

This publication can now be found in the government and business section of the Hamilton County Public Library

# The Whistleblower

Or "Some of the News They Seem to Lose" ©  
Edition # 30 December 18, 1990

## This Week's Really Big Story

### Yes, Virginia, there is Corruption at the Courthouse

Dear Whistleblower:  
I am 8 years old.  
Some of my little friends say there is no Corruption at the Courthouse. Papa says "If you see it on a Channel 9 'I-Team' report, it is so."  
Please tell me the truth; is there Corruption at the Courthouse?  
- Virginia O'Hanlon



Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is Corruption at the Courthouse. It exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Corruption at the Courthouse. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which

childhood fills the world would be extinguished. Not believe in Corruption at the Courthouse! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in the Clerk of Courts office on Christmas Eve to catch Corruption at the Courthouse, but even if they did not see Corruption at the courthouse, what would it prove? Nobody sees Corruption at the Courthouse. But that is no sign that there is no Corruption at the Courthouse. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

No Corruption at the Courthouse! Thank God, it lives, and it lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, it will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

## Top Ten List

This week, it's the top ten ways Steve Chabot can cut the county budget:

10. No more than four raises for each employee within a year
  9. Second relative to work at half price
  8. Stop making so many Whistleblower copies on county Xerox machines
  7. Lease only Yugos for county officials
  6. Ask county employees to donate witness fees for testifying at Joe DeCourcy's trial
  5. Get city to co-sign a loan
  4. Sell more sleaze cards
  3. Bigger fines for gay protestors
  2. Make prisoners sleep two in a bed
- And the number one way Steve Chabot can cut the county budget is... make sure all calls to 900-sex lines are conference calls.



## The "I-Team" lives



Last Monday, Channel 9's illustrious "I-Team" caught the city by surprise when they broadcast their latest hard-hitting expose.

The crack Scripps Howard investigative unit had been dormant since the big pothole scandal earlier this year. But last week, after months of digging, reporter Jay Schatz uncovered the fact that Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Joe Deters had done nothing illegal when he gave an employee five pay raises within a single year.

Still, the implacable "I-Team" promises to press on. Sources inside Channel 9 say they're convinced that there may be "something funny going on at the courthouse."  
"We're not sure exactly what it is," our source explained, "But as soon as we figure it out, we're going to expose it too."



Blue Chip Express

Distribution of this week's Whistleblower to subscribers of record in the downtown area is provided by Blue Chip Express.

(513)  
421-3232

## Inside this Issue

Christmas in Saudi Arabia  
Allah la la la, la la la la.....14  
Hostages return from Kuwait  
Let the bombing begin.....22



**Real Editorials  
By the Publisher  
Charles Foster Kane**

**Making your heart  
grow fonder**

Because there is nothing of any great importance that will happen in Cincinnati during the next two weeks, the entire *Whistleblower* staff will be soaking up some tropical sunshine.

Should something significant occur during our absence, we'll be glad to take it up when we return.

Anyway, the way we look at it, the rest of the news media can use the time to try to catch up.

**Anti-semitism on the  
square**

The scheduled appearance of the **Ku Klux Klan** on Fountain Square this Saturday has already gotten more news coverage than it deserves.

The event should be reported, but not promoted. The press must guard against making the news, instead of relaying it.

The *Whistleblower* predicts that this Saturday more media people will be there than Klansmen.

Sensationalizing this group of social misfits for the sake of ratings and circulation only legitimizes the group's sorry existence.

If the press let it be known that they didn't plan to show up with their cameras, perhaps the KKK wouldn't either.

**Deters-1, "I-Team"-0**

Journalism got a good swift kick in the pants last week when Hamilton County Clerk of Courts **Joe Deters** refused to be interviewed by Channel 9.

It's easy to be interviewed after you win an election. It's easy to be interviewed when there's something you have to say. But it's not easy to be interviewed when you're trying to cover something up.

