

<b>Category</b>	<b>Magazine Article</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Scientology take on Florida Paper</b>
<b>Source</b>	<b>"Editor &amp; Publisher", Vol. 127, Issue 15, p. 16</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Dorothy Giobbe</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1994</b>

**Description:**

The article reports on the slanted treatment accusation of the Church of Scientology against the "St. Petersburg Times" newspaper, the Florida Police Department and defunct paper "Clearwater Sun".

**Scientists take on Florida Paper**

Church of Scientology accuses the St. Petersburg Times, Clearwater Police Department and defunct Clearwater Sun of slanted treatment of the church and its members

In a special 125,000-copy issue of the Church of Scientology's magazine Freedom, the church's Clearwater, Fla., branch accused the St. Petersburg Times, Clearwater Police Department and defunct Clearwater Sun of slanted treatment of the church and its members.

The publication also questioned the nonprofit and tax-exempt status of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, which owns the Times.

The "inflammatory" coverage by the Sun and Times has "intensified the atmosphere of hate in the city and ultimately led to acts of senseless violence being directed against members of the church," wrote Richard Haworth, Clearwater bureau chief at Freedom.

Some of the articles in Freedom said the local media have ignored contributions that Scientologists have made in the Clearwater community, such as the annual "Say No to Drugs" road race, sponsored by the Dianetics Running Team. The event raises money for a national drug education program.

"Through the years, the church has been an active participant in addressing problems facing the city and downtown," one article said. "The Times has reported little or none of this actual news but instead has dwelled on lies and innuendo."

Freedom also said that while church members have met with the editorial board of the Times in an attempt to improve communication, "the visit had no apparent effect on the paper's reporting, which has continued to be critical and inaccurate."

Violence against Clearwater-area Scientologists "can be tracked statistically," Haworth said in an interview. "You see an article come out and in the aftermath of the article, the number of incidents go up."

The acts of "senseless violence" include "the kind of thing where there are drive-bys and objects being thrown from cars, things like that."

The "drive-bys" haven't been like the bullet-flying, blood-spraying tragedies that have occurred elsewhere, Haworth said. "It wasn't shootings, it was paintballs, [although] that actually does get shot."

The special Freedom issue was published, he said, because "we really got to the point where, after having tried to talk and meet and so on, it still seemed that the problem continued. We had little choice but to try and tell our own story. We haven't put out a special issue of Freedom in Clearwater in a long time."

The Times defended its coverage of the Scientologists and said the church must be held to the same standard of scrutiny that other large, influential organizations receive.

"The Church of Scientology is a major and growing institution here with economic and political and other consequence," said Paul Tash, executive editor of the Times. "It deserves our attention and I think it's part of our responsibility to keep track of what the church is doing, and we plan to continue on that course."

"We have quite a rigorous policy of accuracy in the paper and on those occasions that we unfortunately discover we have made an error, we try to correct it prominently, even placing corrections on the front page of sections where they have occurred."

PHOTO (BLACK & WHITE): This special issue of Freedom, published by the Church of Scientology, was a paid supplement in the Tampa Tribune.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Magazine Article</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>War of Words Continues</b>
<b>Source</b>	<b>"Editor &amp; Publisher", Vol. 127, Issue 32, p. 18</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>Dorothy Giobbe</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1994</b>

**Contents:**

The article reports on the alleged hypocrisy and history of prejudice of the "St. Petersburg Times" according to "Freedom," the magazine of the Church of Scientology, previous accusations charging "St. Petersburg Times" of biased coverage.

**War of Words continues**

**Church of Scientology accuses St. Petersburg Times of prejudice; Times' editor questions group's 'agenda'**

Three months after accusing the St. Petersburg Times of biased coverage, the Church of Scientology's magazine, Freedom, is following up with an "expose" of what it terms "hypocrisy" and "a history of prejudice" directed toward minority groups and women at the newspaper.

The Times "is not in a position to point a finger at anyone," reads an editor's note preceding the Freedom article. "[I]t is long past time for the activities of the Times to be exposed to public scrutiny."

The article asserts that "the racial composition of the newsroom and the boardroom continues to be a problem that plagues the Times."

