

# Seeing the president unfiltered

The commander in chief of the most powerful nation the world has ever known entered the Cincinnati Museum Center from stage right, with a bounce in his step and a look of steel-reinforced resolve.

The crowd leapt to its feet like it was spring-loaded. Applause thundered in the cavernous room like surf crashing on rocks.

There was emotion in that ovation. There was joy at seeing the president of the United States in our own city.

There was civic pride that was aching to surge back after months of being beaten down by riots, protests and harsh headlines.

### What cynics miss

And there was a high-voltage electric current of patriotism—the lump-in-the-throat, goose-bumps kind that Americans feel when fighter jets split the sky during "The Star-Spangled Banner." The whole world was watching.

Most news reports made a crowd at the Museum Center sound like 800 fat cats, business suits and Republicans. I guess they did not interview anyone like the woman who sat next to me. She was the wife of a cop and the mother of a Marine, thrilled like a kid on Christmas to get a ticket to see President Bush.

The glow of joy on her face when she shook his hand was a refreshing antidote to the jaded cynicism that journalists wear like a badge.

I overheard a woman behind me say she had to shake herself now and then as she waited, thrilled with the sudden realization that THE president was going to stand only 10 yards away.

This is why Mr. Bush came to Cincinnati. This is why he speaks directly to Americans in the heartland, bypassing the elite opinion filters in New York and Washington.

Mr. Bush was direct. Forceful. Persuasive. Articulate. Respectful. Presidential. He was nothing at all like the editorial cartoon drawn by angry liberals. A low-watt intellect does not stand up in front of the world, in the glaring lights of 25 TV cameras, and present a rational, calm, airight speech outlining the moral reasons why America must be ready for war against Iraq.

"Many Americans have raised legitimate questions," he acknowledged—showing far more respect for opposing viewpoints than most anti-war protesters show to him.

### The case is made

"Saddam Hussein is a homicidal dictator who is addicted to weapons of mass destruction," he said. And he laid out the proof: brutal torture of children while their parents are forced to watch; training and assistance to terrorism; satellite spies showing the growing threat of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

To those who masquerade their rigid anti-war ideology behind demands for "proof," he warned, "The smoking gun could come in the form of a mushroom cloud."

"There is no easy or risk-free course of action," he said. "We refuse to live in fear." And at that, the crowd stood again, just as America must stand up to terrorism—with the same steel-reinforced resolve we see in our leader, the commander in chief of the most powerful and noble nation on earth.

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## Editorials & Opinion

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## Hometown

A group of convention planners will visit northern Hamilton County this week, lifting hopes for more business at hotels there. **Story, C3**



# Different approaches touted

## Siebenaler, Heimlich make cases for county seat

By Dan Klepal  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Two Hamilton County Commission hopefuls made their pitches Tuesday to convince the 100 active members of the Cincinnati Association of why they are the right choice to lead the county through one of its most difficult financial times in recent memory.

The county is facing a budget crisis because of sagging sales tax revenues and decreases in the amount of money coming from the state government. At the same

time, the county is spending enormous amounts of money in developing the Cincinnati's riverfront.

Republican Phil Siebenaler and Democrat Jean Heimlich would bring different experiences and different approaches to the job. Both are vying for the commission seat being vacated by Republican Tom Neyser.

Neither will get an endorsement from the 75-year-old civic organization, which is a champion of racial and social justice.

Mr. Heimlich spent most of his time talking about his ac-



complishments during four terms on Cincinnati City Council, and how he would go about handling the budget situation county government is facing.

Sometimes seen as divisive, Mr. Heimlich said he had success in getting others to go along with his ideas—such as a teen curfew, a citizens patrol program and tax rollbacks—on a council where

he said the debates often resembled *The Jerry Springer Show*.

"I had to get five votes on every one of those programs," Mr. Heimlich said. "Believe me, it was tough. So I ought to be able to get three votes on the County Commission."

Dr. Siebenaler first educated Cincinnati members on how to pronounce her name—important, she said, because her name is considerably less known than Mr. Heimlich's. She talked about the difficult jobs of changing the city's im-

See **COUNTY**, Page C5



Enquirer/BRANDI STAFFORD  
**Phil Heimlich** emphasizes his accomplishments during four terms on Cincinnati City Council.



