

The News-Herald

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA June 9-15, 1982

S Inside Scientology

Is it a religion, a science fiction fantasy,
or just another cult?

The story of Scientology
might make a great movie.

The film would star a former science fiction writer named L. Ron Hubbard who founded a religion — or what his critics call a "cult." Also included in the cast would be Charles Manson, John Travolta, numerous former cultists turned "deprogrammers," and billions of *Thetans*, or immortal beings trapped in "meat bodies" on the planet earth — and don't forget Hubbard's renegade son, who works in a Nevada casino and suspects his father is either dead or hopelessly insane.

Scenery in this fantastic movie would include a remodeled home in the heart of Santa Rosa; a decadent galactic empire that's hundreds of thousands of years old; a local classroom in which students talk to ashtays and silently stare at each other for hours; and the former home of the Maharajah of Jaipur in Sussex, England. To give the film an "R" rating, add some black magic, allegations of heavy drug usage, and reports of bizarre sexual activities amongst some of the cult's early leaders. Props? How about a machine which doubles as a religious artifact and a lie detector?

Add to the script the FBI, Interpol, the IRS, the Food and Drug Administration, and hundreds of

lawsuits. Top it all off with numerous charges of brain-washing; a couple of juicy conspiracy theories; and plots to intimidate the media and infiltrate the U.S. government. Jumble up the script until it's totally confusing, and screen the movie amidst chilling memories of a jungle in Guyana.

Such a film may or may not tell the full story of Scientology, since the tale is changing almost daily. But the story *isn't* a movie, and as sensational as the aforementioned elements may seem, they're all parts of the world of Scientology.

This week the *News-Herald* begins an extensive series of articles on the Church of Scientology — researched and written by Assistant Editor Dennis Wheeler, whose award-winning series on the "Moonies" of the Unification Church ran in the *News-Herald* last year.

Future stories in the series will include Wheeler's first-hand accounts of his experiences in the cult's "Communications Course" in Santa Rosa; an exclusive interview with L. Ron Hubbard, Jr., son of the cult's founder; a look at how the cult deals with "Suppressive Persons"; and interviews with Scientologists and former Scientologists.

DIANETICS

THE MODERN SCIENCE
OF MENTAL HEALTH



A HANDBOOK OF
DIANETIC PROCEDURE

BY L. RON HUBBARD

June 9-15, 1982

by Dennis Wheeler
First in a series

The year was 1950.

The book was *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health*, written by a 39-year-old "pulp" writer of science fiction, L. Ron Hubbard.

A few months earlier, Hubbard had outlined the book's tenets in a magazine called *Astounding Science Fiction*. And a year before that, at a lecture for science fiction writers, Hubbard had mused, "Writing for a penny a word is ridiculous. If a man really wanted to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion."

Hubbard's followers now say he was only "joking" when he made that observation. But before long, the red-haired writer from Nebraska had indeed started his own religion, and was well on his way to making the first of many millions of dollars.

Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health became a best-seller, back in those days before "self-help" books were found at every grocery checkout counter. The word *dianetics*, Hubbard says, is from the Greek *dia* (through) and *noos* (soul), thus meaning "through the soul." It's described as "a system for the analysis, control, and development of human thought which also provides techniques for increased ability, rationality, and freedom from the discovered single source of aberrations and psychosomatic ills."

The book emphasizes therapy between an "auditor" and a novice or "preclear," during which the latter learns to increase the power of the "analytical" mind and remove *engrams* (painful impressions from past experiences) from the "reactive" mind (the analytical and reactive minds correspond roughly to the conscious and unconscious of psychoanalysis). When all the engrams have been erased, the person is called a "Clear."

Nowadays, some readers may find parts of the book quaint or old-fashioned, or sprinkled with fallacies. For instance, Hubbard writes, "A large proportion of allegedly feeble-minded children are actually attempted abortion cases, whose engrams place them in fear paralysis or regressive palsy which command them not to grow but to be where they are forever."

And, calling homosexuals "perverts," Hubbard declares, "...the pervert is always a very ill person in one way or another, whether he is conscious of it or not. He is very far from culpable for his condition, but he is also so far from normal and so extremely dangerous to society that the tolerance of perversion is as thoroughly bad for society as punishment for it...the pervert, containing hundreds and hundreds of vicious engrams, has had little choice between being dead and being a pervert."

But auditing, according to *Dianetics*, could even help perverts. Originally it was performed while the preclear was in a trance-like state called "dianetic reverie." But as "Dianetics Foundations" were set up across the nation in response to the book's success, an "E-Meter" (a skin galvanometer or crude lie detector) was approved for use during auditing.

And between 1952 and 1954, *Dianetics* spawned a religion.

Hubbard named his new church "Scientology," supposedly from the Latin *scio* (knowing) and the Greek *logos* (study), thus meaning "knowing how to know" (although there's evidence he lifted the name from a 1934 book by a German social psychologist, entitled *Scientologie: Science*

**"Make it
rough, rough
on attackers
all the way..."**

— L. Ron Hubbard

of the Constitution and Usefulness of Knowledge/Knowing.) Hubbard's Scientology is described as "an applied religious philosophy and technology resolving problems of the spirit, life and thought."

What attracted people to this unusual new religion?

According to Brooks Alexander, co-editor of *Scientology: The Technology of Enlightenment*, "Hubbard realized that in a largely secularized culture, ultimate human concerns could be addressed in a 'scientific' and 'therapeutic' way, rather than from a traditional religious standpoint. After years of dabbling in occultism and Eastern religion, Hubbard demythologized the Eastern occult world view. He stripped away the gongs, incense, shaved heads and other culturally alien trappings and replaced them with business suits, electronic gadgetry and the jargon of self-improvement."

