

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Clearwater Sun

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Where do we go from here?

FAITHFUL READERS may have noticed during the past week we've had Scientology on our minds.

We have published several consecutive editorials on that topic, not to try your patience but to drive home the point that Clearwater has reached a juncture in its continuing battle with the cult.

The juncture is occasioned by the recent release of thousands of Scientology documents in Washington D.C. by the federal government.

The letters and memoranda form a history of what the Scientologists have thought, done and planned over many years.

Written by leading officials of the cult, as well as by rank and file members, these materials are undeniable evidence that the last thing Scientology has on its mind is religion.

What the sect stands for, instead, is dirty tricks, power, libel, slander, lawbreaking, conspiracy, spy tactics, theft, burglary and generally trampling on anyone or anything that gets in Scientology's way.

some unexpected reason the cult will one day fade away.

The only other choice is for the community to strap on the shield and buckler of righteous anger and imaginative outrage, and to devise ways that, while legal, will persuade the Scientologists that living in Clearwater just isn't for them.

Examples: the Clearwater Beach Holiday Inn, on its marquee, advertised Saturday's protest march at city hall. We are also told that at least one major commercial institution has gone on the record against Scientology and is encouraging its suppliers to do likewise.

WHETHER FURTHER steps are taken depends on the people of Clearwater and on the messages they send to their community leaders and elected officials.

In light of the Washington documents we think that either, and perhaps both, Governor Graham and Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney James Russell would be justified in impaneling a grand jury to

NOVEMBER 1979 washed away the last chance Scientology may have had to be regarded as an organization worthy of respect or even of being tolerated.

On Friday, the local cult drove the final nail in their own coffin by sending members dressed as Nazis to the offices of the Clearwater Sun.

On our front sidewalk the Scientologists staged a clumsy melodrama purporting to deal with persecution.

Whatever the intent of the buffoonery, the Scientologists chose the right uniforms. As we have pointed out in earlier editorials, Scientology and Nazi tactics have a lot in common.

We hammered home the "stop Scientology" message last week to emphasize that Clearwater really has only two choices.

One is to just wring our hands over the cult, mutter about it, and hope that for

investigate the Clearwater branch of Scientology.

We believe that from now on the voters have every right to demand candidates for local and national office to clearly spell out their position and feelings about Scientology.

We're not attorneys, but we deem unwarranted the recently expressed concern of one or two public officials about Scientology lawsuits because of alleged suppression of civil rights.

Nobody is trying to take away the Scientologists' rights. Those who oppose Scientology here simply want Clearwater to be rid of them.

If there is any legal and ethical way to get the cult out of town, we'd all better do our best to find it and put it into action.

If we don't, the Scientologists will continue on the march. They won't be wearing Nazi uniforms, but they might as well be.