Most public officials accept being interviewed by the press as part of their job—part of what taxpayers pay them to do.

Deters was afraid his quotes would be taken "out of context." That's the price any elected official has to pay. **Ronald Reagan** does interviews. **George Bush** does interviews. Even **Saddam Hussein**—through an interpreter does interviews.

But not **Joe Deters**. It's going to be fun to see how soon Channel 9 puts this arrogant upstart in his place.

If **Joe Deters** thought that Channel 9 was out to get him before, he ain't see nothing yet.

Meanwhile, down at GOP headquarters, party boss **Ralph Kohlen** just pulled out a few more hairs.



**Real Facts  
"More of the News  
They Seem to Lose"**

**Singing those old  
budget blues**

Much as *The Whistleblower* predicted all summer and fall, the county is now in a budget crisis. Small wonder.

After paying off millions to relatives of victims at Drake Hospital, abused kids at the Allen House, legal bills to prosecute and defend **Joe DeCourcy**, hospital bills for the other **Joe DeCourcy**, and leases on cars for county officials, the county commissioners finally pumped the well dry.

Commissioners **Beckwith**, **Chabot**, and lame-duck **Taft** cried "no new taxes" to the congregation of county officials, judges, and assorted hangers-on. **Beckwith** asked for five and ten percent cuts from all county departments.

**Chabot** suggested a county blue-ribbon Commission, recalling from his days on council how all **John Smale** and his big-business buddies did for the city was to provide members of council cover for a tax increase.

Unfortunately, savings resulting from recommendations of such a commission—if implemented—would have no effect on next year's budget.

Had **Chabot** not been brain dead since his appointment to the commission, he would have seen that the light at the end of the tunnel was really a train, and recommended such a commission months ago, when it might have done some good.

Now they may not need it. Republican prosecutor **Art Ney**, Sheriff **Simon Leis**, and Judge **Al Mestemaker** all stood up to deplore the sad state of the county's criminal justice system.

"We sentence a guy to jail and he laughs at us," **Mestemaker** said, noting that one defendant in his court that very morning had a rain check for his jail sentence in September 1991.

Both **Leis** and **Ney** said they



couldn't follow federal orders without more money.

Will commissioners bite the bullet and raise sales taxes to cover their past indiscretions and current needs?

"Only if the other elected officials write and tell us to," said the courageous **Sandy Beckwith**.

In spite of the commissioners' trying to duck the issue, it's their fellow Republicans making the case for a tax increase.

Democrats, flush with the victory of **Dusty Rhodes** who is set to be the first Democratic auditor in almost 60 years, are licking their chops over no less than nine—count 'em—county offices currently held by Republicans up in 1992.

Any way you cut it, it will be a "Republican" tax increase.

"Raising tax would have an adverse effect on the county," **Chabot** said.

Raising taxes will have even a worse effect on the incumbents' prospects for reelection.

**Spectre at the feast**

Spying County Auditor-elect **Dusty Rhodes** talking with reporters following last week's county officials love-in, County Administrator **Tom Wenz** said, "What are you doing here? We didn't invite you."

Responded **Rhodes**, "Just consider me a concerned taxpayer—for now."

What **Rhodes** later told Channels 5 and 9 reporters somehow didn't make it on the air.

"I don't know why you're so surprised. *The Whistleblower* reported how county Democratic candidates were talking about expected budget problems over six months ago. Where were you guys then?" **Rhodes** said.





## Cheap Shots

### Our secret's still safe

Last Thursday, the *Enquirer* published that *Whistleblower* publisher Charles Foster Kane would be appearing on Jerry Thomas' WKRC Radio program, Thursdays at 9:08 a.m.

The announcement inadvertently mentioned the name of *The Whistleblower's* creator, which had been a closely guarded secret.

It's a good thing the news appeared in Radio-TV columnist John Kelswetter's column, or else somebody might have found out.



