Shoddy Business

Our age 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 Mississippi, 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 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' Council operating through a group known as the Patriotic-American Youth. The Citizens' Councils are said to have great power in Mississippi since they provide the rallying point for all bitter segregationists.

It's pretty shoddy business, no matter how you regard it. Any student who parades under the banner of patriotism, yet engages in acts that bring such discredit to his country and his university, is a poor kind of patriot.

It is one thing to disagree sharply with a student editor but it is something entirely different when it comes to subjecting her and her family to the underhanded tactics being employed against Miss Brower.

Unless a sizable portion of the student body at Ole Miss repudiates this shameful campaign against their editor, the university will suffer severely in public esteem.

Injustice to an editorial writer

We do not claim to have read all her editorials concerning the Ole Miss crisis, but if the students at the University of Mississippi reprimanded Sidna Brower, editor of the school's newspaper, for what was reported in the wire services, we think they have done both themselves and Miss Brower a grave injustice.

According to AP and UPI, Miss Brower received a reprimand for urging calm and return to normality on the campus. The student organization that censured her, leaders of the student body, should have given her a vote of confidence instead of a slap.

We have been told Miss Brower has never expressed herself on the subject of her personal feelings toward integration. She chose merely to steer along the path of reasonable sense. How anyone could act against this is beyond our comprehension.

This action was reported world-wide. It was just another black eye for Mississippi. And it was done by the men and women who, in a few short years, will be our state's leaders.

Can this be what we must expect for the new generation? Can we imagine that our leaders tomorrow advocate riot and murder and discord? If Miss Brower pleads for calm and is criticized for it, those critics must clearly stand on the other side, the side of lawlessness.

We needn't go into the now-tired business about who was at fault, us (Mississippi) or them (the Federal authorities). That has little to do with the issue. Name-calling gets you nowhere.

The purpose of any newspaper editorial is 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 turbulent minds of distraught and disturbed students. If this is a traitorous act against the students who elected her as editor, then the people must review 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 Christians 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 gentle 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 demands that the Student Senate reprimand her.

Her parents in Memphis have received threatening telephone calls and at a fraternity party the other night she was called a foq 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.