Membership in Scientology increased, but Hubbard's pronouncements strayed farther and farther from the relatively innocuous beliefs outlined in his original book. The new church introduced to *Dianetics* the role of the *Thetan* in the physical universe, which itself is conceived as MEST (an acronym standing for matter, energy, space and time). Thetans (similar to the more traditional concept of "souls") are trillions of years old, and through countless eons are reincarnated in animals and human beings.

As Hubbard's "research" into the matter continued, he announced that Thetans are descendants of the builders of an ancient galactic civilization called the Marcab Confederacy. Most of the empire's heroes were slaughtered by evil forces some 40 trillion years ago on the planet Helatrobos. The defeated Thetans — primarily the "prison planet" which we now call Earth. *We* ourselves, in fact, are the Thetans. But we've been stuck here, in ignorance, until Hubbard and Scientology came along to cast off our shackles and lead us to our rightful place in the realm of the stars.

The state of "Clear" originally was the top level of spirituality in Scientology. But as Hubbard continued his research he announced that he'd discovered the existence of higher levels — such as "Operating Thetan," or "OT" — and then OT I, OT II, and so on up to OT VIII, with even higher levels above that.

The road to these rarefied states of existence is paved with numerous courses and auditing sessions on the E-Meter. Newcomers to Scientology are rarely told about the Marcab Confederacy, MEST, or other elements of the church which might be deemed science fiction. Instead, they usually encounter Scientology first through its "Communications Course" in which religious or philosophical goals take a back seat to "self-improvement."

After graduating from the "Comm Course," budding
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Scientists progress through such things as the "Purification Rundown," the "Solo Auditor's Course," and the "Sunshine Rundown." An advertisement for the OT IV process says, "Break out of the mind-crippling soul-enslaving effects of whole track drug incidents and surge to the Stars and beyond with New OT IV." These advanced courses, the ad continues, "rehabilitate the Thetan to his OT abilities and last forever and give immortality. From OT I where you 'learn to walk' as a Thetan through OT III and the Wall of Fire, you will expand your abilities beyond your wildest dreams."

All are offered for a price, of course. While the "personality test" usually given to newcomers is free, the Comm Course varies in cost from approximately \$10 to \$50. Prices escalate steeply from there. As of late last year, 12 "Technical Volumes" cost \$614.25, and a two-year subscription to "Professional Auditor's Bulletins" costs \$145. Twelve and a half hours of "intensive regular auditing" cost \$1,530.15. Individual levels of the "Saint Hill Special Briefing Course" cost \$987 each; all six levels cost \$5,880. A notice on the price list for the above courses indicates, "On January 1 donations for processing go up a full 10 percent. The processing donations will go up another 10 percent on February 1 and March 1."

Some of these courses are held at the church's headquarters in Los Angeles, called the "Sea Org" (named for the flotilla of Hubbard's ships called the Sea Organization); at the "Land Flag Base" in Clearwater, Florida; and at Saint Hill Manor in Sussex, England. Beneath these in the Scientology superstructure are *orgs*, or organizations, and lowest on the ladder are "missions." In Santa Rosa Scientology operates a mission at 721 Mendocino Avenue (next to the Belvedere Building). The nearest org is located at 83 McAllister Street in San Francisco.

Membership statistics? In 1977 Scientology claimed more than five million members worldwide, of whom 75 percent dwell in North America, and 38 United States churches and 172 missions. More accurate estimates are supposedly unavailable "because of rapid growth." But some observers have estimated Scientology actually has only 3,000 fulltime staff members and no more than 30,000 followers in the United States.

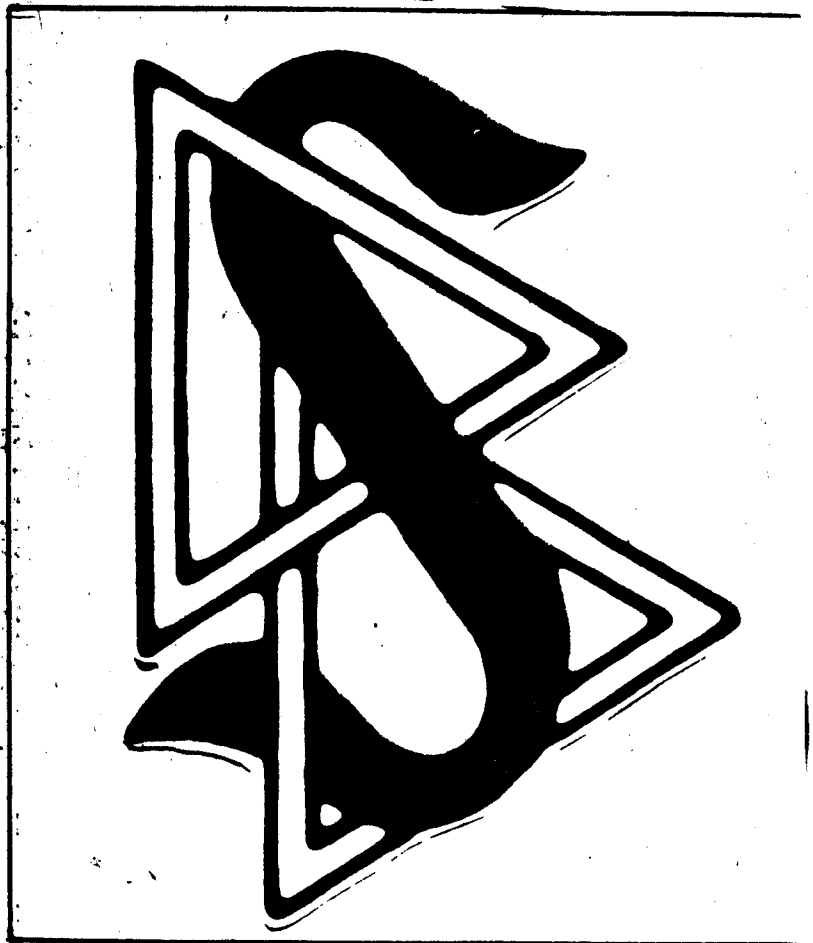
And over the years, the cult has made thousands of enemies. As early as 1950, in fact, Hubbard aroused the suspicions of doctors and mental health officials by some of the pronouncements in his book.

