please call the Purif 234-5533, (and) I'll be there until 6 p.m. Love, Ellen."

Late in the year, Dr. Smith started talking about suicide, according to Dr. Lord's wife, Catherine.

"She appeared to be getting more and more depressed," Mrs. Lord said. "On Dec. 11, she came over very depressed and shared with me her thoughts about suicide. She said she came very close to killing herself and that frightened her."

Mrs. Lord said there is no doubt in her mind that Dr. Smith's mental health started declining more after she became involved with Scientology.

Along with other family members, Mrs. Lord said she encouraged Dr. Smith to get professional counseling.

But Mrs. Lord said Dr. Smith seemed confused about what to do and unable to make up her mind.

DR. SMITH'S mother, who is also a doctor, said she is convinced that her daughter was "brain-washed" by the Scientology church.

"She wasn't thinking for herself, I'm sure," her mother said. "I always gave her credit for making sensible decisions — they got her to a point where they took advantage of her, because she's a trusting person."

Two weeks before she attempted suicide, one of her colleagues convinced her to enter the New York City clinic, the Areba-Casriel Institute.

"The morning she was to leave for New York (Dec. 14), I was at her house helping her pack," the doctor said. "Jane called the woman (named Ellen) who was helping her with her bills and told her that she was leaving in 15 or 20 minutes for this clinic. A few minutes later, her 'auditor' (named Enid) called and Jane started getting very upset."

"I was sitting right next to Jane and heard this woman tell her that 'It is unethical for you to go to New York.' Jane got very shook up and I remember her telling this woman that she wanted to see her when she got back. It was like hearing a little girl pleading with her mother."

"SHE WAS COMPLETELY broken when we flew together to New York. She was completely depressed."

Later, the doctor said:

"These people took a lot of money from her and then made her feel guilty about seeking help."

"I feel that Scientology and this Michigan Purification Project directly contributed to her deteriorating mental condition and, more importantly, prevented her from getting the kind of traditional therapy that could have helped her in time."

A psychologist, Dr. Glenn E. Bell, had been treating Dr. Smith on and off for three years.

Bell said he only had one visit with Dr. Smith last fall, and that was the day before she left for New York City. He described her as resembling a dependent little girl who was incoherent and desperately seeking outside help.

He said she mentioned that she had gone through Scientology and found that it had not helped her.

"I've treated a few of their failures in the past," he said. "They take on desperate souls, people who could be led by the hand by anyone. This group (Scientology) capitalizes on these people."

BELL SAID HE is certain Dr. Smith could not have handled Scientology's intense confrontational techniques in her mental state last fall.

"I myself am completely negative to Scientology. I admit my bias," he said. "They aren't professionals in this field and they aren't equipped to handle people with severe problems."

Dr. Bell said it appears the Scientologists promised Dr. Smith that they could help her and her depression and solve her problems quickly.

"No healer, no therapy, could offer that kind of fast cure," he said. "They were selling something that was impossible to deliver."

"I can't say Scientology caused her suicide attempt," he said. "All I can say is that she tried their methods and they didn't work for her. Once you realize nothing is working, you are apt to say the hell with life."

Have Scientology practices led to suicide tries?

It is not uncommon for present or former Scientology members to try to kill themselves, according to three national experts on the controversial religion founded by L. Ron Hubbard.

The head of the Scientology Church in Michigan, however, denies that Scientology practices have led to suicides.

And the president of the international Church of Scientology, the Rev. Heber C. Jentzsch, headquartered in Los Angeles, dismisses the experts quoted in this story as "liars," who he says are out to discredit a growing religion that he claims has helped millions of people with their problems.

Boston attorney Michael J. Flynn, interviewed on national television and by national magazines about his 20 lawsuits against the church, said he knows of at least 10 documented Scientology suicides or suicide attempts nationwide.

Flynn said one of the Hubbard's sons, Quentin, appears to have killed himself in 1976 in Las Vegas.

"The general pattern is that the church processing, the purification rundown, the auditing process, leave a person with a mental void that is filled with Scientology nonsense," Flynn said.

"THAT CAUSES a gradual deterioration of their ability to perceive reality," he said. "Many members quit jobs, school, they stop managing their affairs well, they become more removed from reality.

"This becomes a vicious circle that often leads to a point where nothing is left. They finally reach a point where they are confronted with nothing but blackness, no idea where they are going to turn, and sometimes they kill themselves."

One of the suicides listed by Flynn was a recent one by a 13-

Jentzsch said the suicide rate among women doctors is three times the national average for women.

year-old boy from Los Angeles who spent several years in an "Apple School," a private school that has been described as a Scientology educational front.

