FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1260615-0

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FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214 1A-2

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 14

Date Received [redacted]

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title: [redacted] Church of Scientology

b6
b7C

Reference: 320W0109.wpd
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

12-14-09

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50 LA 254214 1A 3

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document _____

Date Received 12/1/09

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

b6
b7C

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title:

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

FD-597's - For evidence items 1B1, 1B2 & 1B3

12/14/09

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Receipt for Property Received/Returned/Released/Seized

File # 50 LA 254214

On (date) 12/1/2009

item(s) listed below were:
- [x] Received From
- [ ] Returned To
- [ ] Released To
- [ ] Seized

(Name) [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

(Street Address)

(City) [redacted]

Description of Item(s):

(1) 2 GB "San Disk" flash Drive

50 LA-254214 1A3

Received By: [redacted] (Signature)

Received From: [redacted]

FD-597 (Rev. 8-11-94)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Receipt for Property Received/Returned/Released/Seized

File # 50 LA 254214

On (date) 12/01/09

item(s) listed below were:
- ☒ Received From
- ☐ Returned To
- ☐ Released To
- ☐ Seized

(Name) [redacted]

(Street Address) [redacted]

(City) [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

Description of Item(s):

(1) [redacted]

[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

Received By: [redacted]

Received From: [redacted]

FD-597 (Rev 8-11-94)

Page 1 of 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Receipt for Property Received/Returned/Released/Seized

File # SOLA 254214

On (date) 12/01/09

item(s) listed below were:
- [x] Received From
- [ ] Returned To
- [ ] Released To
- [ ] Seized

(Name) [redacted]

(Street Address)

(City) [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

Description of Item(s):

(1) [redacted]

Received By: [redacted]

Received From: [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50LA 254214 1A 4

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document 9

Date Received 12/04/09

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]
(Address)

(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☐ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Title:

Reference:
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

FD-597 for evidence item 1B4

12-16-09

FD-597 (Rev 8-11-94) Page 1 of 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Receipt for Property Received/Returned/Released/Seized

File # 50 LA 254214

On (date) 12/4/09

item(s) listed below were:
- ☒ Received From
- ☐ Returned To
- ☐ Released To
- ☐ Seized

(Name) [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

(Street Address) [redacted]

(City) [redacted]

Description of Item(s): [redacted]

50 LA- 254214 1B4

b6 b7C b7D

Received By: [redacted] Received From: [redacted]
(Signature)

1B4

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50 LA 254214 - 1A5

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document #6

Date Received 10/30/09

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title:

Re

Reference: FD-71 notes
(Communication Enclosing Material)

b6
b7C
b7D

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted] and others

12-16-09

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50LA 254214 1A-6

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document 20

Date Received [redacted]

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

[redacted]
(Address)

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]
(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☐ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Title:

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

1-7-10

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50 LA 254214 1A 7

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document 21

Date Received [redacted]

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D
(Address)

(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure
☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)
☐ Yes ☒ No

Title:

Reference: [redacted]
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

Chad Adam

1-8-10

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50 LA 254214 1A-8

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LAX [redacted]

Serial # of Originating Document 16

Date Received [redacted]

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title:

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

Copies of [redacted] for one-time [redacted]

1-15-2010

b6
b7C
b7D

b6
b7C

b6
b7C
b7D
b7E

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50 LA 254214 1A9

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document

Date Received 1/13/2010

From
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☐ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Title:

Reference:
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

CART Exam Assistance Request

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D b7E

1-15-2010 VETN

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214 1A10

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 30

Date Received [redacted]

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D
(Address)

(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure
☐ Yes ☑ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)
☐ Yes ☑ No

Title:

Reference: 14vv0110.wpd
(Communication Enclosing Material)

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D

Description: 1A Original notes re interview of [redacted]

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50 LA 254214 - 1A - 11

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document 31

Date Received [redacted]

From [redacted] (Interviewee)

[redacted] (Address) b6 b7C b7D

[redacted] (City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title:

Reference: [redacted] (Communication Enclosing Material)

b6 b7C b7D

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted] and FD597 [redacted]

CD in evidence

*U.S. GPO: 2004-307-714/90013

FD-597 (Rev 8-11-94)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Receipt for Property Received/Returned/Released/Seized

File # 50-LA-254214

On (date) [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

item(s) listed below were:
- [X] Received From
- [ ] Returned To
- [ ] Released To
- [ ] Seized

(Name) [redacted]

(Street Address) [redacted]

(City) [redacted]

Description of Item(s): (1) one cd [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

1A 11
50-LA-254214-31

b6
b7C
b7D

Received By: [redacted]
(Signature)

Received Fro[redacted]

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50 LA 254214 1A 12

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document 33

Date Received 3/15/2010

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☐ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Title:

Church of Scientology

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

3/23/10

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number SD-LA-264214 1A-13

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LOS ANGELES

Serial # of Originating Document 34

Date Received [redacted]

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D
(Address)

(City and State)

By SIA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure
☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)
☐ Yes ☒ No

Title:

Reference: 100VVC210.wpd
(Communication Enclosing Material)

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted]

4/5/10

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
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FOI/PA# 1260615-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 29
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Page 43 ~ b6; b7C;
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FD-340a (Rev. 1-27-03)

(Title) Civil Rights-Human Trafficking

VOL. 2

(File No.) 50-LA-254214

Item	Date Filed	To be returned Yes	To be returned No		Disposition
				1A Envelope	
				Case ID: 50-LA-254214	
! LA	14	!		ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF [redacted]	
! LA	15	!		FD-472 AND FD-473 FOR [redacted]	
! LA	16	!		FD-597 FOR [redacted] PLUS MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS	
! LA	17	!		ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF [redacted]	
! LA	18	!		ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF [redacted]	
! LA	19	!		ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF [redacted]	
! LA	20	!		ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF [redacted]	
! LA	21	!		CD OF SURVEILLANCE VIDEO AND POKICE REPORT FORM [redacted] INCIDENT AT CCIA	
1A22	5/17/10		✓	original notes re interview of [redacted]	
1A23	6/17/10		✓	original notes re interview of Surveillance at Int Base	
1A24	6/21/10		✓	Surveillance photos	

b6
b7C
b7D

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

1A 14

File Number 50-LA-254214

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 43

Date Received [redacted]

From [redacted]
(Contributor/Interviewee)

[redacted]
(Address)

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]
(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reference: 60 VV 0310.1.pdf
(Communication Enclosing Material)

[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted]

5-4-10

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214 1A 15

Field Office Acquiring Evidence [redacted]

Serial # of Originating Document 49

Date Received [redacted]

From FBI
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

b6
b7C
b7D

(Address)

(City and State)

By [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title:

Reference:
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ~~☐ Original notes re interview of~~ [redacted] FAR

[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

5/13/10 BSL

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50 LA 254214 1A16

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document [redacted]

Date Received [redacted]

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(City and State)

b6
b7C
b7D

By [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☐ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Reference: [redacted]
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of [redacted] b7D

FD 597 for [redacted]

[redacted] + Items on

Miscellaneous documents

5/13/10 BSK

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Receipt for Property Received/Returned/Released/Seized

File # 50-LA-254214

On (date) [redacted]

item(s) listed below were:
- [x] Received From
- [ ] Returned To
- [ ] Released To
- [ ] Seized

(Name) [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

(Street Address)

(City)

Description of Item(s):

(1) Handwritten Note to [redacted]

(2) Blackberry Address Book info. b6 b7C b7D

(3) Handwritten Names/Numbers from [redacted] Nextel

(4) [redacted]

Received By: [redacted]

Received From: [redacted] (Signature) b6 b7C b7D

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214 1A-17

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 53

Date Received [redacted]

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

b6
b7C
b7D

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reference: 127V10.10.wpd
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

BLH 5/13/10

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number SD-LA-254214 1A 18

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 64

Date Received 5/26/2010

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

[redacted]
(Address)

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]
(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☑ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☑ No

Reference: 130UVOR10.14pd
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☑ Original notes re interview of [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

5/27/10 BSR

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50 LA. 254214 1A 19

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document 67

Date Received 5-11-10

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☐ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

5/27/10 BSA

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA 254214 1A 20

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 70

Date Received [redacted]

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

[redacted]
(Address)

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]
(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reference: 18B VV0210.1ep01
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

5/31/10 BS

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214 1A 21

Field Office Acquiring Evidence HO-CCRA

Serial # of Originating Document 42 48

Date Received 04 MAY 2010

From CCIA Police Dept
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

b6
b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure
☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)
☐ Yes ☒ No

Title: S.I.M. - HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Reference:
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of

CD of surveillance video & Police Reports from 04/28/2010 incident @ CCIA.

5/[illegible]/10 RBR

Corpus Christi International Airport Public Safety
Offense / Incident Report

Location:	Date:	Time:	Offense:	CCIA #:	CCPD #:
1000 International	4/28/2010	15:30	assault/ info.	09-00417	

SIDA Violation Yes ☐ No ☒ Citation Issued Yes ☐ No ☒

Codes: V=Victim W=Witness RP=Reporting Party Su=Suspect MP=Missing Person R=Runaway IP=Involved Party

Code	No.	Name: (last, first, middle)			Address		CC ☐	City/State	Zip
IP	1								
Race	Sex	Age	DOB	Ht.	Wt.	Hair	Eyes	Build	DL#	State
Home Phone		Work Phone		Bus/School			City		SSN	

b6
b7C

Code	No.	Name: (last, first, middle)			Address		CC ☐	City/State	Zip
IP	2								
Race	Sex	Age	DOB	Ht.	Wt.	Hair	Eyes	Build	DL#	State
Home Phone		Work Phone		Bus/School			City		SSN	

Code	No.	Name: (last, first, middle)			Address		CC ☐	City/State	Zip
Race	Sex	Age	DOB	Ht.	Wt.	Hair	Eyes	Build	DL#	State
Home Phone		Work Phone		Bus/School			City		SSN	

Vehicle Information Vehicle ☐ Boat ☐ Boat Motor ☐ Trailer ☐ Other ☐

Year	Make	Model	Body Style	Colors	License #	State & Year	Value
No. 1	VIN #			TX #	Hull #	Motor Serial No.	Trailer VIN #
Disposition	Damaged ☐	Impounded ☐	Recovered ☐	Stolen ☐			

Vehicle Information Vehicle ☐ Boat ☐ Boat Motor ☐ Trailer ☐ Other ☐

Year	Make	Model	Body Style	Colors	License #	State & Year	Value
No. 2	VIN #			TX #	Hull #	Motor Serial No.	Trailer VIN #
Disposition	Damaged ☐	Impounded ☐	Recovered ☐	Stolen ☐			

Property Information Found ☐ Recovered ☐ Damaged ☐ Other ☐

Item	Quantity	Value	Serial #
Description of Property			

Property Information Found ☐ Recovered ☐ Damaged ☐ Other ☐

Item	Quantity	Value	Serial #
Description of Property			

CCIA# 09-00417

Narrative

On April 28, 2010 at approximately 15:30 hrs I, Officer [redacted] was dispatched to baggage claim at Corpus Christi International Airport (CCIA) for the report of an assault in progress. Upon arrival, I made contact with IP 1, [redacted] IP1 stated that he had been assaulted by IP 2, [redacted] b6 b7C

IP 1 and IP 2 were separated and detained while an on scene investigation took place. IP 2 stated that he has a flight out of CCIA at approximately 18:25 hrs. He heard that someone, IP 1, who used to be part of his Scientology Church, was flying into CCIA at an early time. IP 2 wanted to confront/ speak with IP 1 concerning comments that were being made about his church. IP 2 decided to come early to the airport with three of his friends [redacted] When IP 1 arrived at CCIA, IP 2 and friends made contact with IP1 who was with two of his friends [redacted] b6 b7C

IP 1 felt threatened by the actions of IP 2. At that time, IP 1 had a TSA agent contact Public Safety. Upon my arrival, I could not see anyone fighting. IP 2 and a friend with a video camera were standing by the East entrance doors to the Airport. IP 2 informed me that he did not assault anyone. If anything, he could file charges. I asked IP 2 if he wanted to file any charges and he stated that he did not. He also stated that he has proof that nothing happened because one of his friends was recording the incident the entire time.

IP 1 stated that he was confronted by IP 2 and all of his friends. IP 1 stated that IP 2 had slightly pushed up against his shoulder. IP 1 did not want to file charges for assault and just wanted to continue upon their business.

All parties were checked through NCIC/ TCIC and came back clear. At that time, IP 2 and video camera friend were escorted to TSA secure checkpoint to await their 18:25 departure to Houston. IP 2's other two friends were called a taxi. IP 1 and his two friends were escorted to their vehicle and allowed to continue about their business. No charges were filed regarding the incident or criminal trespass warnings issued. One information report has been completed. No police action taken.

	Emp. #	Supervisor	Emp. #
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

b6 b7C

Additional Reports Yes ☐ No ☒ CCPD ☐ NCSO Arrest Sheet ☐ Air Piracy ☐

Weapons Checklist ☐ Moving Citation ☐ Parking Citation ☐

Citation # TSA ☐ Other ☒ Pictures

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50LA254214 ~~1A27~~

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document 87

Date Received 6/8/10

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City and State)

b6
b7C

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☐ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Reference: 165 tmw 01-10.
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

5/17/10 BSR

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50LA 254214 1A 23

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document 88

Date Received 6/5/10

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☐ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☐ No

[redacted] b7E

Reference: 160 FAW 03.10
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of

Surveillance at Int Base

6/17/10 BSA

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50A-LA-254214 1A24

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles, CA.

Serial # of Originating Document

Date Received 6/5/2010

From

(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

By [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☑ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☑ No

Title:

Reference: 100HL01-10

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

Surveillance photos. 1/0

6/21/10 BSL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1260615-0

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FD-340a (Rev. 11-12-89)

(Title) CIVIL RIGHTS HUMAN TRAFICICING

(File No.) 50-LA-254214

VOL 3

Item	Date Filed	To be returned Yes	To be returned No		Disposition
25				CD WITH [redacted] CIVIL LAWSUIT DOCUMENTS	
26				ARTICLES PRINTED IN THE ST PETERSBURG TIMES ON JUNE 13, 2010	
27				ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF [redacted]	
28				6 PAGES CONTAINING PHOTOGRAPHS/PHOTOGRAPHIC LIN-UPS	
29				ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF [redacted]	
30				ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF	
31				ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF	
32	10/07		✓	ORIGINAL NOTES INTERVIEW [redacted]	
33	3/1/11		✓	Orig. Notes Re Interview	
34	3/1/11		✓	Orig. Notes Re Interview	

b6
b7C
b7D

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50 LA 254214 1A 25

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LA

Serial # of Originating Document 119

Date Received 7-29-10

From [redacted] b6 b7C

*(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☐ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Reference: _____

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: Original notes re interview of [redacted] Civil lawsuit Documents b6 b7C b7D

BRR 8/13/2010

[redacted] Docs

b6
b7C

50-LA-254214 1A25

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214 1A26

Field Office Acquiring Evidence

Serial # of Originating Document 9

Date Received June 13, 2010

From [redacted] b6 b7C
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

By

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Reference:
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

ATTACHED ARTICLES WERE PRINTED IN THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES ON JUNE 13, 2010

K.L.L. 6-13-2010

St. Petersburg Times

Florida's Best Newspaper | tampabay.com | Sunday, June 13, 2010

INSIDE SCIENTOLOGY | A TIMES SPECIAL REPORT

NO KIDS ALLOWED

WOMEN IN SCIENTOLOGY'S RELIGIOUS ORDER SAY THEY WERE PRESSURED TO HAVE ABORTIONS "FOR THE GREATEST GOOD."

'Red' and 'Memphis' are the big winners at the Tony Awards. Etc, 2B

In the know

St. Petersburg Times

Florida's Best Newspaper | tampabay.com | Monday, June 14, 2010 | 50¢

CELTICS GRAB 3-2 EDGE WITH WIN OVER LAKERS

Led by Paul Pierce's 27 points, Boston defeats Los Angeles 92-86 in Game 5 of the NBA Finals and needs one more win to claim the title. Kobe Bryant leads the Lakers with 38. Sports, 1C

Afghan minerals worth $1 trillion

The untapped mineral deposits — including iron, copper, cobalt and gold — are enough to reshape the Afghan economy and perhaps the Afghan war, U.S. officials say. World, 2A

Rays lose, fall into tie with Yankees

The Rays get three hits from Sean Rodriguez but little else in the 6-1 loss to the Marlins, as Jeff Niemann loses his first game of the season. Sports, 1C

Wesley Chapel plane in Ariz. crash

The small aircraft registered

INSIDE SCIENTOLOGY | A TIMES SPECIAL REPORT

TAKING HER DAUGHTER

FIRST, SHE FOUGHT THE SEA ORG JUST TO GIVE BIRTH TO HER DAUGHTER. THEN, YEARS LATER, SHE FOUGHT THE SEA ORG TO GET HER BACK.

50-LA-254214 1A26

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214 1A-27

Field Office Acquiring Evidence HO

Serial # of Originating Document 127

Date Received 7/30/2010

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title: Civil Rights - Human Trafficking SIM

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

BSE 8/31/2010

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214 1A 28

Field Office Acquiring Evidence HO

Serial # of Originating Document 127

Date Received 7/30/2010

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title: Civil Rights- Human Trafficking
SIM

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

6 pages containing photographs / photographic line-ups.

BLR 8/31/2010

2

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-264214 1A 29

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 128

Date Received 8/25/2010

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☑ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☑ No b7E

Title: [redacted]

Reference: 250VV0110.wpd
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☑ Original notes re interview of

[redacted] b6 b7C

9/20/10
BSR

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214 1A 30

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 130

Date Received 9/28/2010

From [redacted] b6 b7C b7D
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title: [redacted] b7E

Reference: 271VV0110.1pd
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

10/5/10 BSR

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214 - 1A31

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 115

Date Received 6/30/2010

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]
(City and State)

b6
b7C
b7D

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

b7E

Title: [redacted]

Reference: 192VV0310.wpd
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of

[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254814 1A 32

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 134

Date Received 10/7/2010

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title: [redacted] b7E

Reference: 308VV0110:LLP01
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214 1A33

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 140

Date Received 3/1/2001

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

_____
(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title: [redacted] b7E

Reference: 100 VV0111 w p01
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

FD-340c (4-11-03)

File Number 56-LA-254014 1A 34

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 143

Date Received 3/1/2011

From
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

b6
b7C
b7D

By SA

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☐ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☐ No

Title:

b7E

Reference: 63VV0111.upol
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

b6
b7C
b7D

document sent by:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1260615-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 50
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FD-340a (Rev. 1-27-03)

(Title) CIVIL RIGHTS HUMAN TRAFFICING

(File No.) 50-LA-254214

Item	Date Filed	To be returned Yes	To be returned No		Disposition
LA 35				ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW O	
LA 36				ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF	
LA 37				ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF	
LA 38				ORIGINAL NOTES RE INTERVIEW OF	
1A39	7/30/11		✓	Re	
1A40	3/6/12		✓	Re Interview	
1A41	3/6/12		✓	Re-Interview	
1A42	3/		✓	Re Interview	

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FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 80-LA-254214. 1035

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles, CA.

Serial # of Originating Document

Date Received 3/29/2011

From [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☑ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☑ No

Title:

Reference: 091HL03.11

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☑ Original notes re interview of [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

6/3/2011

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 30-LA-254214 1A-36

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles, CA.

Serial # of Originating Document

Date Received March 29, 2011

From [redacted] b6 b7C b7D
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☑ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☑ No

Title:

Reference: 09HL01.11
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☑ Original notes re interview of [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

6/3/11 BJE

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214. 1A37

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles, CA.

Serial # of Originating Document

Date Received 2/9/2011

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

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b7D

[redacted]
(Address)

[redacted]

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Title:

Reference: 091HL92.11
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted]

b6
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6/3/11 BSE

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214-1A 38

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles, CA.

Serial # of Originating Document 145

Date Received 8/29/2011

From [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

(Address)

(City and State)

By CA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e)
Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☑ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☑ No

Title:

Reference: 089HL01-11.
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted]

b6
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6/6/11

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254-214-1439

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LAFO

Serial # of Originating Document 149

Date Received 5/10/11

From [redacted] (Interviewee) b6 b7C b7D

(Address)

(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☑ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☑ No

Title:

Reference: FD-302

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

6/20/11

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254014 1B49

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LAFO

Serial # of Originating Document 158

Date Received 3/7/11

From [redacted]
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D
(Address)

(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☑ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☑ No

Title: [redacted] b7E

Reference: 235W-LA-0211.1.0pd
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☑ Original notes re interview of [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

8/25/11

FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number BO-LA-254214 1A 41

Field Office Acquiring Evidence LAFO

Serial # of Originating Document 160

Date Received 6/23/11

From [redacted] b6 b7C b7D
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)
(Address)
(City and State)

By SA [redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☒ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☒ No

b7E

Title: [redacted]

Reference: 234W011.upel
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☒ Original notes re interview of [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

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FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number 50-LA-254214 -1A42

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles

Serial # of Originating Document 103

Date Received 6/17/2011

From _____
(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

_____
(Address)

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(City and State)

By SA [redacted] b6 b7C

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☑ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☑ No

Title: [redacted] b7E

Reference: 189VV0311.LOPD
(Communication Enclosing Material)

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Description: ☑ Original notes re interview of [redacted]

9/1/2011

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1260615-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 7
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Page 4 ~ Duplicate;
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FD-340 (Rev. 4-11-03)

File Number DA-LA-264214 1B34

Field Office Acquiring Evidence Los Angeles, CA

Serial # of Originating Document

Date Received 6/5/2010

From

(Name of Contributor/Interviewee)

(Address)

(City and State)

By [redacted]

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To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☑ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☑ No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6 (e) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure

☐ Yes ☑ No

Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI)

☐ Yes ☑ No

Title:

Reference: 100HL01-10

(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: ☐ Original notes re interview of

Surveillance photos.

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6/21/10 BSL

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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UNCLASSIFIED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE **Date:** 10/27/2009

To: Los Angeles

From: Los Angeles
CR-1
Contact: SA [redacted]

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted] vvVV.

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Case ID #: 50-LA-254214 ~ 5
✓ 50-LA-254214-MEDIA - 1

Title: CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY
CIVIL RIGHTS - HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Synopsis: To open media sub-file.

Details: It is requested that a Media sub-file be opened to administratively capture all pertinent information in the media relative to the captioned investigation.

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UNCLASSIFIED

50-LA-254214-media-1
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abcNEWS

Former Scientologists Level Accusations

Ex-Members Say Leader David Miscavige Hit Subordinates; Church Denies Accusations

By MARTIN BASHIR, ETHAN NELSON and MAGGIE BURBANK

Oct. 23, 2009 —

Some call it a manipulative cult. Others say it's a well-established religion that helps people reach their potential.

Since its inception in the 1950s, the Church of Scientology has rarely been far from controversy. And now the Church is under attack again. Former senior insiders claim the Church's current leader, David Miscavige, has created and encouraged a climate of violence within senior staff and was frequently violent himself.

Marty Rathbun was an "Inspector General," a top lieutenant to David Miscavige, and oversaw the Church's legal affairs.

"[Miscavige] viciously beat him, knocked him to the ground," said Rathbun, describing one attack.

Amy Scobee was a Church executive who helped expand Scientology's outreach to celebrities.

"And then [Miscavige] knocked him down in his chair. Um ... to the ground, and he fell down on his back and he was laying on the ground," she said.

Bruce Hines says he was a high level auditor, a kind of therapeutic counselor.

"[Miscavige] just walked up and he hit me on the side of the head..." Hines said.

And supporting their allegations is Mike Rinder, who for many years was Scientology's main spokesman. He is now speaking out against the Church, the same Church he defended to ABC News in 1998.

"I think that there isn't a person on this earth that couldn't benefit from the teachings of Scientology," he said at the time.

The Church's current spokesman is Tommy Davis.

"Nightline" met with Davis at Scientology's New York Church, where he granted us a rare interview.

"Is Mr. Miscavige violent towards Scientologists and has he been physically violent in the past?" we asked.

50-LA-254214-2

"Absolutely not," said Davis. "Absolutely not. He is not. He is not and ... it's not in his character, it's not in his nature, and it is not the kind of person he is."

Miscavige spoke at a 2004 Scientology ceremony.

"One quality that has always set us apart is that we are unselfish," he said. "Yes we have an utter monopoly on workable solutions, but we share those solutions with anyone who reaches for them."

In 2004, Miscavige awarded the Church's biggest star and his close friend, Tom Cruise, the "Freedom Medal of Valor," at an elaborate ceremony touting service and good works.

But the private face of Miscavige, according to these former Scientologists, is very different.

"I'll just say it outright. I consider him to be a sociopath," said Hines.

"I think the man's stark-staring mad," said Rathbun.

Energetic and charismatic, David Miscavige quickly moved up the ranks after joining the Church, and became outright leader after Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard's death in 1986.

Just a few years into his leadership, David Miscavige and Marty Rathbun were battling back against detractors, and after a devastating article in Time magazine, which referred to Scientology as a "thriving cult of greed and power," they decided to go on the offensive.

"I was very much involved in ... litigation that was goin' on on ongoing cases," said Rathbun. "But also, intelligence side of it."

Miscavige agreed to appear live on "Nightline" in 1992. It remains his only television interview.

"If you really looked at the big picture of what's happening in Scientology, it isn't really controversial, certainly to a Scientologist," Miscavige told host Ted Koppel.

The interview included the following exchange:

Koppel: There's a little bit of a problem in getting people to talk critically about the Scientology because, quite frankly, they're scared.

Miscavige: Oh, no, no, no, no.

Koppel: Well, I'm telling you--

Miscavige: No, no, no, no. Let me tell you--

Koppel: I'm telling you people are scared.

Miscavige: Let me explain something to you. The most disingenuous thing is that you have those people. Now, let's not give the American public the wrong impression.

'Utterly, Completely, Totally Ridiculous'

Rathbun described the atmosphere in the studio that day. "It was pretty -- electric..." he said.

"Quite frankly," Miscavige told Koppel, "from my view, a lot of the people who have written stories on Scientology are doing it from a certain pitch, they already have their story somewhat made up."

But these former senior Scientologists say as Miscavige's leadership progressed, he became increasingly eccentric.

"He got his beagle and he literally had somebody tailor a blue vest sweater for his beagle dog and made up epaulets, these Sea Org ranks in the Sea Organization," said Rathbun, referring to the religious order within the Church. "And he had four stripes put on, captain, for the dog. And he would bring the dog in. And if those guys didn't salute the dog, he would just viciously berate them and invalidate them."

Amy Scobee gave her account. "[Miscavige] comes with his dog, with a sweater, with commander stripes. And, the dog let out a little bark when she saw me. And, uh, David Miscavige said, you know ... 'You've got somethin' goin' on. Because sh ... she is detecting out ethics. And you have something going on.' I think what the dog was really saying is, you know, 'You look like the only halfway sane person to me. Help me outta this outfit.'"

We asked Davis about the story:

Nightline: One former member says that Mr. Miscavige had a vest tailored for his dog with epaulets similar to those that would be worn by SeaOrg members, and he would order staffers to salute the dog.

Davis: That is utterly, completely, totally ridiculous.

Nightline: Your own reaction was one of complete disbelief, I think it's fair to say.

Davis: Totally, because it's unbelievable.

Nightline: And yet, there are consistencies between individuals who observed the dog, dressed in a particular way ...

Davis: Uh-huh.

Nightline: ... and a particular breed. Amy Scobee also confirms that Mr. Miscavige would bring his dog around dressed like a uniformed member and if the dog barked, she says, he would suggest that the individual towards whom the dog barked was behaving badly, had some kind of negative problem. Is that true?

Davis: I don't know. I mean maybe we should have the dog come in here and see if it barks at you, Martin. (Laughs.)

Marty Rathbun, who spent 27 years in the Church of Scientology, says it was more serious than a uniformed dog. He says he personally saw its leader, David Miscavige, strike subordinates on numerous occasions, including senior colleague Tom De Vocht.

"Miscavige walks in and goes -- asks Tom some question and there's the slightest lag in his response," said Rathbun. "Miscavige just takes off across the room in front of 80 people and get -- delivered -- just a ... beating to the guy. I mean, beat him up bad."

Tom De Vocht, who left the Church in 2005 after 28 years, recounted this event to ABC News, saying David Miscavige hit him, knocked him to the ground and kicked him a number of times. According to Rathbun, Mike Rinder was also a victim of numerous attacks by Miscavige.

"I saw him ... attack him while he was sitting in a chair and hitting him upside the head," said Rathbun. "And then -- in ... and then wrestling him around the neck and ... throwing him to the ground... I saw at least a dozen times, this happen."

Amy Scobee says she also witnessed Miscavige attack Rinder.

"David came right behind him, just out of the blue ... and grabbed him ... around the neck, and was throttling, squeezing hard to the point where David's face was shaking, and arms were shaking that he was squeezing so hard," said Scobee.

Mike Rinder, who left the Church in 2007, corroborated these specific incidents and told ABC News he was the victim of repeated acts of random violence at the hands of Miscavige.

