

'New Uses for Old Spaces' to be Course Topic

— Carol Coletta

Everybody's talking about Downtown housing, and a few people are actually doing something about it. One or two projects have begun but many more are rumored. It is certain only that there is a wide, new interest in living Downtown today and that much of it is in buildings never before in residential use. And there's the rub: converting old spaces to new uses poses a complexity of problems, ranging from design to zoning and building codes. Those with the desire and the resources need to know how and where to begin.

To help solve the puzzle, the Downtown Council, National Bank of Commerce and Union Planters National Bank are joining with Shelby State Community College to offer an eight-week continuing education course entitled "Back to the City: New Uses for Old Spaces." The course, which begins May 12, is designed to acquaint Memphians with the unique opportunities for developing innovative living spaces in the Downtown area.

The opening session will feature John Sower, a mortgage banker from Washington, D.C. who travels widely, putting together financing for renovation and restoration projects. Slides provided by Philip Morris, urban design specialist with *Southern Living* magazine, will serve as an introduction to the session, scheduled May 12, 10:30 a.m. till 1:30 p.m., in the NBC auditorium. Separate tickets are available with lunch at the Petroleum Club included. All other classes are scheduled from 7:00 p.m. —

9:00 p.m. at various Downtown locations.

Lee Adler, III, stockbroker from Savannah, Georgia and member of the board of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is conducting the June 16 class. Adler has invested much of his personal fortune in the Savannah restoration. Before-and-after slides will accompany his presentation.

Following the May 12 meeting, classes and their locations are:

May 19 — "Downtown Redevelopment: An Overview" — Norman Brewer, Manager, Downtown Council & Henry Evans, CAO, City of Memphis — at Chamber of Commerce

May 26 — "Old Spaces: An Inventory" — Jerry Cunningham, realtor, Edward Le Master Co. — at Wolf River Society

June 2 — "New Uses for Old Spaces: Case Histories" — Charles Shipp, architect — at Gassner, Nathan, & Partners

June 9 — "Rehabilitation: How to Do It or Have It Done" — Jack Tucker, architect, Roy Harrover & Assoc. & Griff Burr, engineer, Griff Burr and Assoc. — at 41 Union

June 16 — "Back to the City: The Price You Pay" — Lee Adler, member of board, National Trust for Historic Preservation — at Burch, Porter & Johnson

June 23 — "Space Planning: Or What to Tell Your Mother When She Asks, 'Where's the Den?'" — Mary

center city

VOLUME III, NUMBER 9
APRIL 29, 1976

Jazz is Focus of Rite of Spring

Southwestern's Annual Rite of Spring Festival brings an afternoon and evening of jazz to the Memphis community Sunday, May 16.

Featured performers in this year's Jazz Festival include the McCoy Turner Sextet, Michael Urbaniak and Urszula Dudziak, Oregon, and Dave Liebman.

The festival will be held in the Southwestern College stadium with gates to open at 2 p.m.

"The concert is intended to be an enjoyable day's activity in the May sun, with a listening experience now rare to Memphis, jazz music,"

Johnson, interior designer, Interior & Graphic Designers, Inc. — at Walter Buford Law Office

June 30 — "Reprise" — at Rendezvous

The cost of the eight-week session is \$30. For registration information call SSCC Continuing Education at 528-6798 or pick up a brochure at the Mall office at 14 S. Main.

a promoter of the event explained. "With this year's festival, Southwestern returns a genre of music with deep roots in this city through an event which is planned to enhance Memphis' musical heritage."

McCoy Tyner was voted "Jazzman of the Year" and "Number 1 Pianist" in *Downbeat* magazine's 1975 readers poll, and was selected "Musician of the Year for the World" in a recent *Jazz Forum* poll. His latest album is "Atlantis."

Michael Urbaniak grew up in Poland, first developing an interest in jazz through the saxophone. Not wishing to merely imitate the American jazz scene, he adopted the violin as his instrument of expression, and now plays it almost exclusively. He was voted "Best European Jazz Musician" of 1972-73 by *Jazz Forum*. His group was voted "Number 1 European Jazz Group of 1972-73" in the same poll. Urbaniak's wife, Urszula Dudziak, uses her voice as an instrument to enhance the

(Continued on page 2)

Paul Coppock on Memphis Old and New

Paul Coppock, writer of the "Mid-South Memoirs" column for *The Commercial Appeal*, has written a new book on Memphis. *Memphis Sketches*, published by Friends of Memphis and Shelby County Libraries, will be on sale in May in local bookstores and all the area libraries for \$10.95.

Recently I met with Mr. Coppock to discuss the new book and its subject — Memphis past and present.

—Pat Waters

Why does this town have such little interest in its past?