"His attorney told me that the boy's father said the kid was destroyed by Scientology's brainwashing routines," Flynn said. "The kid had the mind of an 8-year-old."

Michelle Sudz, president of the Michigan Church of Scientology, denied that Scientology's practices have led to suicides or suicide attempts.

"That's a bunch of garbage," she added.

Sudz said she has no knowledge of suicide attempts by Scientologists. And she added that the mental health profession itself has a high suicide rate.

JENTZSCH SAID much the same thing, although he did not answer questions about how many suicides he is aware of among church members.

"There are higher death rates in mental institutions than in the Spanish Civil War, the (American) Civil War and the Korean War combined," he said. "Why isn't someone investigating that situation?"

Jentzsch said the suicide rate among women doctors is three times the national average for women as a group, and said the trouble with Scientology critics is that they do not examine the statistical evidence surrounding suicides and Scientology.

"The most problems (with suicides or attempts) we have found are where psychiatry or psychology has gotten them first," he said. "It is difficult to help them after the brutality of those professions."

The Philadelphia Daily News carried a story in December about a young man, James Hester, who took Scientology courses in Florida.

HESTER, WHO the Daily News said was pursuing a career in the oil industry, tried to kill himself by driving his car into a tree in Miami. He is now brain-damaged, crippled and blind and living in an Arkansas nursing home.

Hester left this suicide note before he took his ill-fated drive:

"I have taken what I consider to be the most expedient way out of my present predicament. I harbor no resentment against anyone except the Church of Scientology. They have a great deal to do with my demise. To play with people's defense mechanisms in the manner that they do is a criminal thing at best. I hope they can be outlawed."

Dr. John E. Clark Jr. is an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Recognized as one of the country's leading experts on cult mind-control techniques, he frequently appears

as an expert witness in lawsuits against Scientology and other religions.

Clark told The Journal that a person does not have to be mentally ill to be threatened by cult methods.

"Cults all too often lead to disaster," he said. "Their methods usually result in the shattering of the mind, resulting in a real psychosis that sometimes leads to a threatening kind of depression."

SUICIDE ATTEMPTS are not uncommon among cult members, he said.

"It is possible that this state (of depression) could bring a person to the point of suicide," he said. "There appears to be a significant increase (among cult members) in the danger of falling into a pit of depression and then into suicide."

Clark said it disturbs him that cults tend to take credit for what they call their successes, but ignore their failures.

"They tend to be very careless," he said.

Jentzsch was extremely critical of both Flynn and Clark. He described them as irresponsible critics attacking religion through a corporation he said Flynn has established, Flynn Associates Management Corp. He also claimed that officials from the Justice Department and the FBI have been involved in those efforts.

Flynn said Jentzsch has repeatedly made an issue of this alleged company, even though it was a proposal made three years ago but never implemented.

The company, Flynn said, was proposed by his brother to act as consultants and investigators for lawsuits against the Scientology Church, but he said the idea was rejected by him and most of the other lawyers who would have been involved.

Jentzsch charged that Flynn has attempted to "extort at least \$1.6 million" from the church in return for a promise to drop all present and future suits.

Flynn denies that charge, claiming the "extortion" allegation was made in the process of coming to an out-of-court settlement that totaled \$1.6 million, which Flynn said the Church of Scientology paid a dozen of his clients.

He said the church filed both a lawsuit and a bar association complaint about that allegation, and he said that both complaints were dismissed for being without merit.

A FORMER Scientologist, Ford Schwartz, said his wife, Andrea, tried to commit suicide when both were members of the religion in 1977. Schwartz was a member for nine years and deprogrammed himself while spying on anti-cult groups nationwide.

For the last year, the couple lawsuits against the Scientology Church, but he said the idea was rejected by him and most of the other lawyers who would have been involved.

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For the last year, the couple have been working against the church, acting as consultants for people who want to "deprogram" family members who have joined the church.

Schwartz said Andrea was second-in-command of the Washington, D.C., branch in 1977. One week she did not meet her assigned goal of raising at least \$40,000 for the church, and she was physically beaten for that failure, he said.

He said four men then dragged her upstairs, kicking and screaming, to be locked into a room where she underwent hours of interrogation about her personal life. Church officials then pronounced her as "evil," he said.

She finally escaped from her confinement and spent hours wandering the streets, praying that she would be killed by a car because she was convinced she was beyond help from Scientology, he said.

ACCORDING TO Schwartz, it took him eight months to convince his wife her life was worth living.