For example, he claims that "dianetic therapy" can cure "psycho-somatic illnesses" which he defines as "those which have a mental origin but which are nevtheless organic...About 70 percent of the physician's current roster of diseases falls into the category of psycho-somatic illness." Dianetic therapy, Hubbard continues, cures "arthritis, dermatitis, allergies, asthma, some coronary difficulties, eye trouble, bursitis, ulcers, sinusitis, etc." plus migraine headaches and impotence. "Clears do not get colds," he says bluntly, and "Clears rarely have accidents." He continues with suggestions that future research in Dianetics may lead to cures of cancer and diabetes.

According to a Scientology publication copyrighted this year, "The Dianetic auditor has no other skill or tools than his understanding of mental image pictures, such as locks, secondaries and engrams and the time track. With these tools he produces many miracles. Broken bones heal in two weeks instead of six, withered limbs restore, burns vanish, swellings reduce visibly to nothing, lives wrecked by grief and loss recover, women lose their aging wrinkles and sought-after abilities return."

In *Scientology, the Fundamentals of Thought*, Hubbard

Scientology...



The official logo of the Church of Scientology

states that Scientology "is the only science of study known which is capable of uniformly producing marked and significant increases in intelligence and general ability. Scientology processing amongst other things can improve the intelligence quotient of an individual, his ability or desire to communicate, his social attitudes, his capability and domestic harmony, his fertility, his artistic creativity, his reaction time and his health."

Most doctors take a dim view of these grandiose claims. Even the British government stepped into the act in the '60s when Hubbard allegedly began pushing a pill called "Dianezena" which supposedly would correct any harmful effects caused by radioactivity.

And the U.S. Food and Drug Administration also began tussling with Scientology in the courts. By the time the dust had cleared, most of Hubbard's books were prefaced with the following note:

"...Although the Church, as are all churches, is free to engage in spiritual healing, it does not, as its primary goal is increased knowledge and personal integrity for all. For this reason, the Church does not wish to accept individuals who desire treatment of physical illness or insanity, but refers these to qualified specialists in other organizations who deal in these matters."

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The same note also assures the reader, "This is part of the religious literature and works of the Founder of Scientology, L. Ron Hubbard. It is presented to the reader as part of the record of his personal research into Life, and should be construed only as a written report of such research and not as a statement of claims made by the Church or the author."

But the FDA wasn't the only organization interested in Scientology. The IRS, for instance, has battled the cult over its tax-exempt status. And in 1977 the FBI made one of the largest raids in its history, simultaneously invading the Los Angeles and Washington D.C. headquarters of Scientology. Uncovered were numerous documents believed stolen from government offices — plus two pistols, a blackjack, electronic eavesdropping equipment, a lock-picking kit, vials of knockout drops, and something labeled "vampire blood."

In the mid-'60s, Scientology began reacting to its critics with a number of controversial new policies. Amongst them were use of the E-Meter for "security checks"; the labeling of certain people as "Fair Game" or "Suppressive Persons"; and the "Attack the Attacker" policy. Each involves "fighting back." Anyone labeled "Fair Game," for instance, "may be deprived of property or injured by any means by any Scientologist without any discipline of the Scientologist. May be tricked, sued or lied to or destroyed."

"Don't ever tamely submit to any investigation of us," Hubbard told his followers in a 1966 policy letter. "Make it rough, rough on attackers all the way...Attackers are simply an anti-Scientology *propaganda* agency so far as we are concerned. They have proven they want no facts and will only lie no matter what they discover. So *banish* all ideas that any fair hearing is intended and start our attack with their first breath. Never wait. Never talk about us — only them. Use *their* blood, sex, crime to get headlines. Don't use us...Shift the spotlight to them. No matter how. Do it!"

These policies will be examined more closely in a future *News-Herald* story. But most controversial of them all is probably the "R2-45" auditing process. It's defined in Hubbard's book, *The Creation of Human Ability — a Handbook of Scientology*, as "an enormously effective process for exteriorization, but its use is frowned upon by this society at this time."

"Exteriorization" in this usage refers to death. The policy itself refers to shooting a person in the head, twice, with a .45 pistol. Hubbard demonstrated the R2-45 auditing process at a 1954 meeting of Scientologists by firing a shot into the floor. And attorneys have uncovered evidence to suggest that between 1975 and 1977, during the FBI's investigation of the cult, meetings of Scientology executives were held in which there were discussions relative to "auditing" high-level FBI members with auditing process R2-45.

Scientology members claim the R2-45 policy was "just a joke," and that *all* these policies have been abandoned anyway. Recent defectors, however, claim such policies are still discussed, if not by the same names.

And what is the status of Scientology today?