Bruce Hines said he himself was physically struck by Miscavige..

"I had been called up from Los Angeles ... I was kind of in trouble," said Hines. "So I'm sitting there at my desk and so I hear his voice booming out in the hallway ... He said, 'Where is that mother f*****?' ... And he just walked up and he hit me on the side of the head. It was a ... he didn't have a closed fist. But it was an open hand. But it was ... it definitely hurt and it definitely knocked me back."

Why didn't Hines react by hitting back?

"So say I did that. He hits me and I just go bam. And, you know, sock him in the jaw or something. That would mean, um, I had just forfeited my hope for eternity," said Hines. "... Because it's drilled in over and over and over again, that Scientology has the only route to freedom."

So Miscavige has the power over eternity?

"Yes."

'I Broke Down'

The Church provided ABC more than a dozen affidavits from current Scientologists, including some of the supposed victims, saying allegations that Miscavige struck subordinates are "false and ridiculous" ... he "is not a man violence." Tommy Davis, Scientology's spokesman, says the former staffers are bitter and disgruntled liars.

Nightline: ... Tom De Vocht has described being personally hit ...

Davis: Tom De Vocht, if he was personally hit, then why in his 20 years of marriage to his wife did he never say anything to her about it? ... Why did Mike Rinder, who was married for 35 years, why has his wife made it very clear that never did he come home with any bruises, any marks, nor did he ever mention ever being attacked by Mr. Miscavige, struck or hit by him? ... The fact of the matter is, is both Mike Rinder and Marty Rathbun are on record as having denied those exact allegations. ... Mike Rinder to the BBC stated repeatedly allegations of his ... his having been physically attacked by Mr. Miscavige are, "Rubbish, rubbish, rubbish, rubbish!"

In 1998, Rathbun told the St. Petersburg Times, "I have never known David Miscavige in 20 years to hit anyone."

Nightline: "So, were you lying then, or are you lying now?"

"Then," Rathbun insisted. "Because at the time, I perceived that this guy was -- of the importance that we had to do that. ... If I told the truth [at the time] to a newspaper reporter on something like that ... I could have been expelled from Scientology forever."

Davis says not only has David Miscavige never been violent towards anyone, he says it was in fact Marty Rathbun himself who was the violent one.

"The only person I know of who was abusive and cruel was Marty Rathbun," said Davis. "He was an abusive, cruel, and violent man."

Rathbun admits he was violent on many occasions, but says it was because Miscavige urged him to be physical, an allegation the Church denies.

"I have admitted that I have engaged in stuff," he said. "...It wasn't in my nature, whatsoever."

"[Miscavige] created an environment where he was getting others to do the same," said Rathbun. "And I broke down and I punched Mike Rinder pretty hard a couple of times. ... a man I had known for decades ... And that's precisely the thing. It made me feel terrible. It made me sick to my stomach."

Mike Rinder corroborated to ABC News that he was a victim of abuse at the hands of Rathbun. But violence, according to Bruce Hines, wasn't the only tool used to discipline staff.

"I was assigned to the ... Rehabilitation Project Force it's called," said Hines. "Or generally known as the RPF."

The RPF is a disciplinary program for Sea Org members, which Hines says includes manual labor and intensive counseling.

"The question they ask -- Was there an evil purpose or a destructive intention that prompted you to commit that overt?" Hines said. "After many hours of this you start to come up with things like, 'Oh, really ... I guess I must really want to destroy mankind.' Phew, think about that. Six years of that was a lot."

Davis described the program.

"It is a ... a program that, uh, members of the Church's religious order, uh, do voluntarily and are given the opportunity to do if, uh, they're found to have failed in their duties," he said.

Hines says when he was in the RPF there were periods of time when he could not see his son.

"In this case, the child -- where the RPF was also where the school was. ... I would get to see him sort of run by in the distance sometimes," said Hines. "And we could kind of wave to each other. But I'm not allowed to actually talk to him."

We asked Tommy Davis what the Church's current policy is on the RPF and family.

Nightline: If somebody is married and they're sent to the RPF.

Davis: Uh-huh.

Nightline: ... are there controls placed on how much they can see their family?

Davis: Uh, there ... there's ... there's specific policies which apply to the Rehabilitation Project Force, which govern, uh, how the person doing the program, uh, you know, what they do, what their schedule is.

Nightline: And how much time in a week would an individual be allowed to see their family in the schedule?

Davis: Oh, I don't know. I don't know off the top of my head.

Nightline: Once a week?

Davis: Probably, yeah, I would imagine once a week would ... sounds about right. Yeah.

Nightline: Does that sound appropriate ...

Davis: ... I think so. Yeah. Sure.

During his time in the RPF, Bruce Hines says he received some sad news about his marriage.

"I was married to another Sea Org member who was not in the RPF, and she decided she wanted to divorce me," said Hines. "This was very, very common. Someone in the RPF, their spouse would divorce them because ... they would receive pressure to do it."

The Church says it does not pressure couples to divorce. Bruce Hines left the Church in 2003. He and his son, who also left, say they are considered to be suppressive people by the Church -- a Scientology term for "antisocial personalities." As a result, they say close family members still in the Church are no longer talking to them.

"I have two nieces who live in Clearwater, Fla., who won't talk to me," said Hines.

"My sister's former husband, he won't talk to me. And my son, he was born in the Sea Org, he can't speak to his brother or his mother because they refuse it. He's out, he's now left. And because of that, he's suppressive and so they ... they're required to disconnect."

Hines' ex-wife told ABC News she disconnected from him and their son because she didn't want to have anything to do with anyone who lied about her Church. Scientology told us they never force anyone to disconnect.

'I Cannot Stand to Watch This'

Marty Rathbun says he decided to end his long career in the Church of Scientology after he saw a longtime friend, Tom De Vocht, was attacked by David Miscavige.

"I swear to you," said Rathbun. "I was there and I was -- it was that moment of truth for me where I either am going to put this guy's lights out for good or I'm gonna remove myself from the environment so I don't. And that literally was what was going through my head. I cannot stand to watch this. I cannot live with this anymore."

Before the accusers left, Davis says, they were removed from their positions of responsibility.

"These are all people who were removed either by Mr. Miscavige or by their peers for gross ... misconduct and malfeasance in their positions," Davis said. "We were glad that they were gone. And, on top of that, the Church has literally taken off explosively since they were gone, and frankly for a ... to a large extent, because they're gone."

Since leaving the Church, Marty Rathbun has said little about his experience -- until he gave a series of interviews to the St. Petersburg Times in Florida, published this summer.

Rathbun has set up a Web site inviting other Scientologists to make contact if they too are considering defection, or have already left. He lives in an obscure location ... far away from the power centers of the Church.

What would he like to see happen to Miscavige?

"I would like to see him cease, cease his continuing abuses," said Rathbun.

As for punishment?

"I think he should have to pay the piper for what he's done and what punishment that is, I don't know," said Rathbun. "Maybe the greatest punishment is the self-inflicted punishment of the recognition-- of what he's done."

Click HERE for the St. Petersburg Times' special report on Scientology leader David Miscavige.

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abc NEWS

Controversy Erupts as BBC Battles Scientology

Debate Surrounding the Controversial Faith Plays Out on TV and YouTube

By DAVID WRIGHT and KATIE HINMAN

May 17, 2007 —

What happens when the BBC, one of the most respected news organizations in the world, takes on The Church of Scientology, one of the most controversial religious organizations in the world? Multimedia mayhem.

Scientology is not only contentious, it's also a pillar of pop culture. A church founded by a science fiction writer, whose poster boy is actor Tom Cruise.

The battle between Scientology and the BBC began with an investigative journalist who was trying to pry open what he says is a secretive, religious organization, and now it's playing out on TV and YouTube. That's right, YouTube. Even before the BBC broadcast its documentary on "Panorama," Scientologists posted an infamous clip online.

In the clip, John Sweeney, a reporter for the BBC, engages in a screaming argument with Tommy Davis, a Scientology spokesman.

"No, Tommy, you stand down! No, listen to me! You were not there for the beginning of the interview! You were not there! You did not hear or record all the interview! Do you understand?"

And in this modern media echo chamber, the controversy over that clip made it onto the BBC as well, again before the documentary had aired.

The reporter was angry at accusations from a church spokesman that he had gone soft on a Scientology critic. But in the full clip, as broadcast later on "Panorama," he isn't the only one shouting.

"You're accusing members of my religion of engaging in brainwashing," screams an angry Davis.

The 'Stodgy' Versus the 'Slick'

Let's be clear, this is not a David and Goliath story. It's more like a celebrity death match. The stodgy vs. the slick. Sweeney, the stodgy guy who loses his cool, is an investigative journalist. He's a classic "Gotcha" reporter who clearly knows all the tricks of the trade.

The slick guy is Davis, son of actress Ann Archer and a spokesman for Scientology. He is a true believer and a dogged defender of his faith.

To be fair, Scientology has never taken criticism lightly.

50-LA-254214-2

"I don't know that Scientology lends itself to the press," said David Miscavige, the top Scientologist, in a 1992 interview with Ted Koppel on "Nightline."

It was the only on-camera interview Miscavige had ever given.

"Media is controversy -- I understand that -- and if you look at the big picture of what's really going on in Scientology, it is not controversial, certainly to a Scientologist," he said at the time.

What's changed since that interview more than 15 years ago is that Scientology now has a new vehicle to take on its critics.

During the making of the BBC documentary, the Scientologists followed the reporter's every footstep, even waiting for him at his hotel at midnight one day.

YouTube: The Catalyst for Chaos

They even posted their own expose on YouTube. It was a full 30 minutes, complete with interviews and behind-the-scenes footage.

The BBC stands by its reporter and his report. On this issue at least, the institution has battened down the hatches, apparently under siege from Scientology supporters.

"Nightline" reached out to "Panorama" for a comment, but the show declined requests for an interview. Twice the person answering the phone at the "Panorama" news desk said callers had the wrong number and promptly hung up.

The Scientologists have also requested an interview with those at the BBC. Just as Sweeney had done to them, they turned up at BBC headquarters, cameras rolling, demanding an interview with the BBC's director general.

Not surprisingly, their request was denied.

It's tough to say who comes off worse in this battle. In public relations terms, it's probably a draw. That in itself is extraordinary. In this modern age, when the BBC takes on the Church of Scientology, it's YouTube that has leveled the playing field.

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abcNEWS

How Scientology Attracts Celebrities

Church Has Long Sought High-Profile Public Figures as 'Walking Success Stories'

By MARTIN BASHIR, ETHAN NELSON and MAGGIE BURBANK

Oct. 24, 2009 —

Celebrities and the Church of Scientology seem to go hand-in-hand. And actor Tom Cruise is arguably the world's best-known celebrity Scientologist.

"She goes, 'I don't really understand who you are,'" Cruise says in a video made for a Scientology event that was leaked onto the Internet last year. "And I said, 'OK, I'm a Scientologist.'

"There's nothing part of the way for me," Cruise says on the video, laughing. "It's just [makes voom sound]."

Tom Cruise first burst onto the scene in a pair of white socks, and not much else, in "Risky Business." Then he was fighter pilot, a bartender, and by the time he appeared in "Jerry Maguire," he'd become the most successful movie star on the planet -- and deeply involved in Scientology.

Amy Scobee was a member of Scientology for 27 years. She was a Church executive who helped expand Scientology's outreach to celebrities. She spoke with "Nightline."

Nightline: ...Presbyterian Church doesn't have a wing that emphasizes reaching celebrities ...Why do you think there was this emphasis on celebrity?

Scobee: ...One of the purposes of Celebrity Centre is to make celebrities walking success stories of Scientology.

Tommy Davis is the director of public affairs for the Church of Scientology. His mother is the actress Anne Archer, who was nominated for an Academy Award for her role as a betrayed housewife in the movie "Fatal Attraction."

Nightline: ...Why was there this exceptional approach to celebrities?

Davis: Well...

Nightline: What's the purpose of that?

Davis: What you have in Scientology is you have a lot of artists who are Scientologists. Some of them are well known. ...the Celebrity Centre, which is that arts and culture branch of the Church first began, it was actually started and founded by and gotten going by Scientologists who are artists.

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Scientology was founded by science fiction author L. Ron Hubbard in the early 1950s. One of the key practices is "auditing," which is a kind of counseling session in which a person's unconscious thoughts from painful experiences are purged, often with the help of a trained auditor and a device known as an "e-meter."

Bruce Hines left the Church in 2003 after 24 years.

Hines: This e-meter, this electrometer, which works on the same principle as a lie detector, even though they say, "No, this isn't a lie detector." But it's the exact same principle.

Nightline: But it indicates some kind of electrical pulse?

Hines: It sends a current through your body. ... And the theory is is that when you have emotional charge ... it changes the resistance of the body. So that changes the current. And that ... and it makes this needle move.

"Nightline" spoke with Tommy Davis.

Nightline: Has the e-meter ever been subjected to randomized clinical trials to assess its efficacy?

Davis: I have no idea. I don't know why it would be. It works in Scientology and that's what people use it. I don't know why it would be subjected to random clinical trials.

Nightline: Because it's a...a mechanism for therapeutic care you just said...

Davis: In a religion.

Nightline: But has it ever been tested objectively is what I'm asking?

Davis: I mean it gets used every day by Scientology counselors.

Nightline: I'm not asking that. I'm asking...

Davis: To my knowledge, no. ...And as far as evidence of the e-meter and its efficacy, the evidence of that is in those Scientologists who have used it to great benefit. And as far as the Church of Scientology is concerned, it's the only evidence that matters, is the people and the results.

From the start, L. Ron Hubbard set out to attract celebrities, believing high profile public figures would be its most effective evangelists.

Nightline: Can you recall any celebrities who came into the Centre when you were there?

Scobee: I met John Travolta, Kelly Preston, Priscilla Presley, Lisa Marie, Edgar Winter, Isaac Hayes, uh, Tom Cruise.

After Hubbard died in 1986, David Miscavige became the Church's leader -- and soon embraced Tom Cruise with great fervor.

Tom Cruise: Church's Most Celebrated New Member

Nightline: But I guess it ... it's helpful, isn't it, if ... uh, you're an organization with an individual as well known, as ...famous, as successful as Tom Cruise.

Davis: Sure.

Nightline: He's a...

Davis: Of course.

Nightline: He's a good advocate?

Davis: Oh, look ... I think anybody who would complain about having successful, well known, happy ... uh, people ...

Nightline: John Travolta, Kristie Ally.

Davis: ...of...of... their group, I'd think you'd be crazy to (laughs) complain about that.

Bruce Hines says he helped prepare for the arrival of the Church's most celebrated new member, who had decided to fully commit to Scientology by staying at the International Base in California for a few months of services.

"I was part of the preparations where David Miscavige brought Tom Cruise to the International Headquarters," Hines said.

And Hines says nothing was to be spared. "...And he had the very best auditors and the very best people looking after him," said Hines. "...Just the ... the best treatment that anyone could possibly get, so that he got a favorable impression of Scientology."

Church's Treatment of Celebrities

Marty Rathbun left the Church in 2004 after 27 years. He was a top lieutenant to David Miscavige.

Nightline: Did you audit Tom Cruise?

Rathbun: Yeah, extensively...

Nightline: They were given what, a celebrity environment?

Rathbun: A cel--

Nightline: Pampering?

Rathbun: You got it. You got it.

Nightline: And who was doing that?

Rathbun: Miscavige, man. I mean, that was his thing. It's all about image. ...He's flying across the country in Tom Cruise's jet. ...It's all about living the high life and being a powerful guy who is looked

up to by the rich and famous.

Tommy Davis said the Church does not indulge or pamper celebrities.

In recent years, Tom Cruise has been more confident about publicly asserting Scientology principles -- particularly its rejection of psychiatric medicine.

"Here's the problem," Cruise told host Matt Lauer in a "Today" show appearance. "You don't know the history of psychiatry. I do.

"Matt. Matt, Matt, you don't even-- you're glib. You don't even know what Ritalin is."

Rathbun says the Tom Cruise he now sees on TV is not the Tom Cruise he once knew.

Rathbun: I watch him on Matt Lauer. And I go, "That ain't Tom Cruise. That's David Miscavige. That's not the Tom Cruise I knew two years ago."

Nightline: You're referring to the moment when he attacked Brooke Shields for suffering post-natal depression and--

Rathbun: Attacked Matt Lauer, I mean, he's talking--

Nightline: For not understanding--

Rathbun: --he is talking to Matt Lauer like David Miscavige talks to his staff. "You're glib, man, you don't get it. You don't understa--" you know.

When asked by "Nightline" if he supported Cruise's comments on the Today Show, Tommy Davis said: "I support anybody who is going to be out there talking about the dangerous effects of drugs..."

Nightline: But with the greatest respect, Mr. Davis, Tom Cruise is an actor. He's not a medical academic. He's not a clinician. ...Do you really think he's qualified to denounce an entire field of medicine?

Davis: Well, I think your comments right there are actually quite degrading of actors and artists...

Nightline: ...What right do they have?

Davis: They have every right...

Cruise was one of many celebrities to join the Church. In 1998, actors John Travolta and Kirstie Alley told ABC News how much Scientology has helped them.

"The basic thing that I think Scientology helps people with is to rehabilitate their own spirit, their own nature, their own personality that was sort of buried or lost somewhere along the way," said Alley.

"It's given me all aspects of life back to me where I can move through life confidently, I can move through life feeling fulfilled, I look forward to life every day," said Travolta.

Recently, speculation has swirled about Travolta, who famously produced and starred in the film, "Battlefield Earth," based on a book by L. Ron Hubbard.

"Nightline" spoke with Marty Rathbun, who says he audited Travolta.

Nightline: What sort of a man was he?

Rathbun: He's a wonderful man. He's a great guy. He's very love -- one of the more loving persons you ever want to meet, sensitive, caring.

It was at the family's island retreat that Travolta's 16-year-old son, Jett, who had autism, died from a seizure, in January.

"Nightline" asked Davis if the Church had ever advised Travolta not to allow his son take certain medications.

"Absolutely not. It never happened. The Church never advised them on ... in ... in any way, shape or form, whatsoever, on any aspect of, uh ... of their son's treatment. Never have. And never will," Davis said.

Nightline: As you know, Mr. Travolta and his wife suffered a very great tragedy recently. ... Do you know if the Church ever advised them not to allow their son to receive certain medications for conditions?

Davis: Absolutely not. It never happened. The Church never advised them on ... in ... in any way, shape or form, whatsoever, on any aspect of, uh ... of their son's treatment. Never have. And never will.

The tragic death has lead to tabloid speculation that John Travolta might leave the Church of Scientology, something the Church and Travolta's publicist fiercely denied -- and last week, Travolta, his wife, Kelly Preston, and Tom Cruise were at major Scientology celebration in England.

Secrets of Scientology

The Church says there is no aspect of life that cannot be improved through the application of Scientology principles, some of which are treatments conceived by L. Ron Hubbard. One such procedure, popular with celebrities, is called the "purification rundown."

"It's a sauna and vitamin program, some exercise to get your heartrate going and ... you would take high doses of ... dosages of Niacin," said Amy Scobee.

Scientologists believe it can dislodge toxins and poisons from the body.

Tom Cruise is a strong advocate of this treatment -- co-founding the New York Rescue Workers Detoxification Project, which uses L. Ron Hubbard's "purification rundown" principals for those exposed to toxic chemicals after the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

"When I started this project, it was because I was in a position where I knew that I could help," Cruise said at a project event.

Scobee had the treatment.

"When I did it the first time... it was one week..., and I felt, brighter and more alert," she said. "My skin was, you know, vibrant and stuff like that."

But far away from the limelight of celebrities, Scobee says the program can also be used to discipline Church staff members. She says she was once told to take part in a purification rundown that ended up lasting eight months.

Scobee: I was at 5,000 milligrams of Niacin for months and months. I don't know what that did to my body! (Laughs). I have no idea.

Nightline: How did you feel?

Scobee: I felt really, there was like gray stuff coming out of my skin, and I didn't know if it was like my insides coming out (laughs) or whatever that long of being in the sauna five hours a day every day.

Nightline: Five hours?

Scobee: Yeah.

Nightline: And you kept going?

Scobee: Yeah.

Nightline: What happened when you did it for eight months?

Scobee: That was when I, uh, decided I didn't want to be there anymore ... to satisfy somebody else's demands on ... on me, to fix me, because of their preconceived ways.

The Church denies Scobee's characterization and says the program is a "religious service," and to claim it as a "kind of perverse punishment" is "gross in the extreme."

Perhaps the most sensitive aspect of the Church's theology concerns confidential scriptures meant only for higher level Scientologists.

According to former Church insiders, these documents describe L. Ron Hubbard's belief in an intergalactic emperor called Xenu who brought the spirits of his people to earth 75 million years ago, burying them in volcanoes. These spirits, the story goes, have stuck to the bodies of people living today in the form of "body thetans."

"They have had some really bad experience millions, billions, trillions, actually quadrillions of years ago, which is way older than the Big Bang basically...," said Bruce Hines. "You're supposed to, isolate ... and communicate with them telepathetically, so that they go away."

Tommy Davis spoke with "Nightline."

Nightline: Do you believe that ... a galactic emperor called Xenu ... brought his people to earth 75 million years ago and buried them in volcanoes?

Davis: OK.

Nightline: Do you believe that?

Davis: Martin, I am not going to discuss the disgusting perversion of Scientology beliefs that can be found out commonly on the Internet and be put in the position of talking about things for ... that ... talking about things that are so fundamentally offensive to Scientologists to discuss...

Nightline: Well, I ... I have the burden of my own journalistic responsibility ...

Davis: Uh-huh.

Nightline: ... that I bring to this meeting and I hope that, I've been appropriately respectful of you in my asking of the questions ...

Davis: Well, you haven't to the degree that the question that you asked me you know, by virtue of the fact that it's been made very clear in other media entities that it's something that we consider offensive ... It is in violation of my religious beliefs to talk about them.

Nightline: So, just for clarification ... just for clarification, do you personally believe ...

Davis: I'm going to stop you, if you're going to ask me that question again and you're going to repeat things about volcanoes and this kind of thing and so on and so forth, I will stand up and walk out, Martin. Because ... because what you're doing by doing that is you are intentionally asking me things which you know I find offensive, and you're insisting on asking me. So I'm asking you one more time...

Nightline: Mr. Davis ...So, for a moment, if you wouldn't mind, I'm not trying to offend anybody. I'm just trying to ask you a series of questions about the public face that you have. I'm not trying to mock you, I'm trying to understand what your beliefs are.

Davis: Sure.

Nightline: You've explained what auditing is....you've explained the growth of the Church, you've done all of those things.

Davis: Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Sure.

Nightline: I am asking you in the context of those questions, in the context of those questions, is it true that L. Ron Hubbard said that understanding the origins of the human race and described through Xenu --

At this point Davis stood up and left the room.

'We're Counting on You'

Tom Cruise is a close friend of the ecclesiastical leader of the Church of Scientology, David Miscavige.

Cruise recently received the organization's "Freedom Medal of Valor" at a prestigious ceremony.

"I want to tell you something. I have never met a more competent, a more intelligent a more tolerant, a more compassionate being," Cruise says in a video of the ceremony. "....To LRH! [salutes photo of L. Ron Hubbard]."

In a report on Oct. 22, 2009, "Nightline" focused on allegations made by former high ranking Scientologists who claim leader David Miscavige repeatedly struck subordinates.

"He just walked up and he hit me on the side of the head. It was a ... he didn't have a closed fist. But it was an open hand," Hines said. "But it was ... it definitely hurt and it definitely knocked me back."

"I saw him ... attack [Mike Rinder] while he was sitting in a chair and hitting him upside the head," said former Church executive Marty Rathbun. "And then -- in -- and then wrestling him around the neck and ... throwing him to the ground... I saw at least a dozen times, this happen."

The church denies David Miscavige ever hit anyone. Sworn affidavits given to ABC News from over a dozen current Scientologists describe the allegations of abuse as "vile falsehoods" and say it was actually Marty Rathbun who was abusive.

Rathbun concedes he was violent, but says he was encouraged to be physical by Miscavige. He and the other accusers believe Tom Cruise is too supportive of the Church's leader.

"Tom Cruise, I don't appreciate the fact that he's supporting David Miscavige," said Scobee, "because either he's supporting him and ... and dumb to the fact that he is a total tyrant, or he's in agreement with it ... and either way that is really not OK."

And Rathbun hopes that the other most famous Scientologist, John Travolta, will re-consider his relationship with Scientology in light of the allegations of violence.

Nightline: What do you think of his position at the moment? Do you think that he's likely to leave?

Rathbun: I think if [Travolta] were exposed to the truth, the truths that are being spoken...about what really is going on behind the façade, I don't think he would continue to support that organization. ...I think he'd check out in a heartbeat.

In a letter sent to Nightline yon October 22, Tom Cruise's attorney called the actor "a man of spirit, intelligence, and independence." He said, "Mr. Cruise is aware of the claims made against Mr. Miscavige by former members of the Church of Scientology. He does not believe them."

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Chased by their church: When you try to leave Scientology, they try to bring you back

By Joe Childs and Thomas C. Tobin, Times Staff Writers
Posted: Oct 31, 2009 04:30 AM

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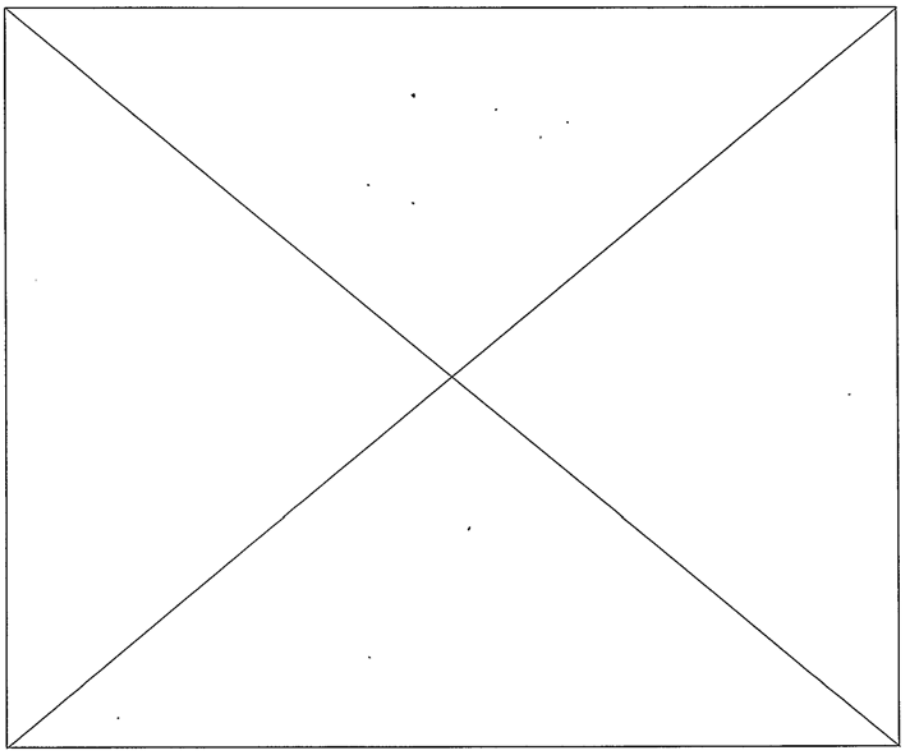
Ex-officer says Scientology policy didn't match directive



For years, the Church of Scientology chased down and brought back staff members who tried to leave.

Ex-staffers describe being pursued by their church and detained, cut off from family and friends and subjected to months of interrogation, humiliation and

manual labor.

One said he was locked in a room and guarded around the clock.

Some who did leave said the church spied on them for years.

Others said that, as a condition for leaving, the church cowed them into signing embellished affidavits that could be used to discredit them if they ever spoke out.

Multimedia: More on Scientology, including video interviews with the defectors and previous coverage of the church.

The *St. Petersburg Times* has interviewed former high-ranking Scientology officials who coordinated the intelligence gathering and supervised the retrieval of staff who left, or "blew."

They say the church, led by David Miscavige, wanted to contain the threat that those who left might reveal secrets of life inside Scientology.

Marty Rathbun, a former church official and confidant of Miscavige, said the leader especially targeted those he had edged aside during his rise to the top or anyone he feared might threaten his position or the church if left alone on the outside.

When the church founder L. Ron Hubbard was in charge, "there were no fences," Rathbun said. "If somebody blew, they blew. It wasn't until these purges started with Miscavige — where he was creating enemies and people ... became a threat to him — that we went into this overdrive scenario."

Church spokesman Tommy Davis "categorically denied" Miscavige knew about or was involved in the pursuit of runaways or spying on former members. He said Rathbun and other former staff are liars, taking their own misdeeds and blaming them on Miscavige and the religion they have forsaken. He said they are trying to undermine Miscavige's leadership even as he presides over unprecedented church growth.