Enquirer/BRANDI STAFFORD  
**Dr. Jean Siebenaler** notes that her management experience includes service on a Navy submarine.

## Diverse voices merge | Rehearsals under way



The Cincinnati Enquirer photos/JEFF SWINGER  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition Choral** members practice during the first rehearsal Tuesday at the House of Joy in College Hill. The group will perform during the annual King Day commemorative program.

# Chorale honors King Jr.

By Allen Howard  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

The Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition Choral, made up of blacks, whites, men and women and various religious denominations, started rehearsal Tuesday for its performance at the King Day commemorative program Jan. 20 at Music Hall.

Tenor, alto, soprano, baritone and bass singers started blending voices at 7 p.m. at the House of Joy, 5918 Hamilton Ave., College Hill, under the director of Catherine Roma, who founded the group 11 years ago.

The chorale will rehearse every Tuesday through Jan. 14. The performance will be part of a program to honor the slain civil rights leader.

"We are looking for more singers," said Ms. Roma, a professor of music at Wilmington College.

"We had 120 singers on stage at the last program. We hope to have more this year. The more singers we have, the more diverse we are. I believe that singing has the power to change things. We are singing to keep the



A member of the Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition Choral holds sheet music during rehearsal.

dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. alive."

The group's diversity is important to Richard and Barbara Hadden of North Avondale, who have been with the group since the beginning. They are members of the St. John Unitarian Church in Clifton.

### Care to join?

To join the group, call Catherine Roma, (800) 341-9318, ext. 368, or come to a rehearsal, 7 p.m. Tuesdays at the House of Joy, 5918 Hamilton Ave., College Hill.

"It means a lot to us to be able to sing in a diverse group such as this," said Mr. Hadden, who sings bass. "I love it. We know that it is needed in Cincinnati now especially after all the civil unrest."

Virginia Acklin, a Baptist and an original member of the choir, said the group is a symbol of nonviolence.

"I am gratified that I am able to integrate myself with a diverse group," she said. She sings alto and is a member of Zion Baptist Church in Avondale.

The January program commemorates the 40th anniversary of the March on Washington and Dr. King's historic speech, "I Have A Dream."

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# Cops dig up yard of missing woman

By Dave Eck  
Enquirer contributor

SPRINGFIELD TWP.—Fourteen years after a local woman disappeared, police on Tuesday dug up part of the yard of the Hamilton Avenue home where she lived with her husband.

Officers dug a hole about 3 feet deep near the garage foundation and used screens and their hands to sift the dirt.

Police also spent Monday searching the yard of the home.

It is not known if officers searched inside the house either day.

No arrests were made Tuesday, and no suspects have been identified by authorities.

Police and prosecutors would not comment on why they were searching the yard or if the search was connected to the 1988 disappearance of Linda Bowdre.

"I cannot comment at this time," Hamilton County Prosecutor Mike Allen said Tuesday.

Mrs. Bowdre, 39, was reported missing by her em-



The Enquirer/GLENN HARTONG  
**Detectives Eric Catron and Pat Kemper** sift through dirt behind a Springfield Township house Tuesday.

ployer Feb. 16, 1988, after she failed to keep several appointments.

In a search warrant served on the Bowdre home shortly after the disappearance, police said they believed the woman was dead.

Two months after the woman vanished, police dug up a garden near the Bowdre home.

# Cincy plans to impound johns' vehicles

## Anti-prostitution vote is today

By Jane Prendergast  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

City Council is expected today to approve an anti-prostitution ordinance that would let police impound the cars of people who buy sex in Cincinnati.

The plan also would include a "school" for people convicted of hiring prostitutes. In exchange for having their record cleared, they would have to pay to attend a class on the negatives of soliciting prostitutes.

The program also calls for publishing convicted customers' names and pictures.

"It's time to start targeting the men," said Councilman David Crowley, who introduced the measures. "They need to be thinking about

what this could do to their lives, too."

Capt. Vince Demasi, acting commander of the department's investigations bureau, thanked council's Law Committee on Tuesday for approving the measure that would give officers more tools to combat what he called "a very prevalent problem."

The department's vice unit has been more focused on prostitution lately. Between July 30 and Oct. 3, officers made 77 arrests, all of them women accused of soliciting sex. Most of them prostitute themselves to get money for drugs, officials say, and don't stay in jail very long.