Its members claim the Church is growing more than ever. They've reportedly given themselves only five more years to "clear" the entire planet. And amongst their members they count celebrities such as John Travolta, Cathy Lee Crosby, Chick Corea, John Brodie and Diana Canova.

Rarely, however, do they mention Charles Manson who, while in prison before committing his infamous

"If a man really wanted to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion."

— L. Ron Hubbard

murders, listed Scientology as his religion and claimed to have reached the state of "theta clear." According to attorney Vincent Buglioso in his book, *Helter Skelter*: "What effect, if any, Scientology had on Manson's mental state cannot be measured. Undoubtedly he picked up from his 'auditing' sessions in prison some knowledge of mind control, as well as some techniques which he later put to use in programming his followers."

Despite Scientology's alleged expansion, some cult-watchers believe the organization is in its death-throes. Recent hearings at the Church's headquarters in Florida, they say, have prompted mass defections and "deprogrammings." Hubbard's third wife, Mary Sue, has been found guilty with eight other top Scientology officials of theft or conspiracy charges arising from a plot to break into offices of the federal government. And Hubbard's oldest son, who defected from the cult in 1959, has resurded and is telling horror stories about his father and the early days of the church — sordid tales of drug abuse, black magic rites, and sadomasochism.

Hubbard himself, now 71, is in hiding, although his son suspects he died several years ago and his death has been kept secret. Other cult-watchers believe he lives at a former residence in Southern California, and still others say he resides in England in a 30-room mansion that once belonged to the Maharajah of Jaipur.

"After endless millenia of ignorance about himself, his mind, and the Universe, a breakthrough has been made," says Hubbard in *Scientology: The Fundamentals of Thought*. "Other efforts man has made have been surpassed. The combined truths of Fifty Thousand years of thinking men, distilled and amplified by new discoveries about Man, have made for this success."

"We welcome you to Scientology."

Next week: The "Communicators Course" held in Santa Rosa — the first step into Scientology.

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The Introductory Lecture

by Dennis Wheeler

(Editor's note: One of the first steps in the Church of Scientology's "Communications Course" is an introductory lecture. In Santa Rosa, it's offered every Monday and Wednesday evening at the Scientology headquarters at 721 Mendocino Avenue. Following is a description of the event.)

On this particular evening, virtually no one showed up for Scientology's free lecture. So I was an audience of one, listening attentively to a young woman named Joanna, but feeling a little self-conscious.

I sat on a stiff-backed chair in one of the back offices of the Scientology mission. Joanna lectured informally, drawing various charts on a small blackboard and laboriously writing out certain words in big block letters. It reminded me of long hours in the fifth grade. The language was almost childishly simple, sprinkled with anecdotes delivered in the ad-lib style that so many lecturers effect — but these were the very same anecdotes I'd already read in 30-year-old Scientology literature.

Dianetics, Joanna explained, is a "sub-study" of Scientology. It was invented by a man named L. Ron Hubbard, who, it seems, was wounded in World War II but miraculously cured himself through his own research in self-help. He was so successful at this, in fact, that soon others were clamoring for his secret, and in 1950 he assembled it all into a best-selling book called *Dianetics, the Modern Science of Mental Health*.

Joanna continued, explaining that Hubbard had discovered that the human mind is made up of one part called the "analyzer" which processes all the data fed into it, another part which stores "standard memories," and a third part called the "reactive" mind. It's the latter part, Joanna explained, that stores up memories which are so painful that they're shunted into the mind *before* they're properly analyzed. But parts of this negativity still manage to filter into our everyday lives, bringing sorrow and grief.

Enter Dianetics and Scientology. A properly trained person, called an "auditor," can simply ask the right questions and get a person to recall those painful experiences from the reactive mind, run them through the analyzer, and store them in the "standard memory" where they belonged in the first place. With enough auditing, the reactive mind becomes totally empty, and the person is called a "Clear." These "Clears," Joanna said merrily, lead much richer, fuller lives — and incidentally have fewer car accidents

and often find their intelligence increased.

The lecture ended with a brief description of some of the Scientology classes on the road to becoming a "Clear." The one best suited for me, and for most other "preclears," said Joanna, was the Communications Course.

I expressed a vague interest, but inwardly I felt cheated. It wasn't that Joanna had actually deceived me, but she'd certainly *withheld* a great deal of information about Scientology which I'd already picked up in only a short time studying the subject on my own. She hadn't told me that the painful memories in the reactive mind are called *engrams*. She hadn't told me that the auditor uses a lie detector device called an "E-meter" on the person being audited. And when I questioned her about an incredibly complicated chart on the wall which explained the various levels through which a Scientologist can pass, she blithely skipped over the explanation, apparently believing the concept of "Operating Thetans" was either beyond my understanding or so bizarre it would turn me irrevocably away from Scientology.

And, of course, she'd made absolutely no mention of the tremendous battles raging all around the Church of Scientology — the frantic parents who claim their children have been "brainwashed" into a deadly cult, the jailing of top Scientology leaders, the colorful cosmos of Scientology with its galactic empires and gods trillions of years old.

All this had been omitted.

Instead, I was routed to Diana, who would sign me up for the class. Diana seemed a little more brisk and efficient than Joanna. She asked no questions about my personality or background, but wanted to know only when I could begin the course and when I could pay. When pressed, she said I could set my own dates for the class, and that it would cost \$44.54 (\$35 for the course itself, \$9 for a book by L. Ron Hubbard, and 54 cents in sales tax).

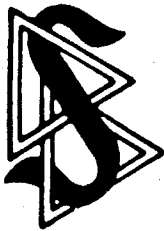
Within moments, as if responding to an odd, *sudden* sense of urgency, I found myself saying that yes, I'd be there the following Monday at 7 p.m., and yes, I would pay the full amount.

