

## Our Need of a Vigorous Journal

by Mason Gaffney

*(Editor's note: We all know Mason Gaffney as one of the most respected and accomplished professional economists who "sees the cat." But the following excerpt from a 1974 article shows some fine, cranky Mark Twain wit, while making a point that still deserves hearing.)*

Some of the characteristic faults of Georgist journalism are the following. It is too often amateurish, peevish, cultist, preachy, egotripping, accommodating to patrons, incestuous, slanted, quarrelsome, dogmatic, cranky, scolding, narrow, nitpicking, self-righteous, arrogant, conceited, other-worldly, idolatrous, negative and bitter. The same writers repeat and repeat, narrowing the circle and boring the reader. There are frothy opinions without punch or substance. There is brash presumption ("We know; why are you so dumb?") There are vain attacks on assorted innocents merely for ignoring us. There are selected quotations from big names who contradicted themselves the day after. There are too many cheap shots and easy debater's points, too little deep and hard research and analysis. (Is research dull? What was the best news story of 1973?) There are too many obituaries, too much in *laudam temporis acti*. There is refusal to play in anyone else's ballpark—all issues must be redefined in our terms. It reminds one of William Jennings Bryan at the Scopes "monkey trial" in Dayton, Tennessee, — and you remember what happened to him.