



CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL

August 16, 2012

Wayne Lawson
Vanity Fair
Executive Literary Editor

Dear Mr. Lawson:

For the record, both the timing and slant of your questions show *Vanity Fair* has so far not attempted to seek the truth. You did not respond as to whether your story had already been written when you finally contacted the Church. Contacting the Church after the story was turned in suggests you have no real interest in the Church's point of view or, for that matter, the facts. Not only are your questions offensive, biased and reflective of religious bigotry, they also show lazy reporting. It is clear *Vanity Fair* is rehashing numerous reports because it has nothing new to say about Scientology and is forced to rely on the same stale, bitter anti-Scientologists who have offered falsehoods to tabloid media for years to gain attention and profit.

The last question you sent exemplifies your unprofessional reporting, given that you lifted the allegation nearly verbatim from page 169 of Andrew Morton's failed book on Tom Cruise. We do not comment on "notions," just facts, especially when they have their origins in a book filled with inaccuracies. At the time of publication, we said Mr. Morton's book makes "all sorts of bizarre and false allegations about Mr. Miscavige" and that "Morton at no time ever attempted to contact, speak to or interview him." The noted critic, Janet Maslin, said in her *New York Times* book review: "Mr. Morton has found a number of former Scientologists who are willing to speak freely, and in some cases vengefully, about the group's purported inner workings. Mr. Morton's eagerness to include their voices leads him to push the limits of responsible reporting." That some of your other questions were lifted or stem from Andrew Morton's book—all of which include false allegations—shows a willingness to crib from unreliable sources.

Regurgitating false stories is one thing, but it is quite another to insult Scientology in a way you would never consider insulting other religious institutions and those who share their beliefs.

As to your biased and intolerant questions about our religious practice, Mr. Miscavige is the ecclesiastical leader of the Scientology religion. He has preserved and protected the orthodoxy of our religion for 25 years, rigorously upheld the sanctity and confidentiality of ministerial communications, and overseen worldwide growth in the propagation of what is the fastest growing religion to emerge from the 20th century. We invite you to look at our website and see the real story of Scientology and its growth under his stewardship at www.scientology.org. Everyone who knows him knows his character is diametrically opposite to that which you imply and he has demonstrated throughout his life that he has never been, would never be and is not adjunct to anything or anyone.

We can state unequivocally that no Church official, particularly the ecclesiastical leader, violates the privacy of members by disclosing communications between parishioners and their ministers. Anyone who represents that this practice occurs is either ignorant about our Church or is lying to you. It should come as no surprise to you that we have experience with your anonymous sources making these allegations.

It is equally absurd to suggest our Church inserts itself into the romantic or matrimonial affairs of its parishioners or ever launched any kind of "special project" such as the one you describe. For your background, this tabloid rumor was first published years ago and continues to circulate, sourcing to Marc Headley. He admitted in a deposition to selling similar stories to the now defunct *News of the World* for \$10,000 and for \$6,250 to *Life & Style*. The Headleys are extremely bitter in part because their twin lawsuits filed against the Church were recently thrown out by a federal court and affirmed on appeal and they owe the Church \$42,000 in court costs.

If the bizarre questions and topics above weren't enough, we were dumfounded by your suggestion that a 40-year executive of our religious order received a fashionable new wardrobe for this phantom project that never existed. This takes a willingness to listen to the lies of apostates to an entirely new level of absurdity. Once again, this never occurred.

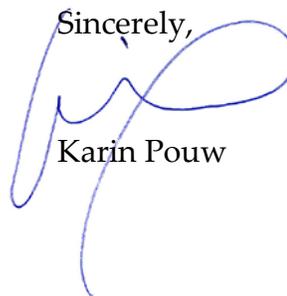
As to your questions about parishioners' personal lives and choices, the questions are unfounded, misdirected, inappropriate and untrue.

The bottom-line question *Vanity Fair's* editors must ask themselves is why you are willing to accept as true everything spewed by ex-Scientologists? If you have done any research, you know this small coterie comprises individuals who have admitted to suborning perjury, obstructing justice and lying. And that their members have records for drunk and disorderly conduct, wife beating, assault on an officer of the court and numerous other offenses—all matters of public record. They, in turn, can prove none of their allegations, because they make up their stories as they go in hopes of promoting themselves, gaining financial reward, and channeling their bitter hatred against their former faith.

... Your failure to contact the Church earlier and your self-imposed deadline must stem from the fact that much of your "investigation" entailed cribbing old tabloid allegations. Had you fulfilled your journalistic duties and provided us with a meaningful opportunity to respond to the allegations (i.e., identified your sources and given reasonable time to respond), we would have been happy to have proffered ample evidence that would prove the unreliability of your sources and the inaccuracy of their statements.

The Church of Scientology is serving communities far and wide with its new Churches and ever-expanding social and humanitarian programs to bring about a better world. You are invited to find the truth on our website and review some of the hundreds of videos that reflect our parishioners' and Church's point of view.

Because of the defamatory nature of your questions and religious discrimination demonstrated throughout, I have asked counsel to write separately. I have also separately provided information to your editor about your presumed sources. We are hoping you will set aside any temptation for bigotry and objectively evaluate your sources and their motives in search of the truth.

Sincerely,

Karin Pouw

cc: Maureen Orth
Special Correspondent, *Vanity Fair*