

Special report

Years of devotion end painfully

By LISA BENNETT
Staff Writer

She left the man she loved when they told her he was a bad influence. She left her two-day-old baby at home when they told her they needed her back. She encouraged her friends to get

Engrams & E-Meters

A Scientologist's story

into debt when they told her it would be good for them.

For 12 years, Margie Kuentz Hoffman was a model Scientologist — teacher, recruiter and third in command at Harry Palmer's Center for Creative Learning in Elmira, formerly the Elmira Mission of the Church of Scientology.

Then, four months ago, she quit. And last month, she told her story.

Through most of those years, Hoffman believed she (See Scientology on Page 5A)

The people in this story considered themselves members of the Church of Scientology, under the local direction of Harry Palmer, during the period in which most of these events occurred. However, as the result of a lawsuit, Palmer is no longer formally connected with the Church of Scientology. His local organization is now called the Center for Creative Learning. The lawsuit was settled in May, 1987.



MARGIE HOFFMAN explains how her career as a model Scientologist ended in disillusionment.

Staff photo by Teresa