

oral quarrel

Was media fair to Tiger fans? Most say yes

This week's Oral Quarrel question asked readers: Was the national news media fair to Detroit and Tiger fans? Following are the responses:

Of course it was fair. Not only was it fair, it was accurate. Tell it like it is. All the national magazines make Detroit look like it's a real renaissance — tell it like it is.

I feel they were most unfair to the fans and to Detroit. They over emphasized the bad and didn't mention the thousands of people who were there and left without any trouble. They focused on the few hundred that were there and caused all the disturbance.

No.

Don't be stupid, of course they were.

Yes, I believe it was very fair. I was downtown and we were personally ripped off. It was nothing but black people saying, 'White people get out of the city of Detroit.'

Yes, I think it was very fair to Detroit and the Tiger fans. I work in Detroit and I know for a fact that Detroit is still the number one murder capital of the world. I for one would never want to live down in Detroit. I feel a lot safer in the suburbs and that's how I feel.

No, they were not fair because it wasn't all suburbanites.

Absolutely. Killing, injuring others, stabbing a police horse, burning cars —

you call that a celebrating? It's a disgrace to be associated with living in Detroit, and I think the Tigers stink.

Yes, it was. Why do people have to act like animals?

Unfortunately yes. It's too bad that people have to behave like that.

The truth hurts, but the national news was fair. The widespread violence, rapes, burnings, assaults, does meet the definition of a riot. It would be interesting to have seen how much less trouble there would have been if many of the fans wouldn't have drank themselves to death.

No. News reports, and they began invariably with the report of the violence

occurring in Motown. The fact the Tigers won was only secondary. The treatment of the Indiana senior citizens should make all Michiganians ashamed that such trash are free to roam our streets.

Of course the national news media was fair because they told the story as it is. Do you want them to lie? Michigan is full of maniacal jerks running around and this is what they deserve.

Yes I think they were. Why, in fact I don't think they even told everything that happened.

No it was very irresponsible reporting. They should have covered the entire thing and approached it from many points. They should never have hit it from the one point. It was a very unfair way to treat a city.

Our daughter and several other women that we know of had their necklaces grabbed off their necks by colored men. Obviously they were not there to celebrate a Tiger victory.

What happened downtown after the Tiger victory was another black eye to Detroit. The national media just showed it as it was. As long as there is excessive drinking and drunks, supposedly human beings, will act like untamed animals.

Yes the national news media was very fair and accurate. Detroit is the most crime-ridden and violence prone city in the United States. Mayor Young and the propagandists for a new Detroit and renaissance can't cover it up forever. That's one reason my family moved to Farmington Hills to get away from the violence and crime.

Would a paper by any other name read as well?

Most American newspapers have names like the Sun or the Star or the Post or the Journal.

On the other hand, a relative handful have names that depart, sometimes startlingly, from the two dozen or so standards. And a good story usually accompanies the exceptions.

Take, for example, the Laramie, Wyo., Boomerang. It was named for a mule.

The Boomerang was founded in 1881 by Bill Nye, a well-known literary humorist of the time. Nye was known to imbibe a bit from time to time, and when he did so, he would usually disappear from home. Luckily, he would usually do so with his mule, and the mule, with Nye aboard, always came back. Because he always came back, Nye named him Boomerang. And when he started a newspaper, he gave it the same name.

SO TAKE the Youngstown, Ohio,

Vindicator. George Kelly, a long-time editorial writer, says that it was founded by one J.H. Odell, a printer who had been run out of Beaver Falls, Pa., around the time of the Civil War for the sin of being a Democrat.

"When he got to Youngstown," Kelly says, "he started a newspaper that he hoped would vindicate him. And that's supposedly where the name came from."

Fans of Superman will have no trouble guessing where the name of the Metropolis, Ill., Planet came from. The paper had been the Metropolis News, but it took its new name in 1971 when the town of Metropolis officially "adopted" Superman.

"AN INDIANA woman once wrote to me whose name was Lois Lane, offering to do a column," says the Planet's editor, who is not Perry White but Clyde Willis. "It didn't seem right to me, though."

Some unusual names are rooted in another era and then hang on. The Larned, Kansas, Tiller, and Toller were originally founded in Indiana in 1882 by Frank P. McMahon, a supporter of farmers and workingmen. He took the paper and its name, representing those two groups, to Larned a few years later, and the name remained.

Another political organ was the Cecil Whig of Elkton, Md. Editor Donald Henning says that Cecil County, Md., already had a paper called the Democrat in 1841 when supporters of the opposing Whig Party decided to launch a paper of their own. The Whig is still the Whig.

AT THE time of the launching of the Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Casked in 1852, a cask was a box in which a woman kept her precious jewels. As the meaning of the word changed, the newspaper considered a name change but decided

to stick with its original moniker, which has its practical benefits. "I can go into the office of an advertiser in Montreal, and he's heard of the Casket," says D.L. Gillis, the weekly's editor.

Some newspapers get their unusual names from the industry of their home communities. These include the Oil City, Pa., Derrick; the Hereford, Texas, Brand; and the Crystal Falls, Mich., Diamond Drill, located in the iron mine country where diamond bits are used on drills.

Others take their names as a logical offshoot of the names of their communities. Tecumseh, Neb., is named for an Indian chief, so its newspaper is the Chieftain. There aren't many canals in Venice, Fla., but it still makes sense that its newspaper is the Sun Coast Gondolier.

AND SOMETIMES, the combination of community and newspa-

per results in a pun, as in two cases in Arkansas, the De Queen Bee and the Yellville Echo.

But other names are less easily explained. Several suburban Detroit newspapers are called the Eccentric.

The founders of the original Birmingham, Mich., Eccentric were two bachelors. They belonged to a group of local bachelors who founded a social club in the pattern of the Explorers, to which Jules Verne's Philias Fogg belonged in "Around the World in Eighty Days."

The Michigan group called its club the Eccentrics; hence the name.

One of the best-known offbeat names is the New Orleans Picayune. When the New Orleans Picayune was founded in 1837, it sold for about 6 cents, the value of a Spanish coin with that name.

BY 1890, the paper's name was established. In that year, two brothers who had worked on the Picayune started their own paper in Beeville, Texas. In memory of their former employer, they called it the Beeville Picayune, and the name lives on in the Beeville Bee-Picayune.

But sometimes, the origins of a paper's name are obscure. William Enders, editor of the Durand, Wis., Courier-Wedge, says the name is the result of an old merger between the Courier and the Entering Wedge. But he has no idea why the Entering Wedge was named the Entering Wedge.

Of course, someone deciding to found a newspaper today and determined to give it an unusual name could follow the example of the newspaper in Wahoo, Neb. The Wahoo newspaper is — the Wahoo Newspaper.

—National Geographic Feature

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