

sQuint



Downtown • Dec. 19, 2002

Photo: Jerome Manigan

TAKE IT FROM US!

You should know by now that there are plenty of things to do and see in Greater Cincinnati. For further proof, thumb through *CityBeat's* newly published good book, the **ANNUAL MANUAL 2003**, complete with volunteer opportunities, causes worth supporting, highlights of 2003 events and lists of everything from theater groups and music clubs to parks and local colleges. It's tucked inside this week's issue. Happy New Year!

Hearing Voices

Excerpts from *CityBeat* letters and editorials in 2002

COMPILED BY JOHN FOX

Last Friday I was on the sidewalk outside of the Aronoff Center when I was accosted by a representative from Procter and Gamble. She was shoving a sample-sized package of tissues into my personal space while enthusiastically proclaiming something about "enchanted pillows." (I can only imagine that such a product will elevate the experience of weathering the common cold to the level of Nirvana.)

I walked away wondering if anyone else in this city would find it ironic that it's perfectly legal for corporate representatives to interrupt a peaceful evening with their consumerist clamor, but it's against the law for an individual to ask for money to buy some food or for bus fare home. I personally find P&G's "enchanted pillow" free sample blitz a deterrent to my enjoying our city far more than what the city has dubbed "panhandling."

— Letter from Cathy L. Hale regarding local efforts to curb panhandling (Jan. 3)

It seems to me that some in the African-American community complain a bit too

THE YEAR



IN REVIEW

much about white racism. Racism exists. Its negative impact and influence have caused a lot of pain and suffering for many, many people. Still, I'm beginning to wonder if many complaints alleging racism are nothing more than excuses for not taking responsibility for self. At the same time, it seems to me that some in the white community are unwilling to even consider that some things are really in need of change.

— Letter from Jerome Manigan responding to a *CityBeat* editorial looking back on 2001 and looking ahead (Jan. 17)

Bureaucracies always seem to be more interested in the process of decision-making than in the actual decisions or actions themselves. And CAN certainly seems — in deeds, not words — to have been formed for the purpose of having meetings rather than for the purpose of bringing fundamental change to Cincinnati.

— Editorial on the Community Action Now (CAN) commission's lack of efforts and results (Jan. 24)

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SQUINT: Photographs of life in Greater Cincinnati can be submitted for use in this feature. Non-returnable slide duplicates or prints (color or black & white) should be sent to *CityBeat*, attn: Sean Hughes. Please include a date/place caption for each photo.

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