Miscavige "redefines the term 'religious leader,' " Davis said, while some of the *Times* sources are on the "lunatic fringe" of anti-Scientology. He said they are the real villains, who Miscavige

dismissed for "suborning perjury, obstruction of justice and wasting millions of dollars of parishioner funds."

He accused the *Times* of "naked bias" and engaging in tabloid journalism.

"You have a few petty allegations," Davis said.

"In fact, all you have is a few people who left a religion after committing destructive acts and are now complaining about what they did while in the church."

The story of how the church commands and controls its staff is told by the pursuers and the pursued, by those who sent spies and those spied upon, by those who interrogated and those who rode the hot seat. In addition to Rathbun, they include:

• Mike Rinder, who for 25 years oversaw the church's Office of Special Affairs, which handled intelligence, legal and public affairs matters. Rinder and Rathbun said they had private investigators spy on perceived or potential enemies.

They say they had an operative infiltrate a group of five former Scientology staffers that included the Gillham sisters, Terri and Janis, two of the original four "messengers" who delivered Hubbard's communications. They and other disaffected Scientologists said they were spied on for almost a decade.

• Gary Morehead, the security chief for seven years at the church's international base in the desert east of Los Angeles. He said he helped develop the procedure the church followed to chase and return those who ran, and he brought back at least 75 of them. "I lost count there for awhile."

Staffers signed a waiver when they came to work at the base that allowed their mail to be opened, Morehead said. His department opened all of it, including credit card statements and other information that was used to help track runaways.

• Don Jason, for seven years the second-ranking officer at Scientology's spiritual mecca in Clearwater, supervised a staff of 350. He said that after he ran, he turned himself in and ended up locked in his cabin on the church cruise ship, the *Freewinds.* He said he was held against his will.

And then there's the story of the cook, his wife and the movie stars.

WINTER IN THE ROCKIES

Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman were to be married on Christmas Eve 1990. The setting: a large rented cabin outside Telluride, Colo., a resort town at the floor of a Rocky Mountain valley.

The couple starred together that summer in *Days of Thunder.* He was the megastar, she the up-and-coming Australian.

In the desert east of Los Angeles, a small contingent from the Church of Scientology's international base took Cruise's plane to Colorado.

Miscavige would be the actor's best man. Ray Mithoff, a long-time Scientologist who worked closely with Hubbard, would officiate. The church's pastry chef, Pinucio Tisi, would bake the cake. Its five-star chef, Sinar Parman, would prepare the feast.

Parman had been with Scientology's dedicated work force, the Sea Org, for 12 years. He started in 1978, fresh from an apprenticeship at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. He worked as Hubbard's personal chef for two years. (The founder was a meat-and-potatoes man who also enjoyed fish.)

Parman later cooked for celebrity parishioners who visited the church's base camp.

He made chicken noodle soup the way Kirstie Alley's grandmother did, and the actor sent him flowers. John Travolta gave him a carton of Camels for his birthday. Cruise brought him a jacket from the set of *Days of Thunder* and would hand him Cuban cigars.

For Telluride, Cruise insisted the minister, the baker and the chef bring their wives for the holiday.

Christmas in the Rockies with Tom Cruise? Parman's wife, Jackie Wolff, was beyond excited.

When they married four years earlier, Wolff worked as a personal assistant to Miscavige and his wife, Shelly. She ironed his shirts, prepared the couple's breakfast, lunch and snacks, and woke them each morning.

Now she worked in personnel, recruiting Sea Org members.

Before flying to the wedding, everybody drew names for a gift exchange. Wolff drew Cruise

and got him a Hubbard novelette. It cost $50, a week's pay.

Cruise put up the Scientology contingent in a hotel in Telluride, but they spent much of their time at his rented estate. Parman cooked; Wolff hung decorations, tidied rooms and helped in the kitchen.

The Miscaviges let it be known not to give church-related gifts, a nod to the non-Scientologists at the wedding. Wolff went into town and picked a substitute gift, a black ski mask.

At sunset on Christmas Eve, Cruise and Kidman took their vows. The guests sipped Cristal champagne and Parman prepared a holiday spread that included saddle of lamb.

The next afternoon, Wolff and Parman saw police officers standing at the driveway to keep back the paparazzi. Cruise made sure the officers were fed.

The newlyweds took their guests skiing that day. Wolff will always remember seeing Cruise on the slopes, wearing his new black ski mask.

BACK TO WORK

The glow of Telluride faded as Parman and Wolff returned to life at the Scientology base.

Parman says the church reneged on a promise to pay him extra for cooking at the wedding. Parman had been counting on the money. His credit card balance jumped when he bought proper clothes for Telluride, and he charged his own meals. He worried how on a Sea Org salary he would pay down the new debt.

It wasn't the first time he felt he had done a good job, only to be somehow punished. "I was stewing in my own juices, so to speak."

His wife's job in personnel was no better. Supervisors interfered and gave conflicting orders. Many times Wolff worked into the night and slept under her desk.

Parman and Wolff each thought about leaving the church but couldn't tell the other. Such thoughts were taboo, and spouses were to file a "Knowledge Report" if their partner violated the code. If a spouse didn't file a report and it came out during a confessional, he or she got in trouble, too.

Wolff sensed her husband was as frustrated as she.

"I kind of took a chance at bringing it up. And when he was agreeable I was like, 'Okay!' "

Hubbard recognized that the Sea Org wasn't for everyone. On Dec. 7, 1976, he issued a policy titled "Leaving and Leaves," on how departing staffers should be handled. It doesn't help to hold onto staff who don't want to be there, he said. But Hubbard also said everyone who leaves is to undergo a "security check," or "sec check," to protect the staff and to protect Scientology.

The church had been security conscious from its earliest days as Hubbard, and later Miscavige, battled over government investigations and lawsuits.

Church staffers used pay phones and elaborate mail drops to keep information from falling into the wrong hands. Sea Org members used fake first names. Rathbun's real first name isn't Marty, it's Mark. Morehead, the security chief, also was known as Jackson.

"Everything was done CIA fashion," Parman said. "That was the way of life in those days."

After Hubbard died in 1986, his policies became the church's guiding compass. But "Leaving and Leaves" presented a contradiction. If you let people leave when they wanted, as the policy dictated, it could compromise security. But if you held onto people until certain they posed no security risk, they might feel like they were being held against their will.

Under Miscavige, former Sea Org members say, the church put more emphasis on security. Getting out became more difficult.

If staffers like Parman and Wolff insisted on leaving, they were supposed to "route out" of the Sea Org, protocol that could take months. It included a daily regimen of manual labor and "sec checks" — confessionals that surfaced a person's every thought and questioned his reasons for wanting to leave.

Or they could "blow." It was faster to secretly escape, but it triggered the church's "disconnection" practice. If the runaway didn't "route out" properly, he would be labeled "suppressive" and lose his Scientology family and friends.

Parman and Wolff had a decision to make.

THE CHIEF OF SECURITY

Their living arrangement presented an extra obstacle. They shared a small, church-owned home with Gary Morehead and his wife. The base's security chief from 1990 to 1997, Morehead directed the team that would chase them.

Morehead said he worked with Rathbun to develop a "blow drill," a plan the church followed when someone left without permission, which he said happened maybe once a month.

The drill helped predict where runaways were headed, and find and return them before they spilled secrets to opposing attorneys or the media.

"I had the order and the pressure to find them," Morehead said, referring to people in charge of security above him. "And God forbid I did not find them."

Staff deployed to airports and bus stations. They called all hotels along likely escape routes. They called airlines and pretended to be the runaway checking a reservation. They phoned relatives.

The intensity of the chase mostly depended on what a runaway knew, said Rathbun, who was one of Miscavige's top lieutenants. Rathbun oversaw and participated in staff recovery missions.

"It all had to do with the hierarchy of how close you were to Miscavige, how much you knew about him and how damaging what you knew might be," Rathbun said.

He said the leader began each day asking if any problems had arisen overnight, and if anyone had left.

"I had to report it and take the brunt of it," Rathbun said.

Morehead, who reported to Rathbun, described runaways as "loose cannons of knowledge." You wanted them back, under control, before they did damage.

"I could command as many staff as I wanted," Rathbun said. "I could get 10 guys on the road at once. It was pretty amazing that we could always generally get to these guys before they'd get to their destination."

When they didn't, he said, they kept at it, "for weeks, if necessary."

Morehead remembered the night in 1990 that Sea Org member Julie Caetano jumped in an irrigation contractor's Ford pickup and sped off, with Morehead and two other vehicles in pursuit.

For three hours, at speeds up to 100 mph, Morehead said they chased the truck around Riverside and San Bernardino counties until the pickup got away across a rutted field. The next day the team tracked down Caetano, and she agreed to return.

The church did not respond to questions about this incident.

Mike Rinder, the church's former intelligence chief, said his department sometimes tracked runaways by getting into their credit card or bank accounts.

The account numbers came from Morehead, whose guards opened every piece of mail at the base, logging staff financial information as they went. Morehead said Sea Org members were told their personal correspondence was examined for security reasons. He said they were not told this included financial information.

"Except for the upper, upper executives, there wasn't a base staff member who I didn't have a bank account number on, a credit card number, social security number and date of birth, phone numbers, you name it, I had it all," Morehead said.

Church recovery efforts also drew on records from the runaways' Scientology counseling sessions, which often identified sore points in their lives the trackers could press to talk them into coming back, he said.

They also used "ethics files" that included the staffer's transgressions and confessions, as well as the "life history" Sea Org members filled out when they came to the base that included every job held, every friend, every sexual encounter.

When a runaway was found, the recovery team sometimes used someone of influence in the person's life to get them to come back.

Those who were found were told they could be "disconnected" from family and friends.

They were told that the outside world, with its drugs, crime and insanity, was no place to be.

And the clincher: They were forsaking their eternity.

Scientology teaches that people are spiritual beings that transcend human lifetimes and inhabit an endless succession of bodies. Only the church can make a Scientologist aware of this passage and help him navigate it successfully.

That was part of the closing argument when a church recovery team located a target: Run and risk losing everything you worked for — your eternity.

"How do you control someone? You threaten what is most valuable to them," Rinder said. "And the threat is, that's going away. And that's the mental prison that people are put in."

The church said Morehead and his team were acting "out of concern for the welfare of the blown staff member."

In "Blow Offs," a bulletin Hubbard issued Dec. 31, 1959, the founder said someone who wants to leave has done something to hurt the church, is withholding it and is upset about it. The only responsible thing to do is to help the person come clean.

Morehead said he believed that as he went to bring people back.

"Security in my mind-set was secondary," he said. "But as time went on you found out the (primary) effort was the security concern. We didn't give a s--- about the person."

STARTING A NEW LIFE

Parman and Wolff, in their mid-30s, wanted to reach for a new life right away, not wait until the church said they were ready to leave.

A month after the Cruise-Kidman wedding, they took a week to plan their "blow" and picked a Sunday morning, when staff got its weekly personal time. It would be hours before the day's first head count.

They knew the church would come after them because of the jobs they had held. Both had worked for Miscavige, and Parman had spent a lot of time with Hubbard and church celebrities.

They waited until Morehead and his wife fell asleep in their room, gathered a few belongings and drove off.

After about an hour, they pulled into a truck stop to eat and decompress. They stopped at Parman's parents' home in Los Angeles, borrowed $2,000 and took the coast route north.

In Lake Tahoe a day or two later, Parman won a few hundred dollars at craps and lost it back. Wolff shopped. She figured she would need new clothes to find a job in the non-Scientology world.

"You go to the hotel room and it's like, 'Oh, a TV. We can watch TV now,' " she said. "It was just kind of like an adventure."

They phoned their parents and learned that the church had called, looking for them. Wolff's sisters also had been called, but no one betrayed their location.

They went to Carson City and moved into the home of Wolff's stepfather's cousin. The cousin owned a furniture store and gave them jobs. Wolff trained as a salesperson. Her husband, the chef, moved furniture and loaded trucks.

"It was cool," Parman said. "There was some kind of hope for a life there."

They thought they were safely "off the grid," Wolff said. "We figured they'd never find us at my stepfather's cousin's house."

ON THE HUNT

The church got private investigators to tail the couple's relatives, Morehead said.

"They would just sit there and sit there and sit there and follow the family members around. They had no idea they had church-assigned private investigators sitting on them, watching them."

The surveillance paid off after several days. The couple were spotted at their temporary home and at the furniture store.

Back at the base, Morehead and his team didn't wait. The longer runaways stayed gone, the chances of talking them back diminished. Families had a way of convincing them to come home, he said.

They booked seats on the next plane out of Ontario International Airport and had only 30

minutes to get there.

"That is the fastest I've ever been driven in a car my entire life," said Morehead, who had $3,000 in expense money set aside for security. "We just had to get there, just had to f------ get there — just that deeply ingrained compulsion."

It was on to Carson City.

FOUND

The knock came first thing in the morning. Parman peeked out the window.

"We looked at each other and we just went, 'Oh my God! Oh my God! What do we do now?' " Wolff said. "I was shaking. I was nervous. I was like ... 'What do we say?' "

There was no thought to refusing to open the door or telling the group to go away. Parman and Wolff were so unnerved that they reacted with compliance. They invited the group into the family room.

The Scientology entourage included Morehead, two other base security officers and two private investigators.

The team delivered messages, called "reality factors," from supervisors at the base who had examined Parman and Wolff's counseling files. The team wanted the couple to come to their hotel, undergo security checks and consider routing out properly.

They said they had "auditors" waiting at a nearby hotel, one for each of them. They wanted to help them.

The couple said they would go. Parman was swayed by the argument that leaving might cost him his eternity.

"That is their main hook," he said. "It's your future for the next millennia ... They push that."

For more than an hour the security team searched their boxes, bags and clothes. They said they were looking for pictures the couple might have taken at the Cruise-Kidman wedding. They found nothing.

RUNAWAYS WHO COME BACK

The Church of Scientology describes "auditing" as a form of spiritual counseling.

The auditor running the session asks prescribed questions intended to locate painful mental images from the person's past that may be limiting his potential. The subject holds two metal cylinders attached by wires to an "e-meter," a device said to pick up electrical currents or "charge" associated with the troubling episodes.

There's also "sec checking," a type of auditing designed to find out if the person has done something to harm the group.

Runaway staffers like Parman and Wolff were referred to as "security particles" and were segregated from others, to keep their inclination to leave from spreading.

At the California base, they often were assigned to the Old Gilman House, beyond a swamp. In Clearwater, it was at the Hacienda Gardens staff housing complex on N Saturn Avenue, sometimes in rundown units known as "pig's berthing."

Many runaways were assigned to a work detail called the Rehabilitation Project Force. They were not to speak unless spoken to, isolated from family and often "sec checked" for hours every day.

The church says the RPF is a voluntary program that affords a staffer an isolated environment that encourages self-assessment. By mixing physical labor with periods of religious study, security checks and counseling, wayward staffers can reform.

Bruce Hines said the RPF is about mind control. Now 58, Hines teaches physics at the University of Colorado at Denver. He is six years removed from three decades in Scientology.

He figures he audited staff and parishioners for 15,000 hours, with about one-third of the hours conducting "sec checks."

"Sec checking" a runaway was "an interrogation," Hines said. Wrongdoing uncovered during sec checks was recorded by the auditor and often posted on bulletin boards or announced at the daily muster.

"Whatever you've done gets broadcast. And the worse and the juicier, the better. That shows

I'm doing my job as a security checker," Hines said.

"If the person has blown, they hopefully would go from a frame of mind of, *'I don't want to be here. Let me go. You people are holding me against my will'* ... to... *'I've harmed the organization. I need to make up for it. Please let me stay.' "*

To get off the RPF, Hines said, the staffer must identify why he's destructive.

"You're not looking for the bad things you've done, but the evil in you that prompted you to do those things. It's predicated on the assumption you're there because of the evil in you. And you have to root out that evil."

Church spokesman Davis said it's "offensive in the extreme" to describe Scientology confessionals in such terms. "Giving an individual the opportunity to unburden himself of transgressions is as old as religion itself," he said.

Late in 1994, a VIP's auditing session was mishandled. Hines says Miscavige blamed him, and he spent six of his last eight years on the RPF, on the other side of the auditing table and on a labor crew that cleared land, painted old mobile homes and built sheds.

To get off the RPF, the "security particle" had to demonstrate that his evil intentions were erased. He had to show a new willingness, a deeper sense of responsibility. Sea Org members called it a "self-generating resource."

Hines called it: "Totally in step."

DECISION TIME

At the hotel in Carson City, Parman and Wolff were audited and "sec checked" day after day for more than a week.

During down time they watched TV or played cards. After more than a week, the recovery team told them it was time to decide. Come back to the base. Preserve your eternity, your family relationships. If you want to leave, fine, just "route out" properly.

"Sinar and I talked about it and then agreed to go back to the base," Wolff said. "And as soon as we agreed, it's like we were on a plane within probably an hour or two."

To that point, the church had paid for airfare, four hotel rooms, food for nine people, around-the-clock shifts by private investigators and other expenses.

"Lots of money and effort was spent on those two," Morehead said. "Lots of money."

A SOFTENING PROCESS

Before the flight back to Southern California, Wolff called her mother to assure her she was still intent on leaving. But she was equally intent on doing it by church rules. She might want to be active in Scientology again some day and wanted to keep her good standing.

A friend got Wolff into the church 11 years earlier, at age 25. She still remembered the realization she had as a little girl in Southern California, standing in her driveway, staring at the rose bushes.

"I knew I'd lived before and I knew I would live again, but I didn't know how it worked. That's what kind of started me on this quest. What are we doing here on this planet?"

Her Scientology auditing surfaced a distinct memory of how she died in her previous lifetime: a woman jerked the wheel to avoid oncoming traffic, the car landed on a power generator and she was electrocuted. "It was me," Wolff said.

It resonated with Wolff when Morehead and his team said it would be a mistake to give up on her spiritual eternity.

Once they returned to the base, the couple spent their days around the Old Gilman House. They studied Scientology books and rehabilitated an old greenhouse.

If they broke a rule, if they shared frustrations, it eventually would come out in daily sec checks. In a world of constant confessing, no thought was safe inside their heads.

After six months, Wolff softened. "You kind of start feeling better about yourself and you start feeling remorse for what you did. It's like you've deserted your group, and how could you do that?"

Paul Kellerhaus, of base security, sat with her at a card table and pushed Wolff for a decision, she said. He suggested Parman wanted to stay in the church. Did she really want a divorce?

"Probably up until the 11th hour I wanted to leave," Wolff said. "I was determined. I was not going to change my mind. And then, I don't know, (I had) those feelings of 'Oh this could happen and it just could be bad if I leave.' "

She cried. Then: "Okay. I'll stay."

She said Kellerhaus took her decision and used it to sway Parman. He decided he would stay, too.

THEIR FINAL LEAVES

In July 1991, they started new jobs at the base, Wolff a gardener and Parman an electrician. Ten months later, for a second time, they reached for a new life. They didn't even bother to cover their tracks.

They loaded the car in the wee hours and drove to Los Angeles, to Parman's parents' house.

He took his wife to Disneyland for her birthday, and he got a job as a valet at a boutique hotel in Hollywood. Wolff helped her in-laws paint and take care of other home improvement projects.

Soon a church "case supervisor" came to the house and said two auditors were standing by. The couple agreed to "route out" but said this time they would not return to the base. The church arranged for them to come to its complex in Hollywood for more auditing, more security checks and some Scientology courses.

At night, they went home to Parman's parents house.

The routine lasted all day, every day, for about eight months, May 1992 to January 1993.

"I want to leave," Wolff recalled thinking. "I'm not going to change my mind."

Until she got a job she liked in the church treasury department. "I kind of ended up changing my mind."

At the church's urging, she talked Parman into staying.

He was back in good graces and back as a chef.

Wolff moved to a job doing research for videos shown at the church's frequent events. She got to attend some — showy affairs with upbeat speeches and word of Scientology's bright future. Parishioners cheered. It renewed her faith in the church.

At the same time, she and Parman were growing apart. They divorced in 1998.

Wolff ran a third time, in 1999. They found her at her sister's house, and she came back, again intending to "route out."

At the base she was assigned to live in a trailer at the Old Gilman House, joining a woman who had been there a year. They cooked on a hot plate in what Wolff described as a converted garage. She lived there more than six months.

Wolff remembers the small group outside on the night of Dec. 31, 1999, ringing in the new millenium at midnight as they looked out over the swamp. "We were like, *'Woo hoo,'* " she said.

Parman, meantime, worked as Miscavige's personal chef, often traveling with the leader, who was keen on staying trim.

"I would feed him something like five different meals (a day) and they all had to be precise in percent of calories, like so many calories of protein, so many calories of carbohydrates and so many calories of fat. And they all had to taste good."

In 2001, during the fallout from the unexplained death of Scientologist Lisa McPherson, Parman was with Miscavige for an extended stay in Clearwater.

It was there, during an auditing session, Parman decided the church's promise of spiritual freedom did not add up. A top officer from the Religious Technology Center, the arm of the church that knows Scientology inside and out, put him on an e-meter to find out how he felt about his Scientology counseling regimen.

Inside, Parman was furious, which the meter should have picked up. It didn't, and the officer determined that all was well.

Parman wondered: How could that be? The next day, between cooking lunch and dinner for

Miscavige, Parman went to an auto dealer on Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard. He paid $1,800 for a used Honda Civic and drove off. Several weeks later, at his parents' home in Los Angeles, he saw what he took to be a private investigator staking him out.

Soon after, church representatives approached him, urging him to come back. They said an auditor standing by. Parman told them he wanted to be left alone.

In 2001, he signed papers that required he remain silent about his time with the church. He was officially out.

That year, his ex-wife went to work on the line that assembled and repaired e-meters, and soon became the supervisor. Wolff's staff shrunk by half, but she was expected to maintain the same production. She said she often worked from 8:30 a.m. to 2, 3 or 4 a.m.

In October 2003, she was called to the base mess hall, which had been set up for a group confessional. Wolff was made to stand at a microphone facing a few hundred staffers. Egged on by supervisors, the staff jeered and berated her for not meeting production targets.

For the fourth time in her 24-year Scientology career, Wolff asked to "route out."

The church sent her to an isolated ranch called Happy Valley, where the sec checking process took almost four months.

"Had I had the guts, I would have just gotten up and gotten out of there," Wolff said. "But you're scared."

She confessed everything she could think of, but the e-meter kept indicating she was holding something back. "This was a nightmare for me."

Finally, someone said, "You're done."

Wolff signed a declaration, dated Jan. 12, 2004, in which she blamed herself for everything and the church for nothing. "I know that what I have done violated Church policy and caused harm," the declaration stated. "I do not blame anyone else but myself."

She collected $500 severance and drove to her sister's home in Orange County, Calif.

Wolff's mother, Detta Groff, says the family held its breath, afraid she would go back again.

She said her daughter put up with a lot.

"But she was searching for something," Groff said. "It was just a relief to have her back."

When asked for comment on the couple's departure from Scientology, the church said Wolff and Parman kept returning to the Sea Org because they wanted to. The church said Wolff messed up on her job and was dismissed. Parman is inflating his own importance by talking about famous people he cooked for.

Parman and Wolff said they signed documents confessing their faults so the church would leave them alone. They said they would not have returned to the Sea Org each time if not for the church's repeated, unsolicited intervention.

"They make it seem like there was no pressure," Wolff said. "They just gloss over the reality of what was going on."

Parman pointed to the first time they left. He and Wolff were thrilled to be starting a different life, he said. They had found new jobs.

"To say we came back willingly ... Why did we go to another state? Why did we go to different places to disappear?"

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[Last modified: Nov 01, 2009 12:07 PM]

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Scientology

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Ex-officer says Scientology policy didn't match directive

By Joe Childs and Thomas C. Tobin, Times Staff Writers
In Print: Monday, November 2, 2009

Marty Rathbun said he participated in a criminal act to protect the church against a possible security breach.

Longtime executive Terri Gamboa and her husband, Fernando, abandoned their posts in January 1990, setting off what Rathbun called a "seven-alert fire."

Terri Gamboa was executive director of Author Services Inc., the independent corporation set up by founder L. Ron Hubbard to control rights to his intellectual properties.

David Miscavige, the leader of the church, wanted to know if she had access to a safe containing Hubbard's estate documents. Had she made off

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Miscavige called Rathbun and other executives into the Author Services offices. Rathbun said Miscavige told him: "Marty, you have got to find out whether she got those documents."

Rathbun flew to Nashville, where private investigators had tracked the Gamboas to a hotel. Five men accompanied Rathbun. They could see Terri's briefcase through the windows of her Pathfinder.

Multimedia: More on Scientology, including video interviews with the defectors and previous coverage of the church.

Said Rathbun: "The mission was this:
They were going to gather into a room and give her what's called an SRA."

Rathbun said it's a Miscavige term, Severe Reality Adjustment. Get in somebody's face and scream hard enough that "you adjust their reality."

"She would be so scared, she would never think of messing with the church," Rathbun said.

During the SRA, Rathbun went to another room and signaled the PI, whose name he said he can't remember, to break into the Pathfinder and get the briefcase. As he watched from the window, Rathbun heard approaching footsteps. Terri.

"Sure enough she comes storming down the hall and toward the room," Rathbun said. "I run over to the window, I tell the guy, 'Beat it.' He runs off with the briefcase."

Rathbun said the PI ran to a lighted phone booth, found no estate documents in the briefcase and returned it to the Pathfinder.

Terri Gamboa declined an interview request.

Responding to Rathbun's account, church spokesman Tommy Davis wrote: If Rathbun used an investigator to "abuse poor innocent people," Rathbun is to blame. Other church officials were not involved.

Kurt Weiland, a top official for 20 years in the church's intelligence division, said that if Rathbun helped break into a vehicle, it was a violation of church policy. Staff and investigators working for the church must "abide by the law of the land at all times, no matter what."

[Last modified: Nov 01, 2009 10:03 PM]

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Scientology

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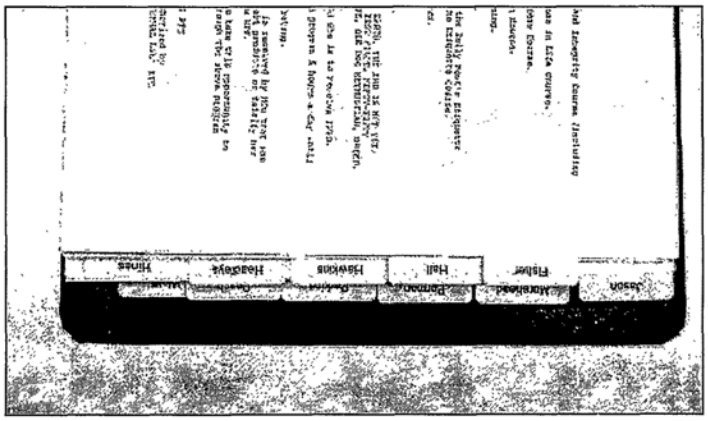
From Scientology's files

Times staff
In Print: Sunday, November 1, 2009

Responding to written questions, church spokesman Tommy Davis sent a binder addressing issues with individual sources.



[SCOTT KEELER | Times]

The church said the *Times* is relying on sources who, before they left Scientology, admitted in sworn declarations, affidavits and

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Ex-officer says Scientology policy didn't match directive

confessions that all responsibility was theirs and they held the church blameless. For every person but one (Sinar Parman), Scientology spokesman Tommy Davis provided documents from church files, including confessions, ethics orders and Suppressive Person declarations.

SINAR PARMAN AND JACKIE WOLFF

FROM SCIENTOLOGY FILES:

•The church said that after Parman and Wolff left without permission on Jan. 27, 1981, Parman **"willingly returned"** and he described leaving this way:

"Due to my own out-Ethics & overts, I caved myself in and deserted my post and the Sea Org in late January. I returned in early February and since then have undergone a very thorough correction program which addressed any and all Ethics, Tech & Admin points which were out."

He took off twice more. "Every time he came back ... it was because he wanted to and was welcomed. He is evidently now using the fact that he cooked for prominent people as his claim to fame."

• Jackie Wolff **messed up on her job** in purchasing. In 1996, instead of paying the general contractor for work done on Scientology property, she paid subcontractors, costing the church more than $240,000, which had to be recovered through litigation.

• In the four times Wolff ran, the **church never pressured her to return.** "The story which she is now telling is embellished and alleges duress which never occurred; she was welcomed back in an effort to assist her to redeem herself."

She signed a "declaration" Jan. 12, 2004: "I know that what I have done violated Church

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policy and caused harm. I do not blame anyone else but myself for the condition in which I now find myself."

The document says she does not blame Scientology, "or any staff members or parishioners thereof, for any of my problems or actions. The past transgressions that I have committed were done of my own volition and for my own purposes."

The church says Wolff was **"dismissed"** from the Sea Org.

WHAT PARMAN AND WOLFF SAY NOW:

• Wolff says she was **not dismissed**. She says she "routed out" and followed church procedure, as indicated in her affidavit.

• Wolff brought up the **contractor issue** in her first interview with the *Times*. She said she was new to her post in the church's purchasing department and the experience taught her lessons on how to deal with contractors and subcontractors. She wrote the checks, but said someone else approved the expenditure.