PAUL COPPOCK: Certainly there has been a failure to preserve the buildings which have a special meaning to Memphis' development. Look at the contrast between Memphis' neglect and the preservation along the east coast: New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Charleston. This lack of interest seems out of place for I've found a tremendous number of very interesting people and extremely unusual happenings. The town has grown so fast that newcomers tend to hold ties to old hometowns and the history has been neglected so long that it has not been easily recorded.

However the situation is changing. The growth of the West Tennessee Historical Society shows this and the response to my column is stronger now. Really I came into this through another column, "The Night Desk," a question and answer column on the editorial page. I thought it would be a general column, but the number of questions about Memphis and its

region were remarkable and I had to change the thrust of the column.

Do you think this a-historical attitude has to do with Memphis' being a frontier town, born in the boom of early westward expansion?

MR. COPPOCK: Oh Memphis was the West; it was the frontier. I think it was trying too hard to be urban. One special thing about Memphis is the small number of old families. The War killed many heirs but the Yellow Fever wiped out whole families. There are few old names left — Overton, McLemore, Winchester — but small seed when compared to the East. It seems to me the proportion of old established families is too low for their ideas to be totally accepted by newcomers. I don't think the frontier has much weight in the disinterest in the city.

Don't you think these newcomers bring their rural backgrounds, their ideals of individuality and independence — that they have no urban experience?

MR. COPPOCK: Don't forget those hometowns are within reach; they may marry here but its just a short drive to get mama. The ties are still there. Memphis certainly has less interest in its past than a standard city, but there is evidence of change. The formation and strength of the West Tennessee Historical Society, the growth in the DAR and UDC chapters. There has been a tone change in letters about the destruction of old buildings. The Fontaine House

has weddings and receptions; there are bus tours which bring people in. Fifteen years ago it was nothing — what would you like to see done?

The Fontaine House, Victorian Village — all that's pretty, but how did the poor people, working people live? For instance, the new Mall has removed all the 19th century curbs.

MR. COPPOCK: Did you know they were Irish granite — came over as ballast on empty cotton ships. They would stop in Ireland and pick up the granite and throw it on the levee when they loaded up with cotton. The river captains picked up the stone and brought it up here to sell to the city.

What do you think of the new Main Street Mall?

MR. COPPOCK: It won't be the economic cureall they think. It has possibilities, in view of the experience at San Antonio and Knoxville. Having been designed on the basis of experience, errors have been avoided. It must go up. Downtown couldn't get more down. The possibilities of old buildings being renovated are considerable; for medium and high income people it can be attractive. On the high bluff from Beale to the river bluff inn the view is terrific; someone could get a gold mine there. High rent and an exclusive attitude could catch fire — couldn't be people with school age children.

I am a bit uneasy about some businessmen who want a fourth side of the expressway. The idea has

been knocked down time and again. The public is disenchanted with expressways in general. They are not such a wonderful solution — built up too many hopes. I don't get on the expressway just to go 6 blocks. I prefer the old scenic highways.

Well then I guess you are relieved that the expressway is not going through the Park?

MR. COPPOCK: It will have to go through the park. It is a great tragedy of money wasted in the delay. I resent getting a summary of these things. It comes back as a slash through the park when the slash was there before the park. It's simply a widening of an existing road. And that is not virgin forest. These self-righteous crusaders misrepresent everything. . . .

Parking is the hump Downtown has to get over. To compete with those shopping centers — free parking and stores so close — it will have to do something about parking. . . . The mall by logic and theory should attract specialty shops which would not support a duplicate in Whitehaven. The place for all those shops is Downtown.

If you're overbooked and need to make room on your shelves for new acquisitions, a good solution is to donate unwanted books to the Planned Parenthood Book Sale to be held May 7-9 in Overton Square. Call 683-9079 and someone will collect your book donations.

Double Parked

What can you do with a storefront space that is eight feet wide and one hundred fifty feet deep? A one-lane bowling alley? No. Try a peanut shop.

Planters Peanuts, owned and operated by Justin Adler, has been at 24 S. Main since 1945. In this incredibly narrow space, Mr. Adler sells 36 kinds of candy and 20 varieties and/or mixes of nuts, which he roasts fresh daily.

The Mr. Peanut in the window originally tapped on a silver dollar, but inflation has now reduced it to a 50-cent piece. And Mr. Adler says that the person-sized Mr. Peanut will return to Downtown for the Mall dedication, after an absence of fifteen years.

Planters Peanuts is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and while you're there, take special note of the wallpaper.

ELDERLY HAVE THEIR DAY

May has been designated Senior Citizens Month. A consortium of senior citizens' groups has planned an entire month of varied activities for Memphis senior citizens. The events include a dance, a senior citizens' parade, a fishing picnic and a ride on the Memphis Queen.