### But, was it a joke?

WEBN listeners really heard local restaurant magnet Ben Bernstein call his wife "an ignorant slut" on a commercial produced at the station.



Shirley Bernstein now regrets having done the spot. "I know it was supposed to be a joke," she explained. "I hope people won't get the wrong idea about me. I'm not all that ignorant."

### First out of the chute

The first political advertisement for next year's elections was placed by none other than Betty Mauer, an unendorsed Democrat running as a candidate for Cincinnati City Council.

Any candidate who starts advertising this early must have money to burn. Media salespeople should now contact Mauer's campaign chairman: Lewis Pittman, 3129 Sunshine Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45211.



### Gift rap



Stop wondering what to get Sharon Moloney for Christmas.

The *Post* political reporter, no relation to lame-duck county auditor Mike Maloney, needs a calculator to finish adding up the campaign expenditures.



## Another Real Guest Editorial by Banky Tadwell

How many times in the past 100 years has some "voice of authority" wrung his or her hands and pronounced to the press that the United States should or could not be the policeman for the world?

We have not the resources, the time, the authority, or whatever to go around telling the rest of the world it cannot beat up on its neighbor, rob, rape, pillage or all the other stuff the Congress does to us here at home.

Pull the troops out. Bring the boys home. It's not our concern. We could build a home for every person in the county with the money we spend on butting into other countries' affairs and on and on and on.

Sure. It would be nice to be able to ignore the rest of the world. Nice? Hell, it would be wonderful. But things don't work that way. Never have. Never will. What happens today just about anyplace on the globe—with the obvious exception of anything on the west side of Cincinnati—has a definite effect on most of the rest of us. When one country goes whupping up on someone else, there are bound to be repercussions. And, eventually, someone just a bit bigger is going to have to step in and do something about it.

Now, let's say that the United States doesn't want to play world cop anymore. Who might we get to do the job—because someone is definitely going to step up and do it just to be a nice guy or to move into a power vacuum. Who might assume that role?

Well, Russia used to be the most obvious choice. A bit heavy handed at times, but boy, they could keep order. But now? The bully boy tactics finally broke the bank. These

days the Soviets can't even keep order in a food line.

China might be a possibility. How would you like to keep order the way they did with the kids in the square? No doubt

about it—run over a guy with a tank and he's going to think twice about giving you static next time.

Hey...how about the Irish? They love to throw bombs and stuff. Trouble breaks out somewhere, they get a little booze under the belt, sing Mother McCree, and start breaking heads. Liberia might be good. When they kicked President Doe out of office, they tied him up, tortured him, cut off his ears, and fed them to him. Nice touch.



Luxemburg. How about Luxemburg? Their principal product is postage stamps. Make them the world police and if someone causes trouble, they'll invade with a few million stamps and mail the trouble makers to some place where no one will ever find them...like the west side of Cincinnati.

You can probably think of a lot of countries that would make interesting world policemen. But would any one of them be the kind you would want with the power?

So tough noogies, gang. Want it or not, we got the job. Forever. Or until the nervous Nellies win out, whichever comes first.

The views and opinions in this column do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the author. They do, however, reflect the philosophy of *The Whistleblower*, its staff, its management, and most importantly—its advertisers.

## Coming next issue: Lytle One Love Nest



## Real Letters from Real Readers

Sirs:  
Plans to turn the Skywalk into a homeless shelter are a little late. We're already using it for that purpose.

**The Skywalk Merchants Association**

Sirs:  
Has anybody ever thought about following a Channel 9 news car around all day and see how many times they stop for doughnuts?

**Joe Deters**

Sirs:  
Thanks for explaining why State Auditor Tom Ferguson fired me. Now I'm suing him for a bundle. When I get rich, I'll owe it to you.

**Michael Geoghegan**

Sirs:  
I don't think it's fair. First city council lets JMB default on Ft. Square West. Then they let Galbreath default. Now they want to let Galbreath default again. We should get to default once before somebody gets to go twice.

