

# THE PLAIN DEALER

Our 149th Year

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## The vote is in

Tuesday's election answered at least one question that had been hanging over Greater Cleveland like an untethered dome. Cuyahoga County residents are willing to help pay for a new baseball stadium.

But the vote — on the Gateway project and numerous other issues and races — left a score of other dangling dilemmas. Will Mayor White and County Commissioner Tim Hagan remain political chums once the Gateway whirlwind dies down to a breeze? The two former mayoral opponents forged an unlikely and eloquent alliance to boost the chances of Gateway's passage. Such full-scale cooperation on other concerns facing Greater Cleveland would make for a powerful tandem.

Was the question of stadium financing an electoral power play pitting well-off county residents against poorer ones? Board of Elections returns show that suburbanites went to the polls in greater numbers than did city dwellers and that suburbanites largely voted Gateway to victory.

Yet it would be another round of simplistic rich-versus-poor, black-versus-white politics to characterize Tuesday's tally that way. Though there were numerous peripheral issues, the vote was essentially a referendum on Greater Cleveland's commitment to building their city's future. It was a vote on bringing professional basketball back downtown; on Cleveland's renaissance fading if the Indians slipped out of town; and on the national consequences if the town had turned its back on big-league status.

The Gateway vote was not the only one raising more questions than it answered. How readily will school districts turn to the new option

of putting an income tax on the ballot for education dollars after voters nixed those proposals in Cleveland Heights-University Heights and North Royalton?

Will the people of Portage County pass an added levy in our lifetime to preserve and better county services? Voters rejected the Portage County health district's request for new money that would have cost the homeowner of a \$50,000 house an additional \$3.06 annually. In fact, voters have rejected every added levy put on the ballot during the last 30 years.

What sort of commentary is it that David D. Perry, a Lakewood Merchant Marine officer, garnered a surprising 20% of the vote in his loss to Rep. Mary Rose Oakar? Perry mounted no visible campaign to challenge Oakar's leadership or espouse his own merits. Is it voters' discontent with the status quo or ignorance of the candidates and their backgrounds?

The latter may also be the case in Patricia Blackmon's upset victory in the Democratic primary for the Ohio Court of Appeals. Blackmon, who has no judicial experience, beat veteran County Common Pleas Judge Ralph McAllister and veteran Cleveland Municipal Judge Edward Katalinas.

Perhaps the most heartening aspect of Tuesday, though, was the large voter turnout in a non-presidential contest. About 48% — 407,382 out of 855,770 — of the registered voters in Cuyahoga County cast their ballots. They knew that, agree or disagree with Gateway, this was a vital and emotional issue. Such voter participation — be it on a development project, a school or health district levy, or a congressional or judgeship race — should not be a one-time phenomenon.

## Balancing the books

The euphoria enjoyed by supporters of the Gateway project should be tempered by the reality of upcoming negotiations with team owners. Cuyahoga County Commissioner Tim Hagan, who beat the drum for the issue, assessed it correctly Tuesday night: "This was just an election. Now the work begins."

The voters did not write a blank check on Election Day. The interest of the taxpayers must be protected by city and county officials who will sit at the table with hardheaded businessmen — the Jacobs brothers, owners of the Indians, and the Gund brothers, owners of the Cavaliers. The tax on cigarettes, beer and alcohol will bring in limited revenue, but that will have to be the limit. Many taxpayers are rightly suspicious of cost overruns, or just plain, "Oops, we miscalculated." The promise was a 50-50 split between private and public monies with the public owning the facilities.

There are rumors the Gunds want a multi-million-dollar buyout when they leave the Coliseum in Richfield. Taxpayers should not be asked to offer a monetary inducement, especially since the move will occur at the expense of Summit County. The state should consider stepping in to lessen the economic damage to the Richfield area with perhaps the offer of an incentive to a new owner or developer. However, public funds should not be used to pay the

Gunds to move. Supporters of Gateway received no pleasure in hurting another community by the promised move of the Cavaliers. It was an unseemly pitting of one community against another.

Other than letters of intent, the two teams have agreed to little more than 20-year leases (although in Cincinnati the pro teams signed 40-year agreements). The Jacobses have tentatively agreed to be the tenant at the new stadium, but it appears the Gunds want to be the landlord for the new arena. This will, undoubtedly, lead to the Jacobses asking for something the Gunds were unable to negotiate.