Of particular interest will be the Second Annual Forum on Aging which will be conducted at the Josephine K. Lewis Center beginning at 12:30 p.m. on May 7. Participants in the forum will include Commissioner Arthur Fleming, U. S. Administration on Aging; Mr. Frank Jones, State Director of Medicaid; Warren Maddox, District Director of the Social Security Administration; and Jon L. Sasser, Director of Legal Services for Senior Citizens.

Front Street Arts

PUBLISHED BIWEEKLY

EXCHANGE BUILDING / SUITE 1300
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103
(901) 523-1542

Editor & Manager: Gerald D. Murley, Jr.

Art Director: Beverly Cruthirds

Contributing Editors:

Don Donati, Jim Roper, Pat Waters, Carol Coletta, Andy Scott, David Bowman

Photographer: Alan Copeland

Half-tone Photographer: Debi Murley

Ad Representatives: Anne Swearingen and other listed staff members

Circulation Assistant: Joyce Hulme

The entire contents of *Center City* are copyright (c) 1976 by Front Street Arts and may not be copied or otherwise reproduced in any manner, either in whole or in part, without specific permission of Front Street Arts. All rights reserved.

Copy for the May 13 issue must be in by May 3. Copy for the May 27 issue must be in by May 17.

MoviesMoviesMov

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN
with Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman.

For years, newspaper reporters have been telling us that the reality of their jobs is nothing like the stereotype which old Hollywood presented in countless *Front Page*-type pictures. No irascible editors with hearts of gold, no eager, probing, young reporters pursuing a dramatic "scoop." Yet that is exactly the picture (albeit somewhat modernized) that *All the President's Men* presents, presumably based entirely on fact.

Most of us are now familiar with the outlines of the story of how Woodward and Bernstein, the young *Washington Post* reporters, uncovered and relentlessly exposed the machinations of the Nixon crew behind the Watergate burglary. The movie requires a certain knowledge of the players to keep score of all the names it throws out, and the script seems to have one of the reporters exclaiming "Jesus!" about every five minutes as he turns up another revelation. Dustin Hoffman, as Bernstein, gives a rather mannered performance, striving just a bit too hard to be a lovable young slob. Robert Redford's Woodward is stolid and tentative, a pose which fits the character for a change.

— Robert A. Lanier

JAZZ RITE OF SPRING (Continued from front page)

group's music.

Oregon consists of Paul McCandless, oboe, English horn and bass clarinet; Glen Moore, bass, flute, and piano; Collin Walcott, tabla, sitar, and percussion; and Ralph Towner, guitars, piano and French horn.

Their sound can be described as chamber music, acoustic in nature, utilizing a nearly-forgotten mode of delivery, the ensemble approach.

Dave Liebman combines two irreconcilable musical strains: the electric jazz-rock fusion sound pioneered by Miles Davis, and the more linear, free-blowing tradition of small group mainstream jazz as it evolved in the 60's through the impetus of musicians such as John Coltrane.

General admission tickets are \$5.50 and are available at all Goldsmith's ticket offices, Pop-I's Record Room, Overton Square ticket booth, and Select-O-Hits Record Shop.

SOCIETY TAKES THE HEAT OFF

You think you know what the Humane Society is, don't you? They operate the humane shelter for stray animals, right? Wrong. The City operates the animal shelter, or pound, and its official name is the Memphis Animal Shelter. So what is the Memphis Humane Society? It's a dynamic group of some 2000 Memphians which, in the last three years, has gone from a homeless, one-woman volunteer organization to a full-time cruelty investigator, with an animal ambulance, a paid office administrator, permanent headquarters at 710 Philadelphia and a 24-hour answering service.

The Society spends thousands of dollars annually to pay vets for patching up injured, homeless pooches. They place hundreds of stray animals in new homes every year and prosecute numerous cases of animal cruelty (with varying degrees of success).

Lots of roaming dogs in your neighborhood? Don't call the Humane Society. Call the City Animal Shelter or the Mayor.

The Society hopes to start a birth control program soon. Now is their annual fund-raising time; their goal is \$100,000, which, if raised, will be used to start a Spaying program. The Spaying program would supplement the veterinarian's fee for spaying or neutering dogs and cats, reducing the amount of money needed for this service by pet owners who can't afford the full fee.

If you would like to join the Humane Society or simply make a donation, call 272-1753 and do something for animals.

Picture Framing 20% Off

(You must present this ad)

Buy Where The Professionals Buy... There Must Be A Reason!

Everything From Pen Points to Drafting Tables
Monday thru Friday 8:30 'till 5:00 P.M.
Also Saturday 8:30 'till 5:00 P.M.