**Daniel Staton/Duke Associates**

Sirs:  
How did David Mann get his "Vision of Cincinnati" in *The Whistleblower*? The only publication that would print my "Downtown Cincinnati Future" was *The Enquirer*. No wonder he's going to be the new mayor.

**Pete Strauss**

Sirs:  
Sorry if I'll be a little late showing up at my swearing in ceremony on Jan. 3. I have to do some grocery shopping for my wife Betsy. Then there's the laundry. Say, do any of you guys know which is the best bathroom cleanser?

**David Mann**

Sirs:  
You know, if the zoo got rid of some of the animals, there'd be plenty of parking space.

**Gerald Newfarmer**

Sirs:  
The reason I'm proposing a term limit of 8 years for city council is because if I can't get elected to something better than this by that time, I'm going to quit and find an honest job.

**Nick Vehr**

Sirs:  
Sorry you thought it was in bad taste to compare how much money people made in this month's *Cincinnati Magazine*. I guess that means you won't like our upcoming comparison of local celebrities' sexual organs either.

**Laura Pulfer**

Sirs:  
Bob Taft is already out of here. Soon I'll be a federal judge. I guess that leaves Steve Chabot in charge.

**Sandy Beckwith**

Sirs:  
The reason we don't have a nativity scene at the courthouse is because we can't find three wise men and a virgin.

**Steve Chabot**



## Another Exclusive Whistleblower Report

### F.O.J.—The Next Generation

**Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Joe Deters**



**Won't talk to the press**



**18 The Whistleblower Sleaze Card Series**

What else would you expect from a guy who changed his political affiliation so his wife Penny could get a job at the courthouse?

Co-opting the press is a time-honored tradition at the Hamilton County Courthouse.

Former *Enquirer* columnist Frank Weikel's wife Joyce went to work for Joe DeCourcy. Weikel himself now works for Sheriff Simon Leis. Former *Enquirer* political reporter



Bob Weston now works for the Municipal Clerk of Courts. Mike Maloney first learned about greed as an *Enquirer* reporter.

Deters' will continue to have problems with Channel 9 until he finds a job for a relative of an important enough Channel 9 employee. But with all the Schottlekottes running around out there, that should be easy.

### All in the family

Here's a follow-up to the Channel 9 incomplete "I-Team" report on Joe Deters' rather exotic salary practices included comments from two sitting judges.

Judge Anne Marie Tracey questioned the courts' hiring and employment routines, suggesting that all was not kosher in the way the Republican-dominated court selected its employees.

Quick to say that "Everything was just fine" was Judge Sylvia Hendon.

But the inept "I-Team" didn't dig quite deep enough. Unmentioned was the fact that Judge Hendon is Joe Deters' mother-in-law, so she has more than a partisan interest to set things right for young Joe.

We're still wondering why she didn't demand to do a "live" or unedited interview with Channel 9, as her son-in-law did.

### Cunningham defends Deters

Within hours of Joe Deters' refusal to be interviewed by Channel 9's intrepid "I-Team," WLW Radio loud-mouth Bill Cunningham was defending the Hamilton County Clerk of Courts.



### Money talks

Local political insiders recall that Fifth Third President, George Schaefer, Jr., was one of the main skills for the recent campaign to return Sandra Beckwith to the county commission. Now we know why Schaefer was twisting arms of friends and acquaintances to raise campaign cash for Beckwith's warchest.

Clerk of Courts Joe Deters has announced that Money Station, Inc. AMT cards will now be accepted for the collection of fines, fees, and costs for the

Hamilton County court system. Everything clears through Fifth-Third, which previously had only provided advertising on Deters' license registration envelopes.

Guess whose campaign Schaefer will co-chair in '92?





## Bluegrass Holler

by Ken Camboo

City manager Jim Parsons has made Monmouth Street nude bars off limits to Newport cops. The police station is fighting the edict, claiming it violates officers' rights to lust, libertines, and the pursuit of poontang. Just to be sure they're covered, the boys in blue plan a prostitution sweep to coincide with the FOP Christmas party.

