

Center city

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The following tri-city disputation is reprinted from the MEMPHIS PUBLIC LEDGER, June 7, 1887.

RECKLESS JOURNALISM

The press can be as bold, as plain, as fearless as needs be in discussing policies, principles and men without becoming personally offensive.

—MEMPHIS LEDGER

If there be any last climax and capstone of silliness and mental night, it is contained in all its fullness and symmetry in the above sentence, taken from an article in the LEDGER upon "Reckless Journalism".

If the LEDGER will explain to the world how

a newspaper can discuss bad policies, bad principles and bad men who maintain such principles without becoming personally offensive, it will indeed be a startling development in "reckless journalism".

But it can never be. The medicine for corrupt politicians will always be exposure, and exposure is personally offensive. The tumor cannot be removed by emollients—there is no soothing relief for that which must be cut out of the diseased flesh—only the knife, keen and painful, can do the work.

At least, now it should be obvious to all who would have downtown thrive that more will have to be done than simply wishing her well: we must support downtown activities and businesses, even if it is inconvenient, and conversely, those who would call themselves businessmen must accommodate the various service and merchandising needs of downtown residents and workers—and in a style to which competition has made them accustomed.

Much of the current panic as to the critical condition of the downtown is the direct result of an almost single-minded obsession with the miracle money of conventioners, and is, as opposed to a more systematic approach of securing a built-in downtown market in a solidly constructed residential and working community, as well as

tourism. At any rate, now City Government and the more community-minded businessmen and citi-

zens have been alerted to the extraordinary assistance required for and owed to the revival of the old city.



From where I stand...

SHOPPING POLITICS



by James Roper



It's about time downtown residents and workers started taking advantage of shopping benefits in the downtown area.

It's nonsense to drive to east Memphis to buy a shirt or a dress, a plant, a record, or to get a picture framed, when it can be done downtown, often for a better price. "But they never have what I want," many complain. Simple. If they don't have it, make them order it, especially if the store has advertised that particular item. Usually they can order, if not from one of their other stores, then from out of town. And it doesn't take that long. Wouldn't you rather wait a few days for the item than fight your way through the traffic congestion in White Station on Saturday morning!

If the store clerk is hesitant or lackadaisical about going to the trouble to help, first insist, then badger, and if you still don't get results, go to the manager and complain. Most downtown clerks are courteous and will go out of their way to help you, but there's always a few who act as though they're in a stupor. Start waking them up.

In short, make as many of your purchases downtown as possible. Save weekends for relaxing instead of trekking through the aisles of of east Memphis stores.

The only way people are going to start living downtown again is when they have the same shopping advantages as the residents of east Memphis. And that's going to happen only when downtown stores are regularly patronized and quality merchandise is demanded.

And when corrupt rings and unscrupulous politicians rule over a people it takes the keen knife of exposure to dig them out. And that operation causes pain, and often death to the journalist who firmly and relentlessly does the work which duty points out before him.

You might as well talk of executing a criminal on the gallows without becoming "personally offensive", as to talk of a journalist "being bold and fearless as need be, in discussing policies, principles and men, without becoming personally offensive." Misguided brother Memphis, it cannot be done.
—NEW MISSISSIPPIAN

Under the head of "A Martyr to his own Passion," the LITTLE ROCK GAZETTE of May 29th says editorially:

The force of purblind partisanship is illustrated in the efforts of a few journals in the State to prove that young Gambrell, who was recently killed in a night affray on a bridge in Jackson, Miss., fell a martyr to the cause of prohibition. He was, as he had a right to be, a prohibitionist. He intensely disliked Col. Jones S. Hamilton, who opposes prohibition without being at all fanatical on his side of the question. Believing Col. Hamilton intended becoming a candidate for State Senator, young Gambrell in his paper, the SWORD AND SHIELD, most bitterly denounced him, applying every opprobrious epithet, including charges against his personal honor, that the fertility of his imagination could suggest.

That such a method in that community should lead to bloodshed everybody, including the rash, impetuous author of the denunciatory articles, expected. The cause disappeared in the gross personal assaults. And one night, closely following the most bitter of all the editor's denunciations, the assailant and the object of his denunciations met on a bridge. A deadly conflict ensued, and young Gambrell was carried from the scene dead. Who made the first hostile demonstration may never be known. The testimony is not clear. The one fact clear is that he fell a victim to that blind unreasoning, vicious method of controversy that abandons facts and argument, and resorts to bitter personal denunciation calculated to arouse the worst passions in the human breast. As the MEMPHIS LEDGER well says in an editorial inspired by this sad affair:

One little article written more to gratify personal, vindictive feeling than in the interest of morals and the public welfare, stirred up a strife that drenched the ground with good blood and shocked the capital and the whole State of

Mississippi. The press can be as bold, as plain, as fearless as needs be in discussing politics, principles and men without becoming personally offensive. The indiscreet, hot-headed, self-conceited editor often brings far more trouble on his friends and or a community than he would be worth if turned to gold. The license of the press neutralizes much of the good that has been and might be accomplished.

