

"As for what is not true, you will always find abundance in the newspapers." -- Thomas Jefferson; 1806.

After dealing with the Marietta Daily Journal and its Owner/Publisher, Otis Brumby, Jr., for 30 years of reporting on both the City and myself, I have found this to be true.

I have generally ignored the Marietta Daily Journal. I have found it is better not to respond to it and its factual inaccuracies.

Why speak out now? The recent attacks by Otis Brumby, Jr. in the Marietta Daily Journal have become more outrageous and vicious. Additionally, he has taken to attacking staff of the City. Staff are not in a good position to defend themselves from attack. Mr. Brumby should stick to the Elected Officials if he has to attack.

Mr. Brumby has been increasingly vicious in his use of and remarks in Bill Kinney's Around Town Column as well as news stories. He should have the honesty, integrity and dignity to put his own name and picture to his venomous words. He shouldn't usurp the

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AROUND TOWN

Compiled by Associate Editor **Bill Kinney**



column of an 83 year old respected journalist, use his name and reputation and besmirch it with such garbage, falsehoods and vitriolic attack.

I have seen Otis Brumby, Jr. attack issues where the Government has encouraged or supported a business project with some type of government help or funding.

The MDJ should shine the light on its own dealings for a change. It should be upfront, honest and non hypocritical.

1) How many of us have read the railings against public contracts, how or where money has to be spent or government help on a project (subsidy as Mr. Brumby likely would call it if it was for someone else)?

In 1995, Mr. Brumby asked Cobb County for a low interest loan worth 3.6 million dollars to expand the Marietta Daily Journal and buy a new printing press



which was denied. He then went to the Marietta Development Authority and received a \$3 million dollar loan. He was treated fairly as any other citizen would have been treated in Marietta and yes, received government help or subsidy.

2) As readers know, Mr. Brumby is an avid proponent of open records. However, when it comes to his own business, he falls silent.

Otis Brumby and the MDJ are likely recipients of one of the largest regular local government supplements or government mandates, that being the legal ads that generates a large portion of revenue for the Marietta Daily Journal. No where have I seen reported the meetings awarding the contract for the legal ads. Isn't this part of the public's business? From what I was told, it has been approximately 12 years since the contract for legal ads was reviewed and a public meeting held on it. Maybe it is time for a public meeting and request for proposals. One of the questions to be raised, shouldn't the official status of Legal Organ go to a responsible paper?

3) Recently, the MDJ reported on issues related to leasing in Downtown Marietta. By way of disclosure, Otis Brumby, Jr. is a Tenant of mine via the Brumby Chair Company and although I usually do not discuss my private business, I make an exception here because it is that Tenant's owner that has personally attacked me. The MDJ recently published items relating to leasing that Mr. Brumby personally knows are not true. As his landlord, I know that to be the case.

Former Councilman, Johnny Sinclair commented:

"He [Goldstein] can have some one treat him like dirt and still work with them. He still remains focused on what he does."

In my opinion, Government is at its worst when there is general discord, where elected officials do not work together. There will always be and should be room for honest disagreement.

However, the best in government is when we work together for common goals. With Brumby, working with others, which is what we are supposed to do for the betterment of our community, I am criticized and called the Stealth Mayor. Isn't working with others the best way to accomplish goals and projects? I have one vote, the same as each of the other six Council members. That vote is no more important or less so than anyone else's.

What is a common way that Mr. Brumby makes points to win a policy issue with which he disagrees? First, he mixes some facts tosses in mud, and then tops it off with character attacks. I call it a Coward's method of policy debate. Then after he has done his best to use character assassination he deals with the policy issue. The honorable way to debate policy is alone on the merits or demerits of the policy, not by character attack or other unworthy methods.

In a recent MDJ editorial, it noted that [Governor] "Barnes lamented the downward trend in political discourse, and quoted him:

OPINION

Marietta Daily Journal

Metro Atlanta's only conservative editorial voice

OTIS A. BRUMBY JR., Publisher

R. TERRY SMITH, President

JAY WHORTON, Associate Publisher JOE KIRBY, Editorial Page Editor
HARRIS KETTLES, VP, Operations BILL KINNEY, Associate Editor

EDITORIALS

Barnes right on need to end personal attacks

Former Gov. Roy Barnes of Mableton was right on target at Monday's Legacy Awards Banquet when he complained about the virulent attacks so prevalent in today's politics.

Barnes, a Democrat, and Republican U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson of east Cobb were award recipients, courtesy of Chattahoochee Technical College.

Barnes used the occasion to lament the downward trend in political discourse, and we will quote him at length:

"I've always felt like old governors should be seen and not heard... but I am very concerned that we have lost the ability to have civil discourse and public disagreements without attacks on the other person's character."

"I have always believed that politics is a contact sport, and I know it is in Cobb County. But you don't

have to call your opponent 'un-Christian' or 'ungodly' or 'un-American.' The idea of personal attack is distressing, and I think it is causing our democracy to fray at the seams."

