Shoddy Business

Courage is a virtue held in highest regard by everyone. When it is displayed on the tension-ridden campus of the University of Mississippi by a 21-year-old girl student-editor, it is especially admirable and noteworthy.

Miss Sidna Brower, editor of the Mississippian, the campus daily newspaper, has shown a measure of independence in her writing that has aroused the ire of some of her classmates and others. Not only has Miss Brower been the target of cowardly harassment by segregation extremists but her family in Memphis has received numerous threatening telephone calls. Petitions have been circulated among students demanding her dismissal from the editorship of the university daily.

She believes the trouble stems from an editorial she wrote some weeks ago in which she condemned the ransacking of the dormitory room of two students who had dined with James H. Meredith, the university's lone Negro student, the center of so much turmoil in recent weeks.

Subsequently, Miss Brower received national recognition for the editorials she wrote urging the students to go about their business and let Mr. Meredith go about his. The dismissal petition is believed to have been inspired by the Citizens' Councils which provide the highest regard by everyone, and let Negro student James Meredith go about his business.

If the students at the University of Mississippi are to attempt to lead its readers along a prescribed path, a path that has been given the intelligent consideration of its writer. This doesn't mean editorialists are infallible, but few will submit their thoughts on a subject without careful self-analysis.

This is only what Miss Brower attempted to do—calm the ruffled minds of distraught and disturbed students. If this is a traitorous act against the students who elected her as editor, then the people must revise their moral codes, and Mississippi must expect a long and bloody siege of rebellious thinking and action. And we may as well forget about the birthday Christmas celebrated the world over a few weeks ago.

Aberdeen (Miss.) Examiner

A voice of reason at Ole Miss

One of the more disgusting aspects of the guerrilla war against integration of the University of Mississippi is the harassment of Sidna Brower, editor of the campus daily newspaper. Miss Brower has had the guts—if we may take the liberty of using that word in reference to a genteel Southern belle—to urge Ole Miss students editorially to reject the use of violence. She advised them to go about their business and let Negro student James Meredith go about his.

She first spoke out just after the riotous weekend when federal marshals settled Meredith on the campus. Two weeks ago Miss Brower condemned the ransacking of the dormitory room of two students who had the decency to dine with Meredith in the campus cafeteria. She declared that each student had the right to choose his own dinner companions, and that violence could not be tolerated at the university.

These common-sense views have resulted in a petition campaign to impeach her from her post as editor and demand that the Student Senate repri­ mend her. Her parents in Memphis have received threatening telephone calls and at a fraternity party the other night she was called a fool name. Unpopular as it may be at Ole Miss, we hope she will continue to speak out with the voice of reason. Her stand shines as a ray of hope among the host of misguided reactions at Oxford. She is a credit to journalism.

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