

HCO POLICY LETTER OF 7 DECEMBER 1976

LEAVING AND LEAVES

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.



L. RON HUBBARD
Founder
Adopted as official
Church policy by
CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY
INTERNATIONAL

INSIDE SCIENTOLOGY | A TIMES SPECIAL REPORT

CHASED BY THEIR CHURCH

LEADERS FEARED THAT THOSE WHO LEFT SCIENTOLOGY WITHOUT PERMISSION MIGHT REVEAL CHURCH SECRETS. SO THEY WENT AFTER THEM.

PART ONE OF THREE

BY JOE CHILDS AND THOMAS C. TOBIN
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

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 round 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.

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 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, whom 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 a while."

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.

STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE 8A



PURSUERS AND THE PURSUED. SEE INTERVIEWS AND PREVIOUS COVERAGE AT TAMPABAY.COM/SCIENTOLOGY

Afghan challenger plans to pull out of runoff election

Abdullah says Karzai has not met his demands for a fraud-free vote.

New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan — Abdullah Abdullah, the chief rival to Afghan President Hamid Karzai, plans to announce today his decision to withdraw from the runoff election Saturday, effectively handing a new five-year term to Karzai but potentially damaging the government's credibility, according to Western diplomats here and people close to Abdullah.

But Abdullah seemed to be keeping his options open until the last second, perhaps maneuvering for more bargaining power, as he has done throughout the Afghan political crisis.

Those close to him, speaking to the *New York Times* on condition of anonymity, said Abdullah had committed to leaving the runoff. But they said he was still trying to decide whether to publicly denounce Karzai, whom he has accused of stealing the Aug. 20 election, or to step down without a fight during a news conference scheduled for this morning.

"Abdullah is not going to participate in the" See AFGHANISTAN, 4A

IN COLLEGE EXTRA

That's the Gators we know

Tim Tebow scores his 50th and 51st rushing touchdowns — setting a new SEC record — to lead Florida to an easy 41-17 win over Georgia. 1X

FALL BACK

Daylight saving time is over: If you didn't do it last night, set your clocks back an hour.

IN SPORTS

Yankees 8, Phillies 5: The Yankees slug three home runs and take a 2 games to 1 lead in the World Series 1C

Up to \$1,006 in coupons in today's paper

TODAY'S WEATHER

Partly sunny

8 a.m. Noon 4 p.m. 8 p.m.
74° 84° 83° 75°
10% rain chance.

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Vol. 126 No. 100
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Times/Herald/Bay News 9 poll

One year out from Election Day 2010

Crist's popularity takes untimely hit, poll finds

And the race to replace him is a dead-heat.

BY ADAM C. SMITH AND BETH REINHARD
Times/Herald Staff Writers

The bottom is falling out beneath Florida's once hugely popular governor.

A new *St. Petersburg Times/Miami Herald/Bay News 9* poll finds only 42 percent of likely Florida voters think Charlie Crist is doing a good or excellent job as governor, by far the worst approval rating of Crist's 34 months in office. Thirty-nine percent said he was doing a fair job and 16 percent said poor.

Even most fellow Republicans don't like the job he's doing. That 51 percent of them rate Crist's performance as fair or poor is particularly ominous

for someone facing an aggressive U.S. Senate primary challenge from former state House Speaker Marco Rubio of Miami.

"After nearly three uneventful years in the people's mansion in which unemployment has reached double digits across the state and the real estate boom turned into a foreclosure nightmare, Charlie Crist has finally made something drop like a rock — his approval ratings," said pollster Tom Eldon.

Still, Crist's political troubles appear to be more about his own vulnerability than Rubio's strength.

In the Senate race, the poll found 50 percent of Republicans



42%

Think Gov. Charlie Crist is doing a good or excellent job. More poll results, 6A

Is it the economy?

How will the economy affect the election? Business, 1D

2010 at a glance

Who's running for what? We give you the rundown. 6A

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