

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER
Clearwater Sun

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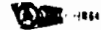
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Ft. Harrison flackery

A FLACK is a second-rate public relations man.

One way to tell a flack is to read his news releases. A flack's news release will be filled with puffed-up trivia, or distortions, or warmed-over hash.

We are already beginning to think that Chris Finn, the new minister of propaganda for local Scientologists, is a flack.

That's because the news release he wrote this week for Scientology's big enchilada, the Rev. Kenneth J. Whitman, purports to say something important, but fails to deliver. It also bends the truth.

The release says, for instance, that Scientologists are currently watching actions of Clearwater officials closely to detect civil rights violations.

So what else is new? The local cultists have been doing that for years, as they themselves engaged in infiltration, theft of private documents and harassment of the citizenry.

the predicted "60 Minutes" TV segment about Scientology) is that as the truth about Scientology becomes known the fewer clients the cult will be able to recruit and fleece.

All this aside, we very much hope the Scientologists do report every civil rights violation they find, or think they find.

That way the truth will come out, and we'll all learn just who is picking on whom.

MEANWHILE, ON the downtown redevelopment front, the Scientologists have announced plans for a trolley between Clearwater Beach and downtown.

It would not really be the old-fashioned electric trolley, of Toonerville fame.

It would be a bus. The Scientologists say they own one, and they would let it be used for passengers, free of charge.

We assume passengers would be treated to piped-in

THE NEWS release also said the U.S. Justice Department is especially interested in actions of governmental officials that violate the rights of Scientologists.

We doubt that. We question whether the Justice Department has a special interest in Scientologists who are discriminated against, as opposed to discrimination against Catholics, Jews, blacks, Rotarians and left-handed mango-pickers.

In fact, we'd bet a fur-lined thunder mug that Justice is a lot more concerned with whom the Scientologists afflict, than in vice versa.

After successfully sending about nine convicted Scientologists off to the slammer last week, the boys at the Justice Department are unlikely to be impressed when Rev. Whitman cries out, "Those nasty people in Clearwater are picking on us."

In the news release Whitman goes on to say his alleged church does not want the recent conflict in Clearwater to be blown up to nationwide proportions, because of its bad effects on tourism and new business coming to Clearwater.

That comment is certified dreck.

The reason Whitman wants no national publicity (such as

Scientology lectures as the bus sped along Memorial Causeway.

To get off the bus, passengers might have to agree to sign up for the removal of five non-malignant engrams, at a bargain rate of \$1,500.

Whatever the deal, we would urge local residents to forget about the bus. It sounds like another cultist scam to us. We can expect more nifty ideas from the Scientologists as time passes and they continue to try to endear themselves in our doubting hearts.

MAYOR CHARLES LeCher is trying hard to walk the difficult line between his personal disapproval of the Scientologists and his need to be a responsible mayor and keeper of the peace.

We commend him for his efforts. It is a tough job, because few ground rules have been written by persons who went before him.

As we talk with the mayor and other citizens, public and private, one issue seems to come clear, again and again.

It is this: either you believe the Scientologists should leave Clearwater, as soon as possible and forever, or you do not believe this.

Try as we can, we can envisage no acceptable middle ground.

BIBLE THOUGHT

Blessed are the peacemakers. Matt. 5:9.