The plan also calls for a diversion program for convicted See **PROSTITUTION**, Page C5

# Two officers plead guilty in deal on restraint case

By Marie McCain  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Two Cincinnati police officers pleaded guilty Tuesday to reduced charges for taking a man from a South Cumminsville street in April and leaving him in Mount Airy Forest.

Appearing before Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Ann Marie Tracey, Officer Robert Litman and Specialist Michael Mercer each pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of unlawful restraint.

Each man initially faced one felony count of abduction, and misdemeanor counts of unlawful restraint and assault. The abduction and assault

charges were dismissed.

Judge Tracey said the terms of the plea agreement call for the two men to tender their resignations at or before sentencing on Oct. 31.

However, she added, "If the city allows them to remain police officers the state would not oppose that. But if the city wants to fire them, the state won't object."

An officer on police policy, an officer can remain on the force if convicted of a misdemeanor. Unlawful restraint is a third-degree misdemeanor that carries a maximum 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Assistant Hamilton County Prosecutor William Anderson told the judge Tuesday that

the victim, Courtney Evans, agreed to the terms.

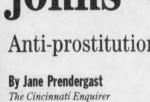
Mr. Evans' attorney, Kenneth Lewson, said his client agreed to a deal that would guarantee resignations.

"My understanding and Courtney's understanding was that in exchange for a plea of guilty to the unlawful restraints, both officers would be mandated to resign, and if that's not part of the plea agreement, then we have a problem," he said. "It sounds to me like what they're saying is that you can still enter the plea and not resign."

Mr. Litman and Mr. Mercer have been suspended without pay since their indictment. The police Internal In-



Litman



Mercer

Investigations Unit is investigating the incident, officials said.

On April 13, shortly after 2:30 a.m., the two officers removed Mr. Evans from the 3700 block of Borden Avenue.

The officers allegedly took his cell phone, threw it in a mailbox, sprayed him with chemical irritant, handcuffed him, threw him in the back of their cruiser and took him to Mount Airy Forest, where they allegedly assaulted him and left him.

Mr. Evans, who was not seriously injured, was found by another police officer.

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# County: Heimlich, Siebenaler woo Cincinnatus votes

From Page C1

age and stopping the population migration out of Cincinnati.

"I do not have the political experience of my opponent, but I do have a diverse life background - and I'm in this race because I feel there is need for real change in Hamilton County," said Dr. Siebenaler, a physician. "We have a bad image right now, and we need public leaders to address the issues and welcome diversity."

Mr. Heimlich said diversity is welcome, but the county is in fiscal

crisis and needs to control spending rather than raise taxes, which he says have increased at 2½ times the rate of inflation.

Likewise, special property tax levies - used to pay for things such as programs for children and the elderly, health care for the poor and programs for the mentally disabled - also have spiraled at an alarming rate, he said.

"We've got to get spending under control, and I'll do that through managed competition and bringing in outside analysts to study special levies" before they go on the ballot,

Mr. Heimlich said, referring to his idea of bidding out some government services to business. "My No. 1 goal is to get the budget under control."

Dr. Siebenaler stepped away from her medical practice to run her campaign. If she wins, she will become only the second woman ever elected to the commission.

She also is concerned about environmental issues, namely urban sprawl. She said her experience in the Navy, where she was medical director on a submarine, gave her the leadership and management skills she'll need to be an effective commissioner.

"It makes no sense to me to see sewer lines extending out into undeveloped western Hamilton County when we have an urban core that is deteriorating," Ms. Siebenaler said. "I don't think these problems are simple. But we need critical thinkers who have lived diverse, experienced lives."

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# Experts in church law study how new sex-abuse rules fit

By Dan Horn  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Church lawyers met for the first time Tuesday to discuss how new sexual abuse policies adopted by Catholic bishops may conflict with long-standing church laws.

The meeting in Cincinnati was part of a four-day convention of the Canon Law Society, which represents lawyers trained in the laws of the church.

Canon lawyers are concerned about the new policies because it will be their job to advise bishops and other administrators on how to handle cases of sexual abuse.

"We want to make sure everyone is on the same page," said Father Kevin McKenna, president of the Canon Law Society. "We want to make sure everyone's rights are observed."

The bishops adopted new standards for dealing with abusive

priests during a meeting in Dallas in June. But members of the society said Tuesday that at least some of those standards create possible conflicts with church law.

