



Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

Three cadets walk through a construction detour adjacent to the Zachry Engineering Center along Spence Drive.

Coroners trying to verify death of church father

Associated Press

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. — Coroners' officials Tuesday said they would match fingerprints taken from a body to try to confirm the announced death of L. Ron Hubbard, the reclusive founder of the Church of Scientology.

The wealthy organization, often entangled in battles with the Internal Revenue Service and the target of lawsuits from former members, said late Monday that Hubbard, 74, died Friday of a stroke at his San Luis Obispo County ranch.

It said Hubbard, who had not been seen in public since 1980, was cremated, and his ashes were scattered at sea.

A funeral was held Monday at the Hollywood Palladium for Hubbard, a science fiction writer who founded Scientology in 1954, said Ken Hoden, president of the Church of Scientology of Los Angeles.

"We had 2,800 people inside, and approximately 2,000 outside who just couldn't get in," Hoden said.

He added that the service was being sent by satellite to 600 churches and missions across the world.

Scientology is based on Hubbard's 1948 book "Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health," a book that has sold millions of copies.

Through the use of a so-called E-meter, somewhat like a lie detector, church members undergo exercises and counseling to eliminate negative mental images.

The church has claimed up to 6 million members worldwide, and re-

portedly earned \$100 million a year at its peak in the 1970s.

In 1980, the IRS took the church to U.S. Tax Court in Los Angeles because of the group's tax-exempt status from 1970 through 1972. The IRS maintained the California branch of the church was not tax-exempt and owed \$1.4 million in income taxes for the period. In 1984, the court decided against the Church of Scientology, ordering payment of back taxes and penalties. Hubbard's eldest son, Ronald E. DeWolf, in a lawsuit filed in 1982, had claimed that Hubbard was either dead or mentally incompetent, but a judge ruled Hubbard was alive.

And in a lawsuit tried in Portland, Ore., a former church member was awarded \$39 million in May after claiming the church fraudulently enticed her to buy its courses by promising to improve her intelligence, creativity and eyesight. The jury verdict was overturned by the trial judge, and another trial is pending.

Fingerprints taken from the body at a mortuary were to be matched to see if they were Hubbard's, San Luis Obispo County Coroner Don Hines said Tuesday. Hines said he was notified of Hubbard's death at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, several hours after Hubbard's reported death.

A death certificate signed by Hubbard's physician, Dr. Eugene Denk of Los Angeles, a will and a certificate of religious belief from Hubbard asking that no autopsy be performed was turned over to the coroner's investigator who viewed the body, Hines said.

Soviets may have received intelligence

Airman charged with passing information

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An Air Force enlisted man who worked with the aviation wing that operates super-secret SR-71 spy planes has been arrested and charged with trying to pass intelligence information to the Soviet Union, officials said Tuesday.

Airman 1st Class Bruce D. Ott, 25, of Erie, Pa., was arrested by Air Force and FBI agents in Davis, Calif., on suspicion of attempted unauthorized release of national defense information, said Capt. Joseph

Saxon, the public information officer at Beale Air Force Base, where Ott was assigned.

The spokesman said the arrest occurred on Jan. 22, and that Ott was now in pre-trial confinement at the base. He refused, however, to discuss any further details of the case or say to which country Ott was attempting to pass information.

Air Force officials at the Pentagon also refused to discuss the case publicly or to explain why the service

waited almost a week to disclose the arrest.

But a number of military and government sources who demanded anonymity said Ott had been singled out by federal investigators after making an attempt to pass secret information to the Soviet Union.

One source said Ott had been charged with attempting to pass information "that concerned the SR-71." Another said he was believed to have been operating alone and that the investigation "was fairly recent,"

adding authorities believe they arrested Ott before any information actually changed hands.

The SR-71, unofficially known as the Blackbird, is a long-range reconnaissance jet that can fly more than three times the speed of sound at altitudes above 80,000 feet. The plane is routinely used by the United States for classified intelligence-gathering missions, and can be equipped with cameras and other surveillance equipment capable of surveying 100,000 square miles in an hour's time.

Reagan urges Congress to support Angola

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration urged Congress on Tuesday to support rebels fighting the Cuban-backed government of Angola, but cautioned there is "no possibility" of an outright military victory for either side.

And conservative groups, who hailed the forces of guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi as "brave anti-communist freedom fighters," renewed their call for U.S. companies to close their operations in the African country.

Savimbi, arriving Tuesday for a press agent-guided tour including meetings with President Reagan and leaders of Congress, will be trying to drum up backing for his military group, UNITA, which is fighting a government aided by Cuban troops.

Parental kidnapping devastating

Associated Press

Abducted children suffer even when Daddy or Mommy is the kidnapper — a notion which experts on missing children say the public has been slow to accept.

"We find that about 95 percent of the children who are recovered do require psychiatric care," says Georgia Hilgeman, director of the Vanished Children's Alliance in Los Gatos, Calif.

Parental kidnapping, she said Tuesday, is "really a devastating form of child abuse."

Katheryn Rosenthal, director of Children's Rights of Florida, Inc., says "First of all, the type of person who kidnaps a child is not the stable sort."

Parental kidnapping — often a desperate last act in a failed marriage or love affair — is far more common than kidnappings by strangers, and is estimated to occur anywhere from 25,000 to 500,000 times a year in this country, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Washington.

The last case to draw national attention involved a five-year-old boy, Benjamin Lee Studer, who recognized himself last week on an NBC-TV program on missing children.

A court hearing is scheduled Wednesday in Birmingham, Ala., where Benjamin Lester Studer was arrested on charges of kidnapping and unlawful flight.

The father had brought the boy from Covington, Ky., to Alabama a year ago. Studer's former wife, Jen-

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— Georgia Hilgeman, director of the Vanished Children's Alliance.

nifer, claims she had been awarded legal custody by a Kentucky court. Studer, who was arrested on charges of kidnapping and unlawful flight,

claims he had not been served with a divorce decree and had no knowledge of the custody award.

Benji appeared to have been well-treated by his father. Sadly, that is not always the case.

"The basic reason for abduction, we have found over the years, is revenge," Rosenthal said. "Anytime you have a situation like that, you end up with children who very quickly become excess baggage."

A parent on the lam, for instance, can't use his or her Social Security number for fear of being traced, and thus can't work. Inevitably, the child is blamed for the hardship, Rosenthal said.

In some cases, children are kidnapped and then abandoned or put up for adoption by a parent who only wants revenge against a former spouse.

Rosenthal recalled one case in which a father kidnapped his children, then would telephone his former wife to make her listen while he beat the children.

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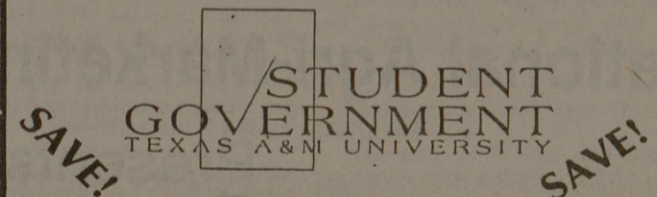
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