Jentzsch countered that the person responsible for that incident has since been expelled from the church (for apparently unrelated reasons) and that, if it indeed happened as Schwartz described it, it would have been against church policy.

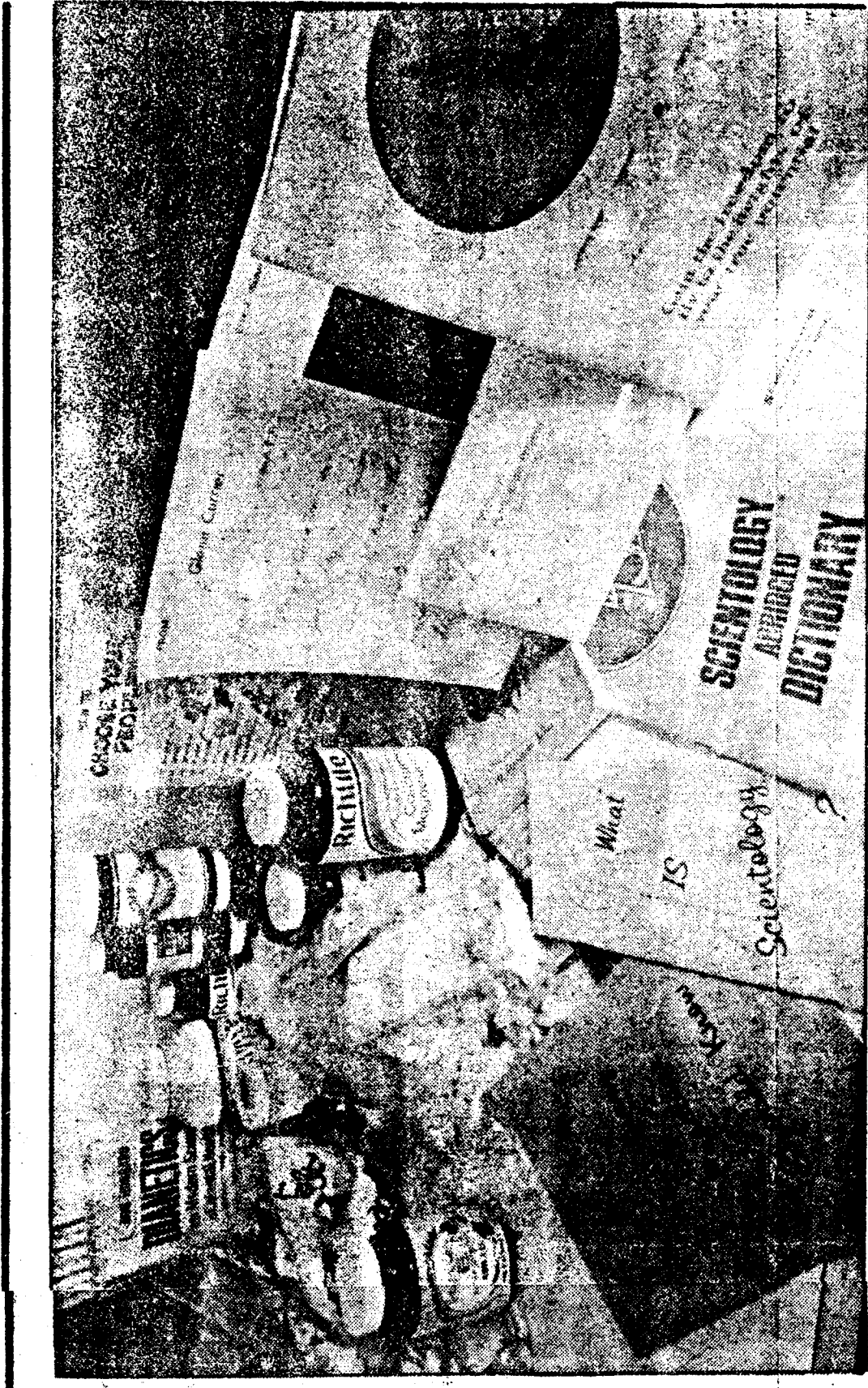
Schwartz said he later participated in a coverup operation in an attempt to prevent a suit from being filed in the case of a young woman who tried to commit suicide.

"They (Scientology officials) had gotten all her money, about \$40,000, and she knew that auditing was destroying her mind," he said. "After they got her money, they told her that she was evil and she didn't know what to do, so she tried to kill herself by shooting herself on the left side of her chest — she thought she was aiming at her heart.

"All she did was blow a big hole in her shoulder and she ended up in a mental institution, where I went to see her to make certain she didn't file any suit against the church. I heard her whole sad story.

