

# ***Scientology* Can't Take Criticism**

Yes, it's true. The Scientology cult has the same reaction to criticism that a rotten, fetid meat packing plant has to health inspectors. You can see this from the reaction Scientology has to the weekly, sometimes daily pickets that happen outside its various branches. The cult's reaction manifests itself in three ways.

First, the cult likes to conduct counter-demonstrations at critics' homes, protesting what the cult terms religious intolerance. At first glance, this isn't strange - it's a public sidewalk in front of these peoples' homes, and the Scientologists naturally have the right to demonstrate there. However... Usually, these pickets take place while the critics in question are picketing in front of the cult locations. If Scientologists want to protest the actions of critics, why don't the Scientologists demonstrate where the alleged religious intolerance is taking place? Why instead picket empty apartments and homes?

If you want to see what one of these Scientology counter-demonstrations looks like, check out the picket photo web page. Note that even when protesting, Scientologists are pushing the cult party line - note the L. Ron Hubbard (Scientology cult Founder and Source) quotes on the signs. Here's that web page: <http://xenu.ca/pickets/photos.html>

The second way the cult reacts to criticism is by playing fast and loose with the truth. This is evinced by the flyers that Scientologists use to counter-leaflet during anti-Scientology pickets (if you can, get one of the cult leaflets - it does a good job of displaying the Scientology mindset towards criticism). The title page of the leaflet says, "What would you do if these people took *your* child's picture and put it up on the Internet?" It goes on in an attempt to portray critical activity against the Scientology cult as stemming from a rise in prejudice in society.

What the Scientology cult doesn't mention about the websites in question is that they've been on the internet, albeit with various start dates, since the middle of 1997 (1998 for ~wulfen/scn). The police hate-crimes unit have known about the websites for nearly as long, and done nothing about them save to visit Gregg Hagglund (one website owner) and warn him about the dangers of going up against a dangerous cult like Scientology. Why? Because the website doesn't constitute intolerance, only criticism. Detective Richard Kijewski of the Toronto police Hate Crimes Unit said that Gregg Hagglund's activities thus far involve criticism rather than hatred (Page A3 of the 99/02/24 edition of the Globe & Mail). This police officer's opinion is an important one - Det. Kijewski is one of the people who would have been doing the arresting if Canadian Scientology critics were instigating hatred (as the Scientology cult alleges, falsely). (See below for these websites.)

The cult also reacts to criticism by posting anonymous denunciations of critics to the internet. <http://www.parishioners.org> pretends to be a generic site for parishioners (of any church, presumably), but in fact focuses exclusively on Scientology critics. What have these people done to merit attention like this from an organization like Scientology? Let's see what a few of them did...

**Andreas Heldal-Lund:** Runs <http://www.xenu.net> - one of the premier websites critical of Scientology.

**David Cecere:** Posted a study disproving fundamental cult claims to the internet: <http://www.xenu.net/archive/fischer/index.html>

**Gregg Hagglund:** Organized the first pickets of the Toronto branch of Scientology.

**Kady O'Malley:** Researched the Guardian's Office, the cult's KGB-like amateur intelligence agency (now renamed the Office of Special Affairs). Her website: <http://www.wwaif.net/GO/index.htm>

But really now... Why does Scientology react like this to criticism? The solution might be in the cult founder's own writings: In Hubbard Communications Office Policy Letter of 23 December 1965, L. Ron Hubbard (the Founder and Source of and final word in Scientology) clearly describes his (and therefore the official Scientology) view on people who criticize Scientology:

"Suppressive Acts are clearly those covert or overt acts knowingly calculated to reduce or destroy the influence or activities of Scientology or prevent case gains or continued Scientology success and activity on the part of a Scientologist. As persons or groups that would do such a thing act out of self interest only to the detriment of all others, they cannot be granted the rights and beingness ordinarily accorded rational beings and so place themselves beyond any consideration for their feelings or well being."

There you have it. Cutting through the cult language, this is pretty clear. As per Scientology cult policy, people who criticize Scientology are irrational beings with no rights... Is it any wonder that the cult reacts in such a manner to criticism?

Finally, the websites of some of your local Scientology critics:

<http://www.xenu.ca>

<http://www.geocities.com/HotSprings/Spa/8412/gregg/index.htm>