"I never denied my accountability for it. I tried to make up for it."

• Wolff and Parman say each time they left, the church **pressured them to return**.

They said the church sent seven people to recover them the first time, including two private investigators. The church sent a recovery party after them the second time, and after Wolff when she left her third time, and after Parman when he left for good in 2001.

Both said each time they returned to the church they intended to follow protocol and "route out," but stayed after undergoing correction programs that took months.

Wolff: "What do you mean that's not pressure?"

She added: "I just wanted to be done with it; that's why I left."

Parman: "To say that I came back willingly is a little bit of a lie."

MARTY RATHBUN

FROM SCIENTOLOGY:

• Rathbun's posting on the Internet show him to be **"a card-carrying member of the lunatic fringe** ... He maligns Scientology ministers as a 'priesthood of Reverse Dianeticists' because they deliver Scientology religious services purely as Mr. Hubbard intended but not as Mr. Rathbun would like. He accuses the highest trained ministers in ecclesiastical management of 'warped interpretations' of Scientology, stating that he would not let them 'audit my dog.' "

• "Rathbun lives for battle, **is abusive, is violent, is a liar** and, in his own words, was the cause of major catastrophes within the Church. That he is directing his attacks at Mr. Miscavige is just part of his attempt to cause the most damage to the Church."

• Rinder and Rathbun "are complaining about **a blow drill that was only conducted by *them***. *They* are speaking of *their* own efforts to keep individuals on staff who were unfortunately destructive and/or suppressive. Marty admitted this was his operating basis ..."

WHAT RATHBUN SAYS NOW:

• **On his Internet postings:** "The only thing I would object to is Tommy Davis's characterization of the lunatic fringe. I think what I'm speaking for is the silent majority. I think that there are five to 10 times as many people who have experienced Scientology to some extent and have left and are gone and don't ever intend to come back as there are active, card-carrying members of Miscavige's clan. ... It actually ought to be characterized as a card-carrying member of the silent majority."

• On him being **an abusive, violent liar.** "They drew first blood. I never said a single word about the other executives of the church until Miscavige put them in a room and had them write 250 pages of perjured — and I mean perjured — declarations about me."

• On **him, not Miscavige, running a blow drill** to keep people on staff. "I wouldn't have done a single one of the things I told you guys about — not a single one of them — had Miscavige not been in my face to get it done."

GARY MOREHEAD

FROM SCIENTOLOGY FILES:

The church provided the 11-page affidavit Morehead signed March 31, 1997, as he "routed

out" of the Sea Org. It says his Scientology career was permeated by a "thread of negligence." The affidavit says he **never saw the church mistreat or abridge the rights of staff members.**

"I have seen others leave the Sea Organization and I have heard talk that a few have complained about the leaving process. I do not understand or believe such talk. I have seen people leave and they were free to do so. I am now doing so myself."

• His affidavit says he lied to his supervisors and his staff about his work; fell asleep on the job; and stole a piece of jewelry that had been turned in to the security department.

• He **misdiagnosed a car accident victim** while responding for the local volunteer fire department, and he had **"premarital sexual activity"** with a woman he later married.

• The affidavit Morehead signed described him as someone of "quite junior" rank. **"I was a simple security guard."**

WHAT MOREHEAD SAYS NOW:

• **"I didn't write a word of this.** Nobody does." The church crafts such affidavits, using information from a person's ethics files. "Someone else typed it up and it was presented to me." He wanted out; he signed.

• He **disputed that Sea Org members can go when they want.** "They're free to leave, once you adhere to their requirements. For every effort (to leave) there's a counter effort. They just keep standing in your way and being persistent. ... If you resisted, they were on you and on you and on you."

• Information on **his transgressions** was gleaned from confessions in which he was pressed to dig deeper for the evil intent behind his actions. Minor things became major.

For example, he was asked how long a task would take and he would say two hours but it took six. That turned into an admission of "false reporting" about his job production.

• He **did fall asleep on the job,** after days of long hours with little or no sleep.

• The **stolen jewelry** was a ring that belonged to a former Sea Org member who left it behind. He tried to reach her and couldn't, and he and a superior agreed it was church

property. He sold it to cover the cost of fixing a church-owned car he damaged.

• On **mishandling an accident victim,** another church staffer handled the patient. He questioned why the church would release a document detailing **sexual information** about him. "That's something you just don't talk about."

• He was not **"a simple security guard."** The same affidavit refers to him as the "security chief" of the base. "I was in an extreme position of trust."

He has a reference letter on church stationery signed by Heber C. Jentzsch, president of the Church of Scientology International. Jentzsch called him a "dedicated young man" who "saved lives" as a volunteer firefighter after he left the Sea Org.

• **Scientology helped him.** He still considers it valuable.

MIKE RINDER

FROM SCIENTOLOGY:

• "The Church will not keep people on staff who want to leave. Mike Rinder is the best illustration of this policy. As he well knows, **nobody attempted to bring him back."** The church is glad he is gone.

• He should "stop whining. The real source of his bitterness is his realization, now that no one made any attempt to keep him in the Church, that **he was despised** in the Sea Organization. He is arrogant and contemptuous of everyone. ... He is not the head of the Office of Special Affairs anymore; he does not fly around the world anymore; he **does not 'run with the big dogs** in the tall grass' anymore; he is resentful and seeking vengeance."

WHAT RINDER SAYS NOW:

• On **policy not to keep people who don't want to be there.** "That 'policy' is disproved by hundreds of people who can recount their experiences of what happened to them when they did want to leave.

"And the fact that they didn't try and get me or Marty back is only because they were afraid of the information that we had. And that's proven by the fact that when they heard that we were speaking to the media, they did send a delegation of five people, including Miscavige's

personal lawyer, to try to keep me from breaking their code of silence."

• On him being **resentful that he's no longer a "big dog."** "My encapsulated response to that is: I don't want to run with those dogs in the toxic grass because they are rabid."

BRUCE HINES

FROM SCIENTOLOGY FILES:

• **He made a sexual advance** on a parishioner he was "ministering" as an auditor.

• The church included a **declaration from his ex-wife,** Mary Chris Hines, dated Oct. 15, 2009, two weeks ago. She said her ex-husband told her he "liked to look through windows at women while wandering through the city. He would go out at night to see women naked in their homes." Once in 1994, he left the bathroom door open while showering "so the other woman who shared the apartment with us could come upon him nude."

WHAT HINES SAYS NOW:

• He made **no sexual advance** on a parishioner he was auditing. "That is false, it definitely did not happen." The church did not confront him with the allegation until after he left.

• **His ex-wife's accounts:** Out of context, exaggerated and irrelevant. "It has nothing to do with the issues I've talked about."

He did peer into an uncurtained window at the staff residences in the early 1980s while walking past. Years later, a woman that shared his and his wife's apartment walked in while he was showering. He cited these incidents during his confessionals on the RPF, trying to get back in good graces. He had to find the "evil purpose" in himself, so he said he exaggerated the accounts of voyeurism and exhibitionism.

"Before I started talking to the media, **I anticipated they would bring this subject up.** ... It's an attempt to discredit me."

[Last modified: Nov 01, 2009 01:55 AM]

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How Scientology got to Bob Minton

By Thomas C. Tobin and Joe Childs, Times Staff Writers
In Print: Monday, November 2, 2009

Bob Minton pickets in Clearwater. At the time, Marty Rathbun, identified as a "top Scientology official," said this of Minton: "I worry about this guy because he's deranged."

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Ex-officer says Scientology policy didn't match directive

[Times (1999)]

Robert S. Minton seemed to surface out of nowhere in late 1997. • A retired investment banker and millionaire from New England, he began to show up at anti-Scientology demonstrations in Boston and Clearwater. He gave millions to groups critical of the church. • He became the money man behind a wrongful death lawsuit by the family of

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Lisa McPherson, whose unexplained death at Scientology's Clearwater mecca threw the church into crisis. • Minton quickly became the Church of Scientology's No. 1 nemesis. • "I felt that the little guys needed some help," he once said. "I'm putting my money where my mouth is."

Related Multimedia

Multimedia: More on Scientology, including video interviews with the defectors and previous coverage of the church.

Much of the church's response to Minton has been documented — the legal onslaught, the skirmishes that sought to bait him, get him in trouble and torpedo his credibility.

Twice he was arrested and charged after minor scuffles with Scientologists while picketing church properties. Once, he fired a shotgun into the air after Scientologists appeared at his New Hampshire farm.

Early on, the church dispatched private investigators to talk to his son, his brother, his wife's family in England, his elderly mother in Florida.

Still, Minton wouldn't go away.

Now former church officials Marty Rathbun and Mike Rinder reveal the other tactics they used.

Shortly after Minton burst onto the scene, the pair arranged two meetings with the millionaire to introduce themselves and glean his motives. Both times they brought a tool worthy of James Bond. They set it on the table.

"It was a black briefcase with a small pinhole camera hole and a small mic hole," Rathbun said. "And so we recorded the entire thing without the guy's knowledge."

This and other accounts illustrate how far Scientology was willing to go to stop Minton, who, in a stunning reversal five years later, ended up testifying in court on the church's behalf.

That part of the story begins with David Lubow, the same private investigator the church used just a few years earlier to infiltrate a group of Scientologists in Las Vegas.

Rathbun and Rinder said they turned to Lubow in the late 1990s to look into Minton's financial affairs overseas. Lubow deployed to the capitals of Europe, dropping aliases and recruiting helpers to make Minton think he was being investigated by multiple agents, Rathbun said.

"He was very elaborate," Rathbun said of Lubow. "He's actually very good at what he does."

Rinder said the operation fit with the directives of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard, who wrote that if a person accuses you of something, they themselves are guilty of those crimes.

"Minton was accusing the church of having bought off the IRS and gained false tax-exempt status," Rinder said. "So, the focus was: Find his financial crimes."

In 2001, Lubow returned from overseas with loads of information, including details on an alleged money-laundering scheme involving Minton and a Nigerian dictator that was never proved. Lubow wanted direction.

He said he had been dealing with personnel at OSA, the Office of Special Affairs, headed at the time by Rinder. The office served as the church's legal, intelligence and public affairs arm, but the people under Rinder didn't have the authority to give Lubow the freedom he needed.

Rinder and Rathbun corrected that problem, bringing Lubow to Clearwater for a meeting. They said they went to the parking lot of a bank on Cleveland Street, not wanting to risk someone spotting him entering a Scientology building. The three convened for hours in a car.

"We got the guy focused like a laser beam," Rathbun said.

Rinder said he told Lubow not to take orders from anyone else at OSA and to report only to Rathbun and him.

"Here is your order," Rinder said he told the PI. "Get the goods on Minton to shut him the f--- up."

By the spring of 2002, Scientology had painted Minton into a corner.

On the legal front, the church pulled Minton into its efforts to have the lawsuit by McPherson's

family dismissed.

During a memorable court hearing on April 19, 2002, Minton took the stand and made the jaw-dropping statement that the plaintiff's attorney, Ken Dandar, was a "lying thief" who was "only in this for money."

Dandar had considered Minton a strong ally for years. He couldn't believe it.

"This man I adore, he was a saint," the Tampa lawyer said at the time. "It's like stabbing me in the heart. I'm just sitting there going, 'What did they do to you?' "

Also, the millionaire now had a legal problem. He previously testified under oath that he had given $1 million or $1.3 million to the McPherson family's legal effort. Now he said in an affidavit it was $2 million.

The judge in the case, Susan Schaeffer, made noises about perjury and wondered aloud if someone should read Minton his rights.

What had gone on behind the scenes to change Minton's stripes?

Rathbun and Rinder told how it was done.

In the weeks before Minton's public turnaround, they say the church met with him some 20 times to discuss dropping the McPherson case and compensating Scientology. Church officials said Minton had caused them to spend $28 million to defend against his efforts.

At one of the meetings, Rinder said, he presented Minton with what Lubow had found about the millionaire's finances.

"There were things that, really, he was worried about and had caused problems for him in the investigation that we had done," Rinder said, declining to give more detail. "I'm just going to leave it at that."

Dandar said he can't talk about the case, citing the terms of the 2004 settlement agreement.

But he said in 2002 that Minton called him in a panic after one of his meetings with the church. Minton begged him to drop the lawsuit, Dandar said at the time.

At one of the private meetings, Rinder issued an ultimatum, saying the church knew he had lied under oath. He demanded that Minton come clean.

"If you are not willing to tell the truth, we are wasting our time and we'll just keep going after you," Rinder said he told Minton.

"And what we were going after him on was where he got and had earned his money."

Later, in Schaeffer's courtroom, Minton said he lied, at Dandar's direction. In a subsequent interview, he said he feared being sent to jail for perjury.

Dandar has denied Minton's accusation and charged that the perjury scare was a charade. The church had something serious on Minton, he said at the time.

"Here's a man who put in six years and $10 million and all of a sudden he's having an about-face? All you have to do is apply common sense."

Minton could not be reached for comment.

He had become an anti-Scientology crusader in the mid 1990s after learning about the church's efforts to keep its materials from being publicized on the Internet. The more he read, he said in interviews, the more he became concerned about Scientology practices that, to him, seemed to violate its members' civil and human rights.

But after years spent on anti-Scientology causes, he left the public stage as quickly as he had arrived, thoroughly subdued.

When you fought Scientology, Minton once said, "It was like the Terminator was after you."

Rinder, who once described Minton's actions as "despicable and disgusting," said he now considers him a friend.

Asked to comment about the church's use of Lubow to investigate Minton, Scientology spokesman Tommy Davis did not address the case specifically but talked about the church's use of private investigators in general. He said in a statement that the church doesn't hire PIs, its lawyers do, and they operate within legal and ethical bounds.

If Rinder and Rathbun abused anyone, "they are the ones to blame," Davis wrote. "Other

church officials were not involved in their duties."

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'I just want to get on with my life' after Scientology

By Joe Childs and Thomas C. Tobin, Times Staff Writers
In Print: Sunday, November 1, 2009

Sixteen years later, Betsy Perkins is sobbing as she talks about the day she ran away from Scientology.

"I thought I was handing in my ticket to eternity," she says.

Now 56, a graphic artist in Dallas, she says she is going public to offer her own "first-hand account of what happened to a person who was in there."

She spent 17 years in Scientology's work force, the Sea Org, moved by the church's mantra that Scientologists held the future of the planet in their hands.

She tells of a life filled with intense repetition of Scientology's precepts and "ethics" and a grueling lifestyle where

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Sea Org members constantly needed to prove their fealty to the church. If your bosses had doubts about your performance or your thoughts, you faced humiliating work and periods of sleep deprivation.

But when eternal salvation is the reward, Perkins said, you come to believe it is all worth it. Even when she decided she couldn't take it anymore and ran from the Sea Org, she fretted she was doing something terrible.

Multimedia: More on Scientology, including video interviews with the defectors and previous coverage of the church.

"If anybody had come and talked to me, I would have gone (back). I would have gone willingly," she says. "Anybody could have taken me back. Easily ... I was so scared."

Telling her story to the *Times* by phone from her office, rattled her. "I am sitting in a conference room and I am shaking now," she said.

It is a story that began in May 1977.

Betsy was 23, a maid at Scientology's Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater. She had dropped out of the University of New Mexico to follow a big, blond British guy into the church. She married Chris Byrne three months after signing her billion-year Sea Org contract.

On May 7, her church told her she was evil.

During a "security check" about organizational matters, she answered a question the wrong way, causing the auditor's e-meter needle to slap erratically. A "rock slam," it meant she had a hidden evil purpose.

Her superiors assigned her to the Rehabilitation Project Force, a work detail for Sea Org members in need of reform. She and her RPF crew mates spent five hours a day in sec checks and ethics counseling.

"You are told that all of your ideals, all of your goals, all of the things you believe in are really

being driven by underlying evil and that you are so evil you have to be removed from your husband, your group, your organization, everything."

She was told she was in a low ethical condition. "The only way to get out ... is to take responsibility for your crimes. At that time, I didn't know what my crimes were, except that somehow I was suppressive toward humanity."

She identified her evil actions, such as inflating an accomplishment or committing a bad act in a prior life. In follow-up counseling, she learned to "close down counter thoughts" and purge her evil. After 1□½ years, a review panel determined her original "rock slam" reading and others were misread. She returned to her job on the housekeeping staff.

• • •

Seven years later, the church had transferred Betsy and Chris to the church's 500-acre base east of Los Angeles. Chris operated a backhoe; Betsy oversaw group study sessions.

During the first days of 1984, auditors sec checked them. Chris revealed disaffected thinking. Betsy confessed she knew about it — a "withhold" and a violation. They were busted to the RPF.

Her guard on the RPF, former Sea Org officer Amy Scobee, said they worked feverishly the first year to renovate a stately home being readied for when Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard returned in his next life.

This stint lasted four years; Betsy Byrne's marriage didn't survive.

She returned to a job in marketing at the church's film production studios, where she met Shawn Morrison. They married in July 1990.

On Christmas Day two years later they got a break from their long work schedules and drove to his mother's apartment in Burbank.

Betsy's mother drove down from Oakland. She noticed the dark circles under Betsy's eyes. After dinner, mother and daughter stretched out on a bed and held hands.

"Mom, I may need you soon."

"Okay. Just let me know. I'll be there for you."

• • •

Betsy Morrison recorded in a journal the hours of sleep she got the next three months. Nightly average: three.

Long days, intimidation, threats — it took its toll.

To keep production high, supervisors sprung "sec checks" on staff to see if any were at odds with the group's mission. Betsy estimates that 100 times in her 17 years in Scientology, she was pressed into writing admissions and vowing to reverse noncompliant behavior.

"It's like rebooting a computer, wiping out a hard drive and re-establishing it," she said. "You are rebooting the person's mind into a correct way of thinking."

The process emphasizes putting the group first, over self and over a marriage, she said.

"Now, add that on to already being sleep deprived ... It perverts your way of thinking into tearing your own self down, feeling like you deserved this, and so you'll just stand in lock and do whatever needs to be done until you are somehow accepted back onto the crew."

• • •

March 29, 1993. She overslept and missed the bus to her Sea Org job. She checked for the guards usually at the front entrance of the apartments. None there.

She counted her cash, about $200, packed a few personal items and walked away. From a convenience store she called a cab and made it to the airport in Ontario, Calif. She bought a ticket to San Francisco. Her mother was thrilled, she was anguished.

In leaving, she feared she was throwing away her eternal existence and abandoning the church's mission to "clear the planet." She was running out on her husband.

But she needed sleep.

"That's the whole reason I left. It was getting so insane. And I couldn't physically take it

anymore."

Her mother, Betty Jane Wilhoit, met her in San Francisco and took her to a friend's house. Wilhoit's apartment in Oakland would be the first place a church security team would look. After a few days, Betsy flew to Dallas to stay with her father.

Weeks passed. She got a job testing software. Back in California, her mother arranged counseling. On April 15, she flew back, this time to Oakland.

Waiting in the airport terminal, Mrs. Wilhoit saw two men approach the gate agent. They asked if Betsy was on the arriving flight.

Mrs. Wilhoit hurried down the jetway and into the plane and stopped her daughter.

"Stay here. They are out there for you."

They waited for the plane to empty. The captain came up. Mrs. Wilhoit told him about the men at the gate and that her daughter was fleeing her church.

Betsy and her mother say airport security took them out a back door and drove them to their car.

• • •

Responding to written questions from the *Times*, the church supplied a letter she wrote to security chief Gary Morehead five days after her mother met her at the Oakland airport. The church noted that letter made no mention of two men at the airport. "The incident never occurred."

In her letter, she wrote: "I have no intentions of making trouble for Scientology. If you leave me alone, I'll leave you alone."

The church stated it "has honored her request."

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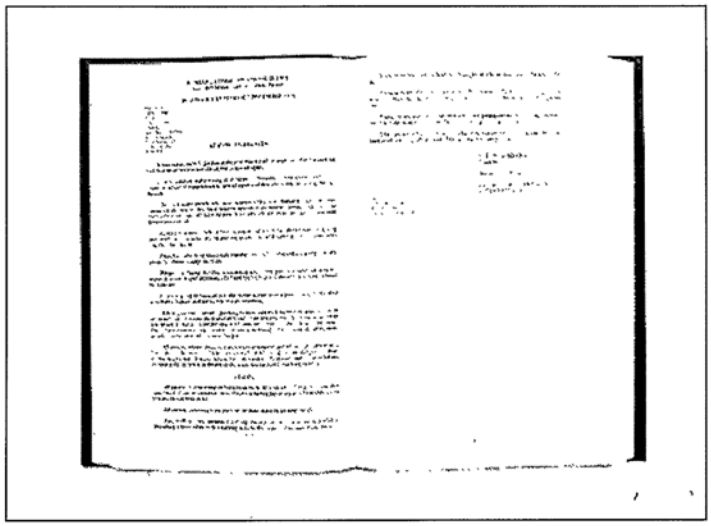
L. Ron Hubbard on 'Leaving and leaves'

Times staff
In Print: Sunday, November 1, 2009



The green volumes: L. Ron Hubbard's writings on administration of the church are in books referred to as the green volumes. He detailed Scientology religious practices in the red volumes.

[SCOTT KEELER | Times]

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Ex-officer says Scientology policy didn't match directive

LEAVING AND LEAVES

In the mid 1970s, L. Ron Hubbard ran his church from aboard his ship, the *Apollo,* sailing from port to port. He handwrote his notes, in red ink for a bulletin, in green ink for a policy letter. He said two things about those who want to leave: don't keep staff who don't want to be there, but don't let them go without "sec checking" them, to make sure they won't harm themselves or the religion.

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Multimedia: More on Scientology, including video interviews with the defectors and previous coverage of the church.

It has occasionally happened in the past that a staff or crew member has used the fact that he or she was leaving an org to spread upset.

It is a common make-wrong in children to threaten to run away. And it is a common action of suppressives to spread upset and dissatisfaction by saying they are leaving.

There are some people who leave wherever they are obsessively and the most casual check reveals they have seldom remained anywhere; committing continual overts, they are routinely running away from any job, any post, any group and from themselves and life.

As the actual reason behind blows is overts and withholds, the excuses for leaving are usually simply justifications and are actually a third-party action of associates, usually false reports.

Therefore, informing fellow staff members and others that one is leaving is hereby properly labeled a suppressive act.

Where it is found that this is occurring and if the person concerned does not report it to the proper terminals, HAS and Staff Chaplain, departure will be followed by a declare.

If one is going to leave an org, the proper action is to report it only to the HAS and Staff Chaplain and not to fellow staff members.

Where a person is secretly planning to leave and making private preparations to do so without informing the proper terminals in an org and does leave (blow) and does not return within a reasonable length of time, an automatic declare is to be issued. Should any monies or organizational property be found to be missing in consequence, action is to be taken on criminal charges.

All persons whose contracts expire without renewal and all persons who wish to leave are to be security checked by an auditor who is qualified in Qual to make prepared lists read. This will remove the overts and withholds inevitably connected and so relieve the person and the org of the usual justifications and false reports.

LEAVES

All persons before going on leave must be given a Security Check by an auditor qualified to make prepared lists read. Final pay before departure is to be withheld until this action has been done.

All persons returning from missions or leave must be security checked.

Any staff or crew member falsifying the reasons why a leave is needed or requesting a leave when in fact blowing is to be the subject of an automatic declare.

There is no intention of holding on to people who do not want to be where they are.

There is every intention to use our tech to prevent false reports and suppressive actions from occurring, both to the detriment of the person himself and to an organization.

There are enough lies in the world without generating more as to the "reasons" one is leaving or seeking to use the fact to damage an org or its staff.

The vast majority of staff want to be there and are NOT leaving and they don't need third-partying SPs around. The vast majority are good guys.

L. RON HUBBARD

Founder

Adopted as official

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Scientology glossary, lingo, acronyms

Times staff
In Print: Sunday, November 1, 2009

Scientology has a language of its own. Here are some terms used in these stories.

Auditing: Counseling that "helps an individual look at his own existence and improves his ability to confront what he is and where he is." The auditor uses an E-meter, a device that measures the subject's reaction to questions, helping the auditor locate areas of distress. From the Latin, *audire*, to hear or listen.

Blow: To leave suddenly; a staffer who leaves the Sea Org without following procedure.

COB: Staff often refer to Miscavige as COB. He is Chairman of the Board for the Religious Technology Center, the trademark-holding body of Scientology.

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Multimedia: More on Scientology, including video interviews with the defectors and previous coverage of the church.

Conditions, do conditions: A set of formulas to be applied to one's life. If you're doing well, you would apply the steps in the condition of "affluence". If you've done something bad, the group might require you to do a "treason" condition. The conditions, from worst to best: Confusion, Treason, Enemy, Doubt, Liability, Non-Existence, Danger, Emergency, Normal, Affluence, Power Change and Power. Lower conditions (those below "normal") are often used as punishment.

Counter intention: Resistance to authority, disobedience. Often refers to refusal to do as ordered.

Covert Data Collection/CDC: Information gathered undercover, via informant, private investigator, surveillance.

Dead agent: To undermine the credibility of a church critic, often by thoroughly disproving or claiming to disprove something they have said.

Disconnection: Policy that prohibits family and friends from communicating or associating with anyone the church considers a suppressive person or enemy.

DM: David Miscavige, The ecclesiastical leader of Scientology since 1987.

E-meter: Short for Electropsychometer, the device auditors use to help identify areas of spiritual distress. The device does not diagnose or cure anything; it helps identify areas that need to be addressed.

Knowledge Report: A write-up of a Scientologist's destructive or off-policy actions. Staff — even husbands and wives — are to report each other's transgressions, or they are an accessory to the same misdeed. L. Ron Hubbard said groups flourish only when members discipline themselves; they should report when members let down the group.

List One: A list of questions an auditor asks about L. Ron Hubbard, Scientology, auditing and more.

Natter: Make snide comments or hyper-critical remarks.

b7E

ODC: Overt Data Collection. Information gathered from the public record.

OSA: Office of Special Affairs. The church intelligence unit; also handles legal and media matters.

continues on 12A

Out-ethics: When an individual acts contrary to the group's best interest or contrary to the group's mores.

Overt: A sin or a crime. An act against the agreed-upon moral code of a group. An overt can be intentional or unintentional.

O/Ws: Overts and Withholds. Your sins and secrets.

Pig's berthing: Nickname for substandard housing for those who wanted to leave the Sea Org.

Rock slam: The crazy, irregular left and right slashing motion of an E-meter needle. It means the subject being audited has a hidden evil intention.

Route out: To leave the Sea Org the proper way, following protocol.

RPF: Rehabilitation Project Force. Scientology describes it as a "second chance" program that offers Sea Org members who have committed offenses "redemption rather than dismissal." Some former church members say it's hard labor that's used to break the will of a malcontent.

Sea Org: Sea Organization, a religious order for people who have dedicated their lives to service of Scientology. They are paid $75 a week plus meals, lodging and medical care. Sea Org members sign a billion-year contract, to symbolize their commitment to serve in this life and the next ones. The Sea Org was developed when Scientology was based mostly on ships, hence the name and the maritime ranks.

Security check: a confessional given while on the e-meter. The goal is to discover if the person has done something or has intentions to harm the group.

Security particle: Someone who tried to run or poses a security risk to the church. He is considered infectious.

SP: Suppressive Person. An evil person. If someone is found to be an SP, he is "Declared," meaning he cannot have any contact with any Scientologist whatsoever. An SP "works to upset, continuously undermine, spread bad news and denigrate other people and their activities." The tag is often placed on those the church says have spoken ill of Scientology.

SRA: Severe Reality Adjustment. Screaming into someone's face, often by a superior, to get the person to do what you want.

Whole track: "The moment to moment record of a person's existence in this universe in picture and impression form."

Withhold: A destructive thought or something you've done wrong that you haven't told anyone about.

Wog: A non-Scientologist, a run-of-the- mill human. (derogatory for Worthy Oriental Gentleman)

Sources: *Dianetics and Scientology Technical Dictionary,* by L. Ron Hubbard; *What is Scientology?*, based on the works of L. Ron Hubbard; exscientologykids.com; former Sea Org members.

[Last modified: Nov 01, 2009 01:57 AM]

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Scientology's response

Times staff
In Print: Sunday, November 1, 2009

Church spokesman Tommy Davis says the *Times'* sources admitted they left Scientology because they could not meet the church's strict ethical standards. Now they are lying, he says, and the Times is helping advance their agenda. Here is the Church of Scientology's response to their allegations, submitted as a 10-page letter:

+ + +

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

15 October 2009

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Joe Childs

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Attachment 1: Declaration of Elliot Abelson (PDF)

Attachment 2: Declaration of Kendrick Moxon (PDF)

Attachment 3: Declaration of Kurt Weiland (PDF)

Attachment 4: HCO Bulletin of 31 December 1959

Attachment 5: Document Entitled

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Mr. Tom Tobin

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Multimedia: More on Scientology, including video interviews with the defectors and previous coverage of the church.