Memphis
**BLUE PRINT
ARTS SUPPLY CO.**

2027 Madison 1(901) 726-5294
Memphis, Tenn. 38104

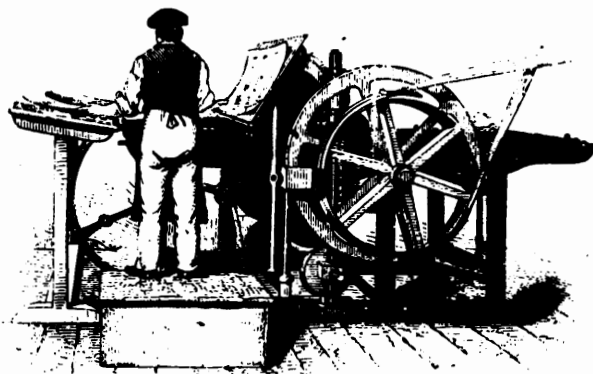
GOT A MESSAGE? HELP US & HELP YOURSELF!

This space is yours for \$4.50 per issue.
Call 523-1542 for more information.

Bruce Printing Company

307 Madison Avenue Phone 526-1506

- Quality offset printing
- Complete letterpress department for numbering, die cutting, embossing and more
- Complete typesetting, layout, and design
- Complete bindery facilities for the final touches
- Free pick-up and delivery



Founded in 1917

earthly delights

DOWNTOWN ACTIVITIES

MEMPHIS IN MAY

- May 1 — Barge landing — Riverfront*
 - May 1 — Ramada Inn & Rendezvous Alley Party — 7:30 till 12:30 a.m.*
 - May 5 — Maid of Cotton Fashion Show — Rivermont — noon
 - May 1 & 8 — Historical Hike — Martyrs Park*
 - May 7 — Cotton Makers Jubilee — Parade & Coronation — Downtown at 7:30 p.m.*
 - May 15 — Senior Citizens' Parade*
- #### WOLF BROS. FASHION SHOW*
- May 13 — WB Shop — 12:15 p.m.
- #### SHOWTIME ON THE MALL*
- May 3 — Richland Jr. High School Jazz Band — noon — NBC plaza
 - May 4 — U. S. Navy Country Band — noon — NBC plaza
 - May 5 — Central High Concert & Gospel Choirs — noon — NBC
 - May 6 — Mini Carnival with clown, balloon, etc. — noon — NBC plaza
 - May 7 — Memphis Preparatory School bicentennial presentation — noon — NBC plaza

FILM

- #### CENTER SERIES (UT Student Aud.)
- May 2 — "Paths of Glory" — 4 p.m.
 - May 7 — "Mary, Queen of Scots" — 7:30 p.m.
 - May 9 — "Smiles of a Summer Night" — 4 p.m.
 - May 14 — "Giant" — 7:30 p.m.
 - May 16 — "To Catch A Thief" — 4 p.m.
- #### BROOKS GALLERY (2:30 p.m.)*
- May 2 — "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea"
 - May 16 — "Walls of Fire"

MUSIC

- #### METROPOLITAN OPERA WITH THE MEMPHIS SYMPHONY
- May 10 — "La Gioconda" — 8 p.m. — Dixon-Myers Hall
 - May 11 — "Aida"
 - May 12 — "Un Ballo In Machera"
- #### BEETHOVEN CLUB SERIES*
- May 2 — Cecile Skaggs and Robin Davis on piano — 5 p.m.
 - May 16 — Ken Carter sings

LECTURES - DIALOGUE

- #### VALUES & ETHICS LECTURES*
- May 11 — "The Doctor's Dilemma: Images of Health Professionals in Modern Drama" — Joanne Trautmann — Interfaith Center at 12
- #### INTERFAITH LAW WEEK SERVICE
- May 5 — Robert L. Knauss, Dean of Vanderbilt School of Law — Calvary Church — noon*

AMERICAN ISSUES FORUM*

- May 4 — "The Dream of Success" — Lewis Donelson — First National Bank Auditorium at 12:15 p.m. & Main Library at 7:30 p.m.
- May 6 — "The Dream..." — Cossitt-Goodwyn Libraries — 12:15 p.m.
- May 11 — "The Rugged Individualist" — Daniel A. Yanchisin — First National Auditorium at 12:15 p.m. & Main Library at 7:30 p.m.
- May 13 — "The Rugged..." — Cossitt-Goodwyn Libraries at 12:15 p.m.

A NOONTIME BREAK*

- May 12 — Book review by Douglas Marsh

TRINITY CHURCH BOOK REVIEWS*

- May 12 — "The Ambitious Woman's Guide to a Successful Career" — Ms Mimi Hall — 12:15 - 12:50 p.m.
- May 19 — "The New Testament Environment" — Rev. Bill Gaddie

Send your organization's activity schedule to:
CENTER CITY
c/o Front Street Arts
9 N. Second St. — Suite 1300
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

*FREE