

East Grinstead Courier, August 2, 1984

## East Grinstead Courier

20 London Road, East Grinstead RH19 1AB. Tel 23652/3 and 22659

### Time to go

THE DAYS when Scientology threw writs at anyone daring to criticise it may have passed — but do not be too sure. There has been no change in the function and purpose of the bizarre organisation at Saint Hill to which East Grinstead has been a reluctant and embarrassed host for more than 20 years.

The best news would be that the whole strange set-up had packed up and left.

Mr Justice Latey's denunciation of Scientology in the High Court last week will be generally welcomed. In his judicial authority he was able to say what others in their unprotected state dare not. He used powerful words — "corrupt, sinister, dangerous" — in ordering the "Church" of Scientology to cease intimidating and harassing a mother who, to her credit, had broken away from the movement. She sought and won the custody of the children from their Scientologist father.

Can anyone imagine anything less like a church than the money-making worship of L. Ron Hubbard?

AUG  
EAST GRINSTEAD COURIER

## Sect custody dad to appeal

THE FATHER of two children who lost the Scientology custody case last week, said he is to appeal against the judgement.

The case made national headlines when the High Court judge, Mr Justice Latey, awarded custody of the youngsters to their mother because he said the man's Scientology beliefs were "dangerous, sinister and corrupt".

The six-month tug-of-love battle ended by the judge declaring in open court that the influence of the sect would put the children gravely at risk.

"The church of Scientology resorts to lies and deceit when it is threatened and will profit to do so."

At the time of the announcement, the children, a boy aged 10 and an eight-year-old girl — were living with their father in the town.

He has since re-married after a divorce from their mother in 1979. His ex-wife, a former Scientologist, has left the organisation and was living abroad with her future husband.

Speaking from his East Grins-

tead home, the father, who is not named to protect the youngsters' identities, said he had brought up his children in a happy and caring home.

"We have two other sons, one aged 10 who is my wife's by her first marriage and one aged three which is ours," he told the Observer.

"We love all our children and have brought them up in a happy and caring home."

"The decision of Mr Justice Latey to split up my family after the children have been with me for the past five years is unfair to them, my wife, myself and their step brothers."

"I feel I am being penalised for my beliefs and I will be appealing against the decision."

Scientology press officer at the sect's UK headquarters in Saint Hill, Mr Mike Garside, said this week: "The judge made extensive comments on Scientology without hearing any representation from us. The judgement is consequently one-sided and inaccurate."