"I was sickened by the whole thing."

— Graham



JOURNAL PHOTO

Vitamins, minerals and Scientology literature found in the home of Dr. 'Jane Lord Smith.'

THE FLINT

JOURNAL

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Ex-chief of Scientology mission quits church

By BETTY BRENNER
Journal religion editor

The Rev. Enid Vien, former director of the Church of Scientology's Flint mission, has resigned from the church. Her letter of resignation is strongly critical of the church's operation.

Her letter, submitted after nearly 18 years as a Scientologist and a minister since 1967, says in part: "I can no longer support a church that bleeds its parishioners, abuses its staff, uses fear tactics to insure everyone at least pretends to

agree and engages upon coercive tactics to sew its missions up."

Other excerpts from her letter: "...my life's work as a minister with the church has been casually endangered due to what I perceive as greed....our religion is endangered from within....fascistic behavior is still fascism even though disguised as zeal, and that is not Scientology. In such hands, the Tech (Scientology technology) is dangerous."

Vien is now in California. The Journal received a copy of Vien's letter from an anti-cult or-

ganization in Redondo Beach, Calif., called Citizens Freedom Foundation. It was not dated and was a photocopied version of a typewritten copy of what she originally wrote longhand. However, its authenticity was verified by Vien in a telephone call from California and by others to whom she gave copies of it.

Although she refused to say she is in hiding, ("You found me, didn't you?") she also refused to say where she is staying and called a Journal reporter collect after receiving the request for a call.

THE LETTER, she said, was written to the Church of Scientology Mission Inc., headquarters for Scientology missions, in Los Angeles in February. Since that time the

She said she knows the church is looking for her, because her friends have told her they have received inquiries about her whereabouts from church members.

"I'm not frightened," she said. "I could be if I let myself be. I'm more annoyed."

Within the Church of Scientology, she said, it is considered a "high crime" to splinter away, no matter what the provocation.

Her decision to resign, she said, came after a Journal reporter asked her in January about national press reports that the church is

being ripped by a power struggle between a small inner circle of youthful leaders and a large and growing number of disaffected former leaders and members.

SHE TOLD The Journal then she knew little about that struggle, except that there had been a management change.

But she said she began to investigate.

"I began to ask a lot of embarrassing questions and what I found

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CHURCH

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is what you see there," she said about her letter.

Already the new management had made decisions that made it difficult for the mission here to make any money, although fees charged for Scientology services follow an "idiotic price policy," she said.

One was that those people who are "clear," a high level in Scientology training, were not to be served here, but in Scientology centers in Detroit, Los Angeles or Clearwater, Fla. Since a third of the Scientologists here are clear, that took away much of the income here, she said.

IN ADDITION, the proportion of the fees that must be sent to the national church were increased by 50 percent, she said.

The new management of the church has boosted fees (although the church says it considers them contributions) to a level that seems greedy, Vien said.

"When I first joined, they were high, but not impossible." At that time, the expenditure of \$10,000 to \$20,000 was enough to get you all the way through Scientology, she said.

Counseling for some levels at Clearwater now can cost \$4,000 for 12½ hours, she said. "They have started raising them every month. Only people in professional positions can do it now."

She had not intended that the mission here be shut, Vien said. Instead, she had planned to reopen it as an independent center called the Church of Science of Life.

She had organized a new corporation under that name, she said, and had transferred the ownership of the building to that corporation. Although the building formerly was officially in the church's name, it was her money that was invested in it, she said.

But, after her resignation, she said, some Scientologists here intentionally discredited her and it became obvious that the mission would not receive enough financial support to keep operating. It had already been in financial trouble, she said.

Vien said she did not resign to travel, as The Journal had been told at the time. She called that "a fabrication."

Because she could not operate the mission, she offered it back to the church. When the church refused it, she decided to sell it, she said.

She arrived in California almost broke, she said.

In her letter of resignation, Vien said, "I have seen loyal mission holders of many years' service excommunicated on what I believe to be trumped up charges, depriving them of their livelihood and the fruits of their labors."

She also wrote, "I do not believe LRH (L. Ron Hubbard, the founder) intended such abuse and this causes me grave misgivings about his safety."

HUBBARD has not been seen in public since 1980 and his son, who has changed his name to Ronald DeWolf, has charged in a California court suit that his father is either dead or mentally incapable of handling his fortune.

In her telephone call, Vien said a tape, purportedly of his voice, sent a few months ago to Scientology churches and missions, "didn't sound like him. If it was him, something was awfully wrong." The latest writings that are supposed to be his also do not read like his, she said.

