

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

# Clearwater Sun

John E. Ricketson, Publisher

James E. Zimmer, General Manager

Ron Stuart, Editor

W. Paul Harris, Business Manager

Robert Driver, Editorial Page Editor

Robert Blackham, Advertising Director

Robert Buckler, Circulation Director

## Do we want this 'honor'?

WHETHER OR not Clearwater wants the title, Scientology has decided to give this city the distinction of becoming the cult's worldwide convention center.

On Thursday the local cult office said a convention of 300 to 500 members will be held this weekend.

By next fall, conventions of up to 2,000 persons may be possible, according to a spokesman for the organization.

Unless our city is content to be drowned in Scientologists, the citizens and merchants must resist these developments in every legal way possible.

Hotels and motels should refuse to give special rates to the Scientology visitors.

The cult's convention sites should be picketed peacefully, to show out-of-town members the low esteem that Scientology enjoys in our city.

Whatever else can be legal-

ly done to make the convention-goers feel unwelcome and unwanted should be done.

Is this being unfair and nasty to these visitors?

Not at all. It will simply be a way of communicating to persons who, up to now, have probably heard only one side the Scientology story—L. Ron Hubbard's.

Once the other parts of the cult story are transmitted to the visiting Scientologists, they may start to ask questions of their leaders. Eventually members may break away and regain the freedom of their own minds.

While remaining within the law, Clearwater residents must convince Scientology conventioners that this city is not a good place for a Scientologist to visit or to live.

This will demand that we be patient, persistent, resourceful and imaginative. But Clearwater can do it, if it really cares.