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Archives

:: August 18, 2003 ::

Goldie Hawn to appear at "cult" leader's birthday bash

Goldie Hawn has been hired to speak at an event sponsored by a group called a "cult."

The actress is being paid by "NXIVM" (pronounced Nexium), formerly known as **Executive Success Programs** (ESP), to speak at its "Vanguard Week" celebration.

NXIVM was recently **criticized by residents of Albany**, New York and labeled a "cult."

Ms. Hawn will speak about "the importance of seeking joy in one's life," reports **MSNBC**.

But what the star doesn't know is she is actually featured entertainment for the group leader's birthday party.

"Vanguard Week," the event Hawn has been hired for is named for the NXIVM founder Keith Raniere, called "Vanguard" by his devoted students.

Raniere formerly ran a multi level marketing (MLM) scheme "**Consumer Buyline**," which tanked after State Attorney Generals took action against it. The MLM was also the subject of a class action lawsuit.

Some years later Raniere started up ESP with the help of Nancy Salzman, a registered nurse.

ESP seems to borrow heavily upon the teachings, philosophy, seminar structure and/or terminology of **Scientology**, **EST**, **Landmark Education**, the **Forum** and **Ayn Rand**.

An ESP "**Intensive**" can cost thousands of dollars and take 10 hours a day for 16 consecutive days.

One clinical **psychologist has compared** ESP training to "**thought reform**," often called "**brainwashing**."

Complaints associated with ESP range from strained relationships, estranged families and at least one breakdown during an "intensive" that led to a hospital stay.

Hawn is not the first star to be seemingly used by a purported "cult" to promote an event.

Both **Bill Cosby** and **Whitney Houston** were once booked as entertainment for events associated with Rev. Moon's **Unification Church**.

Scientology routinely uses celebrity members to promote its associated programs, such as **Tom Cruise** and his recent round of appearances related to "Applied Scholastics."

Goldie Hawn is probably picking up a hefty honorarium for her professional appearance at Ranieri's birthday bash. But the Oscar winner, who first became widely known through the television show *Laugh In*, should realize that this is no joke.

Ranieri and his group are using her name to promote NXIVM, a group that has allegedly hurt families and students.

Note: Goldie Hawn later cancelled the engagement.

[Posted by Rick Ross at 08:50 AM][Link]

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