At their meeting, canon lawyers questioned how the new "zero tolerance" abuse policy would provide accused priests with the due process they are entitled to under church law.

They also questioned how church rules governing confidentiality might be challenged by the new abuse policies.

In some dioceses, for example, bishops have posted the names of priests accused of abuse on a Web site. In others, bishops have said such a step would violate the rights of priests and the law of the church.

There is some confusion about how to proceed because the rules adopted in Dallas say that the changes must comply with church

law. So while some of the new rules seem clear - such as the one that requires the removal of priests guilty of sexual misconduct - there still is room for legal interpretation. "What is the value of putting names on a Web site? How does it weigh against the right to privacy?" said Father Lawrence O'Keefe, vice president of the society. "I don't know the answers, but there are questions a society like ours should be addressing."

Before it leaves Cincinnati, the group is expected to form a task force or committee to study the impact of the new rules.

The lawyers also are waiting to see whether Pope John Paul II will approve the new rules, change them or reject them. Their recommendations will mean little until the Vatican takes action.

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# Chandler: Inspection tip 'most serious allegation'

Attorney general says Conner's claim worst vs. Patton

By Charles Wolfe  
The Associated Press

FRANKFORT - The most serious of Tina Conner's allegations about Gov. Paul Patton is her claim that she was tipped off before state inspectors came to the nursing home she owns, Attorney General Ben Chandler said Tuesday.

If there is evidence of other nursing homes being tipped, it could occasion a separate investigation, Mr. Chandler said in a news conference.

Her attorney has said that Mrs. Conner, owner of Birchtree Healthcare in Clinton, Ky., told state and federal investigators that someone in Mr. Patton's office warned her in advance of a state inspection.

Mrs. Conner and Mr. Patton were having an affair at the time, which Mr. Patton has acknowledged. Mrs. Conner now is suing Mr. Patton for sexual harassment.

Mr. Patton denied that he was Mrs. Conner's tipster and said advance warning of a state inspection would be a serious offense. He also said he had seen nothing to indicate that anyone else in his office had warned Mrs. Conner.

Asked about the alleged tip, Mr. Chandler said: "I think it's the most serious allegation I've heard in this entire process."

If Mrs. Conner's assertion is true, the welfare of Birchtree residents might have been compromised, said Mr. Chandler, whose office is investigating the matter jointly with the FBI and federal prosecutors.

Nursing home inspections are required to be unannounced and irregularly scheduled, according to the Cabinet for Health Services. Poor nursing home care is an issue the Attorney General's Office periodically tackles.

If anyone else indicates other nursing homes have been tipped

or otherwise improperly inspected "we will look into it with great vigor," Mr. Chandler said. That could mean a separate investigation, he said.

Mr. Chandler had little to say about the immediate investigation. He declined to say when he and his federal colleagues would issue subpoenas.

The Executive Branch Ethics Commission, which has no criminal jurisdiction, also is investigating whether Mr. Patton violated a state ethics law. It has subpoenaed records from Mr. Patton's office, the Cabinet for Health Services, the Kentucky Lottery and the Transportation Cabinet.

Mr. Patton appointed Mrs. Conner to the lottery board. In addition, a construction company she owned with her former husband was given preferential status by Transportation as a highway subcontractor but never actually was awarded a contract.

# Prostitution: Cincy targets vehicles

ted prostitutes that would provide education and referrals to social service agencies. Customers whose cars get impounded would have to pay a \$200 fee plus \$90 for towing, in addition to \$12 every day the car remains in the city's impound lot. Mr. Crowley said he considered seeking forfei-

ture of the cars, but decided impoundment would be enough.

Mr. Crowley said he expects the impoundment to be a money-raiser, the proceeds of which could be spent on advertising the customers' names and pictures. Mr. Crowley, who operates the Mount Adams bar that bears his family

name, said he thinks he has the votes for passage.

Complaints about prostitution started increasing this summer after residents of a Mount Adams street videotaped sex they could see from their houses.

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# Bar association backs both in judge race

By Marie McCain  
The Cincinnati Enquirer

The Cincinnati Bar Association has endorsed both candidates in the contested judicial race in Hamilton County.