Governor Wallace Wilkinson dedicated the new AA Highway connecting Ashland and Alexandria last week. As a compromise to stricter enforcement of the Death Hill truck ban on I-75, the governor announced that 18 wheelers would be diverting around Cincinnati by way of Maysville. Expect scathing editorials from newsgeezzer Nick Clooney.

In Covington, Mayor Denny Bowman gave the media a tour of abandoned properties. He is proposing a new Urban Design Standard to require plywood in place of glass windows as a method to camouflage blight.

Newport and Covington officials report that 300 vacant buildings hurt Northern Kentucky's image more than local strip joints.

Renovating the buildings through the sale of crack could provide housing for poor families, according to our source in the Newport Zoning Administrator's office. "The sale of crack will attract a better class of people to the two river cities," our *Whistleblower* source said.

Cincinnati City Council won't decide until Jan. 7 how much money it will give towards a new bridge. The bridge is estimated to cost \$55.9 million and Landslide Charlie Luken suggests our neighbors to the north donate a whopping \$1.5 million.

In addition, Cincinnati wants to name the bridge.

Here are some things I'd like to hear people tell me next year...

1. No assembly required. Batteries included.
2. Sony bought by IBM
3. Don't bother filling in the whole form, just sign the bottom
4. Acid rain dissolved mosquitoes
5. Of course, we deliver in the evening
6. Massive earthquake destroys Iraq
7. Yes, the warranty is still good
8. Hi, my name is John, you called for a lumber a few minutes ago
9. Your party will be seated immediately
10. There is no congestion through the Cut in the Hill



## J. R. Hatfield

Northern Kentucky Bureau Chief

### Frankfort Follies

The continuing saga of the 1991 Kentucky gubernatorial race and the candidates that make it worth watching.



First lady Martha Wilkinson ran afoul of hubby Governor Wally's stated intentions to close Kentucky landfills to out-of-state garbage when she received thousands of dollars from East Coast

trash contractors as a campaign contribution.

"Just because I took the money doesn't mean I'm gonna give 'em what they want," Martha said. And who says this lady doesn't understand politics.

Lt. Governor Brereton Jones has been quizzed by federal investigators looking into his management of a Versailles stud farm which has spread sexually transmitted disease throughout horse country. Jones responded by saying, "Have you ever tried to put a condom on a stallion when the mare's in heat?"

Northern Kentucky favorite son, and general non-practitioner, Floyd G. Poore has legally changed his first name to "Dr." in order to give voters a sense of assurance.

These are the same voters who can't afford medical insurance due to Floyd's cronies in the medical industry.

# Waterfront Jeff Ruby Presents

The Pete Rose

Celebrity Welcome Home Party

January 7

Celebrities include Jeff Ruby, Carolyn Rose, Art Spiegel, Johnny Paycheck, Nick Nadel, Turk Schonert, Tommy Gioioso, Ron Peters, Paul Janszen, Jack Dowd, George Steinbrenner, The Ghost of Bart Giamatti, Bill Melster, Phil Rizzuto, Joe Nuxhall, Ken Broo, Thom Brennaman, Andy Furman and Bob Trumpy

\$100 per person

Felons drink free

Tax-deductible (IRS Approved)

Call Jeff Ruby at 581-1414 for reservations

Proceeds benefit the Committee to Bribe Sportswriters and get Pete Rose into the Hall of Fame



## Restaurant Review

by Sara Lee Pearce

Once again, the *Maisonette* has received a five-star rating from the "Mobile Travel Guide." This marks the 27th straight year that the *Comisar* family's downtown establishment has been so honored. No other establishment has received as many five-star ratings in the history of the Mobil awards.