I am in receipt of your letter of 6 October 2009 and the laundry list of "new allegations," your sources are now concocting. Your letter reeks of naked bias.

The Church of Scientology is a worldwide religion comprising over 8,000 Churches, Missions and groups, made up of millions of members in 165 countries of the world. It is a globally recognized supporter of some of the most successful social betterment programs on Earth. The fact that the Church finds itself in the position of having to continue to respond to the false allegations of Rathbun, Rinder, Scobee, Bruce Hines, Mark Fisher and other members of your posse, is only because you, and other media to whom they are shopping their story, are providing a platform to impugn the name of the ecclesiastical leader of Scientology, denigrate the religion and cause undue harm to its parishioners. Some of these people have been gone from the Church for nearly 20 years; how they can be considered "sources" for a current news story regarding Scientology is preposterous.

You have a few petty allegations and are seeking to accuse the Church of dozens of instances of misconduct, an old tabloid trick to make it look like you have a "big story." In fact, all you have is a few people who left a religion after committing destructive acts and are now complaining about what they did while in the Church. Years later they are using the media to demand that the Church defend the harmful acts which they committed. Once again, your story is about Mike and Marty — they are telling you about their misdeeds.

Any claim or inference that Mr. Miscavige was involved in any way with attorney use of private investigators is false. Similarly, any claim that Mr. Miscavige ran a "blow drill," forcibly kept staff from leaving the International Base, chased them down, asked to speak to staff who had

left on the phone, or was involved in any way in acts of violence is categorically denied. These statements are false and defamatory and to include them in your publication would be further evidence of your malice.

Over the last quarter century, the Church has been involved in over 2,000 lawsuits and has had to fight for its very existence on many fronts. The attacks it has faced over this time are unprecedented. The Church has been investigated by the most powerful tax collection agency in the world and false reports were disseminated from the United States to police and law enforcement bodies across the globe. There have been civil law suits with specious claims adding up to hundreds of millions of dollars filed by lawyers working hand in glove with misguided and/or ill-informed governmental agencies.

In Italy, for example, the Church went to the Supreme Court no less than three times resulting in a precedent-setting decision on the definition of religion. That was after police had raided and shut down all Churches and Narconons in Italy, with 450 gun-toting carabinieri raiding every Church, Mission and Narconon. Similarly, a battle in Spain spanned 14 years with machine gun-toting government raids of our Church in Madrid. Not only were all defendants acquitted, but the National Court of Spain later issued a landmark decision recognizing that the National Church of Scientology of Spain should be entered in the Registry of Religious Entities. In Germany the Church has won over 50 decisions during this same time period. These battles have raged on all around Germany but in January 2009, the Administrative Court in Berlin ordered the City of Berlin to remove a city sponsored anti-Scientology "STOP" sign in front of the Berlin Org holding that the poster violated the Church's right to practice its religion. The Church has been vindicated in all of these jurisdictions, beginning with the IRS recognition of the religious and charitable status of all Church-affiliated entities in the U.S. in 1993, which put to rest similar false allegations circulated by disgruntled former members. These current false allegations will similarly be shown to be false.

Your choice of a story about the leader of the only major religion to have been founded in the 20th century and the fastest-growing religion on earth is to focus on the allegations of bitter ex-members who think that Mr. Miscavige is abusive and psychotic and that he engaged in a "blow drill" to detain a cook. I have taken pains to educate you about the recent expansion of the Church and the realization of the goal set by the Founder to create Churches of Scientology that are a physical embodiment of Scientology policy and technology. You have chosen to ignore these facts in favor of the hate-filled rants of your sources.

You are clearly aware of what is happening in the Church. The recent edition of *Freedom* magazine laid out a brief overview of some of the Church's current activities worldwide. Not only are things in the Church better these days since your sources have been gone, they are

sensational! The Church is not just expanding, it is exploding! Mr. Miscavige is the driving force behind the worldwide expansion of Scientology. He works for and answers to Scientology's millions of parishioners and serves their interests by implementing Mr. Hubbard's plans and strategies, while devoting every spare moment to the restoration of Mr. Hubbard's technology and its dissemination to the public. It is his far-reaching vision and unrelenting dedication which have brought the Church so far and so fast. He redefines the term "religious leader."

In light of these facts, you write to me in 2009, to answer these false and petty allegations of a man who saved up his money to have sex with under-aged girls in Thailand and hosted a web site coaching others how to do the same thing? Or the demonstrably fraudulent accusations of a man who was engaged in voyeurism and exhibitionism, and was summarily dismissed from his position when a woman he was ministering reported an inappropriate sexual advance towards her? Or the individuals who were removed from their positions by Mr. Miscavige and are guilty of suborning perjury, obstruction of justice and wasting millions of dollars of parishioner funds? The same individuals who admitted to you they are liars: they admitted to lying under oath and lying to the media. What basis do you have to believe they are telling the truth now (which I assure you they are not)? It is apparent your sources are straining to come up with new allegations and have apparently exhausted their own vivid imaginations, but if the use of private investigators by attorneys representing the Church, which use Rathbun and Rinder personally oversaw, is their newest complaint, it is well past the time for the *St. Petersburg Times* to stop acting as their mouthpiece.

As they would do for any worldwide organization that employs attorneys, lawyers do what is needed to effectively represent their clients, including the use of private investigators. (Attachment 1, Attachment 2, Attachment 3) Asking the Church to respond to why an investigator might have been looking into somebody who was involved in a legal case with the Church 10 or 20 years ago is ludicrous and I cannot believe you are serious. Perhaps you should ask Rathbun and Rinder, this was their responsibility. If Rinder used PIs to harass, that was his decision and was certainly not done under the direction or with the knowledge of Mr. Miscavige. He was expected to do his job correctly, and, of course, within the bounds of the law. He was dismissed for not doing so. The policy of Church lawyers is unequivocal: private investigators may only operate within the bounds of their own rules and regulations and in accordance with all state and local laws. If Rinder and Rathbun used PIs to "abuse poor innocent people" they are the only ones to blame. Other Church officials were not involved in their duties.

As for the "blow drill," your real question should be to ask Rathbun and Rinder whether anyone tried to prevent them from leaving or came looking for them after they left the Sea Organization. The answer is a resounding NO! Their own personal circumstances belie these

tall tales. You are once again trying to turn Scientology policy inside out. The HCO Policy Letter, Blow Offs, makes clear that anyone who leaves the Sea Org has overts and withholds. (Attachment 4) It is offensive in the extreme for you to denigrate a religious service by attempting to redefine Scientology confessionals as something used to punish. Giving an individual the opportunity to unburden himself of transgressions is as old as religion itself. In Scientology, not only can one seek and find forgiveness for past misdeeds free of the threat of punishment, but one can also take responsibility for those acts — something which your sources have proven they are incapable of doing.

The Church, of course, is interested in giving members who have failed in performing their duties a chance to reform and rehabilitate themselves. That is Scientology's purpose. On the other hand, the policy (and it is policy) is that the Church will not keep people on staff who want to leave. Mike Rinder is the best illustration of this policy. As he well knows, nobody attempted to bring him back. The same is true for Marty Rathbun. They are complaining about a blow drill that was only conducted by them. They are speaking of their own efforts to keep individuals on staff who were unfortunately destructive and/or suppressive. Marty admitted this was his operating basis in the attached excerpt from his writings. (Attachment 5)

After four articles and over nine months it is unbelievable that you are now coming to us with more allegations of "abuse." Why weren't these raised from the outset?? It is clear your sources are not motivated by anything other than the desire to "get somebody" — old fashioned bitter revenge. When their attempts to "get Mr. Miscavige" resulted in both ZERO effect on the Church and a massive response from Church leadership making it clear that we could not be happier that Rathbun and

Rinder are gone, their response now is to "get everyone." This time it is not Mr. Miscavige who is the focus of the attacks, it is Russ Bellin, Angie Blankenship and Jenny Linson (two women who could easily be sent flying by a strong gust of Santa Ana winds). They allege Russ Bellin is guilty of "abuse by water bottle?" Oh, please! I am not sure if I am supposed to answer your allegation or the similar one related to ABC Nightline. Nightline advises that Marty Rathbun witnessed the water bottle incident and that this is his allegation; while you advise the "incident" took place in 2006/2007, years after Marty was gone. *Nightline* also tells me that Mr. Weiland suffered from hypothermia. The storytelling clearly gets mixed up in the telling. The changing stories are the mark of liars whose lies you have chosen to advance. At least you should request they keep their lies straight among the media to whom they are shopping their story. (Attachment 3) And perhaps you could also request that Rinder stop whining. The real source of his bitterness is his realization, now that no one made any attempt to keep him in the Church, that he was despised in the Sea Organization. He is arrogant and contemptuous of everyone. Mike is capitalizing on the opportunity you are giving him to "get everybody": He is

not the head of the Office of Special Affairs anymore; he does not fly around the world anymore; he does not "run with the big dogs in the tall grass" anymore; he is resentful and seeking vengeance.

With respect to your allegations regarding "disconnection" and breaking up of families, expulsion or excommunication is a practice as old as religion itself. The Church strongly believes that it is a fundamental right of any being to communicate. There is no Church policy mandating that a member of the Church of Scientology must disconnect from anyone. To the contrary, it is a self-determined decision made by an individual with respect to someone who is antipathetic to them and/or their beliefs. There is a distinct difference between someone who has different religious beliefs and someone who is attacking them for his beliefs. It is a common ploy of those attacking the Scientology religion, or any other Church for that matter, to cry foul about "disconnection" when it is, in fact, the attacker who by his or her own actions causes others to desire to sever the connection. These anti-Scientologists then try to create sensational stories about the "practice" to further harm the Church. Scientology policy is no different from the practices of any faith.

I am advised that Mike Rinder's family did write to him. I am really appalled that he shared their personal communications with you. I understand the correspondence detailed his family's concerns about his actions. I have been advised the letters were forwarded to Mike per their request, via the International Justice Chief, in accordance with Church policy. I have checked with his family and understand they have not received an answer to their letters. One would think that if Mike Rinder valued their relationship enough to complain about it to you, he could have found a spare moment in between plotting his attack on them and their religion to send a note back.

The *St. Petersburg Times* has made itself the advocate for anti-Scientologists on the lunatic fringe who refer to the Church's respected religious leader as a "madman," "Jim Jones," draw comparisons to Hitler and describe Scientology religious events as replete with "Hitlerian backdrops," deride the Church's International headquarters as "Abu COB prison," claim that senior Church Management "drink the Kool-Aid" and that Mr. Miscavige's "mission [is] to drive Scientology in the direction of the People's Temple."

The references included above may be found in Marty Rathbun's most recent postings on the Internet. These postings not only evidence that Rathbun is a card-carrying member of the lunatic fringe, they also lay bare his agenda being forwarded by your newspaper to baselessly attack the Scientology religion, its practices, its ministers, its ecclesiastical management, its leader and its Founder to serve his own delusional interests. That he purports to only speak of Mr. Miscavige is, of course, because Mr. Miscavige is the most famous name in Scientology and

to defame him is to defame the character of the religion. As you have repeatedly been told, Rathbun lives for battle, is abusive, is violent, is a liar and, in his own words, was the cause of major catastrophes within the Church. That he is directing his attacks at Mr. Miscavige is just part of his attempt to cause the most damage to the Church. Unfortunately for him, he has not been able to restrain himself and his true motivations have now come to the surface as he rails about virtually every Church executive, assassinating their character along with Mr. Miscavige's.

He maligns Scientology ministers as a "priesthood of Reverse Dianeticists" because they deliver Scientology religious services purely as Mr. Hubbard intended but not as Mr. Rathbun would like. He accuses the highest trained ministers in ecclesiastical management of "warped interpretations" of Scientology, stating that he would not let them "audit my dog." He rants that he and his "posse" are attempting "to break through" the "Dark Ages" in delivery of Scientology religious services, that ecclesiastical management is composed of "nothing but weaklings" and that it is incumbent upon him and his gang of apostates to "do what they can" to make Scientology "available outside of the control" of the ecclesiastical hierarchy and its leader. He condemns that leader for following the policy of the Founder of the religion and keeping the ranks of its religious order clean. It is now blatantly clear that Rathbun has altered his delusion from "taking over the Church" to destroying the Church in order to greedily attempt to line his pockets by starting his own bastardized version of Scientology. All these postings provide unequivocal evidence that Rathbun is a bitter apostate who has inserted the media into his maniacal attempts to denigrate his former faith and all those associated with Scientology.

Not only are you forwarding the anti-Scientology agenda of Mike Rinder and Marty Rathbun, you have now made yourselves their advocates and part of the story: You insisted on rushing to press after refusing to speak to the executives that were standing directly in front of you; you cancelled your interview with Mr. Miscavige for no time sensitive reason; you provided chauffeur service for Rathbun when he visited Clearwater; you coordinated meetings with Rathbun and Rinder in Denver to plan your next story, working with them for months and then coming to the Church with your story set and giving us a fraction of the time to respond; you came to Los Angeles and surreptitiously sneaked onto our property in Hemet that clearly has a "No Trespassing — Private Property" sign. You were previously invited to tour any Church location in Los Angeles and instead came with a person who is currently suing the Church, Claire Headley. The moment you were seen by a security guard, you jumped in the car and fled. Joe, I would have given you a tour if you had told me you were there; there was no need to break the law.

It is also no coincidence that after working on this "new" story for over two months, you write

in with a demand for answers on the date of the 25th anniversary of the International Association of Scientologists. Of course, that is the same pattern you followed this past summer: Wait until you know that no one is available to respond, and then propose an artificial deadline when it is impossible for anyone to be interviewed who could speak to your allegations and do so on the eve of a major church convocation. There is not a prayer that either of you are objective.

You should be aware that a number of ex-reporters and employees from your newspaper who have worked with Joe Childs have contacted the Church to share details of what they termed as your bigoted and biased behavior regarding the Church. Some said they were compelled to contact us after seeing your original three part series on Mr. Miscavige, appalled that you had canceled your scheduled interview with him. Others contacted us after reading *Freedom* magazine, stating they could not believe Joe Childs was allowed anywhere near a story about Scientology given his long-standing bias against the Church and Scientologists. These factual accounts about your anti-Scientology agenda are further evidence of your malice toward the Church.

The remainder of your sources and allegations not addressed in this letter are addressed in the enclosed attachments.

Finally, I accept your interview request. We are available anytime during the week of November 9–13. Prior to that week we will be heavily involved in the 25th Anniversary of the International Association of Scientologists events outside London and the opening of new Ideal Churches in Rome and Washington DC. Please let me know next week which specific dates work for you and where you would like to conduct the interview, unless, of course, you plan to rush to press again without conducting interview, with no news peg and no time sensitivity to your story.

With Kind Regards,

Tommy Davis

Church of Scientology International

cc:Paul Tash, Editor, CEO and Chairman

Neil Brown, Executive Editor

George Rahdert, General Counsel

[Last modified: Nov 01, 2009 01:56 AM]

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Inside Scientology | A Times special report

What happened in Vegas

By Joe Childs and Thomas C. Tobin, Times Staff Writers
In Print: Monday, November 2, 2009

One of the guys. David Lubow, top right, infiltrated a group of former Sea Org members living in Las Vegas. Partying at summer's end are, from left, Terri and Fernando Gamboa, non-Scientologist Jack Trostle and Janis Grady.

[Courtesy of Mark Fisher]

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Ex-officer says Scientology policy didn't match directive

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They squeezed into a two bedroom apartment, all they could afford. Two couples and a single guy had left the Church of Scientology and joined up in Las Vegas, starting a mortgage business near the Palace Station Casino.

They were faces in the crowd.

Except that the two wives were important in Scientology history, sisters Terri and Janis Gillham. They were two of the original four "messengers" for L. Ron Hubbard.

The founder ran his church from his ship, the *Apollo*, handwriting bulletins in red ink and policy orders in green. For eight years starting when Terri was 13 and Janis 11, they saw Hubbard most every day. As his messengers, they fetched people for private audiences and carried his handwritten notes to the Scientology world.

Their parents had opened one of Australia's first Scientology missions, in their home in Melbourne. By 1969, the girls were aboard ship with Hubbard, and their parents were needed to help grow Scientology in the United States.

Hubbard's wife, Mary Sue, became legal guardian to Terri and Janis. Hubbard was a father figure. He looked after their studies and their well-being.

Twenty years later they had become disaffected. Still believers, the sisters and their husbands left the church. They disagreed with the direction Hubbard's successor, David Miscavige, was taking it, and they found him too controlling.

Related Multimedia

Multimedia: More on Scientology, including video interviews with the defectors and previous coverage of the church.

On their own now in Vegas, they processed mortgage applications and lounged around the pool at their apartment complex, the Polo Club.

They didn't know it, but they were being watched.

Terri and her husband, Fernando Gamboa, left the Sea Org first, in January 1990.

Eight months later, Janis and her husband, Paul Grady, took off from the church's 500-acre compound east of Los Angeles after a sudden, hard rain and a Miscavige tongue-lashing.

Mud washed down an arroyo and into villas the staff had spiffed up for a coming visit by Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman. Miscavige blamed the staff for goofing up the grading of a hillside and said they would work around the clock to clean up the mess.

Not the Gradys. They bolted for a little town north of Los Angeles.

Mark Fisher left that night, too, and made it to his sister's couch in Hollywood. A church security guard was there when he woke; his sister had turned him in.

Fisher had been Miscavige's aide de camp for nearly seven years. He and his staff woke up Miscavige and his wife, and they walked their beagles, Chesley and Chelsea. They cleaned the leader's guns after target practice and, when he was in a good mood, piled in a car and went with him to the movies.

For leaving without permission, Fisher had to pull weeds and was questioned for hours daily for a month. On Sept. 15, 1990, Fisher said goodbye to his wife in a church security office. He wrote her a check for $8,000, half their savings, and gave her their furniture and art work. He took their Honda and drove off.

By year's end, opportunity knocked in Las Vegas.

A Scientology parishioner opening a mortgage office there told Janis, Terri and their husbands he would teach them the business. If they did well, they could take over. Janis contacted Fisher; he was in, too.

Janis was five months pregnant when they moved into the Polo Club. She and Paul got one bedroom. Terri and Fernando got the other. Fisher got the sofa.

After two months, their little startup, City Mortgage, needed another mortgage agent.

David Lubow answered their Help Wanted ad. He said the market was tough in the San Fernando Valley, where his wife worked and they lived with their two children. He would make the four-hour drive home on weekends. Terri hired him.

"Dave was a really friendly guy," Fisher said. "A really nice guy. Somebody you would want to have a beer with."

The Gamboas and the Gradys declined to be interviewed for this report. But Fisher and other former Scientology staffers who were hired at City Mortgage described what they saw and heard.

Lubow got an apartment at the Polo Club and hung around with the five from the office.

He had never played racquetball, but he played often with Fernando. He saw the five at the pool and grilled out with them. He was as thrilled as they when Janis, with the help of a midwife, delivered her son in the living room.

Conversation would get around to Scientology. Terri and Janis told Lubow about their early days with Hubbard, how they watched him build the church from the ground up. They all said he should read *Dianetics*.

Lubow asked the obvious: So why did you leave?

Because of Miscavige, they said. If he were gone, they might go back.

Good talker, that Dave Lubow. His apartment was across the tiny parking lot. From his front door, he could see theirs.

RUNNING THE OPERATION

A short walk down Hollywood Boulevard from where tourists take pictures of sidewalk shrines to movie stars is the Hollywood Guaranty Building, 12 floors of Scientology offices. The top floor is "OSA-Intel," the Office of Special Affairs' intelligence unit.

That's where David Lubow sent his reports. Church staff routed them to Mike Rinder, the director of OSA, and Marty Rathbun, Inspector General of the Religious Technology Center, the

church's top ecclesiastical authority. Staff knew him as Miscavige's right hand man. Rathbun said he routinely forwarded Lubow's reports to the leader.

Rathbun worked with Rinder's OSA team, which handled legal matters, investigations and media relations. Rinder was the church's chief public spokesman for 20 years, nationally and internationally, defending the church in countless interviews.

Rathbun left Scientology in 2004, Rinder in 2007. This past June, both spoke out about the physical abuse they said they saw Miscavige administer, assertions the church vehemently denied. Now they say Miscavige ordered spying on those he considered potentially threatening to himself and the church.

"Miscavige was intensely obsessed with that Las Vegas crowd," Rathbun said.

Church attorneys and spokesman Tommy Davis said the church does not hire private investigators, its attorneys do. Miscavige has nothing to do with the investigators. "Any claim or inference that Mr. Miscavige was involved in any way with attorney use of private investigators is false," Davis wrote.

Before they left Scientology, the Gillham sisters transitioned from teenaged messengers to powerful roles. Terri was executive director of Author Services Inc., the corporation Hubbard set up distinct from Scientology to control rights to his books, lectures and other intellectual property. At ASI, she worked closely with Miscavige, who was its chairman of the board.

Janis led a team in 1988 that readied the church's new cruise ship, the *Freewinds*, for its maiden voyage. From 1987 through 1990, she oversaw the church's international management team.

They and Fisher told Lubow about how things soured. They joked about going back to the compound in the desert, maybe drive a van up to the front gate and yell out to staff: All aboard!

Rathbun and Rinder said Miscavige viewed the Las Vegas clique as potential agitators or even motivated to start an anti-Scientology crusade. Rathbun said Miscavige "ordered" him to arrange for someone to infiltrate the five in Vegas and find out what they were up to.

Rathbun said he instructed OSA-Intel chief Linda Hamel to consult a private investigator who had worked for the church for years and find someone with a high social I.Q for the job.

Lubow.

"He got deep in and became a close friend and was reporting back," Rathbun said. "Quite frankly, the more reporting he did, the more obsessed Miscavige became. Those people all pinned their gripes about their experiences in Scientology to their personal experiences with Miscavige.

"They were consistently communicating about how they were just waiting for this guy to burn out and maybe they even would go back some day."

Instructions for Lubow: Keep the reports coming.

TOO MANY QUESTIONS

Terri Gamboa fired Fisher before City Mortgage was a year old. Badly needing a commission check, Fisher had chewed out a support staffer for not processing a loan application quickly enough.

"I blew my stack. Got really angry," Fisher said.

Lesson learned. "You deal with people a certain way in the Sea Org," he said, "but when you come out in the real world, you can't treat people like that."

He moved to Houston, for a promotions job with an adult entertainment club owner he knew. Fisher was settling in when Lubow called. He was in town on a real estate deal, they should do lunch. Lubow picked Fisher up in a rented Cadillac.

"We're driving around, I'm showing him around Houston — I'd only been there about a week or so — and he started asking me questions," Fisher said.

What did he really think about Scientology?

What did he think about David Miscavige?

Did he really want to get rid of him?

Would the five really go back if Miscavige was gone?

Enough questions that Fisher noticed. "Why would he be working on some deal in a little town out in Texas, when we were based in Las Vegas? I mean, nothing added up."

After lunch, Fisher called Vegas. "Janis, I think Dave Lubow is a plant."

Janis said City Mortgage didn't send him there, it didn't have any business in Houston.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKED

In Vegas, Fernando Gamboa took an intriguing phone call. A business contact at a bank in Los Angeles said two investors were headed their way, and Fernando and Terri should meet them.

They had dinner at Caesars Palace. The men said they were dealmakers from Hong Kong whose clients expected royal treatment. They wanted Terri and Fernando to go to Australia and find a scenic horse ranch. The dealmakers would buy the ranch and pay the Gamboas to run it and host their clients.

Terri could go home to Australia and do what she loved: Be with horses. With their living expenses covered, she and Fernando could bank most of their salaries.

They left for Melbourne. Who showed up in a matter of weeks? Lubow, on vacation with his wife. They all went to the beach.

"They (the Gamboas) thought it was bizarre he came all the way down there," Fisher said. "That's when we really started to suspect him."

Back at City Mortgage, everybody wondered: Where does Lubow get his money? They didn't pay him salary, just commission. And he'd closed only one mortgage there.

THE AUSTRALIA MANEUVER

Rathbun and Rinder now say the church was the silent partner paying for the Gamboa's diversion to Australia.

"It definitely was a church maneuver," Rathbun said. "I was involved in that."

Lubow had filed intelligence reports for seven months when the dealmakers took the Gamboas

to dinner. Many of his reports, sometimes just a long paragraph, sometimes two or three pages, highlighted Terri as especially critical of Miscavige, Rathbun said.

"I know there were reports coming out that she was considering lending assistance to people who were going after DM (David Miscavige) on the outside," he said, referring to former church officials suing Scientology.

Rathbun said Miscavige also was concerned. Terri could undermine Scientology's settlement talks with the IRS, in 1992-93, over whether to restore the church's tax-exempt status.

Rathbun said Miscavige told him to get her far away. Rinder said the church strategy was: "Get them out of the U.S."

"We had some guy who was super well-heeled. He was out of Hong Kong," Rathbun said. "I set the thing up with Linda (Hamel, church intelligence chief). He was some British guy. He invited them down ... wined and dined (them) ... we literally were going to buy a horse ranch."

The Gamboas found a ranch in the high country north of Melbourne that the investors could rent. They stayed two years.

Rathbun and Rinder said they don't know how much the operation cost, only that the church underwrote it.

HOW THE CHURCH DOES IT

Seeking comment from the church, the *St. Petersburg Times* posed written questions about Lubow's involvement with the five former church staff in Las Vegas. Responding in writing, the church addressed its practices but made no mention of Lubow.

Scientology spokesman Tommy Davis said neither Miscavige nor church officials hired private investigators, church attorneys did. Davis said the church directs its attorneys and their agents to conform to all laws, regulations and the highest ethical standards.

Davis gave the *Times* declarations from longtime church attorneys Elliot Abelson and Kendrick Moxon that stated it's routine for lawyers to retain PIs to acquire useful information and to disprove false allegations by potential adversaries. They said they instructed the investigators to comply with state and local laws and the rules of their profession. The attorneys said they never communicated with Miscavige about PIs or investigations.

"He is simply not involved," Abelson said.

Rinder, who oversaw intelligence efforts as OSA's director for 25 years, said it's done that way to shield the church.

"It's a protection," he said. "You can always come back and say, 'This guy is retained by a lawyer.' "

OSA's own intelligence staff vetted the investigators, Rinder said, then Abelson or Moxon hired them. The private attorneys worked as independent contractors and had offices on the 10th floor of the church building on Hollywood Boulevard.

Rinder said the attorneys worked out fee agreements with the PIs and sent them to OSA for assignment, and the church transferred funds to Abelson and Moxon to pay the PIs.

"We'd use the same people over and over," Rinder said, about 10 of them. "It was as big as it needed to be.

"If you need 10 PIs working on it, then you get 10 PIs working on it. If there was one needed, you'd have just one."

Church intelligence mostly targeted those it feared might hurt Scientology, on the streets, in court or in the media, Rinder and Rathbun said.

In the early 1980s, Miscavige, joined by Rathbun, Rinder and others, reformed the church's previous intelligence division, the Guardian's Office. Its director, Mary Sue Hubbard, and 10 other Scientologists were convicted in October 1979 on federal charges of conspiring to steal government documents or obstruct justice.

But Rathbun said Miscavige still believed it was important to anticipate the moves of potential enemies.

Prediction — "that became our watchword," Rathbun said.

"That actually was our initial justification and our initial standard. In other words, it was okay to infiltrate somebody, provided it was done solely for prediction."

If someone caused trouble, a plaintiff in a lawsuit or a reporter stirring controversy, that

triggered ODC, Overt Data Collection, Rathbun said. The church's intelligence staff followed a form and culled information from public sources.

"Any character that pops up in the mix, ODC is almost automatic," Rathbun said. But if the church saw serious threat, it commissioned covert work. "Now that it's an attack, CDC."

Covert Data Collection involved informants and private investigators.

"You're looking for two things," Rinder said. "One, connections. Two, dirt, crimes, whatever it is that may be able to be used to expose the source of attack as having their own dirty laundry so ... they are not a credible source."

The church has a term for it. To "dead agent" someone is to destroy an adversary's credibility.

Lubow did not respond to an interview request.

Responding to questions about Rathbun and Rinder's accounts, the church provided the declaration of Rinder's top deputy for 20 years, Kurt Weiland. It states that Rathbun and Rinder are "omitting context" about OSA and mischaracterizing the work of "experienced legal professionals."

"The allegations are made to appear extraordinary to most readers who are not aware that it is a common factor in litigation — pending and anticipated."

Of Rathbun and Rinder, Weiland's declaration concluded: "They are now employing the very tactic they decried in the past, complete with false claims and innuendo, and have created a web of lies and deceit about the church. Paradoxically, they are the very individuals who directed and controlled the very activities they are now saying 'the church' did wrong.

"If their claims about the 'the church' were true, which they are not, as I have made clear in this declaration, they would have to point the finger directly at each other and no one else."

THE NEW GUY, FERRIS

By 1994, the original cast was back at City Mortgage. The Gradys, who had kept the business going, rehired Fisher. The Gamboas were back from Australia.