She hopes to continue using the Scientology technology, she said,

but would not say how or where.

"I have to get my life together. After 18 years in your church to find yourself outside is not easy. It is exciting but I feel a little lost."

Scientologists believe that through the technology of the church they can confront and erase emotional and psychological blockages that cause loneliness, guilt, depression, inhibitions, compulsions and other human limitations.

The core of the technology is an E-meter, a device much like a polygraph that records physical reactions to questions. What the church terms counseling is answering a series of questions from an "auditor" while holding the E-meter.

When the E-meter reading shows no reaction to a question, the person being counseled is considered "cleared," or freed of that limitation.

On the telephone, Vien was asked about a comment from Michelle Sudz, president of the Michigan Church of Scientology, that Vien was not following proper Scientology procedures when she acted as an auditor for a Flint-area physician who tried to commit suicide.

"Insinuating I didn't know what the treatment is, when I've been a minister since 1967, is a bit much," she said.

She added that picking scapegoats for Scientology problems is typical. "The pattern was to go to a mission and say they are doing all these bad things and that they have been doing all those bad things all along."

Los Angeles Times

Tuesday, April 12, 1983

Scientology Suit Allowed to Go to Trial

4 Former Members
Charge Church Made
False Claims to Them

By DAN MORAIN,
Times Staff Writer

A federal judge opened the way Monday for four former Scientologists to sue the church for fraud over a variety of claims including promises that it could prevent colds, raise intelligence and solve obesity.

Attorneys for the disillusioned Scientologists hailed the ruling, saying that it will open the way for other former church members to bring their complaints of fraud before juries.

U.S. District Judge Consuelo B. Marshall ruled that while Scientology is a religion, many of the claims it makes appear to involve non-religious matters, such as statements that it can improve a person's health and career.

Enables Argument

As a result, attorneys for the four former church members will be able to argue that the claims are fraudulent, once the suit goes to trial.

Marshall's ruling means that a jury will have to decide whether the claims are secular. If they are, the church could be liable for damages should the jury also find that the claims are fraudulent.

Church attorneys had sought to have the fraud counts thrown out, arguing that because Scientology is a religion, any claims that it makes are protected by First Amendment guarantees of freedom of religion.

Scientology's lawyers are expected to appeal Marshall's ruling.

One of the four former members, Jané Lee Peterson, charges in her suit that her mentors told her that

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Scientology would cure her hypoglycemia and nervousness, help her lose weight, improve her eyesight and raise her intelligence, none of which occurred.

The 35-year-old Las Vegas woman also charges in the 1981 suit that the church told her that Scientology promotes family unity. But she claims that after she became involved in the organization during the mid-1970s, she was told to "disconnect" from her husband.

Peterson also accuses the church of fraud by telling her that the intimate personal details that she had revealed in "auditing"—akin to a confession—would remain confidential.

Instead, the details were passed along to the Guardian Officers, described in her suit as the organization's "secret police," and were used to harass her after she left the church in 1980.

Her attorney, Julia Dragojevic, said that in the audit Peterson revealed a fear of dying in a plane crash. After Peterson left the church, she began receiving anonymous calls in which the sound of a crashing plane was played.

Peterson and the three other former Scientologists

are seeking a total of \$10 million from the church. The trial is not expected to start for another two years.

But Michael Flynn, a Boston attorney who is co-counsel in more than 30 suits against Scientology, including Peterson's, predicted that Marshall's ruling will have "enormous significance" in other cases around the country.

"They (the church's lawyers) had hoped to use a favorable ruling in this case to bring to the judges in all of the other cases," Flynn said.

A. Thomas Hunt, attorney for the Church of Scientology, could not be reached for comment.

Daily Times Advocate

April 16, 1983

Ruling 'in tune with times,' says Scientology attorney

LOS ANGELES — A. Thomas Hunt, attorney for the Church of Scientology, said Tuesday that Monday's ruling on the religious nature of Scientology by a federal judge "means the absolute end" of cases filed against the church in that court.

He described the ruling by U.S. District Judge Consuelo B. Marshall that Scientology is a religion as "in tune with the times," and said it reflected the growing international acceptance of Scientology.

Hunt compared the ruling with similar judicial decisions favorable to the Church of Scientology in Australia, France, the United Kingdom and other countries and he stated it was "consistent" with a "landmark decision" by the Oregon Court of Appeals last year. That Court of Appeals decision was upheld this year by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Rev. Heber C. Jentzsch, president of the Church of Scientology International, called the ruling "a total vindication of the Church's First Amendment status."