The Jacobses and Gunds are expected to seek development rights to land adjacent to Gateway. However, this public land should go to the highest and most qualified bidder and not be used as another sweetener for the team owners. Getting the Jacobses and Gunds to bid for the land will help make the overall Gateway project economically viable.

The voters narrowly approved the tax increase. Many of the opponents are waiting to pounce on the final settlement with team owners. City and county negotiators should not allow the team owners to believe that the vote was in favor of striking a deal, any deal, to keep the Indians and bring back the Cavaliers. It must be a fair deal, or the next lockout might be of the teams' owners.

## The 'fair' in Fairview Park?

Progress can assume many forms. Fairview Park residents should hope it will reveal itself through an agreement to change city hiring policies that apparently discouraged blacks from seeking police and firefighting jobs.

On Monday, Fairview Park City Council approved a consent order agreement with the NAACP calling for new tests for police and firefighter applicants and the establishment of a new eligibility list. The city also agreed to advertise job vacancies in newspapers and other media that have heavy exposure in Greater Cleveland's black community.

The agreement follows a NAACP report last December that criticized the lack of a single black among the city's nearly 60 firefighters and police officers. It also comes in the wake of an ongoing lawsuit against Fairview Park by the U.S. Justice Department, again focusing on the lack of blacks in the safety forces.

The NAACP and Justice Department were critical of Fairview Park's policy requiring safety force applicants to live within a 10-mile radius of the city. Most communities within that range have few black residents.

Fairview Park officials have scrapped the residency requirement, which, coupled with their willingness to reach an accord with the NAACP, is cause for praise and optimism. But both must be applied with caution. True evidence of the sincerity of city officials, and their stated "all-applicants-welcome" policy, will not surface until the next safety force vacancy.

Those genuinely interested in serving a community as a police officer or firefighter — the type of people communities hold elaborate tests to find — have qualities that transcend race, such as bravery and self-sacrifice. The residents of Fairview Park can only benefit by a hiring process that increases the city's chances of finding those uniquely qualified people.

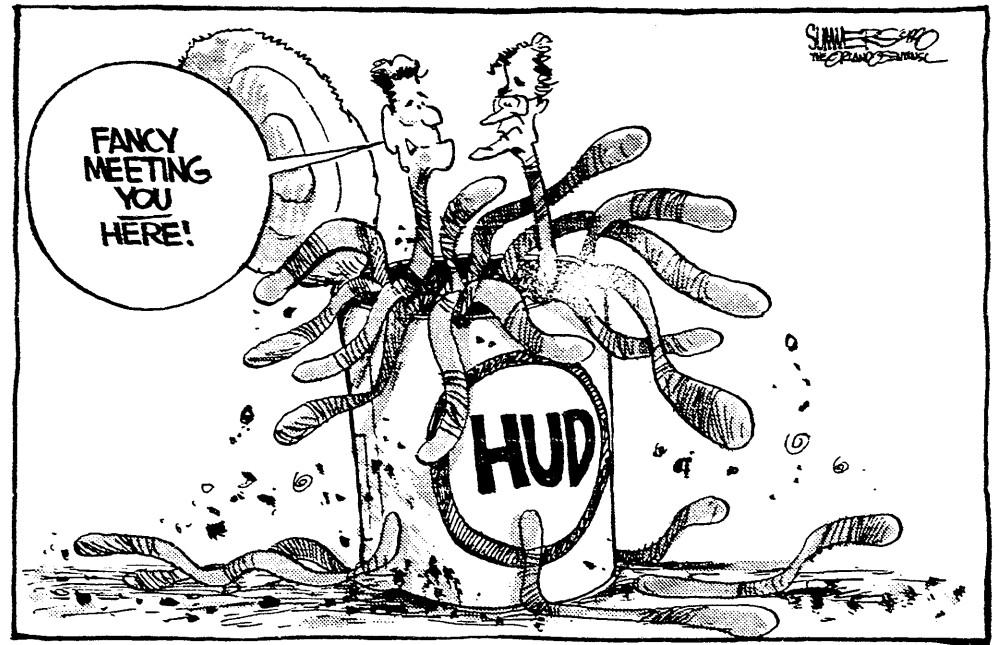
## Lukens: unforgivable, unforgiven

It takes a groundswell of voter outrage to defeat any member of Congress nowadays, especially within an intraparty contest. But this week, Republican primary voters in Ohio's 8th Congressional District judged the misdeeds of Rep. Donald E. (Buz) Lukens to be unforgivable.