A dam broke, and Diana softened up a little. "You're going to have the most *fun* of your life, hon'!" she assured me, and led me to the front door.

"Well," I said to Joanna on my way out, "I'm going to start the course on Monday."

"All right! That's wonderful!"

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Reporter Flunks Test

Taking a Scientology test, reporter Dennis Wheeler got both good and bad news. He has a "high I.Q." and an "unstable" personality. See story below.

"Unstable" Reporter Discovers "High I.Q."

by Dennis Wheeler
Part of a series

Okay, maybe I'm not Mister Wonderful. And I do have a fault or two — a couple of minor defects in my character, maybe a moment or two of irritability.

But Joanna, the woman facing me across a desk, was showing me scientific proof — verified by my own answers to a complicated quiz — that my personality requires urgent attention. In fact, she said, I'm not only unstable, nervous and critical, but also withdrawn, inactive and irresponsible. She asked me what it is that's ruining my life, and I sensed she was trying to tell me, as gently as she could, that I'm basically just a pretty messed-up person.

But, Joanna assured me, there's hope...a beacon of salvation which has guided thousands of messed-up people like myself...the ultimate development of the human mind...a road from there to "Total Freedom."

Scientology.

I'd met Joanna, ironically, through an ad in the personals column of a local newspaper. "Santa Rosa Testing Center," said the ad. "Free I.Q., aptitude, and personality tests. 721 Mendocino Ave., S.R. 7-10 p.m., Mon.-Fri."

No phone number, and no mention in the ad of a church. But I knew the address was that of the local "mission" of the Church of Scientology, which a recently published book has dubbed "one of the oldest and caggiest of America's cults." I looked up Scientology in the phone book, but the listed number had been disconnected, with no referral. Oh well, I thought wryly, I could use a free I.Q. test.

"CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY," says the battered sign outside 721 Mendocino Avenue in Santa Rosa. Below the words is the Scientology logo, a sinuous "S" entwined in two triangles. The address is that of an older home, squatting snugly between a gas station and the imposing Belvedere building. A neglected rock garden graces the

front yard; the main entrance is a glass door.

Inside, a smiling young woman seated behind a desk greeted me. The comfortably furnished room resembled an ordinary office lobby. Numerous books for sale were artfully displayed on shelves; most were by L. Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology and its sub-study Dianetics. Posters advertised the local "Apple School," a bulletin board was cluttered with messages, and a large organizational chart faced the front door. Several framed certificates on the walls stated that so-and-so had "attained the state of Clear."

A framed photo of Hubbard himself, in a pensive mood, surveyed the room.

"Can I help you?" the woman asked politely, and I told her I wanted to take the I.Q. test advertised in the paper. Certainly, she said, and settled me down at a table against one wall. While she busied herself collecting the test and an answer sheet, I asked what the test was for, since I'd never heard of a church that gives I.Q. tests. "Oh, it's just a way of finding out more about yourself," she replied cheerily, then added almost as an afterthought, "and the courses we do here can raise your I.Q., so you can take the test again, later, and see the difference."

I made no comment, since I tend to be dubious about the value of I.Q. tests anyway. But soon I was hunched over the table, reading and re-reading the questions and marking the multiple-choice answers on one of those computerized sheets so familiar to students nowadays. Seated next to me, a young woman engrossed in a "personality test" soon finished that one and moved on to the I.Q. test.

I managed to finish 72 of the 80 questions in the allotted half hour. I knew already I'd done lousy on the ones regarding math, and pretty well on the ones involving vocabulary.

The receptionist took my answer sheet to have it scored in another room, and I perched on the edge of an incredibly uncomfortable sofa to await the results.

I'd been handed a picture book to read while I waited — a sort of comic book offering a highly diluted explanation

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"Unstable" Reporter...

Continued from last page

of Scientology and Dianetics. Boring, I thought. A little more interesting was the loose-leaf folder marked "Success Stories." Inside were blank forms on which people who'd completed various Scientology courses had been invited to write "success stories" — on the condition the stories could be reprinted.

All the affidavits sounded similar — telling how the courses had changed the person's life, how much happier the person was through Dianetics and Scientology, and so on. Some of the entries had been typed up, some handwritten, some signed only by initials, others by full names.

The receptionist returned with my test score, and ushered me through a door labeled "Auditing Room." This chamber proved much more spartan than the first, decorated only with a few posters. We sat facing each other across a table, its surface bare except for something to the right which was clumsily hidden by a piece of lumber.

"How well do you think you did?" the receptionist asked coyly.

"Well, pretty good," I shrugged modestly, recalling the most recent I.Q. test I'd taken, back in junior high.

The woman pushed my answer sheet across the table. "You got 135 points," she said, smiling, "which means you're in the top five percent of the population."

She showed me how she'd tabulated the results — from the 72 questions I'd answered she had subtracted the 12 wrong answers to get 60, then added 75 to make a total score of 135. "We add 75 for men, 70 for women," she noted.

"Hold it," I said, "how come men automatically get five points more than women on their I.Q.?" The receptionist shrugged and admitted she had no idea.

Then a gentle probing began: I was asked where I worked, and I blatantly lied, saying I worked at several local print shops. Next, asked if I ever had the feeling I wasn't using the full potential of my I.Q., I said I sure wasn't using my meager math skills, because I hate math. But that seemed to be the wrong answer, and the woman — whose name I still didn't know — slid a pink flyer across the table to me. This proved to be "The Oxford Capacity Analysis Test," which, according to the flyer, "was developed to determine the condition of 10 basic personality traits reflecting how you control or don't control life."

