

This evening those that are able to attend will stand in a room on the top floor of one of the most beautiful buildings in downtown Birmingham and take in a view of The Magic City that is not enjoyed as often as it once was. We will be able to look out, intermittently through rain clouds, and see sites of current and future development, those new achievements just on the horizon for a glorious city.

Last night as I prepared to write this piece, I decided to check on John's [A Look Back](#) post for today. It was the first time that I'd realized that the first story-related post on Birmingham's hub was on the birthday of the city's newspaper of record. From what little I've figured out about [Mr. Rhodes](#), I can only think that he would have a slight grin on his face thinking of the irony.

As we begin our second year, continuing with our slightly different style of telling the story of Alabama's largest city and its people, we hope that people will continue to be willing to say what is on their mind, and begin to do so if they have not started to on the virtual time capsules that are the pages and posts and images of The Terminal.

We hope that our readers take the opportunity to shape the future of Birmingham and Alabama in whatever way they think is necessary and help us in our ongoing job to figure out how to best supply the stories and the resources to help this goal be reached (as well as to remind us that it's fun).

We believe it is time to shake the dust and show the rest of the Southeastern United States and the country as a whole just how great Birmingham is - already - as well as what is yet to come. We must continue to find new ways to trumpet the good work being done throughout our community without blindly neglecting the issues that face us as we move forward. After all, as Dr. Volker once said, "we would do Birmingham a great disservice if we dreamed too little dreams."

So in that vein we pledge to you that we will dream big dreams and serve our readership as best we can. We need you to dream and to take up the reins of change yourselves. We are so grateful for you and what you bring to the conversation. Despite what I've been told by some, if I did this for myself, we wouldn't be trying to celebrate with all of you tonight, now would we? We already have some plans in the works that we'll talk about tonight...

So, what can you do? We've never quite been sure how to answer that question - until now. There's a big one coming up on Monday that we're interested in getting your feedback about, but until then, we'll start with these suggestions:

- Become [a fan of The Terminal on Facebook](#) or [our friend on MySpace](#) or [follow us on Twitter](#) - and get all your friends to do it too (they can always stop following us later).
- Sign up for our newsletter - FYI, starting with #13, the revamped *express* will be sent to readers every two weeks.
- Tell everyone that you know (and even those that you don't know) about The Terminal and encourage them to write us with suggestions for stories.
- Visit [The Rumble](#) and let us know what you know about what's going on around town.
- Think about [contributing to the site](#) - and you don't necessarily have to write.
- Do what Anis says - [open the door and don't worry about the fingertips trembling](#)...

... and enjoy the ride!