Lukens, a Middletown conservative who was convicted last year of having sex with a 16-year-old girl, finished a distant third in Tuesday's four-way Republican primary with just 17% of the vote. Lukens' late and half-hearted apology — which made a mockery of the GOP's professed commitment to "traditional family values" — failed to mollify western Ohio voters, who in 1988 had given Lukens the district's

nomination unopposed and had awarded him 76% of the general-election vote.

Lukens had represented the rural district for nearly 25 years in the state legislature and Congress, but his departure from Washington was a case of addition by subtraction. As he pursued an appeal of his conviction, his effectiveness on Capitol Hill had been reduced to nil while he awaited an all-but-certain reprimand from the House Ethics Committee. Although Lukens' defeat is a grim end to a career that once seemed promising, Ohio's delegation in Congress will be better respected now that voters have expunged the stain of a discredited politician who tried to overstay his welcome.



Ray Osrin is on vacation.

### Letters to the editor

## Opening the door to City Hall for Hispanics

Regarding the letter to the editor written by Nelson Cintron Jr. (April 16):

Nelson's letter stated that I had attacked Mayor White in my newspaper and on Spanish radio. These statements are untrue. He also stated that I had accused the mayor of making promises and not keeping them. This statement is untrue and unfounded.

What I've said relative to the mayor's lack of Hispanic appointments is as follows:

■ The mayor made assurances (not promises) to the Hispanic community that a sincere attempt would be made to seek and recruit Hispanics for Cabinet-level and administrative positions. To date, no appointment has been made on either level.

■ I have not attacked the mayor in *El Nuevo Dia* or on Spanish radio. We printed an editorial pertaining to the non-hiring of Hispanics at City Hall. [I do not think that] it can be considered an attack.

Additionally, I haven't interviewed on Spanish radio since 1987, which makes it impossible to have "attacked" our mayor, who was sworn in in 1990.

*El Nuevo Dia* is an advocacy newspaper for Hispanics in Ohio, and while on a personal level I like and respect White, I have a commitment to address the issues and concerns that affect my community. I also find it personally disturbing that Nelson used the "blame the victim" approach as an excuse as to why City Hall has failed to seek and recruit Hispanics. While I acknowledge that, like most communities, we are not without our problems and factions, I must emphasize that we have made many strides toward growth and development. It is understood in the Hispanic community that if we are to continue to move forward we must be a part of the policy — economic and political — process. Employment in city government is a part of that process.

Several different activities and events are taking place to promote and encourage emerging leadership. One such program is the Hispanic Leadership 2000 program sponsored by the Hispanic Community Forum. I hope our emerging potential leaders like Nelson will take advantage of these opportunities so that someday they can be considered knowledgeable and formidable candidates.

MIRIAM ORTIZ-MALDONADO  
Cleveland  
Ortiz-Maldonado is publisher of *El Nuevo Dia*.

Ortiz-Maldonado is publisher of *El Nuevo Dia*.

### Abortion economics

The recent revelation of BP America's and other corporate financial support of Planned Parenthood must come as somewhat of a surprise to most of us. That the corporate community, staunch anti-abortion conservatives as they profess to be, would contribute cash to an organization that openly promotes abortion is an obvious contradiction.

But wait, abortion just may be conducive to a healthy bottom line for a number of reasons. As these corporations employ thousands of females, a substantial emphasis must be placed on maintaining the continuity of women's employment. We all know the negative perception the corporate community has regarding child care and maternity leave as costly and inconvenient to business is a cause of great concern. The chances of any child-care bill being signed into law are slim to non-existent, and maternity-leave abuses by corporations all too often result in layoffs of new mothers. Abortion becomes an attractive corporate alternative to both maternity leave and child care. It is true that females earn on the average, 66 cents on the dollar as compared to men's wages. This again proves

to be a financial windfall to business using affirmative action as justification to hire and promote females over equally qualified males, as it enables business to depress all wages and salaries.

As the majority of females are "employed at will," it is conceivable that employers would encourage or coerce their pregnant female employees to opt for an abortion rather than costly and inconvenient maternity leave.

For too long, feminists have been obsessed with acquisition of power and wealth. In doing so, they have done a disservice to all women by playing into the hands of those who would oppress them. Pro-choice organizations like Planned Parenthood have provided an invaluable service for their corporate clients at the expense of both male and female employees. Pro-choice advocates have ensured continued employment at lower wages for women while limiting men's opportunities. In this way, shareholders are guaranteed substantial returns on their investments. Feminist-inspired preferential hiring practices will displace males while keeping wages low, and pro-choice groups will continue to offer corporate alternatives to maternity leave and child care.