Freedom quotes sources and statistics previously published in the Times. In particular, Freedom cites figures which show a low concentration of African Americans in senior or managerial positions at the Times.

Also, the article quotes a former employee who said women are confronted with a "glass ceiling" at the newspaper.

The piece also takes aim at Times editor Andy Barnes. In response to Barnes' published claim that the newspaper is actively recruiting minorities, Freedom accused Barnes of a "striking lack of sensitivity," when he added that "I don't sense that the world is about to end on this issue."

The article also quoted an African American reverend who, after meeting with Barnes, said his attitude was "condescending."

"Freedom quoted extensively from our own coverage," Barnes told E&P. "The problems of how do you promote African Americans within an interracial organization are real. We are making as good progress as anybody I know, and I intend to go on doing that."

"I don't wish to dignify Freedom by making them my judges on the questions of how we run the newspaper," he added. "They have another agenda going, and they may present themselves as journalists, but they're not."

Three months ago, the Church of Scientology accused the Times of "inflammatory" coverage that was based on "lies and innuendo" (E&P April 9, page 16). At the time, Paul Tash, executive editor of the Times, defended the coverage of the Church, saying it must be held to the same standard of scrutiny that other large organizations are subject to.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Magazine Article</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Scientologist Ads</b>
<b>Source</b>	<b>“Editor &amp; Publisher”</b>
<b>Author</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1994</b>

**Contents:**

The Church of Scientology is running full page ads in the New York Times and Washington Post, that accuse the German Government of fueling the recent outbreaks of violence against minority groups in Germany.

The ad campaign will run once a week for five weeks, and makes various accusations to support its hypothesis, including what the Church calls the “official exclusion” of Scientologists from the Christian Democratic Union, the German political party.

“Germany is reverting to old prejudices and increasing violence,” according to a statement from Leisa Goodman, spokesperson for the Church of Scientology.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Magazine Article</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Post can keep Scientology Papers</b>
<b>Source</b>	<b>"Editor &amp; Publisher", Vol. 128, Issue 40, p. 24</b>
<b>Author</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1995</b>

**Description:**

The article reports on a federal court ruling which holds that the "Washington Post" does not have to return documents from Scientology it obtained through court records.

**Post can keep Scientology papers**

The Washington post does not have to return documents from the Church of Scientology it obtained through court records that were later sealed.

The church contended the documents were protected by copyright and trade secrets laws, but a federal court found that the use of the material in news reports did not diminish its value to the church.

The Post obtained the court papers while writing about the Church's case against a former member who put the material text on the Internet.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Magazine Article</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Judge dismisses Lawsuit against Washington Post</b>
<b>Source</b>	<b>"Editor &amp; Publisher", Vol. 128, Issue 51, p. 15</b>
<b>Author</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1995</b>

**Description:**

The article reports that a federal judge has dismissed a copyright lawsuit filed by the Church of Scientology against the "Washington Post" newspaper regarding the publication of confidential information.

**Judge dismisses lawsuit against Washington Post**

A federal judge has dismissed a copyright lawsuit filed by the Church of Scientology against the Washington Post.

The church sought to prevent the Post from publishing information in confidential documents. Publication was in the context of a story about the church's lawsuit against former members who put the documents on the Internet.

The judge found that the Post's excerpts fell under the fair use doctrine of copyright law and ordered the church to pay the newspaper's legal fees, the newspaper reported.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Magazine Article</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Netcom loses Copyright Round in Federal Court</b>
<b>Source</b>	<b>"Editor &amp; Publisher", Vol. 130, Issue 2, p. 28</b>
<b>Author</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1996</b>

**Description:**

The article reports that California Judge Ronald M. Whyte ruled Netcom On-Line Communications may be liable for copyright infringement.

**Netcom loses copyright round in federal court**

A Federal Judge in San Jose, Calif., has ruled that Netcom On-Line Communication Services Inc. may be liable for copyright infringement because it refused to remove a subscriber's postings of copyrighted text of the Church of Scientology.

U.S. District Judge Ronald M. Whyte said in a summary judgment that because Netcom may have known about the infringement but failed to remove the postings, it could be liable for "contributory" copyright infringement. But the company is not liable for direct copyright infringement or for "vicarious" infringement, the judge ruled.