This test contained 200 questions in miniscule type; such things as: "Do you frequently stay up late? Do you consider the modern prisons without bars system 'doomed to failure'? Are there some things about yourself on which you are touchy? When hunting or fishing do you feel concern for the pain you inflict on game, live bait, or fish? Are you a slow eater? Do you bite your fingernails or chew objects? Is it hard to please you? Do others push you around? Does life seem worthwhile? Do you often 'sit and think' about death, sickness, pain, and sorrow? Would it take a definite effort on your part to consider the subject of suicide?"

"You can do this at home and return it tomorrow," said the woman. I agreed to do so, then said I had to be going.

We returned to the front room, and the woman gave me a "calendar of events" and took my mailing address "so we can keep you up-to-date."

"Thanks," I said, and asked her name.

"Joanna," she said, and smiled again.

The "Capacity Analysis Test" took longer than I'd expected; I had to mark each question "mostly yes or decidedly so," "uncertain or maybe," or "mostly no or decidedly no." The flyer informed me that "a professional consultant will give you a confidential, in depth profile of your personality and how it will effect (sic) your future potential."

I felt pretty good about myself after taking the test. I'd answered all the questions as honestly as I could, considering that a lot of the questions might have been answered differently if they'd been worded a little more clearly. But overall, I thought, I'm not really such a bad guy. The next day I slipped the answer sheet into the mail slot at the Scientology Building, and a few days later I received a note from Joanna asking me to return to the office for the results.

With the note was a flyer decorated with a beaming sunshine face. "COMMUNICATION makes the whole world brighter," it said. "Dianetics/Scientology of Santa Rosa offers a professional course in communication for anyone who would like to improve their skill. Call for an appointment to discuss starting dates and class openings."

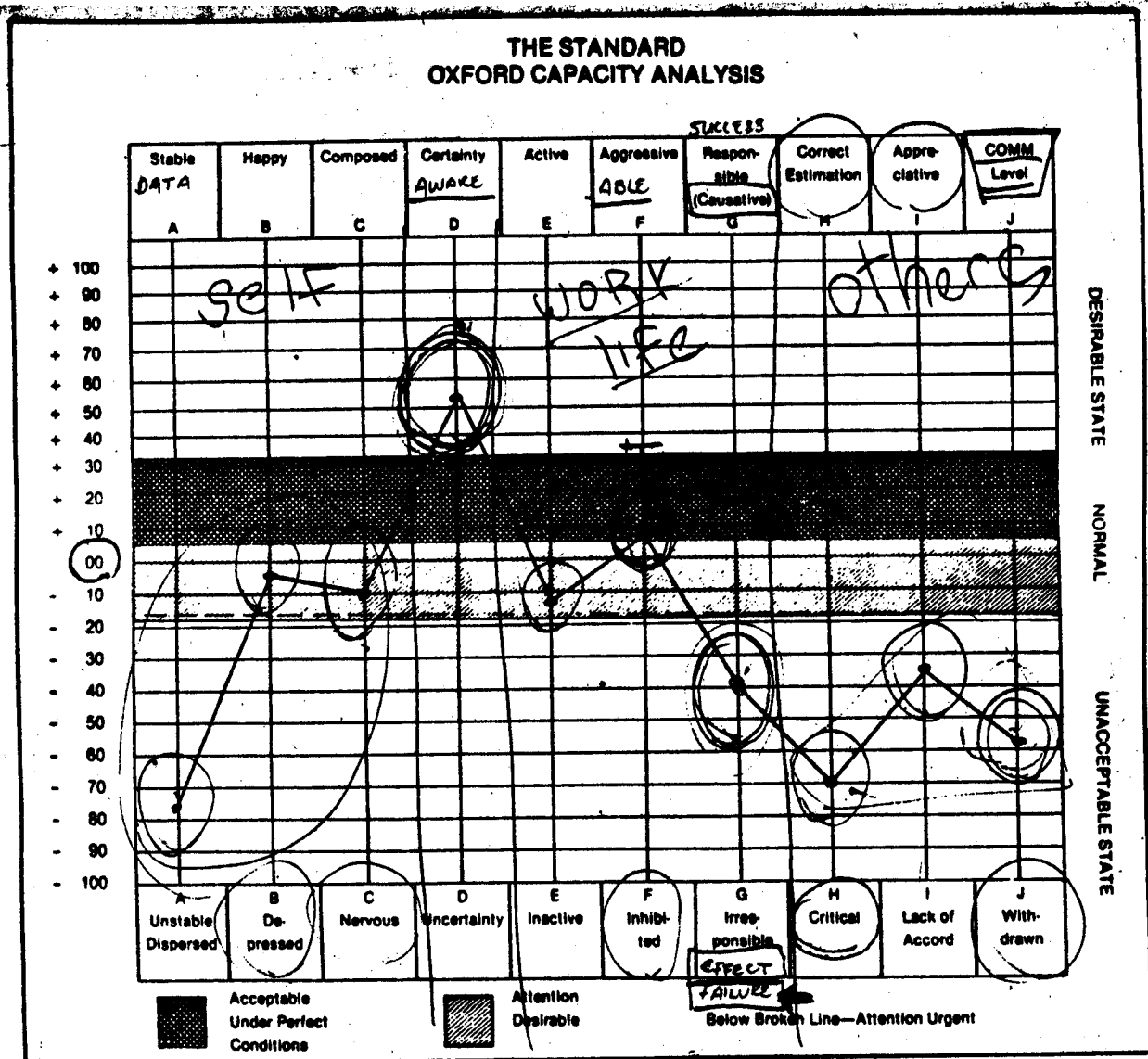
The next day, Joanna — the "professional consultant" — took me into one of the Scientology offices. First she explained the mechanics of a graph which had been drawn up from the results of my personality test. In 10 categories, I could be rated anywhere from "plus-100 (desirable state)" to "minus-100 (unacceptable state)," with zero representing "normal." Anything lying between zero and approximately minus-18 showed "attention desirable," and anything between minus-18 and minus-100 showed "attention urgent."