He then had harsh words for MoveOn.org, the radical-left group that bought an ad in the New York Times that referred to Gen. David Petraeus as "Gen. Betray Us!" on the eve of the general's report to Congress earlier this month.

"That's wrong: I will tell you right now. Gen. Petraeus may have an incorrect view, but he is not unpatriotic and neither was (former U.S. Sen.) Max Cle-

land, a triple amputee. So why do we let that occur on one side or the other?"

(Cleland was the target of a 2002 campaign ad by present U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss that included pictures of Cleland, Osama bin Laden and Saddam.)

Barnes then noted that his friendship with Isakson dated back more than three decades.

"That does not mean we agree on everything," he said. "We generally agree on most things, but I would never call him — and neither would he me — 'unpatriotic,' 'ungodly,' or 'un-Christian.'"

But, said the governor, the current climate

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Former Gov. Roy Barnes



COMMENTARY

Latest defense strategy for indigents:

BREAK THE BANK

I am not a lawyer. I don't even look like one on TV. But I smell a courthouse rat. The Brian Nichols defense team is trying to intimidate Judge Hilton Fuller's court and walk away with a sack of gold for defending an open-and-shut murder case.

authorities. The Nichols matter is hardly a Sherlock Holmes whodunit. The defendant launched his murderous assault in a building filled with lawmen and court officials. He extended his mayhem down a crowded street, across town and

Brian." "Crackers Deny Justice for Crusader" and "Send Dollars to Save Nichols." Protest marchers will descend from everywhere. The broadcast and cable networks will go nuts. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson will appear. O.J. may even show up.

The recent demonstrations in Macon, Ga., will seem little more than a tiny warm-up for a

"we are victims" rally for Southern city. The and the world will be

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s looks longingly back at

ns and probes for new

In our own backyard,

observers were shocked

numbers of prominent

and organizations that

to the defense of serial-killer Michael Vick. At one

the Southern Christian

ship Conference wanted

or" the disgraced Fal-

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came charging to his

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ed. Vick was not a sym-

victim, especially to

ners. The Nichols case may have just the ingredients that the Foot Soldiers for Justice (2007 Edition) are seeking for another prolonged upheaval. Their cause, simply stated,

I am very concerned that we have lost the ability to have civil discourse and public disagreements without attacks on the other person's character

"I am very concerned that we have lost the ability to have civil discourse and public disagreements without attacks on the other person's character..."

I liked the last paragraph in the editorial where it agreed with Barnes on discourse. Yes, I found it ironic that Mr. Brumby would agree, when he is one of the largest abusers.

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land, a triple amputee, who was the target of a campaign ad by presidential candidate Barack Obama (Cleland was the target of a campaign ad by presidential candidate Barack Obama.)

Barnes then noted that ship was back in the decade of the 1960s.

"The way we agree but I would not, that will you one, at whether the Republic have that we are agree-



Former Gov. Roy Barnes.

dom, and it should be betrayed or stolen from either side. There are many reasons they stretch back for decades, but one of the most obvious is the sort of uncivil personal attacks that have become part and parcel of today's political discourse -- on the stump, on the airwaves, on the Internet and elsewhere. And the frightening part is that it may be too late to put those evil geniuses back in the bottle. But credit Gov. Barnes with trying.



Agreed. Our democracy is indeed frayed at the seams - if not tattered. There are many reasons for that and they stretch back for decades, but one of the most obvious is the sort of **uncivil personal attacks** that have become part and parcel of today's political discourse -- On the stump, on the airwaves, on the Internet and elsewhere...

To quote his Editorial

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The editorial specifically left out the word newspapers. For the 30 years that I have been in the public arena, I have been the target of such uncivil personal attacks from some politicians, but especially from Otis Brumby, Jr. and the Marietta Daily Journal. I have a question for Otis Brumby and the Marietta Daily Journal.

Mr. Brumby, is this a change in the way you will cover in your news stories and editorials on the City of Marietta as well as me? Do you agree with Barnes' comments enough to truly turn a new leaf and disagree agreeably? Do you agree to leave the character attacks alone?

In closing, I would like to believe that Otis Brumby, Jr. and the Marietta Daily Journal will have the courage and integrity to back up their words in their editorial and refrain from uncivil personal attacks. Unfortunately and particularly in our hometown newspaper, I am afraid that Jefferson did have it right in 1806 when he said, "As for what is not true, you will always find abundance in the newspapers."

at least \$2.4 million to provide Nichols an adequate defense. According to the Associated Press, the Nichols defense wants six times what the average death penalty defense costs in Georgia through the first appeal following conviction. As you may remember, the Fulton County prosecution for lethal injection. Lives have been destroyed, families shattered and justice insulted in an apparently premeditated wanton rampage. So here we are nearly 30 months after the tragedy, facing \$2 million in legal fees and another extended trial delay. The state's legal system is a mess. At one point, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference wanted to "honor" the disgraced Falcons quarterback. An NAACP chapter came charging to his defense. Sane voices finally prevailed. Vick was not a sympathetic victim, especially to dog owners. The Nichols case