The decision allows church groups to press their copyright infringement suit against Netcom toward a trial, expected next year, the Wall Street Journals Joan Rigdon reported.

Netcom denies it knew about the infringement, even though the church had complained that Dennis Erlich of Garden Grove, Calif., had posted excerpts of the writing of L. Ron Hubbard, founder of Scientology, on a bulletin-board service operated by Clearwood Data Services, which uses Netcom as a distributor.

When Bridge Publications, the church's publishing unit, and another affiliate complained, Netcom took no action, prompting the suit, filed last February against Netcom, Clearwood and Erlich.

"If access providers are exposed to liability each time somebody complains that their copyright is violated, then I think what they will do is simply remove material," said Netcom lawyer Randolph Rice.

But Shari Steele, attorney for the Electronic Frontier Foundation in San Francisco, interpreted the ruling to mean that "you're not going to automatically hold systems operators liable for the posts of users."

"The only time they'll even consider holding system operators liable is if they know" about copyright infringement, she said.

The Scientology groups argued that since Netcom canceled the accounts of 1,200 subscribers who violated rules about such material as child pornography, it should respond to complaints about subscribers who infringe copyrights.

A similar copyright case, pitting Scientology affiliates against Internet access provider Gateway Digital Services Inc., is scheduled for trial in January in federal court in Virginia, the Journal reported.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Magazine Article</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Investigating Religion: 'A Cultural Minefield'</b>
<b>Source</b>	<b>"Editor and Publisher", Vol. 131, Issue 25, p. 73</b>
<b>Author</b>	<b>M. L. Stein</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1998</b>

**Description:**

The article describes the experiences that journalist Douglas Frantz made with Scientology while investigating them.

**Investigating Religion: ' A Cultural Minefield'**

**Veteran religion reporters offer tips on probing controversial religious groups**

Investigating religious groups is one of the most difficult and emotionally trip-wired tasks a newspaper can undertake, according to the national projects editor of the New York Times.

Speaking at the Investigative Reporters & Editors conference in New Orleans, Doug Frantz said serious reporting on controversial religious organizations involves "stepping into a cultural minefield."

"Merely asking questions will offend the people you are investigating because, at heart, you are challenging something they hold dear to them," Frantz said.

**Sacred cows and big money**

Frantz, who has written extensively about Scientology, said investigations of religious groups inherently deal with sacred cows - and often huge amounts of money as well. The sacred cow syndrome is what often allows "the unscrupulous to pocket the money of the faithful," he said.

Still, such projects involve standard procedures: Are records available, will sources talk, can accusations be corroborated, will the subject pressure people to remain silent? But in religion, it's important for reporters to do their homework: research enough to absorb a working knowledge of the faith or organization, Frantz counseled.

**No FOI laws in church**

"It's not like county government or the Pentagon or your local congressman," he said. "It's more arcane. It's likely to be more secretive and there are no freedom of information laws when it comes to religions."

After gathering facts, reading scriptures, and "quietly" attending services, religion reporters typically seek interviews with church leaders.

"There are certainly cases where you can't do this, but I honestly wish that I had understood Scientology better when I wrote the first story," he related. "By the time I'd spent a year on the subject ... I was just a lot smarter about every aspect of it."

When investigating religions, expect hostility, Frantz said. "Nobody likes their religious beliefs and practices questioned."

At his first interview with Scientology leaders, Frantz said he faced six lawyers, three top church officials and a stenographer. "They spent the first 45 minutes attacking me," he said. "Needless to say, it got off on the wrong foot."

As nonprofit institutions, religious groups don't have to file public tax forms, but their affiliates do, resulting in voluminous public material.

One pitfall: Stories probing religion may shock readers' sensibilities, and turn them off. To soften the effect, he suggested highlighting activities that are "starkly unreligious -- that demonstrate ways in which this organization is diverging from the accepted norms of behavior for religious organizations and people of piety."

### **Healthy Skepticism**

Fellow panelist Mike Wilson, of the St. Petersburg Times, said, "It's important to be skeptical but assume nothing." When church officials won't talk, find former church members, who often know a lot.

"Always be prepared to deal with thin-skinned people," he cautioned.