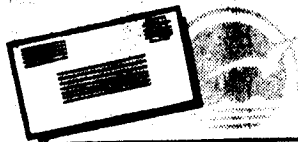


Clearwater Sun

19 JUNE 1984
23 JUNE



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Regarding Armstrong and his claim against the Church of Scientology: Since when does responsible journalism only look at one side of the story?

He has allegedly stolen documents. This is "theft" in the eyes of the law. A man who steals rarely tells the truth.

His justifications for this theft really are amazing, but more than that; why wouldn't the *Clearwater Sun* want both sides of the story? Your readers deserve to have all of the facts here, wouldn't you agree? Whether one likes or dislikes the Church of Scientology is really not the issue here. But responsible, thorough journalism is. Objectivity would garner you even more respect from your reading public. The public can smell prejudice a mile off ... and believe me, it's offensive to many, because they expect "professionalism" from their local reporter and paper.

I believe it's this type of "one-sided reporting" that has made it easier for an out-of-town paper to claim the lion's share of the public in terms of circulation. I don't really believe, in the end, that you will stably boost your circulation by this type of sensational reporting. Quite to the contrary: you may lose many. Can you afford that?

The professional approach is total objectivity, reporting both sides of the story. You will garner peoples' respect for doing so. And I've never seen anyone subscribe to a paper that they didn't respect in one way or another. You own this much to your reading public, and your reputation just may depend on it.

BARBARA F. GEORGIUS
Executive Director
Abilities Unlimited
Indian Rocks Beach

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.

19 JUNE 1984

Prejudiced reporting?

Editor: *Saint*

Whew! Barbara Georgius asks, "Why wouldn't the *Clearwater Sun* want both sides of the story?" (She was referring to the Gerald Armstrong vs Scientology trial.) "The public can smell prejudice a mile off," she said in a letter to the *Sun*, "and believe me, it's offensive to many, because they expect 'professionalism' from their local reporter and paper."

Now, now, Miss Georgius, you must have been reading another newspaper. It couldn't have been the *Clearwater Sun*. One-sided reporting? Sensational reporting? That is not in the *Sun*.

In talking about Armstrong's "allegedly stolen documents," and saying "this is theft in the eyes of the law," let's let the court decide. This is Los Angeles Superior Court Judge G. Breckenridge's decision:

"Gerald Armstrong—who was personally authorized by Hubbard in 1980 to collect documents in preparation for a Hubbard biography—took materials to 'minimize potential risks he faced' after leaving the sect, 'including physical harm.'"

"The organization (Scientology) clearly is schizophrenic and paranoid and this bizarre combination seems to be a reflection of its founder, LRH (Hubbard). The evidence portrays (Hubbard) as a man who was virtually a pathological liar when it comes to history, background and achievements."

Breckenridge said the documents, letters, orders and tape recordings "reflect on (Hubbard's) egoism, avarice, lust for power, greed and vindictiveness against all persons perceived by him to be hostile." Now, Miss Georgius, it may be well for you to re-read the editorials and articles by the editors and staff writers of the *Sun*. You may get a clearer, unbiased opinion and not "smell prejudice" in them.

RUTH W. SLEMP
Clearwater

23 JUNE (?)

Concerning Scientology

Editor:

Thank you for sending George-Wayne Shelor to California and Canada to write stories on the actions of certain Scientologists.

The information has been alarming, but helpful. We need to keep informed. Other people would write or call to thank you for the current Scientology news, but perhaps they are afraid. It took me a while to write this letter to express my appreciation.

From time to time I send letters about the Scientologists to the mayor and commissioners at Clearwater City Hall. My letters become a public record, just like other letters written to City Hall. The letters are copied and made available to the public. Every day a Scientologist visits Clearwater City Hall to see if letters have been written about Scientologists. The letter is then copied, the Scientologist pays the copying fee and off he goes. It could be quite chilling to know about that little activity, which may be why so few people write letters to their elected officials, preferring to make known their concerns in person or by telephone.

For awhile, I was wondering if you had given up the battle. Current stories have shown me the *Clearwater Sun* is still worth reading.

LOIS F. CORMIER
Clearwater

19 JUNE 1984