Then came the unveiling. Joanna pushed my graph toward me, and I barely stifled a gasp of surprise. I knew, from talking to former Scientologists, that my chart would probably show that I was in desperate need of help — assistance which coincidentally or not could be attained best through Scientology itself. Former Scientologists had told me that's what everyone's graph *always* shows, no matter how well-adjusted a person is.

But I wasn't ready to see that line on my chart creeping around so far beneath the horizon of "normal." Sure, it had a few mountainous peaks, but for the most part its canyons dipped dangerously low into the "unacceptable state."

Lowest of all, for instance, was the dot on the chart, at minus-74, which showed I was "unstable." I was also slightly "depressed" (minus-4), "nervous" (minus-10), "inactive" (minus-12), "irresponsible" (minus-40),

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The results of News-Herald reporter Dennis Wheeler's "personality test," sponsored by the local Church of Scientology. Only two of his character traits, according to the graph, are in a "desirable state" or are "acceptable under perfect conditions."

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"critical" (minus-70), had a "lack of accord" (minus-34), and was "withdrawn" (minus-58).

What a mess. Only in one area was I thoroughly "normal," with a dot at plus-8 between "aggressive" and "inhibited," aggression apparently being a desirable state. And only one area of my personality was actually in a desirable state, that of my "certainty" or "awareness," for which I received a rating of plus-52.

Whew! Joanna helpfully explained each aspect of the graph, occasionally asking if I could verify its results. She said I did indeed need "urgent attention" in many aspects of my life, areas which had been in trouble for many years and were very firmly rooted. "Is there any one thing you can say is ruining your life?" she asked, and I had to laugh.

"Nothing's 'ruining' my life," I replied indignantly, and she flip-flopped the question:

"Is there anything you could work on which if cleared up would make your life far better?" I couldn't think of anything, and with a slight look of disapproval she suggested a few. Tapping the graph with a finger, she pointed out that I obviously needed a lot of help communicating with others.

I admitted that I am indeed sometimes painfully shy

with strangers, but at other times I'm a loudmouthed boor. "Okay," Joanna said, smiling, "communication. We do offer a course in that here." She hastened to add that she herself wasn't recommending that I take any specific course, but that I could talk to someone else in the place, later, who could sign me up. She made an appointment for me to hear Scientology's "introductory lecture" (described in the accompanying story). Then she gave me a couple more blank copies of the personality test to give to my friends, and we parted.

My depression at that point *did* seem to be in sort of an "unacceptable" state. Was I really so horribly unstable, nervous, irresponsible, and critical? Am I withdrawn and inactive? The elation I'd felt after finishing the test had been ripped away by one glance at my chart. Vague thoughts lumbered through my mind, and I thought of past loneliness and insecurity and sorrow which usually never trouble me. No doubt about it: according to Scientology I did indeed need urgent attention.

And Scientology was there to see I got it.

Next week: The "Training Regimens" begin.

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Cult or Religion?

by Dennis Wheeler

"To try to stop people from listening, the Chaos Merchant has to use words like 'cult,'" says L. Ron Hubbard (founder of the Church of Scientology) of his enemies. "That's a closed group, whereas Scientology is the most open group on Earth to anyone."

Cult or religion? Scientology has been called both.

A note prefacing most of Hubbard's books defines Scientology as "a religious philosophy containing pastoral counseling procedures intended to assist an individual to gain greater self-confidence and personal integrity, thereby enabling him to really trust and respect himself and his fellow man."

The *Encyclopedia Americana* calls it "a quasi-scientific and religious discipline that claims to be both 'the study of knowledge in its fullest sense' and 'an applied religious philosophy.'"

But Eugene Methvin, senior editor of *Reader's Digest* and writer of two articles highly critical of Hubbard's organization, adds to this definition. "Scientology is far more than mere religion," he says. "An analysis of sworn testimony and the findings of official tribunals in 12 nations, plus independent investigation, reveals it to be a multi-national racket masquerading as a religion... Scientology is one of the oldest, wealthiest — and most dangerous — of the major 'new religions' or cults operating in America today."

Strong words.

But Boston attorney Michael Flynn (plus six other attorneys) go even farther in a recent 196-page report on the group. "There is substantial, perhaps overwhelming, evidence to support the conclusion that, despite Scientology's attempted religious front, it is in reality a criminal, fraud-ridden, commercial, profit-motivated enterprise engaged in the practice of psychotherapy with a military structure and operational methods designed to accumulate money, information and power."

The report continues: "Scientology's legacy of victims who have been swindled, mentally crippled and sometimes killed by Scientology practices have caused many nations to convene formal inquiries into Scientology... It is fair to say that in general these inquiries have concluded that Scientology is a maze of intertwined corporations, claiming tax-exempt status, masquerading as a religion, and conducting anti-social, fraudulent, and psychologically harmful practices."

Scientology officials deny these allegations, but when

Flynn's report was presented at recent hearings in Florida (home of Scientology's "Land Flag Base"), church officials lost a bid in U.S. District Court to block the hearings, then didn't accept the equal time given them to present their own testimony.

