

9 JUNE 1984
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Proud Scientologist

Editor:

6/9/84
Recent articles and an editorial in the *Clearwater Sun* have asserted that Scientology is dangerous or dying. Neither is true, to my observation.

I came to Clearwater in September 1981 to do a Scientology service and was so impressed by both the Flag Land Base and the city that I never left. Since then, all the changes I have witnessed in the church have been positive and expansive, and I have experienced spiritual gain far in excess of my expectations.

I am not employed by the church, but I have tremendous admiration for the dedicated people who are keeping Scientology alive and well. They are the friendliest and most ethical people I know.

Clearwater is a beautiful city, and I am very proud to call it my home. I am also proud of being a Scientologist.

JAMES M. JUSTICE
Clearwater

The *Clearwater Sun* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be signed and include a telephone number where the writer can be reached. They should be brief and to the point. Send them to the *Clearwater Sun*, Box 2078, Clearwater 33517.

Scientology: pro and con

Editor:

6/10/84
I read a copy of the "Way to Happiness," by L. Ron Hubbard, tried it and found happiness. Who can dispute that truth and honesty is the basis of happiness in life? Anyone can try this out and find out for themselves.

I read the *Clearwater Sun* and felt miserable for hours afterwards.

If honesty equals happiness, then I wonder what caused my bad feelings in reading the *Sun*?

DALE CHRISTIANSEN
Clearwater

Editor:

6/10/84
The response to the editorial, "Silence on Scientology shows alarming apathy," has been overwhelming from readers in our community, but, the letter from R.J. Lawley, from West Sussex, England, saying: "We are fighting the church here in the United Kingdom and your articles are a big help to us," must have given your heartstrings a tug.

It is wonderful to know that editorials in the *Clearwater Sun* reach other countries and influence thinking there. For us to know that wherever the *Sun* editorials are read, they affect the thinking of people, not only in our community, but around the world, makes us prouder and prouder of the *Sun*.

A breath of hope that the Scientologists may be annihilated comes from:

Marvin Price, the former head of the Stockton Mission, who says that the collapse of the church is inevitable because the church was built on a lie.

Gerald Armstrong, the former church archivist and a defector from Scientology, is being sued by the church for the 10,000 letters and documents that he retained after leaving the church, said, "If it becomes known that he (Hubbard) lied ... and if those documents come out it will be the end of Scientology."

Michael Flynn, a well-known Boston attorney, who has made a career of legal battles with the church, says, "There has never been such an all-out assault against Hubbard ... You're dealing with a bunker mentality. They are in deep trouble."

Lawyer Flynn is now working on the case of Armstrong vs. Scientology church, in the Los Angeles Superior Court.

We wish you well, Lawyer Flynn, in getting those letters and documents out before the public eye. We are confident that then the days of the Scientologists will be numbered.

RUTH W. SLEMP
Clearwater

In defense of Scientology

Editor:

What gives with your vast and biased reporting on the Scientologists in Clearwater? The recent articles were a bit too much. I simply never hear any evidence of the widespread dislike you suggest exists in our community for Scientology.

Perhaps you are actually trying to create hatred and prejudice? Your manner and presentation has all the marks of the same irrational attacks made by Germany on Jesus, Christians and other religious and ethnic groups.

On your own pages are so many examples of the results of inflaming people against a group or individual with some particular differences. The Lebanese Christians against Lebanese Moslems, Iranian Moslems against Iraqi Moslems, Hindus against Moslems in India, etc. You must know the possible consequence of your inflammatory reporting. Please, there are real dangers to our quality of life in Clearwater. Why create ones that don't exist?

BRUCE SILTON
Clearwater

Editor:

6/10/84
I have been very surprised by the coverage of the Scientologists and their church in recent issues of your newspaper. Hardly a day goes by when I do not see some article vilifying these people or their organizations, and I finally have been provoked enough to write you a letter. I work with a lady who is a Scientologist, and I also have a couple of other acquaintances who are Scientologists. And so your recent articles don't make sense to me. These people I know, if anything, are above average. They are extremely honest, they are hard-working, and each one is very willing to give a hand to someone who needs help. They are the kind of people you wish there were a good deal more of around.

So I am mystified at why the *Sun* has been painting such a one-sided, even biased (I hesitate to say "bigoted"), view of these people. Surely some unbiased reporting is in order here. It makes me think sometimes that maybe I should put my quarter in the neighboring coin box and extract that other, "out-of-town" newspaper. Although I really don't want to.

ARTHUR KRAVITZ
Clearwater

14 JUNE