Other recipients of the coveted Mobil awards include *Newton & Sons Mobil* on Montgomery Road, *Ray's Mobil* in Kennedy Heights, and *Elwood P. Suggin's Mobil Station* and deli-carryout in Vandalia, Ohio.



## Something Special

by Roger Chatterly

Did you ever wonder why there are so many holiday specials on TV? Since July 4, there must have been 487 of them, and we still have eight more watching days till Christmas.

Some specials have been on more times than all the "Brady Bunch" and "Perry Mason" reruns combined. Some specials even feature people who are still alive.

One not-so-special this year showed Pat Barry's reunion in *Metamora*. Have you ever met anybody who can even find *Metamora* on a map? There are animated specials like "The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Christmas" in prime time. That's for kids to watch. They have pretentious, warm family specials like "The Donald and Inava Trump Christmas Special." Divorced couples should like that. And the "Slim Whitman Christmas Special" will surely be followed by a year's commercials for the "Slim Whitman Christmas Special" record album.

By now you probably think you've seen every possible Christmas special there is. Which only proves you haven't seen this week's "TV Guide." Imagine "The Elvis Presley Christmas Special," with special guest stars Jake and the Fatman. On public access TV, "Frank Weikel/Simon Leis Christmas Special" will feature Dennis Barrie singing carols in front of a fireplace full of burning Mapplethorpe photos. Orson Wells will host the "Weight Watchers Christmas Special." And on "60 Minutes," Mike Wallace will expose Santa Claus as a fake.

But these specials do serve one purpose. Bad as they are, you begin to yearn for more inane baffle from Jerry Springer and Norma Rashid.



## Kalling all Kleagles

### Rally on the Square

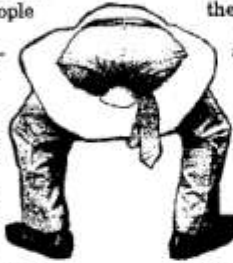
Saturday, Dec. 22, 8:30 a.m.

See our battery-operated cross  
Bring your own sheet  
(In case of rain,  
bring your rubber sheet)



## 21 ways to be offensive at a Christmas party

- Keep asking if there's anything good on TV
- Get very drunk and offer to drive people home
- Insist on smoking a foul-smelling cigar
- Demand a doggie bag to take home leftover food and drinks
- Barge into the bedrooms and yell "surprise"
- Open all the presents under the tree
- Ask where they're hiding all the good stuff
- Return some panties the hostess left in your car
- Keep asking the rock-and-roll DJ to turn up the sound
- Walk up to other guests and demand to see their invitations
- Switch name tags on gift-exchange packages
- Keep asking people if they're really Jewish
- Show up with a baby and claim he belongs to the hosts
- Offer to show pictures of the hostess in the nude
- Complain how commercial Christmas has gotten
- Ask a guest if he ever thought about getting braces
- Hang blown-up condoms on the tree
- Start a food fight
- Tell everybody what a great kisser the hostess is
- Tell the host's children there is no Santa Claus
- Tell people they're losing their hair



## Seediest Kids of All



The holiday season has always been a sad time for Alan Falfa and his family, because there is never enough money to buy Christmas presents.

This year did not promise to be much better. Alan's father lost his job at the asbestos plant. And even though his mother is working part time as a tire installer at Sears, it looked like Christmas morning would be a joyless occasion, once again.

So the Seediest Kids of All sent over an electric train set for

Alan, an electric saw for Alan's father so he could get some part-time work as a carpenter, an electric blanket to keep Alan's arthritic grandmother warm on cold winter nights, and an electric hair dryer for Alan's sister, so she could look nice for the people at the modeling studio who told her they would make her a star.

It's beginning to look a lot more like Christmas at the Falfa house. Now, if only CG & E wasn't planning to turn off their electricity on Christmas Eve, things would look a whole lot merrier.

Still, they're grateful to the Seediest Kids of All, but it's really you they have to thank, because it's your guilt throughout the year which makes it all possible.