Ask people on the street their definition of a cult and they might say something like, "It's an offbeat religion... a small church... weird." Ask them to be a little more specific, and they'll often falter. Then ask them for a concise, thoughtful definition of "religion" and they may give up entirely.

Nearly everyone, however, agrees that the lines distinguishing a "religion" from a "cult" are sometimes vague. The United States is the home of hundreds of recognized religions — mainly organizations of people bound together by a commonly held belief in a deity, with their religious beliefs protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

But the increase in membership of some of the newer religions during the 1970s has prompted a closer look at the entire matter. Many of these newer churches have been accused of being destructive cults, and gradually a more definite meaning of the word "cult" has been formulated.

Most religious organizations are formed for the spiritual benefit of the entire membership. Others, however, adopt a religious facade simply to be protected by the First Amendment, although actually they benefit only one person or a small group of people. These organizations are often called cults, and are characterized, as the dictionary says, by "great or excessive devotion or dedication to some person, idea, or thing."

Estimates of the number of people in the United States who belong to such cults vary from three to eight million people, in more than 3,000 groups ranging in size from two or three members and their leader to several hundred thousand.

Various "anti-cult" groups or "cult awareness" groups have sprung up to educate the public about destructive cults. Amongst these organizations are the Freedom Counseling Center, the Citizens Freedom Foundation, and the American Family Foundation's Center on Destructive Cultism.

All three of these groups basically agree that there are certain characteristics of a supposedly religious organization which actually distinguish it as a "destructive cult." Amongst these are the following:

- Total obedience and subservience to an individual or

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a group of leaders who claim special knowledge or special appointment from the divine;

- A demand for the total time, dedication, and resources of its members;

- Distrust of family and all institutions outside the group, to the point of cutting off communications with family members and friends, and regarding those outside the group as enemies;

- A controlled environment characterized by sleep and sensory deprivation, development of deep emotional guilt, disorientation in time and space, public confessions, and systematic forms of consciousness-altering practices which make individuals suggestible to group dictates and control rather than self-determination.

- Use of deceptive recruiting and fundraising techniques;

- Denial of physical needs, such as infrequent medical care, poor nutrition, and inadequate rest; and

- The restraint of members from leaving the group, either through physical means or psychological fears.

"The destructive cults are usually first-generation entities with living leaders," says John G. Clark, Jr., M.D., in an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. "Their primary goals are expansion through rapid, aggressive conversion and the amassing of money. They rarely launch truly charitable projects as they claim, largely because those needy unconverted persons outside their groups are seen as different and undeserving. A member of such an organization must not only bend his will to the group and its leaders but must yield control of his mind as well."

Cultists themselves usually deny that their organizations are "cults." Yet often they simultaneously claim that *all* religions were "persecuted" at one time or another, and that *all* religions — such as Christianity — began as "cults." Sometimes they compare their authoritarian leaders with the Pope or with the President of the Mormon Church — or they liken their rigorous lifestyles to those of cloistered nuns, monks, and other religious orders.

Members of cult awareness groups, however, merely refer to the aforementioned list of characteristics of destructive cults, and point out that traditional religions have few if any of these traits.

And the Church of Scientology? The Scientology publication *What is Scientology?* denies that the church is a cult. "Scientology literature is freely available to anyone," it says. "There is no demand for the individual to withdraw from society; on the contrary, Scientologists become more involved."

And Scientology has at times found itself allied with other churches. In 1980, during one of the group's many battles with the Internal Revenue Service, officials representing 40 major U.S. denominations with a combined membership of 67 million submitted a legal brief challenging an IRS denial of the tax-exempt status of some of Scientology's churches. Although not approving Scientology as a religion "in a theological sense," the brief stated that constitutional issues important to all religious groups were at stake in the case.

Scientology also has an ally in Berkeley psychiatrist Dr. Lee Coleman, even though Scientology has traditionally disapproved of most psychiatrists. Coleman claims that psychiatry has become a weapon in a "holy war" against certain religions. There's no such thing as mind control, he says, and adds, "If the Unification Church, Scientology, and 'Hare Krishnas' are engaging in brainwashing and mind control, then so are the 'Big Three' (Catholics, Protestants and Jews), not to mention the Boy Scouts, Little League, and Madison Avenue."

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Most cult awareness groups, however, agree that the First Amendment protects religious *beliefs*, but that the freedom to *act* on those beliefs isn't entirely free of restriction. (For instance, the Constitution wasn't intended to protect cults which advocate human sacrifice.) According to a recent report in the *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, "The rationale is that religious belief alone poses no great threat to the rights of others, but when those beliefs are translated into action which obstructs the rights of others, the State may interfere."

And the relationship of Scientology to Christianity?

"We embrace all denominations, faiths, and colors," says Hubbard in his *Invitation to Freedom*. "We work with the believer and the unbeliever alike. Part of your freedom is your right to belong to any church. Not only do we hold your right to worship to be sacred, we may also insist you do not change your faith or leave the congregation to which you belong."

Andrea Schwartz, a former Scientologist herself, offers a Christian critique of the organization in a pamphlet published by the Spiritual Counterfeits Project. "The philosophy and practice of Scientology fundamentally contradict Christianity," she says. "While professing not to infringe on a person's religious convictions, Scientology's technology and the logical implications of its beliefs leave no room for Christian faith."

"Scientology can free the human soul and deliver the body from pain," says Hubbard — who himself reportedly claims to be trillions of years old and to have visited Heaven twice. "Man can save his soul. We know how... You have been invited."