

# Remember the Cows That Didn't Get Away

Foibles, missteps and dumb ideas in 2002

BY GREGORY FLANNERY

It all goes back to the cows.

Everyone knows about the one that got away from the slaughterhouse in February. The mad dash of Cincinnati Freedom, as the cow is now known, brought her freedom, life and fame. The happy beast now cavorts on a New York farm sanctuary for escaped farm animals.

But what about the other cows — the ones who played decoy to help ensnare the fugitive? Mayor Charlie Luken didn't give them a key to the city. Artist Peter Max didn't take them away to a life of udder luxury.

After nearly two weeks on the run from Cincinnati Police officers and Hamilton County Sheriff's deputies, Cincinnati Freedom was finally captured near Mount Storm Park. She was double-crossed, lured by the sound of fellow cows in a temporary cattle pen set up to trap her.

The snitches did their job. They tricked Cincinnati Freedom. What has been their lot? You guessed it — they're hamburger.

The case of the run-away cow provides an apt metaphor for Cincinnati in 2002, illustrating how half-measures so often substituted for real change and how city leaders tended to miss opportunities for doing the right thing.

Consider some of the past year's foibles:

- Cincinnati City Council entered into an agreement with the Black United Front and American Civil Liberties Union to reform the police department. But the city refused to pay the plaintiffs' legal bills, instead calling for private contributions. Luken even asked for donations from Bill Cosby and Whoopi Goldberg, whose cancellation of performances boosted the civil rights boycott of Cincinnati.

- After the second March for Justice took to the streets on April 7, city council members expressed outrage at reports that protesters had climbed atop and defaced a memorial to police officers killed in the line of duty. Councilman Pat DeWine demanded an investigation and prosecution — until the police chief explained that no laws had been broken.

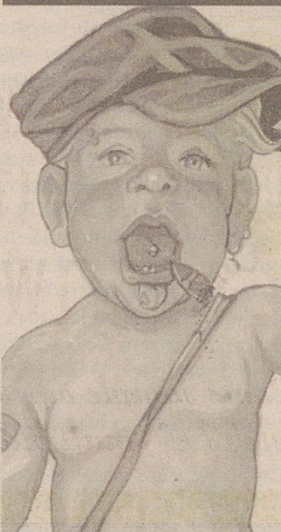
- In the summer DeWine wrapped City Hall in red tape to illustrate his concern about the city's development policies. He wasn't prosecuted for defacing the building.

- While mounting a public relations blitz urging people to visit, shop and stay in hotels downtown, intended to counteract the effect of the boycott, city council held its planning retreat in another county.

- In yet another effort to make downtown a friendly place, Luken lashed out at *Streetvibes*, the monthly newspaper by and for the homeless. Luken chided the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless for "arming panhandlers with newspapers," as though the publication were being used as cudgels on unwary citizens. Yet in 2001 Luken had been so enamored of the same paper that he issued a proclamation setting aside "Streetvibes Day."

- The mayor's welcome mat isn't for everyone. When former President Bill Clinton expressed an interest in visiting Cincinnati to try to facilitate interracial dialogue, Luken hemmed and hawed, seeming more annoyed than pleased at the prospect of such a high-profile visitor.