Lubow had cleaned out his desk and moved back to California. But he visited Vegas and palled

around with his friends. The five ex-Scientology staffers didn't confront him about spying; they assumed the church would just send in somebody else.

"Then we'd have to figure it out all over again," Fisher said.

Four years old now, City Mortgage had new faces. On the team were former Sea Org members Kenny Lipton and Gene Decheff.

Lipton worked there until 1998, when he died of cancer. Decheff, who lives in Spokane now, said his colleagues warned him to be leery of Lubow. "It was suspected he might be there to watch us, or get information about us, for somebody."

The office needed more support staff. Terri hired Pam Khan, who lived in Vegas with her husband.

Pam quickly made friends and told her bosses she knew someone who would make a good loan officer. Her husband, Ferris.

Pam was right. Ferris Khan wrote loans and was fun outside work.

On Sept. 7, 1996, Vegas was abuzz. Mike Tyson was fighting Bruce Seldon at the MGM Grand. The Gamboas hosted a dinner party to watch the closed circuit telecast. Khan took over the kitchen and presented a multi-course salmon feast.

"It was fantastic," Fisher said.

In 1998, Pam Khan announced she was pregnant. Her friends at City Mortgage gave her a baby shower and, when she moved home to Phoenix, a going-away party.

Khan stayed on a few more months and left to join her. He and Fisher called each other nearly every day.

Fisher said Khan told him he was starting a cell phone company and said he would pay Fisher $7,500 to write the employee manual.

Khan asked about Scientology. By 1999, anti-Scientology sites were getting traffic on the Internet. What did Fisher know about those? And what did he know about the protest group in Clearwater inspired by the death of Lisa McPherson, the Scientologist who died in 1995 after

17 days in care of church staffers?

Fisher knew plenty about the protesters. Two of the ringleaders, Jesse Prince and Stacy Brooks, were friends, former Scientologists Fisher worked with in the '70s and '80s.

Let's go to Florida, Fisher told Khan, "It might be fun to poke my finger in DM's eye."

THE FISHER DIVERSION

Miscavige was in Clearwater then, with Rathbun and Rinder, working to contain the fallout surrounding McPherson's death.

The judge in the McPherson family's wrongful death lawsuit was considering a motion that Miscavige be added as a defendant. The family's lawyer argued that he was involved in day-to-day operations of the church. Scientology lawyers said he was the ecclesiastical leader and not involved in day-to-day operations.

On Dec. 14, 1999, the judge granted the family's motion. Miscavige was a defendant.

Soon after came an intelligence report out of Las Vegas. Mark Fisher was planning to come to Clearwater.

"Miscavige was freaked," Rathbun said. "He was certain that Fisher, having worked directly for Miscavige for a number of years, was coming down to testify about Miscavige's control of the church."

Rathbun said Miscavige summoned him and Rinder. "He said to Mike and me, 'You make sure Mark Fisher does not come to Florida.' "

Rathbun said he called Linda Hamel, the intelligence chief in California. Rathbun asked: "Hey, what happened to your guy Lubow? Can't he come up with a distraction for Mark Fisher?"

Lubow had been pulled out of Vegas for other work for the church. "But we got another guy who substituted for Lubow," Rathbun said Hamel told him.

"We worked out this whole plan, Linda and I," Rathbun said.

PUERTO VALLARTA

Forget Clearwater, Khan told Fisher.

"He goes, 'Look it, we got to meet this investor I know in Puerto Vallarta. It'll be a lot more fun.' "

The financier lived in Italy but was traveling to Puerto Vallarta the same week they were headed to Florida. Khan said they needed to meet and get his backing for the cell phone company Khan was starting.

Instead of protesting in Clearwater, Khan and Fisher spent five days at a luxury resort, parasailing, snorkeling and partying. They dined with the investor the third night, and Khan gave him the manual Fisher wrote. Then it was back to the clubs.

"We were on vacation," Fisher said.

Khan paid for everything, Fisher said, at least $7,000.

Back in Clearwater, Hamel sent Rathbun a video of Fisher partying at a bar in Puerto Vallarta. He played it for Miscavige.

"He got a great kick out of it," Rathbun said.

Rathbun and Rinder said they never knew the name Ferris Khan, but they knew an operative replaced Lubow and took Fisher to Mexico.

The church paid all expenses for diverting Fisher, Rathbun said. "Every penny of it."

ONLY ONE PERSON KNEW

Only once did Fisher confront his friend Ferris about the possibility he lived a double life. About four years ago, in one of their many phone calls, he said:

"Hey, you know Janis thinks you are spying for Scientology," Fisher said, half joking.

What a laugh, Khan said. Why would I do that?

Fisher dropped it. He and Khan were pals.

"Any time I had a business decision or a financial decision or if I was going to buy or sell a stock, I would call him. He seemed to have a lot of expertise in those areas. ... We were intimate in terms of my finances and anything else I was doing ...

"He was the type of person that I would call up and say, Hey, how's it going? And we'd shoot the s--- for 20, 30 minutes. We'd talk politics ... whatever."

Khan did not return phone messages seeking comment.

This past July, 12 years since they met, Fisher realized he had been betrayed.

Late that month, Khan called from Dubai, where he was on business. Did Fisher know anything about a story the *Times* was preparing?

No, Fisher said. How did Khan know to ask? Fisher hadn't told anybody he had been interviewed. But he knew the *Times* had sent the church questions about the people in the story.

He had another piece of evidence, the church magazine *Freedom,* published days before the *Times* story. One paragraph jumped off the page at Fisher. It described one of the *Times'* sources as a bankrupt taxi driver.

Fisher drove a cab for about six weeks and had filed for bankruptcy. He had told just one person: Ferris Khan.

JANIS GRADY'S STATEMENT

Fisher still hasn't told Khan that he figured him out. "I considered him my best friend. I even told him a couple of times, 'Man, you are like a brother to me.' "

Khan stopped calling every day, but did check in on Aug. 29, to wish Fisher happy birthday, his 51st.

In declining to be interviewed for this report, Janis Grady said she and her sister fear speaking out would damage relationships with family members who are Scientologists. She gave this written statement:

"We were aware that Scientology officials had sent private investigators to keep an eye on us. We had nothing to hide and just wanted to get on with building our new lives.

"If the Church of Scientology officials chose to spend their money that way, that is their poor judgment. To my knowledge the PIs caused no adverse effect on our lives so they were of no concern to us. My priority was/is raising my children."

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[Last modified: Nov 02, 2009 06:49 AM]

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Times staff
In Print: Monday, November 2, 2009

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MARK FISHER, 51

Joined Scientology: at 14, in 1973 in Washington, D.C. Joined Sea Org in 1976.

Left Sea Org: September 1990

Career highlights: Statistics analyst, trained evaluators. Became corporate liaison to Miscavige, supervising his household, carrying out special assignments.

Now: Divorced his wife, a Sea Org member, after he left. A loan officer, lives in Las Vegas.

On Lubow: "He was hustling, trying to get loans like the rest of us. ... Before I knew it, he moved into the same apartment complex as us."

FERNANDO GAMBOA, 54

He joined the church in his early 20s and worked for the Sea Org as a drummer and as a sound engineer. He is a private investor.

TERRI GILLHAM GAMBOA, 54

A Realtor for Realty One in Las Vegas, specializing in horse properties. She and her sister Janis and brother Peter moved to England in the early 1960s and played with L. Ron Hubbard's children at his estate in Sussex.

JANIS GILLHAM GRADY, 53

Owner of Home Savings Mortgage, formerly City Mortgage, in Las Vegas. She grew up in

Scientology. Her parents were among the first Scientology adherents in Australia in the mid-1950s.

PAUL GRADY, 53

Based in Las Vegas, he is CEO of Fossil Energy, headquartered in Denver. He joined the Sea Org in his early 20s in Columbus, Ohio. He directed the team that bought the ship *Freewinds*.

INFILTRATION AND BETRAYAL

They were coworkers and friends. The question was, who were they really working for?

DAVID LUBOW

He joined the City Mortgage staff in the spring of 1991 and stayed until early 1995, becoming good friends with many of the former Scientology staffers there. He partied and went camping with them. After he left for home in California, he returned frequently to Vegas to visit with his friends and brought along his wife and children.

FERRIS KHAN

Hired as a loan officer in 1996, Khan became fast friends with fellow loan officer Mark Fisher. Khan worked at City Mortgage for just two years, but stayed in almost daily contact with Fisher until recently. The two traveled often together in the United States, Mexico and Thailand.

Fisher about Khan: "I can't think of anybody that was a closer friend. He was like a brother to me. You don't know who to trust anymore. ... It makes it hard for me to know who I should trust."

[Last modified: Nov 01, 2009 11:49 PM]

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- Man overboard: To leave Scientology,

Man overboard: To leave Scientology, Don Jason had to jump off a ship

By Thomas C. Tobin, Times Staff Writer
In Print: Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Parishioners from around the world flocked to Scientology's spiritual headquarters in Clearwater, bringing the church about $1.5 million a week.

A division of some 350 people tended to their needs, providing counseling services considered to be the finest in all of Scientology. For seven years, Chief Officer Don Jason was their boss, the second in command of the "Flag Service Organization."

In a group photo in a 1996 issue of *Source*, the official magazine of "Flag," Jason stands front and center. Only Capt. Debbie Cook's dress uniform had more ribbons.

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Don Jason had to jump off a ship

That August, a senior officer from a higher division surprised Jason with a reprimand he found absurd. It inflamed the doubts that had nagged him for years about making a career in the church. He'd had enough.

He took off without permission, hid out for six weeks but returned to Clearwater, compelled by feelings of guilt and a desire to leave the church on good terms.

Multimedia: More on Scientology, including video interviews with the defectors and previous coverage of the church.

He agreed to a program of counseling and manual labor aboard the *Freewinds*, the church's cruise ship in the Caribbean. He scraped oily sludge off a collection tank under the ship's engines. For a time, his cabin was locked from the outside, and a security camera was trained on his bunk.

He repeatedly asked to leave; the answer was no. Twice, he tried to walk down the gangway. Twice, church guards blocked him.

The church's account of how Jason left the *Freewinds* says only: "On 21 November 1996, Jason changed his mind and left, ending up in Milwaukee."

Jason tells it differently.

That afternoon, right after lunch, he disappeared over the bow.

'WE COME BACK'

Scientologists believe that people are spiritual beings — thetans — who live for eternity and are reborn into new bodies when they die. They are encouraged to think in terms of their "whole track," the endless succession of lifetimes they will lead.

Members of the dedicated work force, known as the Sea Org, sign billion-year contracts to serve Scientology. Their motto: "We come back."

b7E

Jason grew up in Milwaukee, a rowdy 20-year-old with a history of drug use when his older sister got him to take a Scientology communication course. He liked it so much he traveled to Clearwater for the next course and never left.

He worked on construction projects and his gung-ho manner got him promoted to the administrative ranks.

"I liked what I was doing. We were helping people. I was really into the cause."

By his early 30s, Jason started looking ahead, not to his eternity but to middle-age. What if he hit 50 and decided to leave Scientology? Who would hire him? Could he survive?

"It was a seed that got planted and it just never went away. And as the years went on it just kind of festered."

Early in his career, in the 1980s, Jason's weekly take-home pay was about $30; sometimes he says he was paid a fraction, or nothing. He worked seven days, typically 9 a.m. until past 11 p.m. For long stretches, the staff in Clearwater were fed only beans and rice.

Mat Pesch, who once headed the crew's treasury department, says he saw food budgets in the 1980s that allotted less than a dollar per person, per meal. He said Sea Org members sometimes picked through ashtrays for cigarette butts or stole necessities from the canteen.

Jason says he was one of them. In the early 1980s, before his pay situation improved, he lifted soap, shampoo and food.

"That's humiliating to me. As a man, I look at that and I feel shame regarding that still today. ... But that's on me. I should have left and didn't."

DECISION TIME

In the spring of 1996, a prominent church member traveled to Clearwater for Scientology counseling called "auditing," returned home to Los Angeles and six months later caused a flap. Someone in the church hierarchy traced the problem to Jason's staff.

An auditor in Clearwater had missed the underlying personal flaw that caused the parishioner to create the controversy. The church hung the blame on Jason.

Near 11 p.m., the end of another marathon day, church executive Angie Trent broke the news in Jason's office in downtown Clearwater. He would have to complete an "ethics" program requiring that he confess his crimes and vow to make it up.

"My first reaction was to basically say, 'Are you kidding me?' I've got 350 people that work under me and this is my personal screw-up that I'm now in trouble over? I was listening to it and it was just like a light bulb. ... I said, You know what? Now is the time. It wasn't preplanned. It was just like that."

His personal life was troubled, as well. His marriage was a mess and he was having an affair with a fellow church executive.

"For a variety of reasons I just got spooked."

There were two ways to leave the Sea Org: "route out" (follow protocol, including confessionals and interrogations called "security checks" that could drag on for months). Or "blow" (bolt without permission).

Jason's decision: Run.

AWAY FROM CLEARWATER

After the next-day's morning muster, he didn't go to his office at Cleveland Street and S Fort Harrison Avenue. He went to his bank and withdrew $6,000, part of a small inheritance from his father three years before. He stopped by his room to stuff clothes in a trash bag and pointed his 1991 Jeep Wrangler east.

"I didn't even know where I was going. I was just driving and it was the opposite direction of Clearwater."

He crossed Florida on Interstate 4, the radio off, thinking through the step he had just taken. He figured he had a three- to four-hour head start before they would realize he was gone.

He kept checking his rearview mirror. If they caught up with him, he worried they would take him back. He had seen it happen to others.

Jason left the highway at Daytona Beach and worked his way north on smaller roads, stopping for the night in Fernandina Beach, near the Florida/Georgia border.

He parked a block from a motel, paid cash and allowed himself five hours' sleep. He thought it best to keep moving.

CHOOSE SOMEPLACE RANDOM

In Clearwater, the Sea Org crew launched its "blow drill," a rehearsed operation to catch and return runaways.

Pesch says church security set up a command center. They pulled 15 to 20 staff from their regular duties. Some worked the phones, calling hotels and airlines. Pesch and another staffer drove to bars and other hangouts along Clearwater Beach.

From Fernandina Beach, Jason drove north through Savannah and tried to think of how to elude his chasers. They would start in Milwaukee, his home town.

"I had to go somewhere I had no reason to be ... like throw a dart at a map."

He drove to Atlanta and rented a room in a house so his address wouldn't show up so easily in public records. A temp agency found him a job at Equifax, the credit reporting company.

Freedom felt good, but he didn't know a soul in Atlanta. After 13 years of life inside Scientology, life on the outside puzzled him.

"What do people talk about now when they're sitting at a bar and grill having a hamburger? What do they do? ... I'm also thinking I've got to start over here."

More important, his sister was still a Scientologist. Leaving without permission meant Jason would be declared an "SP," a suppressive person. The church would push his sister and Scientology friends not to speak with him.

For that reason, Jason considered himself lucky not to have more relatives in the church.

"There are some people that are born into Scientology. Their mother, their father, their brothers, their sisters, their relatives, all their friends — everything is there. You get declared (an SP), it's all gone. Everything that's important to you is gone."

He also felt guilty about the way he left. He missed his colleagues.

"I felt to some degree that I had betrayed people that I had worked for years with that were my friends. ... I would have preferred to leave right, in people's good graces."

Six weeks after he fled, he decided to turn himself in. He didn't want to return to the Sea Org; he wanted to make amends, route out properly and leave.

HELD ABOARD SHIP

In October 1996, Jason drove to Clearwater and saw the security chief, who immediately called Marty Rathbun, a top lieutenant to Scientology leader David Miscavige.

"I always liked Marty," Jason said. "He was a straight-shooter."

They met for two hours at a restaurant on Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard. Rathbun convinced Jason to return to the Sea Org instead of routing out.

Rathbun said he reported back to Miscavige, and the leader wanted Jason sent to the *Freewinds*.

The church describes the cruise ship as "a safe, aesthetic, distraction-free environment" where Scientologists receive high-level auditing "far from the crossroads of the workaday world."

Rathbun says Miscavige wanted Jason on the ship to control him.

"The idea was you do it while you neutralize him as a threat because you can't blow from the ship," Rathbun said. "You lodge your passport with the port captain, it's put in a safe and you're a virtual prisoner at that point."

Rathbun sold the idea to Jason as an opportunity to get away and get "cleaned up," get his head back to a Scientology frame of mind. It would mean auditing, some training and physical labor.

Jason was wary, but he went for it. Before he flew to the Bahamas to meet the ship, he opened a new bank account in Clearwater and got some temporary checks.

When he boarded, he surrendered his passport but secretly kept the checks and his driver's license, even slept with them at night.

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He says his cabin was locked from the outside. A security camera was trained on his bed. To go to the bathroom, he waved at the camera and security guards opened the door remotely. Another camera in the hallway tracked him to the bathroom door.

It struck Jason that when he waved at the cabin camera, the guards immediately opened the door. Were they watching every second?

He asked the *Freewinds* staff to contact Rathbun, who called back the next day. This was not what he signed up for, Jason told him. "I'm not a prisoner here."

Rathbun says he told the *Freewinds* staff to remove the lock but not the cameras. They were aboard a ship, he reminded them. Jason had nowhere to run.

Said Jason: "I'm on a ship that goes God knows where. I'm out of the country. I've got no passport. It's a little scary. You have no identity. ... That feeling of nothing's under your control is a little eerie."

For two weeks, Jason cleaned sludge from the tanks under the engines and used diesel fuel to rinse the oil off his body. Then the church made things rougher. He said he was assigned to the Rehabilitation Project Force, a church work program.

Jason knew what that meant: more hard labor, daily confessionals and humiliations like running to every assignment and never speaking unless spoken to.

During his early years in Clearwater he had seen those on the RPF living on the third floor of the Fort Harrison Hotel parking garage. Sheets cordoned off their living area. Their clothes and linens were filthy. They ate beans, rice and oatmeal.

It always bothered him, and Jason resolved that he never would submit to the program. When the order came that he do the RPF aboard the *Freewinds*, he said he wanted off the ship.

No, the guards said. Do the program.

"So you're holding me against my will?"

Jason tried to walk off the ship with parishioners going on a shore excursion. The *Freewinds* guards stepped in his way. He tried a second time, but they blocked him again.

For three days he protested by refusing to work, but that only got him more restrictions. He needed a new approach.

THE ROLLING PIN

Jason decided to act like a good soldier, the picture of compliance. Behaving got him better work assignments and more freedom to move about the ship.

He ruled out jumping overboard. The 40-foot drop was too dangerous, and the dock walls too high, with no ladders.

The thick, 30-foot cables that moor the ship to the dock seemed his best chance. He thought through the variables.

He would have to move quickly down the cable; the guards would hurry to the dock to head him off. Timing was important. Too many people on the dock and he would create a scene. Then again, he wanted at least a few witnesses.

When the ship docked each day, he watched the cables go taut and slack with the tide. A drooping cable would leave him short of the dock. He would have to time his descent so when he reached bottom, the cable would be taut. He would have to get around the metal plate that kept rats from climbing to the ship.

He scavenged for materials to build a device that would help him quickly get down the cable.

He fashioned something like a rolling pin. Starting with a wooden dowel the thickness of a clothing rod, he sawed off a 16-inch piece. Around it he fit a 7-inch length of PVC pipe. To keep the PVC from moving side to side, he sunk drywall screws into the dowel on either end of the PVC.

For two weeks he observed and thought things through. He would have to hold his body high in case he needed to bring up his legs and slow his descent. He ate lunch on the bow every day so that when the time came, the guards wouldn't think twice about him being there.

Three months before, Jason had a title, an office and authority over hundreds of staff in Clearwater. Now his church was treating him like a prisoner.

"I'm thinking, You know what? Once I pull a stunt like this, I'll never get off this ship on my

[redacted] b7E

own terms. So I'm committed. Once I start this, I have to be prepared to take it all the way.

"I'm going to do whatever I have to to get off that ship, which includes fist-fighting people, yelling my head off, whatever it takes. I'm not going back on that ship. Period."

NOV. 21, 1996

He had been on the ship six weeks when he made his move. Jason can't remember if they docked in Freeport or Nassau, just that the town had a decent-sized airport.

What he does remember was hiding his rolling pin device down his shorts, working his morning shift on a maintenance project and heading to his usual spot for lunch.

The cable came taut.

He crawled over the bow and twisted himself as he had rehearsed in his mind, legs and one arm around the cable to steady himself while he pulled the rolling pin from his shorts. He positioned it over the cable and zip-lined down.

The ride was "pretty damned fast" but under control, and he could see two or three guards running for the dock as he descended. He scrambled around the rat guard, pulled himself to the dock and ran for the road, with a lead of about 30 feet on the guards.

They caught up as he got to a cab. One yelled in his face and held the door so he couldn't get in. Another told the cabbie not to give him a ride because he wasn't allowed to leave the ship.

Jason muscled his way into the front seat, closed the door on a guard's hand and screamed at the driver: "I'm being held against my will! Take me to a g-- d--- airport!"

NEXT STOP, ATLANTA

Jason got out at the airport in shorts and a dirty work shirt. He had his driver's license, the temporary checks, no passport, no luggage and $20.

He bought a ticket from a wary airline clerk and talked his way past a custom's agent. "The whole thing was red-flag city, and I just had to will myself to just try to mentally convey to these people to do it. Just do it."

He called his mother in Milwaukee: "How about having your son over for Thanksgiving? Would that be okay?"

He told her he had a layover in Atlanta and would fly on to Milwaukee. If he didn't walk off the plane, something was wrong.

Jason was waiting at the gate in the Bahamas when Ludwig Alpers, an executive in the church's intelligence branch, showed up with a ticket for the seat next to his. Alpers said the church was considering a call to the U.S. Embassy asserting that the *Freewinds* had the authority to keep him in the Bahamas.

Jason says Alpers backed off after he threatened to tell the world how he was held against his will. Alpers flew with him to Atlanta.

In Clearwater, Rathbun had gotten the astonishing news that Jason had escaped. It couldn't be, he thought. No one got off the *Freewinds* without permission. And the church had Jason's passport. He couldn't get out of the Bahamas; it just didn't happen.

Rathbun hustled to Tampa International Airport and caught the first flight to Atlanta. "I think I beat him by a couple of minutes," he said. "I remember running from my gate to his and him coming off."

He let Jason get settled in a smoking lounge before he approached. He told Jason he understood. If you want out, fine. Just come back to Clearwater, so you won't be declared an SP and disconnected from your sister.

Not again, Jason said.

Rathbun kept talking until the Milwaukee flight was announced and Jason headed for the gate with Rathbun trailing behind.

Rathbun said he called Miscavige, and the leader told him to put Jason on the phone. Rathbun held up his cell phone: "Dave wants to talk to you!"

Jason was about to board and called back, "I've got nothing to say."

The church says Miscavige participated in no such phone call. "Mr. Miscavige never asked to speak to Jason," the church states, adding that Rathbun did not mention a call to Miscavige in

the report he filed at the time.

On the plane waiting for takeoff, Jason thumbed through a magazine. He looked up and there was Rathbun, coming down the aisle. He had bought a ticket.

"He was shocked," Rathbun says. "He thought he was done with this, that he'd bucked the last hurdle."

CONFESSION IN MILWAUKEE

Temperatures were in the 20s in Milwaukee. Jason's mother and younger sister took him to buy something warmer than shorts.

That night Rathbun came by Jason's mother's home and got Jason to agree to come to his hotel room the next day. He presented Jason a confession to sign.

A few weeks later, in January 1997, Rathbun returned to Milwaukee to have Jason sign a "declaration." This time, Rathbun brought a videocamera.

The document talked about Jason using drugs as a teen and said he had not taken advantage of training opportunities in Scientology. It said he had followed the stock market during work hours and lost thousands of dollars of his wife's money in bad investments. He did not measure up to Sea Org standards.

Jason describes it as "one part truth, four parts embellishment and five parts total BS."

He studied the document and told Rathbun, "Come on, man. This is not true."

Rathbun now admits: "We went overboard." He let Jason strike some wording, including a passage that said Jason never held an executive position with the church.

Rathbun turned on the videocamera and Jason signed, knowing it would be used against him if he ever spoke out.

The church produced the 12-year-old affidavit after Jason told his story to the *Times*. The document says he was under no duress when he signed it.

Jason says he was. Having just been held aboard the *Freewinds* for six weeks, he wanted his church to stop coming after him.

"What was in it for me? To be left alone, not followed, not contacted or pursued. That is what I wanted and would have signed almost anything to get it."

Today he lives in Chicago and works as operations manager for a company that sells roofing products and heating and air conditioning materials. A single dad, his son is 10.

His older sister is no longer a practicing Scientologist.

Jason says his treatment aboard the *Freewinds* doesn't define his view of Scientology. He has seen the church help people and says it definitely helped him. He joined as a rudderless 20-year-old. In Scientology, he got his act together.

He wishes things were more clear-cut, that he could say the church was all bad. He could write it off and never think about it again.

"Twelve years later, it still sits there," he said.

"There's going to be a time where I'll look up one day and I'll go, 'You know what? I realized I haven't thought about Scientology for three years.' And that's going to be a good day for me."

Thomas C. Tobin is a *Times* staff writer who has covered the Church of Scientology off and on since 1996. He can be reached at tobin@sptimes.com.

[Last modified: Nov 03, 2009 11:55 AM]

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Scientology

Man overboard: To leave Scientology, Don Jason had to

Don Jason's route out of Scientology

Times staff
In Print: Tuesday, November 3, 2009

1 August 1996: Working at Scientology's Flag Service Organization in Clearwater, Don Jason is told that the church is going to discipline him for something he felt was unfair. He leaves the next day without permission and drives on I-4 to Daytona Beach. He takes back roads north to Fernandina Beach and spends the night at a motel.

2 The next day: He continues north through Savannah. He assumes the church will look for him in his native Milwaukee, so he randomly chooses to settle in Atlanta.

3 After six weeks: He gets second thoughts about how he left. He returns to Clearwater to follow the church's approved "routing out" process.

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jump off a ship
Don Jason's route out of Scientology
The Scientology response
Who's who in this installment
How Scientology got to Bob Minton

4 October 1996: Jason flies to the Bahamas to board Scientology's cruise ship, the *Freewinds*, where he becomes a virtual prisoner.

5 Six weeks later: Jason escapes over the bow of the *Freewinds* and makes it to the airport. He buys a ticket to Milwaukee, with a layover in Atlanta. A Scientology official buys the seat next to Jason on the leg to Atlanta. **The layover:** Marty Rathbun, a top Scientology executive, intercepts Jason at the Atlanta airport. Rathbun tries to persuade him to return to Clearwater and follow proper procedure to leave the church. Jason refuses, and Rathbun flies with him to Milwaukee.

6 In Milwaukee: Jason's mother and a sister pick him up at the airport. The next day, he comes to Rathbun's hotel and signs confessions to his "crimes."

7 Twelve years later: Jason works in Chicago as an operations manager for a building supply company.

[Last modified: Nov 03, 2009 11:53 AM]

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YAHOO! NEWS PRINT Back to story

Defections, court fights test Scientology

AP Associated Press

By ERIC GORSKI, AP Religion Writer
Sun Nov 1, 2:12 pm ET

The Church of Scientology is going through a difficult season.

Over the course of two days last week, a French court convicted the church of fraud and Oscar-winning filmmaker Paul Haggis' resignation from the church over a litany of concerns was aired publicly. On one hand, it was just another bad press week for the embattled institution founded in 1953 by the late science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard.

But for former Scientologists and scholars of the movement, the setbacks pose a greater challenge coming on the heels of defections of top-level Scientologists who lifted a veil of secrecy on the organization and alleged a culture of violence and control under Hubbard's successor, David Miscavige.

"With any organization, the loss of a substantial number of your most experienced people and chaos at the upper levels is problematic," said David Bromley, a Virginia Commonwealth University professor who studies new religious movements and has written on Scientology. "There are PR implications, the possibility of legal actions ... That dwarfs the other things."

The church has strenuously denied the allegations against Miscavige, portraying the accusers as lying disgruntled ex-employees.

Church spokesman Tommy Davis said Scientology is flourishing, with more than 8,000 Scientology churches, missions and groups in 160-plus nations. He said assets and property holdings have doubled over the past five years, including a new church in Rome and another opening this weekend in Washington, D.C.

"From our perspective, things are going pretty great," Davis said. "In fact, that's downplaying it. Actually, what's happening with the church right now is frankly spectacular. To the degree there are these various things happening, it really is a lot of noise."

One major survey of American religion shows Scientology declining in the U.S., however. The estimated number of Americans who identify as Scientologists rose from 45,000 in 1990 to 55,000 in 2001, then plummeted to 25,000 in 2008, according to the American Religion Identification Survey.

Davis said that while the church avoids membership estimates, it's "absolutely in the millions" globally and growing in the U.S.

Scientology has long been controversial. The Internal Revenue Service granted the church tax exemption in 1993 after a nearly four-decade battle over whether it should be considered a religion. Critics say Scientology is a business, preying on people by charging exorbitant sums for services.

