

Center City

VOLUME II, NUMBER 13
APRIL 3, 1975

message from the gods

Myth of Being

Here, in the city by the river—among its bluffs and bales, from the Bible to the blues—came the self-made men—the plantation politicians and fiery reformers, the mountain men and the settlers, the emancipated slaves and defeated victors. And like the river, time flowed on and brought deep change—no longer one man forging out the frontier but thousands to be cared for, no longer a riverside fiefdom, but a city of Century 20, no longer familiarity and simple ways, but the profound complexity of the urban. And we fled in terror from the now, for within the city was the journey of man:

And man went inside himself and the world became an extension of himself. From childish toying with the universe, he became in fact the creator, neither acknowledging the Mystery nor relying on it. God's silence, man took for assent. And now, among the ruins of shattered power, of impotent structures, of individual meaninglessness, man cries out. How to deal with the terrifying future...And in the stillness of the dark night, he hears, "Rise up, and remember who you are." And man remembers that he is man.

*And the chosen ones remember on behalf of all—
Where man seeks the easiest path of care,
we dare to enter the labyrinth.
Where man's vision is momentary, we
claim the thousand years.
Where man fights only for self-seeking
significance, we embody holy covenant.
Where man seeks utopian illusion, we love
the present challenge.*

Risking bold action as a global sign.

THE ECUMENCIAL INSTITUTE—MEMPHIS

mall fotobook

Photograph by Alan Copeland



*Old man are you tired of fighting this lonely war alone -
Fighting the many battles that only time has won?*

*Are the battle scars that mark and line your face
Distant reminders of a battle fought, another time and place?
And has your aching heart these many scars of war?
Or does your feeble mind still have fond memories to bore?*

*Are you alone old man to face this final foe?
And from the Golden Band - where is your Allie of long ago?
Has she retreated for that final warriors stand
To await her tattered general joined only by left hand?*

*Is there comfort old man to your left and right,
To see other tattered generals who have also lost their fight?
Commander of the bench, general only of your years,
Is your final battle to be one of old man fears?*

*Old man did your Allie of hand die a warrior's death?
Did you tell her how you loved her before her dying breath?*

*Who is this winged corporal, who brings message from the sun
Telling you lonely general to lay down your tattered guns -
A noble war was fought, a war that time has won -
Your warrior of old awaits you
Your fighting is now all done!*

John Keith Morrison

*Swirling sequence gauge the rivers;
Their ages gestate in their depths.*

*In every life there swells a surfeit,
When barren marsh, the greening woods, and
Regimented fields submerge
With back streets and gutters,
With barn floors and basements,
Set upon and held beneath the ridicule of flood.*

*Only hilltops and vessels of the fluid
Stare across the glossy uniformity,
Gazing on downed appendages in harmless bouyancy
As they're hurried to the sea,
Observing a lonely, but brief, security —
 the times and what they can compose
 but cannot fend themselves against —
 the flashing moments
 dissolved into the next.*

*The heights peer at the debris,
Relieved that it is swept away
And for the pause of rebuilding —
Soothed by the departed and returning;
Upon their faces, one on another,
Through the blemished winds, glare
At the unceasing, slow,
But too quickly, going.*

*When but old with softened lines
The events rain long and hard
From draught to whitened winter
Into curtained spring,
The backloads bulge in every capillary
Spilling forth
To fold the weakened walls
And creep into the river's veins.*

*When supposed but senile and kind, the river
Exacts the seldom heeded, haunting lessons of a bruise;
Surpassing all constraints, it envelops,
Laying its heavy glove upon the land —
 the waters scratch its warning on the record —
 unrectified, the fundament is absolved,
 lifting moist and anew it arises
 laden with the mysteries born of descended lords.*

*With refuse strewn around them
The spectators stand abandoned —
Flushed with empty horror,
Benumbed by delusion and deceit,
Rushed with possibility —
As the mud engulfs their feet.*

Beyond the Bench Mark (April 24, 1973)

EPILOGUE:

*Gleaming, fades the afternoon,
As yellow-green jumps between the shades;
Sleep stills the rocking chair
Hungover in the ferment.*

earthly delights

FILM

UT—Student Alumni Center

April 4 — “Masculine—Feminine” and
“The Married Woman”

Peabody Library

April 4 — “Issac Singer’s Nightmare and
Mrs. Pupko’s Beard,”
“Old Man and the Devil,”
“The Stronger”*

Brooks Art Gallery

April 6 — “Beau Geste”*

Peabody Library

April 11 — “Polanski Meets Macbeth,”
“Mammals,” “Two Men and a
Wardrobe,” “When Angels
Fall”*

MUSIC

Harris Music Auditorium (MSU)

April 8 — Memphis State University
Chorale and Madrigal Singers*

Harris Music Auditorium

April 10—11 — Memphis State University
Bands Festival*

Grace St. Luke’s Trezevant Parish Hall

April 13 — Concert II to VI —
Pastiche Group

*Free

Center City

First Presbyterian Church
166 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Announcements

On Thursday, April 17, the Memphis Ministers Association and Church Women United of Memphis will sponsor a “Focus on Hunger: Local and World” program at Union Avenue Methodist Church. This evening of emphasis on hunger, designed to explore ways that individuals and organizations can alleviate the causes and consequences of hunger, will be held from 6:30 until 9:30 p.m.: at 6:30 there will be a dinner “poor man’s style”, and at 7:00 p.m. an audio—visual presentation and discussion. The cost for the evening is \$2.00 per person, proceeds going to Church World Service and Memphis Church and Social Service Fund. For reservations call 274—3068; reservations must be made by noon April 15.

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 3 — APRIL 11

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Pork Steak, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Beef Stew, Tossed Salad, Corn Bread

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Steak w/onion gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Macaroni & Cheese, Turnip Green, Corn on the Cob

Beets & Onions, Corn Bread

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9

Spaghetti, Cole Slaw, French Bread

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Ham Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Turkey & Dressing, English Peas, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls

*Second-class
postage paid at
Memphis, Tennessee*