

TO: Anderson Cooper

This concerns your program on Scientology...

I was a Sea Org member at Golden Era Productions for 16 years up until the end of 2006. I have no regrets about the time spent at the International Headquarters over those years.

The majority of the people I worked with over those years were a bunch of fine hardworking and genuine individuals dedicated to their work, in whatever field they were engaged. We were always encouraged and given time to advance our knowledge and skill, through study or vocational training, to improve our personal lives and effectiveness on the job. It was like a university setting.

Having a great place to work, a great job working alongside a great bunch of people—man, it was better than working at Google! I would rather be doing a job because I loved it than one I had to do to make money.

Sometimes I did work long hours, sometimes around the clock when there was a deadline to make. That's no different from corporate America or Washington or the Haiti relief workers. People I work with now in large companies are sometimes up all night trying to solve delivery problems and schedules. That is not unusual, and I have never heard of any honestly dedicated group or group member working 9—5 only. When situations and emergencies arise one naturally rises to the occasion.

Unfortunately for me, I had to leave the Sea Org to take care of elderly parents. Otherwise I'd still be there today. So I am extremely unhappy to hear negativity when it concerns being a Scientology staff member, as it is a very lopsided and false view.

I did say the majority of staff were good people. I worked for Mike Rinder as his assistant for 2 years and found the man very difficult to talk to. I found it virtually impossible to do my job and he eventually had me reassigned. That's a tough one when you are new to an area, trying to do your best with a boss that won't even say good morning to you—ever.

Marty Rathbun and Mike Rinder worked together mainly on legal matters and media relations, many of which resulted in incorrect portrayals of the Church and/or its Policy. Often the Chairman of the

Board RTC would have to step in and correct the work after it was botched by Rathbun or Rinder.

On one occasion, Mike Rinder, upset about something, grabbed one of his staff around the throat and pushed the staff member up against the wall until he virtually turned blue—a frightening day for all those that witnessed it. I was so thankful I was being transferred. Unfortunately I didn't escape my own episode with Marty Rathbun. He had some beef that he decided to take out on me by grabbing me around the throat and shoving me against the wall... Marty Rathbun was known for a short temper, but I had never thought he would suddenly burst out in an unprovoked attack on me. I was standing in a group of three other staff, all female. I guess being the only male in the room made me the target.

After these episodes I felt very unsettled and asked for some time out so I could reflect on all of this and assess my values and goals as related to the Church. I did what is called the Rehabilitation Project Force (RPF) program, which consisted of a schedule of work and study. After completing this program I was physically and mentally in great shape and ready to tackle a new career in the Church away from Rinder and Rathbun.

I had been a restaurateur and chef and was asked if I would like to work, along with my wife, on improving food quality and service to the whole base staff. It was something I was familiar with and had professional training in and felt comfortable with. I accepted the challenge. I was many times preparing and providing food and service not only for all the base staff but also for Chairman of the Board, Mr. Miscavige, his staff and guests. During all the years of providing that service I can only say that Mr. Miscavige was always gracious, polite and appreciative. He would go out of his way to come by the kitchen and thank the cook for the meal, even as busy as he was. He'd have someone call ahead if he could not make dinner to apologize for being late. Often if he was held up in a meeting he would also have us prepare and set aside meals for the staff that had been detained because of a meeting that ran long. He was a genuine pleasure to work for.

The expansion of the Church, with Mr. Miscavige at the helm, has been in a steep rise. L. Ron Hubbard's books and materials are now in multiple translated versions—I've been able to hand them to my Latino friends. New Church facilities around the globe are the result and the cause of the consequent international consistent growth of

Scientology—and I've been a Scientologist since 1975 before all this took off! It's a totally different pace to what it was back then. I guess as the pace picked up, those like Rinder and Rathbun and others who could not perform felt the pressure and unable to adapt to a faster pace of expansion, ended up taking off. Now unable to hold down a job, these people find it necessary to "attack" the Church and its principals with false accusations.

And for the record, in all my 16 years as a staff member at the International base and having been on Mr. Miscavige's lines personally...He was always positive.

I am personally challenging those accusing the Church and its principals of wrongdoing. I think that the accusers are looking for a payout because they can't get a decent job or can't get used to the loss of benefits they enjoyed as Church executives. The stark reality of having to provide for themselves is sinking in. What they are doing is criminal stuff, the stuff that the Rinder's and Rathbun's used to rail against when they had a backbone and some decency about them. How times have changed.

J.W.