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The church continues to fascinate, fueled by interest in celebrity adherents such as Tom Cruise, John Travolta and Kirstie Alley, as well as beliefs that don't fit into typical American religious boxes.

Hubbard taught that the "thetan," the equivalent of a spirit, can be cleared of negative energy from this and previous lives through a process called auditing. With the aid of auditors, Scientologists seek a state called "Clear" and then advance through various levels of "Operating Thetan."

The allegations of violence were leveled by four former high-ranking Scientology executives who told their stories to the St. Petersburg Times last summer. The executives said they witnessed Miscavige, chairman of the board that oversees the church, hit staff members dozens of times and urged others to do the same.

Davis called the allegations "absolutely, unquestionably false" and "sickening and outrageous." ABC's "Nightline" aired a report this month covering much of the same ground.

To critics of Scientology and ex-members who have grown increasingly vocal in recent years, it's a breakthrough — critical voices from former members of the inner circle, not the media or outsiders.

"When you have dozens of people speaking out, it's no longer too credible to say they're all malcontents and criminals," said Jeff Hawkins, a former Scientology marketing guru who defected in 2005. "(The church) is either going to reform or collapse, and I think it's going to be the latter because they're incapable of reform or admitting any wrongdoing."

One defector, Marty Rathbun, who served on the church's board and was a top lieutenant of Miscavige's, said a growing movement of people hold to the tenets of Scientology, but reject the institutional church.

"I don't foresee another church," Rathbun said. "That was the first attack on me — that this was a coup, that I'm trying to tap a schism or start another church ... That's not an objective of mine or a positive way to go."

Haggis, the Oscar-winning director of "Crash," was not a high-ranking Scientologist. But his defection is significant, said actor Jason Beghe, who left the church in 2007 and has become a critic.

"He was somebody the Scientology community was proud of, and therefore I'm sure he helped hold some of their base in place," said Beghe, who appeared in the film "G.I. Jane" and TV's "Everwood" and is cast in Haggis' next film, now shooting in Pittsburgh. "Anybody who is a Scientologist is harboring doubts."

It was Rathbun who obtained a copy of Haggis' critical letter to Davis and posted it on his blog. Haggis complained that Davis didn't do enough to distance Scientology from proponents of California's gay marriage ban. He criticized the church's "smearing" of the high-level defectors.

The filmmaker also wrote about the church's practice of "disconnection," in which members cut off contact with loved ones who leave or advocate against the religion — something Davis said is not mandated.

A day after Haggis' letter went public, a Paris court convicted the Church of Scientology of fraud and fined it more than $900,000, but stopped short of banning the group's activities in France. The organization's French branch likened it to a modern-day Inquisition and said it would appeal.

Davis questioned the attention paid to the French verdict, saying that little notice was given when the church won court victories in Italy and Russia that cemented the church's presence in those countries. He said the top-level defections are not troubling, but rather a gain for the church.

Some scholars of Scientology believe the recent setbacks are momentary.

Defectors are overly optimistic about doing any real damage, said J. Gordon Melton, director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion in Santa Barbara, Calif., and editor of a book on Scientology.

"If five cardinals walked out of the Roman Catholic Church and turned on it and said there are bad things happening, it'd be a storm, but the church would weather the storm," Melton said. "I think Scientology is big enough to where it can and will weather the storm."

Most religions, Scientology included, experience disagreement and leadership turmoil after a founder's death and survive, said Susan Palmer, a religious studies professor at Dawson College in Montreal.

"I think they'll end up like the Mormon church or Jehovah's Witnesses, that were very controversial in our time but now are largely accepted," Palmer said.

Others think the Church of Scientology is in trouble. Along with the defections and French court setback, Scientology has been unable to stop Internet leaks of confidential material that members must pay a premium for, said Hugh Urban, a professor in the department of comparative studies at Ohio State University.

"They're really losing what has been the bread and butter," Urban said.

Meanwhile, an online betting parlor is taking wagers on the next celebrity Scientologist to leave.

On the Net:

Church of Scientology International: http://www.scientologytoday.org/

Marty Rathbun's blog: http://markrathbun.wordpress.com/

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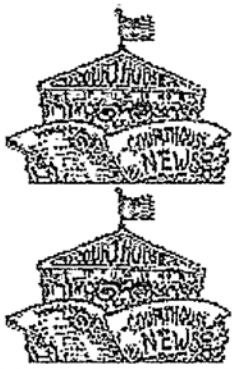

Courthouse News Service

Tuesday, December 01, 2009Last Update: 11:03 AM PT

Man Says Scientologists Enslaved Him as Boy

By TIM HULL

LOS ANGELES (CN) - A man claims the Church of Scientology forced him to work as a "virtual slave" for 16 years at jobs ranging from washing pots and pans to restoring old films produced by Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard. John Lindstein says he was kept "busy, poor, tired, and uninformed" by Church of Scientology leader David Miscavige at the church's ranch in Hemet, and feared that "things would get even worse if he did not work as ordered."

Lindstein's Superior Court complaint alleges human trafficking and violations of hour and wage laws at the church's "Gold Ranch" compound near Hemet, a semirural area east-southeast of Los

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Angeles.

Lindstein says that from 1990 until 2006, starting when he was just 8 years old, he "performed this work as a virtual slave, working 16 to 24 hours days with no sleep, no time off and no personal freedom" at Gold Base, a mysterious and once-secret headquarters that "resembles a prison camp," with razor wire, security guard patrols, surveillance posts and three roll calls each day.

By age 16, Lindstein says, he was working for Golden Era Productions, Scientology's film production company, restoring Hubbard's films from the 1970s. He says he often worked 24-hour days at the "tedious, frame-by-frame work that would normally cost more than $400,000 per movie to accomplish at industry rates."

Lindstein and his crew of five were paid $50 per week, he says.

Lindstein says Miscavige and others "intentionally, consciously and wrongfully made a tactical decision to ignore labor laws, take [their] chances with a compliant and intimidated work force, and hope that the running of the statute of limitations would in the long run save [them] millions of dollars."

Lindstein says that Miscavige "runs the Scientology enterprise with an iron fist, according to his own rules, and enjoys the lifestyle and job benefits of royalty while those at the bottom of the food chain live like slaves and inmates."

Those who tried to escape from Gold Ranch and were caught were assigned to the "Rehabilitation Project Force," in which workers faced "a brutal regime of manual labor, have no freedom of movement and are subjected to almost total deprivations of personal liberties," according to the complaint.

Church of Scientology spokeswoman Karin Pouw said the church would not comment on the allegations.

"The complaint filed by John Lindstein against the Church of Scientology International and others has not been served," Pouw said. "We do not comment on cases to which we are not a party."

In his complaint, Lindstein says he was eventually "pushed to his breaking point and he found a way out."

He says he has since been "declared an enemy of Scientology, given a large illegal bill for his purported scientology training, and cut off from friends and family who are still under the control of the Scientology enterprise."

Lindstein wants the church to pay him at least minimum wage for his years of work. He is represented by Barry Von Sickle of Roseville, Calif.

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Scientology run-ins bring warnings

By Joe Childs and Thomas C. Tobin, Times Staff Writers

Published Tuesday, April 27, 2010

With two recent public confrontations, a year-long, highly publicized drama in the world of Scientology has spilled into the streets of Clearwater.

The latest incident occurred Friday afternoon as seven members of the Church of Scientology — including five senior members of its California-based international management team — surrounded and screamed at a former church executive, then loudly carried the dispute into the office of an unsuspecting and startled doctor.

The former executive was Mike Rinder, 55, Scientology's longtime spokesman, whose accounts of violence and abuse at the church's highest levels have grabbed headlines. Three in the group were Rinder's family members: his estranged wife Cathy Rinder, his brother Andrew and daughter Taryn.

Mike Rinder says it was Scientology's attempt to intimidate him. Scientology says that it was a family matter, not a church matter, and that Rinder responded violently when approached by relatives he abandoned.

Rinder was standing near his car, chatting on his cell phone, he said, when he noticed all seven marching toward him, loudly chastising him and hurling profanities.

He said they took the keys from his ignition and tried to hold his car door closed as he struggled to get out. Three followed him into the office of Holly Johantgen, a doctor of oriental medicine who was treating Rinder's girlfriend with acupuncture.

Johantgen said the three pushed past her as she let Rinder into the office. She told them to leave and tried to close her office door but was ignored.

"You wouldn't have expected to hear these things coming out of their mouths," Johantgen said, noting that all seven were middle-aged and dressed in business attire. "It was just so aggressive, very much in-your-face, arms in the air, like 'F--- you' ... It was surreal. Unbelievable."

The Pinellas Sheriff's Office account of the incident released Tuesday said Rinder's relatives and church executive Sue Wilhere were given a warning that if they trespassed again, they could be charged.

Three of the international executives — David Bloomberg, Guillaume Lesevre and Jennifer Linson — left before deputies arrived.

Scientology spokesman Tommy Davis said that the executives were there as longtime friends and colleagues and that they left when Rinder indicated he wanted to talk to the family alone.

Cathy Rinder, he said, was attacked after trying to talk to the husband who abandoned her and their two children when he left the church in 2007.

"They were there to see him and his response was to assault Cathy. . . . He shoved his daughter, and he assaulted Cathy and he broke his brother's finger. They show up to see him because he won't answer their communication, he won't answer their letters, and his response is to be violent."

Rinder said he has no idea how Cathy Rinder was injured and denied shoving his daughter. He did pull back his brother's finger while they struggled over Rinder's car keys, but he didn't think it was broken.

Ten days earlier Rinder and three other defectors showed up at the church's Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater, asking to see Rinder's son Ben, a church staffer.

One of the defectors was Marty Rathbun, a former high-ranking Scientology official and another vocal critic of church management.

Scientology security ordered them away, and Clearwater police issued trespass warnings.

A police report said the four were "loitering outside with videocameras" and had "attempted to push their way through the front door of the facility."

Said Davis: "It was a staged event. He (Rinder) showed up with a bully (Rathbun), a person with a camera . . . and tried to force his way in. Is that the behavior of somebody who cares about his son?"

Both confrontations illustrate the extent to which Rinder and Rathbun have riled Scientology's management since they began to speak out early last year.

Their accounts of an abusive environment under Scientology leader David Miscavige, first reported by the *St. Petersburg Times* last June, emboldened other defectors to step forward with similar accounts, all denied by the church. The *New York Times*, ABC's *Nightline,* NBC's *Today* and CNN's Anderson Cooper all picked up the story.

Whistleblowers at first, Rinder and Rathbun morphed into crusaders for reform. They meet with other defectors to discuss media coverage, devise strategy and carry their message online via a blog run by Rathbun.

Rinder recently relocated to Tarpon Springs, where he shares a house with five other church defectors.

On Friday, his estranged wife told deputies that she and others were driving around near the doctor's office and by coincidence happened to see Rinder. But based on interviews with others in the group, the deputy determined they followed Rinder and intended to confront him.

At least in part, the dueling confrontations are an effort by both sides to claim moral authority on the church's "disconnection" practice.

The church says members can voluntarily cease communicating with family members and friends who have been declared enemies of Scientology, known as "suppressive persons" or SPs.

But many Scientologists say the church enforces the practice by pressuring people to disconnect from friends and loved ones.

Rinder says his family has been instructed not to speak to him without church supervision. To prove the point, he visited the Fort Harrison Hotel in search of his son and was sent away.

But on Friday, his family members indicated to deputies that it's Rinder — not them — who won't communicate.

Rinder says in a blog post on Rathbun's website that Miscavige masterminded Friday's confrontation to try to intimidate him. He says church-hired private investigators follow him constantly.

"I don't give a damn," Rinder said Tuesday. "I'm not doing anything wrong. I'm not doing anything illegal. ... If they want to spend huge amounts of money to hire a bunch of full-time people to follow me, go for it."

Johantgen said she was treating Rinder's girlfriend, Christie Collbran, shortly after noon when they heard loud voices from the front of the office. Someone was saying Collbran's name.

It was Rinder, who had come inside to call police after the group took his keys. According to Rinder, the group yelled: "You are a f------ SP."

"You are hurting your family."

"You are killing your mother."

Johantgen said she had no idea who Rinder was and was startled to see seven or eight people outside her door, all shouting.

"And I just yelled and very sternly spoke to them and said, 'You need to leave right now. I don't know who you are.' " She said she pushed them all outside and struggled to pull the door shut.

She hurried back to Collbran, who explained the situation and asked that Rinder be allowed inside. "She's got needles in her," the doctor said. "I'm doing acupuncture. She can't move."

When Johantgen opened the door to let Rinder in, Cathy Rinder pushed past her saying, "I'm his wife." Taryn Rinder did the same, saying, "I'm his daughter."

Johantgen said she told them to leave. At that point Cathy Rinder said, "You have my blood on you."

Johantgen looked down and saw blood on her hand from Cathy Rinder's arm. "And (she) starts screaming, 'My husband did this to me.' She keeps getting up in my face, screaming at me."

According to Davis, Rinder grabbed his estranged wife "by both of her arms and what she said is that he was squeezing her arm so hard, she thought he was going to break it. In doing so, he essentially tore a sheet of skin off her arm."

Sheriff's Deputy Kurt Frazho concluded that an abrasion on Cathy Rinder's arm was the result of "incidental contact" when her estranged husband "was trying to move away from the group."

Paramedics treated Cathy Rinder. No charges were filed. Johantgen, who called deputies, said the Scientologists' behavior changed in front of law enforcement.

"They were all so nice: 'Yes ma'am. We totally understand. Of course. No problem' — after they were going to rip my head off."

Mike Rinder said he and his younger brother spoke civilly after things settled down. He said Andrew asked for his number so the two could have dinner sometime, but only if the church would grant permission.

Times staff writer Rita Farlow contributed to this report. Joe Childs can be reached at childs@sptimes.com. Thomas C. Tobin can be reached at tobin@sptimes.com.

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Information on 'enemies of Scientology found' in Italian police raid

Secret dossiers of information on the "enemies" of Scientology were found when Italian police raided the movement's offices in Turin.

By Nick Squires in Rome
Published: 11:29PM BST 20 May 2010

During a nine-hour search of the offices, Carabinieri officers are said to have discovered a cache of files hidden in a basement behind a locked door.

The files allegedly contained personal information relating to judges, magistrates, journalists and police who had reportedly been deemed hostile to the US-based Church of Scientology, Italian media reported.

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Police seized computers as well as handwritten files, which are also said to contain details of former members of the religious movement.

The raid was ordered by magistrates who suspect that the local chapter of the worldwide movement may have violated laws governing the holding of sensitive data, including information about the health, political opinions and sexual orientation of a range of people, La Stampa newspaper reported.

Scientology, which counts among its most high-profile adherents the Hollywood actors Tom Cruise and John Travolta, was founded in 1953 by the science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard.

The controversial religion is often criticised as a cult. It was denounced in the Australian parliament in November, when a senator described it as abusive, violent and manipulative, and only narrowly escaped being banned in France after being prosecuted for fraud.

50-LA-254214-Media-7

In the United States, two former members launched a landmark law suit against the movement last month, alleging that for years they were treated little better than slaves and forced to work 20-hour days.

Claire Headley alleged that she was coerced into having an abortion, while her husband Marc said he was subjected to strange mind-control exercises.

The Church has denied all the allegations and has questioned the plaintiff's motivation in bringing the law suit.

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Church of Scientology International & Religious Technology Center Win in Court Against Former Member

U.S. District Judge rules in favor of Church of Scientology (http://www.scientology.net) affirming religious nature of the work of Scientology staff

Los Angeles (Vocus) April 5, 2010 -- On April 2, 2010, the United States District Court, Central District of California (Case No. CV 09-3987 DSF (FFMx)) granted a motion by the Church of Scientology International (http://www.scientology.net) ("CSI") and Religious Technology Center ("RTC") dismissing a claim for alleged violations of federal and state labor laws based on the plaintiff's years of religious service at CSI and RTC.

In the ruling granting summary judgment dismissing the wage and hour claims, Judge Dale Fischer today agreed with the Church of Scientology that the members of its religious order, known as the Sea Organization, which is comprised of the Church's most dedicated members, are not subject to labor laws. Because the plaintiff chose to join a religious institution under her Church's doctrine, her work was not subject to the payment of wages, the Court stated.

Judge Fischer specifically found that the plaintiff "was employed by a religious institution," that is, Church of Scientology International and Religious Technology Center, "was chosen for her position based largely on religious criteria," and "performed religious duties and responsibilities." The Court stated that like members of other religious orders, the plaintiff was only able to hold these positions based on her commitment to Scientology.

The plaintiff was a member of the Sea Organization from 1991 until 2005. During her years in the Sea Organization, the plaintiff held many positions within Scientology. Both CSI and RTC are recognized as churches by the IRS. The Sea Organization is a religious order for the Scientology religion and is composed of the most dedicated Scientologists in the world—individuals who have committed their lives to the volunteer service of their religion.

The first Sea Organization members formulated the one-billion-year pledge to symbolize their eternal commitment to the religion, still signed by all members today. As volunteers and members of a religious order, Sea Organization members work long hours and live communally with housing, meals, uniforms, medical and dental care, transport and all expenses associated with their duties provided by the Church. They also receive a small allowance to purchase personal items, as all of their other expenses are fully covered by the Church.

Sea Organization members are at the forefront of spearheading the Church's massive social mission, including the largest non-governmental drug education campaign on Earth, the largest human rights education campaign on Earth and many more programs that touch the lives of everyone. Today, some 6,000 members of the Sea Organization occupy staff positions in upper-level Scientology Church organizations around the world, ensuring that the religion is available to the millions of Scientology parishioners who live and work outside the Church.

CSI and RTC note that while the plaintiff has chosen to litigate her case in the media, the Churches will continue to present their case in court.

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The attached articles were printed in the St. Petersburg Times on June 13, 2010. Also included is a response to the article from [redacted] of the Church of Scientology as well as ten declarations from various former Sea Org members.

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St. Petersburg Times

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St. Petersburg Times

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Staff Writers

June 24, 2010

Dear Special Agent [redacted]

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b7C

You may have seen the online version of our latest series of stories on the Church of Scientology. (see tampabay.com). We thought you might like to see the print versions as well.

These were the stories we were working on when we paid a visit to your office in March. Unfortunately, you were unavailable to speak to us that day. Perhaps we will meet in the future.

Best regards,

[redacted]

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St. Petersburg Times

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St. Petersburg Times

Inside Scientology: A *Times* Special Report

No kids allowed

By Joe Childs and Thomas C. Tobin, Times Staff Writers
In Print: Sunday, June 13, 2010

Scientology

She fought Scientology for the child they wanted to abort

Church of Scientology's response

No kids allowed

Church of Scientology response

Church of Scientology: The Headley Lawsuits

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Laura Dieckman was just 12 when her parents let her leave home to work full time for Scientology's religious order, the Sea Organization. At 16,

she married a co-worker. At 17, she was pregnant.

She was excited to start a family, but she said Sea Org supervisors pressured her to have an abortion. She was back at work the following day.

Claire Headley joined at 16, married at 17 and was pregnant at 19. She said Sea Org supervisors threatened strenuous physical work and repeated interrogations if she didn't end her pregnancy. She, too, was back at work the next day.

Two years later she had a second abortion, this time while working for the church in Clearwater.

A *St. Petersburg Times* investigation found their experiences were not unique. More than a dozen women said the culture in the Sea Org pushed them or women they knew to have abortions, in many cases, abortions they did not want.

Some said colleagues and supervisors pressured them to abort their pregnancies and remain productive workers without the distraction of raising children. Terminating a pregnancy and staying on the job affirmed one's commitment to the all-important work of saving the planet.

"You just have a way of thinking," said Sunny Pereira, who was 15 when she entered the order. "It all has to do with the Sea Org and what we're trying to accomplish. Everything that is a distraction is scorned."

According to those speaking out, women who didn't schedule abortions were shunned by fellow Sea Org members, called "degraded beings" and taunted for being "out ethics," straying from the order's ethical code.

Some were isolated, assigned manual labor and interrogated until they agreed to abortions, said church defectors, including men whose wives got abortions.

The church denied all their accounts.

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[Maurice

Going along, getting along. "I don't reme
will' or 'I will not,' " Claire Headley says. '
like the apathetic path of least resistance
said, 'I want an abortion,' because I did r
strength to say that." Home in Burbank, :
-old Kaiden, with husband Marc behind.

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The Headley Lawsuits

"There is no church policy to convince anyone to have an abortion, and the church has never engaged in such activity," said church spokesman Tommy Davis.

Sea Org members marry one another and take no vows of celibacy, as do members of other religious orders. And unlike many religions, Scientology takes no position for or against abortion.

"The decision to have a child or terminate a pregnancy is a personal decision made by a couple," Davis said. "That applies to all Scientologists.

"If any current or former Sea Org member ever 'pressured' someone to have an abortion, they did so independently and that action was not approved, endorsed or advocated by the church."

But in sworn depositions obtained by the *Times*, Headley and Dieckman recount, conversation by conversation, how Sea Org members influenced them to end their pregnancies.

The depositions were taken in a federal lawsuit Headley filed against the church. She claims her abortions were forced and the church's restrictive working conditions constituted human trafficking. She has a January trial date. She has submitted to church lawyers a list of 36 current and former staffers she said had abortions while working for the Sea Org.

Dieckman, 31, was deposed as a witness. She told the *Times* she's not the weepy type. But she couldn't hold her tears as she talked about how, at 17, she put the greater good of the group ahead of her maternal instinct.

"Now I look at it and I'm like, how or why could I possibly think that? It doesn't make sense. I don't understand how I relented, or why I gave in. But I did."

The church responds

Video: Laura Dieckman's story

Video: Claire Headley's story

Video: Sunny Pereira's story

Part two | story and video: Taki daughter

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Within the Sea Org, Scientology's highest calling, members were allowed to have children until 1996, when the policy changed to what it remains today: No children allowed.

"The policy evolved out of respect for families and deference to children," Davis said.

Babies were "viewed as interfering with the productivity of Sea Org members," Davis said. Also, "the long and demanding working hours required of Sea Org members and the need for Sea Org parents to be able to go to any remote area of the world on a moment's notice were obstacles to parents properly raising their children."

Special report: More on Scientolc video interviews and previous cove church.

Davis denied pregnant Sea Org couples were shunned or called "degraded being

To the contrary, those wanting children are helped, Davis said. "They receive as the church, including immediate prenatal care, medical care, financial assistance in finding housing and employment upon departure from the Sea Org."

The *Times* asked to interview church officials, including church leader David Misc the accounts of former Sea Org members who described the pressures to have a

Davis responded in writing. He also provided the sworn declarations of 10 forme current Sea Org member who said the church and their colleagues comforted an them during their pregnancies, allowing naps, giving gifts and creating flexible w

"I received lots of care and support from the staff and at no time was I made to wanting to have a child," said Kathryn Reeves, who left the Sea Org in 2009 wit and has a baby daughter she said has a cheerful disposition.

"I am sure that part of her being so happy is that my pregnancy was very calm, and completely free of upset," Reeves said in her declaration.

Davis said the women speaking out to the *Times* made personal choices "they n regret."

Kids were welcome

Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard created the Sea Org in 1967 while running l aboard ships, hence the maritime ranks and uniforms. Members sign billion-yea symbolizing a commitment to serve in this life and coming ones.

Some 6,000 Sea Org members run Scientology operations worldwide. Miscavige wife, Shelly, 49, are members. They have no children.

About 150 others are executives, including spokesman Davis. Most of the rest w trenches, in jobs from doorman and bus driver to the church's top spiritual coun "auditors."

They display military bearing, come to attention when a ranking officer enters a superiors, including women, as "Sir."

The Sea Org staffs the church's two most important operations, its spiritual hea Clearwater and its 500-acre international management base in the desert 80 mil Angeles.

For seven years before Gary Morehead left the Sea Org, he was security chief at compound. He said pregnancies were considered "a slap in the face" to the orga

"There was no plus side to it whatsoever. Never did anyone go, 'Congratulations

"You're taking a beautiful time in a person's life and you're making it into a com crime."

Hubbard, in his 1950 bestseller, *Dianetics*, extolled the virtues of motherhood: " is pregnant should be given every consideration by a society which has any feeli future generations."

Hubbard, who had six children, specified that Sea Org routine include "Family Ti an hour a day with one's children. There was an annual "Family Day" picnic. Wh worked, took classes and received spiritual counseling, their kids went to Cadet nurseries and classrooms staffed by Sea Org colleagues.

After Hubbard died in 1986 and Miscavige emerged as church leader, a new Sea said pregnant couples would be suspended from the order and assigned to live c and work at a community church, called a Class 5 Org.

That was scary for those accustomed to the group providing food, housing, cloth medical care, the defectors said. Working with non-Sea Org staff at a communit would support themselves and their newborn on a portion of whatever their loca in.

Church management canceled Family Day in 1987 and Family Time two years la policy change said pregnant couples would be transferred not just to any comm but to one that was "nonexpanding, small, distant."

Today's ban on children in the Sea Org, issued in 1996, makes no mention of ab members wanting children must leave.

Davis said the church changed its policy as it tried to balance "the needs of fami realities of life within a religious order."

The church pays for the medical and dental expenses for Sea Org members but the abortions of the women speaking to the *Times*.

Davis responded: "For the church to mandate payment for abortions . . . would l to a tacit endorsement of abortion."

He said some Scientology churches, including the one in Clearwater, do pay for l for Sea Org members.

A full court press

Laura Dieckman was a fifth-grader when she told her parents she wasn't learnin Albuquerque public schools as she had in Scientology schools. They let her stop

She hung out at the community church, or "org," where her parents were parish "body routed," waving a sign out front: Free Personality Tests.

A Sea Org recruiter came through early in 1991. Laura was 12 and gung ho abo joining and living in L.A. Her mother, Toddy Dieckman, needed convincing.

The recruiter promised Laura would complete high school. Her Scientology cours counseling, called "auditing," would be free. The recruiter said that being so you would be watched closely.

The question of children came up. Laura said she wanted to be a mother some d problem, the recruiter said, pregnant couples are transferred to community chur

Mrs. Dieckman let her daughter go. "I kind of looked at it like, Okay, she's going school with a Scientology twist, really, and get a good education." Plus she coul daughter sticking it out. "I didn't think she'd want to be away from home."

Laura's first job was in a 12-story church building a few blocks down Hollywood from Grauman's Chinese Theater. She worked in the communications office, deli messages and answering phones.

Her life ran on a restricted loop: take a church bus to the office each morning, w night, bus back to the dorm, bunk with eight to 10 women. There were no outin roller rinks or concerts, nor did she get the schooling the recruiter promised.

Laura called home every night the first several weeks. On her dinner break, she few doors down Hollywood Boulevard to the pay phone at Chicken Delight.

Her parents visited occasionally and took her to Disneyland once.

A few weeks after turning 16, Laura met new Sea Org member Jesse DeCrescen Laura, was raised in a Scientology family. He was 17. They flirted at Saturday af classes and did laundry together on Saturday nights.

At a New Year's Eve party in her office building, they counted down the final sec At the stroke of midnight, Jesse proposed. They married that August.

That Christmas season they visited Jesse's extended family in Oakland. Laura lo family feeling. Wanting children of her own and without telling Jesse, she stoppe birth control pills she had gotten for free from a Planned Parenthood clinic.

Laura knew that if she got pregnant, neither her boss nor Jesse's would be pleas having to leave their posts. She had seen Sea Org members harass a pregnant c their transfers.

Still, she was confident she, Jesse and their baby could make it. Maybe they wou sent to the Albuquerque org.

In February 1996 a pregnancy test confirmed what her body told her. Back at he called Jesse with the news.

He freaked, Laura said. He asked: What are we going to do?

"I told him I was planning on having it."

They discussed the rumor that the church was about to eliminate transfers to co churches and require that pregnant couples leave the Sea Org.

Laura told Jesse not to worry. His dad might hire him to work at his insurance of maybe he could work for her dad, cleaning windows in Albuquerque.

She reported her pregnancy to her boss, Gabriella Saccomanno, who was in her twice Laura's age. Laura considered her "the closest thing to a mom I had in the

Testifying in her deposition, Laura Dieckman described what happened over the "I told her that I was pregnant. She said, 'What do you want to do?'

"I said, 'There's no question in my mind, I'm going to have the baby.' "

She said Saccamanno told her to consider a Scientology tenet in dealing with pr Evaluate what would be the "greatest good for the greatest number of dynamics

Scientologists believe life consists of eight dynamics, or channels, and humans a thrive in each of them. The first dynamic is to survive as one's self. The second, couple, through procreation. Having a child serves those two dynamics.

But if that means leaving the Sea Org, you put your own interests ahead of broa such as the group, service to mankind and all life forms.

Saccomanno asked about Jesse. What did he want to do?

Laura said she answered: "We're going to have the baby. There is no question a

Saccomanno suggested the two of them get on the phone with Jesse and his su Christine Cole.

Through the speaker phone, Cole addressed Laura. "She was getting mad that I that I was going to keep the baby, and she was telling me, Look at the effect th have to the organization . . ."