JAMES BARBER  
Chagrin Falls

### Outrage to vets

The Bush administration's toying with the idea of reducing veteran benefits to reduce the nation's deficit is outrageous. The government pours billions into Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Israel, Mexico and many other countries that are bleeding us dry financially. The veterans, many of whom actually shed their life's blood to save our land, are now going to be asked to give even more. It's patently monstrous!

MAX L. FRANZ  
Cleveland

### Budget slights babies

In "Life deals babies here a bad hand," C. Wayne Rice noted Mayor Michael R. White's intention to "join the fight against infant mortality and children's health problems." Unfortunately, the proposed 1990 city budget belies the mayor's campaign promises. The 2.3% increase in the Health Department budget was, in effect, a budget cut, as inflation is projected to average 4% in 1990.

The money White would spend to set up a conference to examine factors contributing to infant mortality would be better used to treat the known causes of the problem. Numerous studies have already identified the role prenatal care and maternal nutrition play in combating infant mortality, low birth-weight and diminished physical and intellectual development in children. Other studies have shown that each \$1 spent on prenatal care and nutrition can result in savings of \$2 to \$11 on care needed later.

ELIZABETH MONTI  
Lakewood

### Salute police heroes

I was very disappointed not to find any mention in *The Plain Dealer* of the heroic acts of a citizen and four Cleveland Police officers.

On April 25, at approximately 10 p.m., four police from cars 241 and 245 in the 2nd District interrupted a robbery, apprehended an armed robber and saved a young woman from serious injury and possibly death.

The police were flagged down at Broadview Rd. and Hood Rd. by a young woman who told them she

thought that a robbery was taking place in a pizza shop. The officers pulled up near the shop, and moments later a female employee came running out of the store yelling hysterically that she was being robbed at gunpoint. Following right behind and chasing the woman was a man wearing a ski mask with a large butcher knife.

Due to the professional and quick action of the police, the employee was pulled to safety and the robbery suspect was arrested without any loss of life.

I feel it is very important for the community to know that people do get involved and that, contrary to popular television shows, professional police do everything possible to apprehend an armed [suspect] without taking a life.

RABBI S. WOLF  
Cleveland  
Wolf is Cleveland Police chaplain.

### In fairness to gays

Regarding the letter to the editor from Elsie Cline (April 2) regarding Andy Rooney's return to "60 Minutes":

[Does Cline] believe that Rooney would be back on the air if his derogatory remarks had been about the black community? Or women? Or Jews?

I do believe in freedom of speech, but not when it lends itself to degrading a group of people. Not only did Rooney degrade the gay community, but so did Cline. She described them as "depraved." This is a very strong term. Why are Cline and others like her so frightened by the gay community? ... Cline seems to think she is being asked to embrace the gay lifestyle. That's not what anyone is asking. The gay community is merely asking for basic human rights. Not to be treated like "somebody special," as Cline put it.

Gays are discriminated against in housing, employment, military service, etc. If we cannot afford these basic rights to the gay community, maybe there should be a place they could sign off on their tax return so they wouldn't have to pay taxes — taxes that supposedly afford us the basic rights of an American.

I would also like to know what the writer meant by "we the people will rebel." It is [such] comments and teachings that spawn gay-related killings ... and have kept this country locked in a decade of AIDS without proper research and care.

I pray that we find a cure for AIDS soon, and that today's children can grow up unbogoted. Bigotry equals ignorance.

KENNETH NORRIS  
Elyria

### The greed game

When I was a young lad, I lived on Quimby Ave. near League Park, and had the privilege of being bat boy for the Indians and the visiting teams for three or four years. The players would enter League Park through a little door on Lexington Ave. (past Murphy the cop). Autograph-seekers, mostly young kids, would hang around there to catch an autograph. I seldom saw a player, regardless of who he was or how big he was, who wouldn't stop and sign and talk to the kids and fans. Some of these are the immortals of baseball now.

Pete Rose is another of these greats, and I enjoyed watching him perform. Should Rose do time for income tax evasion? Yes, I think he should do two years, plus another two years for charging some little starry-eyed kid who probably worshipped him \$12 for his autograph. Pete should not be called "Mr. Hustle." He should be called "Mr. Greed."

WILLIAM S. DOREMUS  
Lyndhurst