"Fred Nelson and Bruce B. Whitman bring into this race significantly varied backgrounds. ... While their backgrounds differ, both candidates possess skills and attributes that will allow them to serve the public well as a Hamilton County Common Pleas court judge."

"Both candidates received high marks from attorneys for character and integrity," the endorsement stated.

Released Tuesday by the CBA, the endorsements were accompanied by the organization's 2002 Judicial Poll results, which are a ranking of all the judges and candidates on the November ballot.

Mr. Nelson, the Republican-endorsed candidate, and Mr. Whitman, the Democratic-endorsed candidate, are vying for a seat being vacated by retiring Common Pleas Judge Fred Carlolano.

The other judicial races are all unopposed contests.

"Our policy allows us to endorse none, one or both of the candidates," said Jeffrey Peck, who chairs the committee that used the information gleaned from candidate interviews and from votes of 3,700 Greater Cincinnati attorneys to make their endorsements.

"It's really a process of trying to provide information to voters as a public service as to whether or not the Bar Association gives its approval to a candidate," he said.

Among those ranked for overall integrity, legal experience, respect and diligence:

■ Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Kim W. Burke received an overall excellent rating of 64.53 percent.

■ Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge David P. Davis received an overall excellent rating of 56.23 percent.

■ Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge John Andrew West re-

ceived the highest overall excellent ranking of 68.89 percent.

■ Hamilton County Presiding Juvenile Judge Sylvia Sieve Hend-

son received an overall excellent ranking of 56.70 percent.

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CINCINNATI, OH - This is what the Tri-State has been waiting for. There will be a major liquidation sale that will include bank repossessed\*, fleet and early lease returns at bargains that buyers and the automotive market have been searching for throughout the years. This is the opportunity for the buying public to save thousands of dollars...

Financial institutions provide the automotive industry with the opportunity to acquire vehicle off lease, fleet returns and repossessed\* vehicles at prices that know the bottom out of their true value. Accordingly, these savings can be passed onto the public and therefore U.A.L. has selected Columbia Oldsmobile/Hyundai as the official sale site for this event.

Effective Tuesday, October 8 through Saturday, October 12, Columbia Oldsmobile/Hyundai will have in excess of 200 pre-owned vehicles, many of which can be acquired for thousands of dollars below market value. These exceptional savings can be passed onto the consumer.

"We have gone to extreme measures to provide our community with the opportunity to enjoy a savings that will be second to no other" Jon McFarland, General Sales Manager of Columbia Oldsmobile/Hyundai said. "Regardless of loss of profit, we are prepared to make our community the beneficiary of this incredible offer and hope that every automotive need is

fulfilled."

Every single vehicle, whether, it be a bank repossessed\*, early lease return, program, etc, will be

offered and made available for a simple \$29.00\* possession fee, then simply start making payments. Payments start as low as \$79.00 per month\*\*.

"You will not believe how easy it is," said Mr. McFarland. "Payments are clearly marked on tags identifying the vehicle, its stock number and the payments. Test drive the vehicle of your choice with one of our representatives, make an offer to assume the disclosed payment. There has never been an easier and quicker way to buy a car. come and see."

With this enormous selection of vehicles you will be hard pressed not to find the type of vehicle or payment that you desire. We will have a selection that will be second to none, from luxury sedans to basic transportation. Many of which still have factory warranty remaining." As a result of our commitment to make this a major event, our stock is at an all time high and accordingly, we are extremely

anxious to move the highest volume of vehicles ever thought possible." Mr. McFarland added.

Extra sales and finance staff will be on hand to assure customers prompt, quality service and the best finance terms possible.

"We'll have over 4 million in financing available for this event, so chances are we can arrange financing for just about anyone who is employed, regardless of past credit history."

Trade-ins will be accepted, and customers should bring their title or payment book to expedite delivery.

"The opportunity Cincinnati area bargain hunters have been waiting for happens this Tuesday through Saturday at Columbia Oldsmobile/Hyundai. Every bank repo\* and other used vehicle is just \$29 then start making payments. Customers may never see savings like this again," said Mr. McFarland. After the \$29 SuperSale ends at 6:00 on Saturday, October 12, many of these vehicles will be sent to auction. Many of which still have factory warranty remaining." As a result of our commitment to make this a major event, our stock is at an all time high and accordingly, we are extremely

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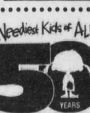
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