She and Jesse had risen through the ranks to jobs as directors of Investigations Evaluations, akin to police department internal affairs investigators. Cole remind responsibilities to the organization.

Laura hung up. "I was not interested in hearing such bulls---."

She said Saccomanno tried to calm her. "(She) just was like, 'Chill, Laura . . . th tissue at this point.' . . . She's basically saying that an abortion is the right thing it wouldn't be that big of a deal because it's not that far along yet."

That night she and Jesse talked about conquering their new challenge together. came to the conclusion that we were going to keep the baby," she said.

But his tone had changed the next day when they talked by phone. "I could tell talking to him more. ... So then he's like, 'Maybe the right thing to do is have an

Jesse said he didn't want to leave the Sea Org. Laura faced raising a newborn at real world experience, no formal education, no job, no money and now, no husb

"It became like I didn't have a choice anymore."

Saccomanno told her again: You're not that far along. Think of the greater good

She said Jesse told her, "We both have always wanted to be in the Sea Org."

Saccomanno talked to her again.

"I finally, after two days of this, said okay."

Jesse borrowed a car and $350 from his parents and drove her to a clinic in Gler Saturday. Laura was back at work Sunday.

The *Times* asked to interview Saccomanno, Cole and Jesse DeCrescenzo. Davis i their behalf, saying "at no time was Dieckman pressured to end her pregnancy."

Saccomanno never "encouraged or suggested that Ms. Dieckman have an aborti said, and did not describe the fetus as "just tissue." Nor did Cole apply pressure

"Ms. Dieckman made her own choices," Davis said. She aborted her pregnancy ' discussion with her husband, who told her he was not ready to have children."

Dieckman said her disaffection with the church grew with the passing years. She for staying away one day too long when she visited her dying grandfather in Por Months later she ran away to visit her grandmother there, but the L.A. staff four coaxed her back.

She was assigned to the Rehabilitation Project Force, a work detail the church sa Org members reform through physical labor, study and counseling. Critics say th degrading form of detention intended to adjust one's thinking.

Dieckman gave it three years and decided she wanted out. She had seen a Sea drink bleach and be discharged as a suicide risk. One morning in April 2004, whi member RPF crew cleaned floors, she poured bleach into a Styrofoam coffee cup restroom door so people could see her and took a swig. She started vomiting.

The next day the Sea Org gave her $500 severance and discharged her.

DeCrescenzo stayed. They divorced the following year.

The church said it offered Jesse and Laura the option of going to a community cl Dieckman chose abortion.

"It is unfortunate that Ms. Dieckman now regrets her own decision," Davis said, place blame on her former faith rather than take responsibility."

Dieckman sued the church in California state court, alleging co-workers "regular ordered" to have abortions. Her suit said the church forced her to have an abort threatening the loss of her job, housing and husband. It also alleged Dieckman v "brainwashed" and "had no comprehension of her legal rights."

Davis said: "At no time has any church staff member been 'forced' to obtain an a

A judge dismissed the suit in March, ruling it was not filed within the statute of l

Dieckman is back in Albuquerque, living with the father of their two children.

"Everything didn't go like I envisioned it," she said. "Here I am thinking I'm goir kids, and then I'm not allowed to. . . ."

"I was so under the control . . . from the age of 12, it had been ingrained in me and how to operate. And I didn't know any other way."

Watching the perimeter

Fenced and guarded, Scientology's 500-acre desert compound near Hemet, Calif added layer of security — a "Perimeter Council."

Up to 10 members met weekly in a conference room at Golden Era Productions, audio-visual and marketing division headquartered at the base.

The council's job: share information about base personnel, especially those cons to the Sea Org's operations and image.

Heading the council was Gary Morehead, the base securityurity chief from 1990 said the names of pregnant women came up, usually reported as having been su "handled," an abortion scheduled.

"We either went into the council knowing about it or somebody brought the infor the meeting," Morehead said. "The fact that somebody was pregnant."

Each pregnant woman's divisional representative reported on the status of the p Morehead said. "They are getting an abortion or they are not or they haven't ma decision yet."

He has no records but estimated about one woman a month had an abortion, m year. He said about half of the 700 staff at the base were women.

Morehead said the few women at the base who wanted to continue their pregna separated from husbands. Often they were assigned manual labor and subjectec checks, a form of interrogation. Some slept in an old frame house; Morehead's s stood watch.

He said the physical labor wasn't meant to endanger the pregnancy, it was inten the women's resolve. "I'd be asked, 'What are they doing?' I'd say, 'They're out sidewalks,' or, 'They're pulling weeds out of flower beds.' "

If the women held fast, he said he would get new orders: "No, put them on (cle Dumpster. . . .

"The more they resisted, the more effort was put into trying to break them."

The church said Morehead is lying. "No interrogation or heavy labor was ever as pregnant staff member," Davis said, not at the base where Morehead worked or Sea Org facility. Nor were pregnant couples separated.

Davis said Morehead also is wrong about the Perimeter Council. Davis said he w "emphatically" told by those who served on the council at the same time as Mor abortion was never discussed.

Other church facilities, including in Clearwater and in Los Angeles, had their own Councils.

Sunshine "Sunny" Pereira sat on one of the L.A. councils. Her devotion to the Se seeded at age 3, when her mother joined and the family drove from Texas to L. into a Cadet Org and rarely saw her mother.

She signed her billion-year Sea Org contract at 15. "I was like, 'That's where my guess I'm going there, too.' "

She coordinated auditing, course work and other services at the church's Celebr Hollywood, a religious retreat for notable parishioners. Part of the job included s Centre's Perimeter Council. Their discussions included disgruntled staff and preg

"We would list them all out and discuss who was going to handle who individuall said.

"Handle" meant change their thinking. If a woman said she wanted to keep her worker would pull her aside for a casual conversation: *What are your plans?*

The handling got more aggressive as needed, with supervisors and ethics officer *What's causing this irrational thinking? Where's your commitment, your loyalty?*

Couples sometimes were separated to loosen their resolve, Pereira said.

"It's about doubts about being in the Sea Org, doubts about saving people's live people. It's not about the baby."

Pereira remembers trying to intimidate a pregnant co-worker.

"I scorned her. I saw her walk by and I'd turn up: What is she doing? She's out stopping lives from being saved by going to do her own thing. She's selfish."

Repeated conversations played on a member's sense of duty and obligation to t organization. "I can't say straight out, 'Well, they force you to have an abortion, said.

"But they do everything they can to keep a person in the Sea Org. And if that re termination of the pregnancy, they will support the person in that decision. And help the person make that decision."

In March 1996, hundreds of Sea Org staff working in the former Hollywood Guar were told to gather in the sixth-floor dining hall for an important briefing.

Sea Org policy was changing. If you have a child, no more transfers. You would loaded," expelled from the Sea Org. Two representatives from the international trip to Hollywood to explain the change.

Before the briefing, the two met privately with ethics supervisor Astra Woodcraft they told her that while they addressed the group, she was to circulate and write names of any staffers showing "bad indicators." She was to handle them.

Topping her list was a man who acted especially dismayed. Woodcraft said he tc and his wife were counting on having a family and working in a community chur option was gone.

Woodcraft assigned the man and his wife one of Scientology's four lower ethical state called "doubt." To return to good standing, each had to complete a "doubt multistep program of confession and atonement that would purge them of their children. They also would elevate the organization's needs ahead of their own.

"I had to get them to agree that if they did get pregnant, they would have an ab Woodcraft said.

The church denied Woodcraft's account. "Any implication that this was church pc Davis said.

Woodcraft said that during the three years she supervised "ethics handlings," or scores of women working in the 12-story Guaranty building insisted on continuir

"Most women just did it," she said. "They found out they were pregnant, they w abortion. That's just what they did. They didn't want to get in trouble."

Woodcraft joined the Sea Org at 14, married a co-worker at 15 in Las Vegas witl consent. Four years later, in early 1998, she'd had enough of long work days an Org's many demands. She hatched a plan: Get pregnant, hide it until it was too insist on keeping the baby, get kicked out.

It worked. She was 4?1/2 months pregnant when the Sea Org discharged her.

"When I was leaving, a senior guy came up to me and said, 'What are you doing

"I said, 'I'm routing out.'

"He said, 'Why?'

"I said, 'I'm pregnant.'

"And he said, 'Oh, it's too late for an abortion.' "

Her daughter was born four months later.

Davis said Woodcraft abandoned her husband and her job. He said the church n her to have an abortion, and the encounter she described when leaving never oc

Will you marry me?

Claire Headley's immersion in Scientology also started young, age 4, when her r the Sea Org.

Born in England, Claire was raised in a Cadet Org near London. Her formal schoo after her mother married an American and the family moved to L.A. Claire was 1 recruiters started pursuing her.

"They would call, come to my house, want me to go there, hours-long meetings me the world is going to end. You need to do this for the sake of your well-being stuff when you're a teenager."

In July 1991, with her parents' approval, she entered the Sea Org. She was 16. September to the international base, she helped supervise staff job training sess Era Productions.

There she met Marc Headley, another teenager who worked on Golden Era's pro They sat together in the staff dining hall a few times. Their first date was May 9, Scientology holiday celebrating *Dianetics* first going on sale in 1950.

"He asked me that day if I would be his girlfriend," Claire said.

Outside her dorm that night, they talked about their feelings "and everything els

Marc proposed.

Claire accepted.

They married three months later, in August 1992. He was 19, she was 17.

She wanted children but knew that getting pregnant was taboo. In her lawsuit, (said she "had witnessed two other employees refuse to have abortions. They we and ordered to perform heavy manual labor for months."

She said in a May 28 court filing that the church had "an internal policy of coerci forcing" Sea Org women to have abortions "to maximize the workload from fem and avoid child care issues."

She discovered she was pregnant in summer 1994. In her deposition last Noven testified that the Sea Org didn't pay her $46 weekly allowance for several montl and she couldn't afford her birth control pills.

Not true, Davis said. "Per financial records," she was paid throughout the year. declined to provide those records, saying Headley has them. She said she doesn

Headley said she shared her pregnancy test results with two staffers in the medi Cynthia Rathbun and Jocelyn Webb. (Cynthia Rathbun is not related to Marty Ra outspoken former top lieutenant to church leader David Miscavige.)

Headley testified that they told her "that if I didn't go through with abortion, tha on heavy manual labor and sec checking, interrogation."

Davis said Rathbun and Webb "both stated emphatically that no such conversati

Headley said she and Marc briefly discussed the consequences of resisting.

"I knew that if I said that I wanted to go through with the pregnancy, that I wou put on heavy manual labor and know that's extremely dangerous in a pregnancy testified.

"We had absolutely no other option."

She said a higher-ranking staffer told her she herself had an abortion, it was "no not terminating the pregnancy "would be much worse than going through with it

Headley also worried the church might not allow Marc to join her if she left. "I ba be out on the street alone, pregnant, with absolutely no contacts in the world, n husband ... boom — done."

Resisting and leaving the Sea Org likely would result in the church declaring her person." Scientologists, including her mother, father, two sisters and a brother, forbidden to contact her.

She said she felt trapped.

Church lawyer Marc Marmaro asked during Headley's deposition: "Did anybody c have an abortion?"

"Yes."

"Who ordered you to have an abortion?"

"The first time was Cynthia Rathbun."

"How far pregnant were you at the time?"

"Possibly six to eight weeks."

"And what did Cynthia Rathbun tell you?"

"Simply that I was pregnant and — because I had done a test — and that I belie general statement that if I didn't go through with it, that I would be on heavy m and sec checking."

She agreed to an abortion. The base medical office scheduled her appointment a Riverside, Headley said, and Rathbun coached her:

"If they ask you if you want to talk to a psychologist about your decision, say nc

"If they ask you if you want to discuss it, say no."

She borrowed $350 from a friend to pay for the procedure. A male Sea Org staff to the clinic, waited and drove her back.

Marmaro: "Did you consider just not leaving the facility ... refusing to go back wi individual who brought you there?"

Headley: "I thought about screaming for somebody to please help me. But I kne that, I would never see my husband again."

She reported to work the next morning.

Two years later she was in Clearwater with some two dozen Sea Org members t in the Religious Technology Center, the church's highest ecclesiastical body. The sure Hubbard's religious philosophies are properly administered.

Standing for hours at an afternoon class, Headley fainted. "I got the rush of bloc I was seeing stars. My knees started to buckle."

Pregnant again. But this time, she was across the country from her husband.

"I so wanted to talk to Marc, so badly, because I'd already promised myself the would never, ever go through with that again," she said in an interview.

She didn't have a cell phone. She couldn't call from the apartment she shared w And without special permission, trainees couldn't use church business phones to

Headley filled out the form for permission to make a call.

"Disapproved," wrote senior Sea Org member Anne Rathbun. (She is the ex-wif Rathbun).

Responding on Anne Rathbun's behalf, Davis said Headley is lying. He said it's "p to suggest a staffer would be denied the chance to call her husband.

Headley testified that Rathbun told her, "I need to go through with the abortion' already had arranged for Sea Org staffer Aldona Medina to loan her money to pa

The church did not make Anne Rathbun or Medina available for interviews, but D Medina did not lend Headley money for an abortion. "Ms. Medina does not know about Claire Headley having an abortion or, for that matter, of her ever having b pregnant."

Headley said Medina accompanied her to the abortion clinic.

In an interview, Headley described how she reached her decision, alone. "I don't saying, 'I will' or 'I will not.' It was more like the apathetic path of least resistan never said, 'I want an abortion,' because I did not have the strength to say that. gave in to the inevitable that was in front of me."

She said Anne Rathbun read her mail, so she didn't dare write Marc about the ab

In September 1996, the church sent Marc to Clearwater for three days to help p audio-visual program. Headley arranged for them to share a room in the church' Gardens apartment complex on N Saturn Avenue.

Six months had passed since her second abortion, and she still hadn't told Marc pregnant.

"I definitely was torn and upset about the oncoming conversation, but I also kne didn't get my guts up to tell him right then and there, it would be much harder c road."

She told him and said she was sorry he was just finding out.

"I told him I tried to call," Headley said. "I didn't need to explain to him the situ. He knew I had just been promoted (to the RTC) and now I was under a magnify no position to make waves.

She returned to Hemet in January 1997, and she and Marc stayed in the Sea Or years. They ran away three weeks apart in January 2005. Marc went first, speed his motorcycle. Claire set up an optometry appointment at Walmart, eluded the assigned to guard her and jumped into a waiting cab.

Claire and Marc Headley, who have two sons now, each sued the church in feder January 2009. His suit also alleges human trafficking and wage and hour violatic

Fourteen years after her second abortion, Headley, 35, still is bothered she had an important decision without talking to her husband.

"That was extremely upsetting. I mean, we're married. That decision (not allowi — even then, and even in that mind-set — I knew from a position of my own pe that was wrong."

Pregnant and 'out ethics'

Samantha Domingo lives in England with her three daughters, 16 years remove abortion she did not want.

In 1993, working at the Celebrity Centre in Hollywood, she met fellow worker Mi
She was 26 when they married and pregnant a few months later. Church policy
pregnant couples to go to community churches.

"I thought this was exciting. I have a child. I'm going to go off with my husband
a Class 5 Org. It's a whole new adventure."

An ethics officer gave her a reality check:

What are you going to do about this?

You're pulling two staffers out of the organization.

You need to think of the greatest good for the greatest number of dynamics.

"Nobody would ever tell you, 'You have to do it,' " Domingo said. "You get backe
corner. . . . You're sitting in front of an ethics officer, you're sitting in front of (cl
executives that are basically telling you you're a piece of s--- if you don't do this
You let the group down.

"You're out ethics, you did it deliberately. Look at what a bad thing you did to th

Samantha said one of Michael's superiors convinced him that she got pregnant s
have to leave the Sea Org with her.

She knew her marriage was over.

She had no savings and was about to have no husband. "I was entirely on my o

She told her ethics officer she would have the abortion. "He was very happy and
pleased."

The church denied her account. "Ms. Domingo's former husband . . . has stated
Domingo was never forced into making a decision regarding her pregnancy," Da

Domingo, now 43, said she felt out of step. "Basically, I felt like I was the only c
thought there was something wrong with the abortion. So I ended up thinking I
that I was not being a good Sea Org member and letting the group down."

A couple of months after her abortion in 1994, a Celebrity Centre staffer quietly
her.

It was Sunny Pereira, the Perimeter Council member who helped deal with pregı
Now she was the one pregnant, looking for an abortion clinic.

She was 21, newly married to one of her first boyfriends, Sea Org member Chris

Sunny had told him days earlier that she was pregnant. They talked about leavir
to work in a community church. She wondered what it cost to have a baby. Do y
up at an ER?

Following protocol, they reported the pregnancy to Sea Org ethics officers, who
gave them one option: If she stayed pregnant, she and Christophe would be trai
struggling Celebrity Centre in Nashville. With so few parishioners there, they kn
be broke and couldn't afford to ever see Cristophe's family in France.

"We discussed it and decided going through with keeping a child was not going t
either one of us or for the Sea Org and it was better for us if we just terminated

"It was a mechanical decision. It was not a heartfelt decision. It wasn't an emoti
It was like, 'Okay, well, we're going to have to.' "

The church had no comment about Pereira, now 37, who had her first child, a da 1.

"Her decision was a personal matter," Davis said, "and would have been betwee husband."

Pereira would have a second abortion in 2001.

For her abortion in 1994, she said she borrowed $330 from her grandmother. Sh that as the anesthesia was administered, the doctor studied her chart. She had " "Scientologist" in the box, marked Optional, for religious affiliation.

"He said there was another Scientologist in the next room."

Joe Childs is Managing Editor/Tampa Bay. He has supervised the *Times'* covera Scientology since 1993. He can be reached at childs@sptimes.com.

Thomas C. Tobin is a *Times* staff writer who has covered the Church of Scientc on since 1996. He can be reached at tobin@sptimes.com.

Coming tomorrow

Taking her daughter: Natalie Hagemo sees the irony: Now that the child the c her to abort was 14 and a productive worker, the Sea Org wanted to keep her.

Prior *Times* coverage started in 1975, when the church first came to Clearwat last year's investigative reports, "The Truth Rundown," an examination of life ins Scientology, including former executives who said they were physically abused b leader David Miscavige.

Laura Dieckman:
Age: 31
Sea Org: Joined at age 12, in 1991. Left in 2004
Married: at age 16
Abortion: in 1996
Today: Lives in Albuquerque with father of their 3-year-old daughter and 2-ye She is a stay-at-home mom.
"It became like I didn't have a choice anymore. I didn't know how extensive th or coercion would be. I knew there were people who had gotten abortions. But know how much pressure there was. I hadn't seen it first hand, at that point."

Claire Headley:
Age: 35
Sea Org: Joined at age 16, in 1991; left in 2005.
Married: at age 17.
Abortions: in 1994 and 1996.
Today: Married to Marc Headley, sons 4 and 2. Lives in Burbank, Calif. Works bookkeeper at the audio-visual design firm her husband co-owns.
"I was desperate to not have to go through with (an abortion) somehow, some did not have any means or options open to me financially or otherwise. If I did they would take me back and I would be under full-time security watch."

Sunny Pereira:
Age: 37
Sea Org: Joined at age 15, in 1988; left in 2004.
Married: at age 21
Abortions: in 1994 and 2001
Today: Married with a newborn child. Lives in Dallas, works as a restaurant m
"There's a lot of blaming myself. ... I got really depressed after the first one ar through with the second one. That's something that I just still don't understan

Samantha Domingo:
Age: 43
Sea Org: Joined at age 21, in 1989; left in 1996.
Married: at age 26; remarried at age 28
Abortion: in 1994
Today: Divorced, with three daughters, ages 8 to 14. Lives near London. Worl writer.
"I felt like a bad person. I felt like I had killed my child. And even years later w my own children it would remind me. So it's not something that I would do. It' something that sits easily on my conscience."

[Last modified: Jun 13, 2010 08:38 PM]

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Maxi50 wrote:

CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

1 June 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL & FIRST CLASS MAIL

[redacted]

St. Petersburg Times
490 First Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

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b7C

Dear [redacted]

I have received your letter of May 11, 2010 concerning the Sea Organization and children. My response is set forth in this letter and in the enclosed responses to your specific questions and statements.

Intrinsic to the Scientology religion is the deepest respect for the family and for family life. Procreation and the rearing of children is a part of life—it is one of the eight dynamic urges to exist that manifest themselves in all people. The eight dynamics are fully explained at www.scientology.org under the "Beliefs and Practices" section.

All Scientologists, staff and parishioners alike, are free to make the decision whether to have a family. This includes such personal matters as birth control and abortion, which the Church does not take a position on. That said, the Church does not advocate abortion to Church staff or parishioners. Anyone claiming to have done so on behalf of the Church, or alleging they did so in conformance with some alleged policy (written or "unwritten") is either lying or did so in contravention of the Church's view on the matter. At no time has any Church staff member been "forced" to obtain an abortion.

6331 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 1200, Los Angeles, CA 90028 USA
Telephone: (323) 960-3500 • Fax: (323) 960-3508/9

THE SEA ORGANIZATION
THE RELIGIOUS ORDER OF THE SCIENTOLOGY RELIGION

The Sea Organization (commonly referred to as the Sea Org) is the fraternal religious order of the Scientology religion and is composed of the most dedicated Scientologists in the world—individuals who have devoted their lives in voluntary service to their religion.

The core of every great world religion in history has been a group of individuals dedicated to achieving the goals of the religion. In Scientology, these individuals are part of the Sea Org. Numbering approximately 6,000 worldwide, its members play a crucial role in virtually every aspect of the ministry and expansion of the Scientology religion. And like their counterparts in other faiths, Sea Org members occupy the most essential and trusted positions in the senior Churches in the Scientology ecclesiastical hierarchy. Sea Org members sign a religious covenant committing themselves to one billion years in service of the religion as a symbol of their commitment to their faith. No other Scientologist signs such a covenant. There are thousands of Sea Org members, tens of thousands of Church staff members and millions of Scientologists.

CHILDREN AND THE SEA ORG

Unlike other religious orders in which members take vows of celibacy, men and women in the Sea Org may marry. Since 1986, however, it has been the policy that Sea Org members wishing to have children may only do so outside the Sea Org. This has been the unwavering policy of the Church for nearly a quarter of a century. The policy only applies to members of the Sea Org and specifically does not apply to other Church staff members or parishioners. Sea Org members are well aware of this policy, as is anyone contemplating joining the Sea Org.

Virtually every Scientologist in the world knows that members of the Sea Org do not have children. In joining the Sea Org one agrees to a lifetime commitment to the Church – a commitment that includes the forbearance of

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having children. This is similar to the commitment members of other religious orders make upon joining their order, such as vows of celibacy, poverty, or seclusion. As in these other religious orders, members of the Sea Org know what they are agreeing to well in advance of joining the religious order.

Individuals who join the Sea Org and later determine they want to have children, may then leave the Sea Org. They receive assistance from the Church, including immediate pre-natal care, medical care, financial assistance and even help in finding housing and employment upon departure from the Sea Org.

Departure from the Sea Org in such circumstances does not mean that the individual is no longer a member of the Church. The individual simply carries on as a public Scientologist with whatever their chosen career may be. Once their children are grown or of age where they can choose to join the Sea Org themselves, the parents are welcome to return to the Sea Org.

This policy evolved out of respect for families and deference to children. Over the more than four decades of the Sea Org's existence, the Church has tried to balance the needs of families with the realities of life within a religious order. Many occupations are not conducive to raising families and organizations have evolved different solutions. Some religious orders forbid sex and marriage outright. The military disciplines couples who become pregnant in a combat zone. The Sea Org has developed a policy that is fair to the individuals concerned, as well as to the religious order as a whole.

THE HISTORY OF CHILDREN IN THE SEA ORG

The Sea Org was founded in 1967 at sea. In 1968, on board Flagship Apollo (known then as the Royal Scotman), there were approximately forty children of Sea Org members. The whole forward area of the ship was set aside for the children to be looked after. L. Ron Hubbard saw to their schooling and education, as well as their recreation, under a trained staff. Mr. Hubbard regularly received reports on the welfare and educational progress of the youth aboard the ship.

It soon became clear that having children on the ship was not fair to the children, to their parents, or to the other Sea Org members aboard. There was limited opportunity for the parents to spend time with their families. Moreover, in some ports visited by the ship, such as some of the more untamed areas of North Africa, children had to remain aboard for their own safety. Yet, having to be confined aboard ship when the ship was in port was not fair to the children. In short, it was impractical to have children aboard the Royal Scotman, so parents with children were sent ashore to land-based Sea Org facilities.

By the mid-1980's, however, even at such land-based facilities, experience was teaching that the long and demanding working hours required of Sea Org members and the need for Sea Org parents to be able to go to any remote area of the world on a moment's notice were obstacles to parents properly raising their children. Thus, a policy was implemented requiring that any Sea Org couples desiring to have children do so outside the Sea Org. The policy was not retroactive, so at the same time the facilities provided for the children of Sea Org members were greatly expanded to fully provide for their schooling, care and recreation.

As this was nearly 25 years ago, all of these children have since grown up and the Church no longer needs to maintain the same facilities. A great many of the children raised in the Sea Org have gone on to pursue very successful careers in the Church and are happy, productive members of society who appreciate the environment in which they were raised.

Turning to your questions, it is evident that your sources are claiming that they made choices regarding their pregnancies which they now appear to regret, each with their own seemingly "electrifying account" of these incidents. There is no truth to the allegation that *any* of these people were *forced* to have abortions at any time or were made to make these decisions against their own volition. In fact, it is actually impossible to *"force"* someone to do what is alleged.

There is a standard procedure for someone to end his/her relationship with the Sea Org, which every Sea Org member knows. That anyone claims that instead of simply leaving, she became pregnant without informing her husband is outrageous. It is difficult to imagine the effect this would have on a child if he/she were to discover—such as by reading it in the newspaper—that a mother claims the only reason they were conceived was as an excuse to abandon career and/or spouse. For you to print that such an act was undertaken because of the Church or the Sea Org is offensive to anyone—especially to your sources and their children—regardless of the falsity of the allegation.

Beyond that, the Church will not comment on what your sources claim other women may or may not have told them about their own experiences. To do so would be an egregious violation of their rights to privacy, something we refuse to do. Your attempt to publicize the very personal and private choices of these women is offensive in the extreme but typical of the blind bias that guides the *Times* any time it reports on the Church of Scientology.

This is not the first time malicious allegations such as those you are basing your proposed report on have been spread about the Church and the Sea Org. Certain former members of the Sea Org, aware of false allegations such as these, voluntarily provided the enclosed declarations in order to set the record straight regarding their experiences in becoming pregnant and departing the Sea Org. They amply demonstrate the manner in which the Sea Org handles staff pregnancies. Contrary to the versions from your sources, these people uniformly state they were treated with compassion and understanding.

Finally, your letter, and from all indications the story that will result, once again, ignores the real story of Scientology. The Church of Scientology is a globally recognized supporter of some of the most successful social betterment programs on Earth. We have over 8,500 Churches, Missions and affiliated groups, with millions of members in 165 countries. Just since the first of the year, we have opened new Churches of Scientology in Brussels, Quebec, Las Vegas and Los Angeles, with more new Churches scheduled to open in the coming weeks. Our humanitarian initiatives and social betterment programs continue to salvage people the world over in the fields of drug abuse prevention, literacy,

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criminal reform and disaster relief. This is our mission. Activities such as these are what members of the Sea Org have dedicated their lives to forwarding.

Sincerely,

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[redacted]
Church of Scientology
International

Enclosures

50-LA-254214-media subfile -9
VV:vv

1

The attached articles were printed in the St. Petersburg Times on June 13, 2010. Also included is a response to the article from [redacted] of the Church of Scientology as well as ten declarations from various former Sea Org members. b6 b7C

Agent Note: The complete articles will be placed in a 1A envelope.

(X) VV

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50-LA-254214-media-9

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE **Date:** 07/19/2011

To: Los Angeles

From: Los Angeles
CR-1
Contact: SA [redacted]

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: [redacted]:vv

b6
b7C
b7E

Case ID #: 50-LA-254214 - 153
50-LA-254214-Letters - 1

Title: [redacted]
HUMAN TRAFFICKING - SIM

b7E

Synopsis: To create subfile.

Details: It is requested that a subfile entitled LETTERS be opened for the above captioned case.

♦♦

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UNCLASSIFIED

50-LA-254214-Letters-1

50-LA-254214 - Letters - 3
VV:vv

1

On May 12, 2011 writer received an letter from [redacted]. The letter is regarding the personal experience of a man named [redacted] telephone number [redacted] residence address [redacted] The letter includes a statement from [redacted] on his experience as a former member of the Church of Scientology. b6 b7C b7D

The letter and statement will be attached and become a part of this insert.

231vv0811.wpd

50-LA-254214-Letters-3

[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted]

CRM

To: AGENT [redacted]

b6
b7C

FBI LOS ANGELES
11000 WILSHIRE BLVD STE. 1700
LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

INSPECTED
MAY 12 2011