The LEDGER was not discussing the question of prohibition, though that issue may have had something to do with the origin of the sad affair at Jackson, Miss. The writer in the New Mississippian possibly had a particular case in his mind rather than a broad, general view of journalistic duty and responsibility. Men may differ ever so much and still be equally honest and deserving of respect. We have never believed the newspaper has the right under its cover and privilege to denounce a man as a thief or scoundrel, and to blast his character and bring disgrace upon his family unless the proof is at hand and can be produced in a court of justice... Personal journalism is passing away and a spirit of judicial fairness is taking its place. Personal journalism is generally mixed up with personal conceit, vanity and spite, and it has killed more men in the profession without accomplishing any sort of good than it has ever convicted or reformed on the outside. The higher aims of editorial life do not include the aim of the smoking Derringer or six shooter, save in a few remote "districts" where people still have to be "purty peert about handin' their weepins," as a steamboat captain once expressed himself in talking to Horace Greely.

Does Money Talk?

CENTER CITY has been allocated \$10 a week for paying writers whose articles are selected for publication. The ten dollars will be divided up according to the quality, interest and magnitude of accepted works. This means that persons who are unable to donate their time and material, and who submit acceptable articles, poems or fictional material (unrelated to their regular employment) will be compensated for their work.

If you are interested call or write: CENTER CITY, 166 Poplar, 38103; 525-5619. All articles for-pay-only must be designated as "Free-Lance" or they will be considered donated material. "Free-Lance" material which cannot be paid for will not be printed, and will be returned, provided a stamped, self-addressed envelope is sent with the entry.

Announcements

"BLOOM'S" SECOND TOWN MEETING

On Saturday, April 26, two humanities professionals and a panel of six representing a community-wide spectrum will lead the second midtown Memphis Town Meeting. Sponsored by BLOOM, the local community organization, this session will deal with the housing question in Memphis. The second meeting in the series of four has been scheduled for 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at LeMoyné-Owen College Student Center. A noon meal will be provided

The April session will deal with such questions as: "Just what is a home? What is the 'politics' of public housing? How does the Central Garden Area relate to the rest of the city? What is the contribution of tenants' unions and residents' associations? How does city planning function in regard to housing?" More details can be given through BLOOM, 1207 Peabody, 526-7809.

"EACH ONE TEACH ONE"

The Memphis Literacy Council is a volunteer program designed to eliminate the problem of adult illiteracy in the Memphis Metropolitan Area. The philosophy of the Council is "Each One Teach One" which means that you can give full attention to one student's development. Neither the tutor, nor the student need worry about how "the rest of the class" is doing. If you have a twelfth grade reading ability plus a desire to help someone start a new life through reading we need you.

The next tutor training workshop will be held April 22-23-24-25 in Room 200, Red Cross Building, 1400 Central Avenue. Classes will be offered twice daily (9:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. till 10:30 p.m.) to accommodate everyone. For further information contact Larry Campbell at 726-1690 ext. 24. If you can help please let us know, because we need you.

earthly delights

DOWNTOWN ART EXHIBITS

Sterick Building (Lobby)

April – Paintings by Ms. Dorothy Smartt*
National Bank of Commerce (Lobby)

April – Bert Wade's Rare Collection of
Photographs of early Memphis*

FILM

Brooks Art Gallery

April 20 – “Dumbo”*

Southwestern

April 23 – Ulysses

Peabody Library

April 25 – “Les Mistroms,” “A Ballad of
Love,” and “Blessings of Love”*

MUSIC

Harris Music Auditorium (MSU)

April 20 – MSU Woodwind Quintet*

Center for Dialogue

April 20 – “Good Time Music Nite” –
community music*

Harris Music Auditorium

April 25 – MSU Faculty Recital – Adrian
Bryttan, violin and Donald Freund,
piano*

Auditorium Music Hall

April 26-27 – Van Cliburn, pianist
Memphis Symphony
Orchestra

*Free

WHAT'S AT ISSUE?

With citywide elections at hand, CENTER CITY would like to offer itself as a public forum for candidates to discuss the issues. CENTER CITY will endeavor to restrict the volume of political rhetoric in the following manner: readers are urged to submit questions pertaining to the future of the central city which may be put to any or all of the candidates for the City Mayor, City Council, County Mayor, City School Board and/or City Judge positions; the questions will be published and made available to the candidates; candidates wishing to address themselves to the issues as presented in these questions may utilize the CENTER CITY to do so.

CENTER CITY plans to initiate this forum by mid-May. Please mail in a question, but take pains to make it as clear and direct as possible. Questions will be printed anonymously.

CIVIC CENTER COMMUNITY CULINARY CLUB

Serving from 11:30 to 1:00

First Presbyterian Church, 166 Poplar Avenue

PRICE: \$1.50 per serving, including drink

MENU FOR APRIL 17 – APRIL 25

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Fried Chicken, Rice & Gravy, Squash, Rolls

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Meat Loaf, Potatoes Au gratin, Lima Beans, Rolls

MONDAY, APRIL 21

Ham, Blackeyed Peas, Creamed Corn, Corn Bread

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

Oven-baked Chicken, Rice & Gravy, Peas & Carrots, Rolls

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Spaghetti, Cole Slaw, French Bread

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Pork Steak, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Beef Stew, Tossed Salad, Corn Bread



166 Poplar
Memphis, Tenn. 38103

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postage paid at
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