## THE YEAR



## IN REVIEW

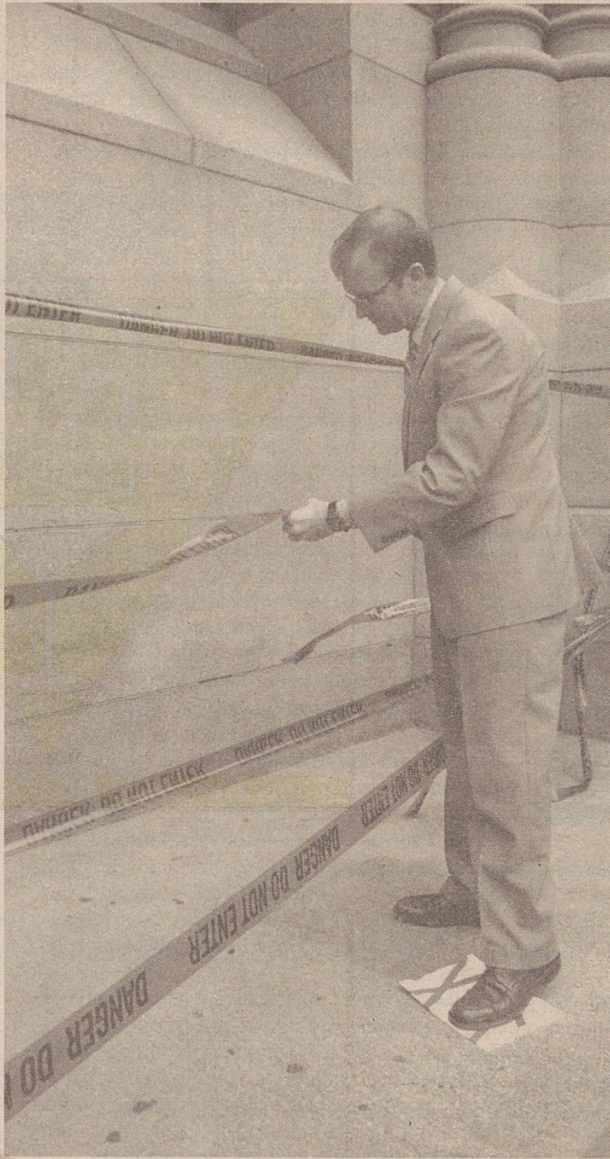


PHOTO: JYMI GOLDEN

The message is upside down and backwards, but it's still true: City Councilman Pat DeWine wraps Cincinnati City Hall in red caution tape.

- Two of Cincinnati's most notorious police officers — each indicted in the death of unarmed African Americans — found work in suburban police departments this year. Stephen Roach, acquitted of negligent homicide, went to work for the city of Evendale. Robert Jorg, whose trial for involuntary manslaughter ended in a hung jury, is now working for the Pierce Township Police Department.

- Vice Mayor Alicia Reece apologized for allegedly threatening to have Cincinnati firefighters silence a *CityBeat* columnist. Without admitting she'd made the threat, Reece blamed her conduct on stress caused by concern about her mother's health and on her perception that the columnist had accused Reece of incest with her father.

- In an effort to keep the Ku Klux Klan from mounting a cross on Fountain Square, city council passed a law banning everyone from putting anything on the square, reserving the site to its own use for a seven-week period. When a federal judge threw out the law, the city appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which — to no one's surprise — ruled the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution applies even in Cincinnati. ©

# CITYLIGHTS

## Take on the Power of Peacemaking

The Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center presents the Empowerment Workshop for People Against War from noon-5 p.m. Jan. 11 at St. Joseph Church in the West End.

The keynote speakers are Rania Masri, representative to the United Nations for the Arab Women's Solidarity Association; and Sister Mary Evelyn Jegen, co-founder of Global Peace Services USA.

Workshop topics include training for nonviolent civil disobedience, strategies for involving college campuses in the anti-war movement and how to make meaningful the Bush regime's stated goal of eliminating weapons of mass destruction.

The suggested donation is \$10, including lunch. Day care is available. For more information, call 513-579-8547.

## Get Informed, Get Active to Stop Bush's War

"War Is Not the Answer" is an indispensable Web site for Greater Cincinnati residents interested in learning about — and working to resist — the Bush regime's war plans. The Web site offers free art for use in making buttons and fliers, links to articles about the coming war and suggestions for joining the anti-war movement. Visit <http://www.geocities.com/cincydemo>.

## Shape the State of Cincinnati

Local residents and groups can participate in compiling "The State of Cincinnati — a Grassroots Citizen's Report" from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 25 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 745 Ezzard Charles Drive. A sharing session allows groups to present information and give brief descriptions of their written reports. Lunch is at noon. For more information on what should be included in the reports and how to get involved, contact Brian Garry at 513-236-4180 or [bgarry@fuse.net](mailto:bgarry@fuse.net).

## Leading Women Recognized

Leading Women 2003 seeks nominations for its March "Celebration of Women" luncheon honoring Cincinnati area women who have achieved greatness. The deadline is Tuesday. To nominate someone, call 513-771-7222.

## High School Students Organize for Peace

High school students opposed to the coming war in Iraq can join other students at a meeting to make banners and posters to spread the message of peace throughout the city. Drop by any time between 1-6 p.m. Jan. 11 at 3503 Middleton Ave. in Clifton. For more information, call Traven 513-861-8722 or Lynnea at 513-631-2289.

CITYLIGHTS follows and announces events of public interest.