

Letters

The time has come

It's about time! This city has needed a publication such as *Cincinnati City Beat* for so long.

As a consumer of information, I find *City Beat's* mix of deep-digging news, hip lifestyle features, and coverage of cutting-edge movies, music and arts to be just what I need. Good luck!

P.S. Cool names on your lifestyle and calendar sections.

— Ali Barger,
Roselawn

Mashing in Middletown

To the editor: I'm writing to commend you on launching what has turned into a truly unique and important publication for the Greater Cincinnati area. I moved to Cincinnati (Middletown, to be exact) from Chicago four years ago, and when I arrived I was astonished at the lack of a thorough and informative weekly newspaper. In Chicago there was always (at the very least) two such papers.

I also want to tell you that I enjoy your music section very much. It is nice to read about music outside of the realm of Phil Collins and Garth Brooks.

Which brings me to my one gripe. I believe that you really need to cover the Middletown music scene. My band, the Bloody Baby Bunnies, is only a small part of our scene that's being called "the Next Hot Spot." You know, like Seattle. Assfucking, Gutless Swine and Sex Pack are all making huge waves in the Middletown area and are gaining gigantic crowds at their shows. It is only a matter of time before the rest of the world catches on, so I'm offering you guys a pretty big scoop here.

As I said, I am very appreciative of your local and regional music coverage. *City Beat* is one of the only publications that cater to the

needs of local musicians. But please consider a cover story on the Middletown scene. Enclosed is a demo we (the BBBs) recorded in our bass player's cousin's garage. The wide range of songs include our versions of Rush's "Working Man," "Smoke on the Water," and an alternative version of "Free-bird." Several major labels have expressed interest in the band. We are currently working on an original song and hope to have an album and video out by Christmas.

Thanks for your consideration,

— Jag Love (vocalist),
Bloody Baby Bunnies,
Middletown

Spending money

On the surface, it's fine to build a new stadium and renovate Riverfront Stadium, but Cincinnati should not foot the bill alone.

People all around the Tristate benefit from having two professional sports teams in Cincinnati. Those folks need to pitch in, too.

— B. Larkin,
Cincinnati

Saving money

Who says Cincinnati needs a new stadium?

After the way baseball players and owners trashed a perfectly good season and with the way the Bengals started this season, why not just hand them all their walking papers!

Then, we wouldn't need to build or fix any stadium, and that would save millions of taxpayer \$\$\$.

— Name withheld
upon request

Letters policy

CINCINNATI CITY BEAT accepts letters for publication.

MAIL TO: Letters,
Cincinnati City Beat
23 E. Seventh St., Suite 617
Cincinnati, OH 45202
FAX TO: 513/665-4644

Please include the letter writer's name, address and daytime phone number. Writers may request their names be withheld from publication. Letters may be edited for length. Please type letters if possible.

The Beat of the City

A conversation among friends, not a sermon from your elders

BY JOHN FOX

There are a million or more topics I could address in the very first editorial of our very first publication. Believe me, I've started this column quite a few times and come to a halt again and again.

I finally decided to stop trying to explain the whole concept all at once. Let's instead look at your basic questions: what is *Cincinnati City Beat*, who are you people, what do you mean by "alternative" and why should I care? We'll save the rest for future columns.

The *City Beat* will be a weekly alternative newspaper covering community issues, entertainment and the arts throughout Greater Cincinnati. It'll be distributed every Thursday, free of charge, throughout the urban landscape of Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

Our reporters' "beat" is the city's people and neighborhoods, faces and places the mainstream media always seem to miss. Our reviewers and critics hear the "beat" of local musicians and follow the work of local performing and visual artists. Our staff may even "beat" down a few closed doors in government or corporate offices to get to the bottom of an important — and overlooked — story.

In short, we will track the "beat" of Cincinnati, the pulse of life, the heart of the city.

We are a small, enthusiastic group of journalists, designers, photographers and sales people hoping to provide what we think is sorely needed here: a locally based, independent media voice that provokes thought and encourages action. We combine years of experience in the alternative press with some "converts" from daily newspapers and mix in quite a few young, innovative writers and editors. You may already be familiar with many of the names in our staff box. If not, I hope that you'll take time during the next few weeks to get to know us.

The alternative press has thrived in the United States since the 1960s, when important papers such as the *Village Voice*, *Chicago Reader*, *Boston Phoenix* and *San Francisco Bay Guardian*

emerged from the underground to challenge "The Establishment." Those papers, and dozens more born in the last decade, share a popular, successful concept: quality writers and critics, hip design, exhaustive calendar listings and a desirable forum in which advertisers reach educated, thoughtful readers.

Alternative newsweeklies are thriving in St. Louis, Indianapolis, Detroit, Knoxville and Chicago. Three

publish every week in Columbus. Can the concept truly succeed in Cincinnati? Those of us listed in the staff box are firm believers that it can. What we really need, of course, is your support.

Which brings me to your final question: Why should I care?

The driving force behind *City Beat* is a quest to give voice to those in our community who do not — or cannot — speak for themselves. Despite what many politicians and corporate executives want us to believe, Cincinnati is not a collection of skyscrapers and department stores and baseball stadiums. Cincinnati is its people: young and old, black and white, male and female, poor and wealthy, gay and straight. If there were ever a city that needed to be reminded of this fact, it's Cincinnati.

If any of these ideas matter to you, please let us know. We're setting up several channels — letters, guest editorials, question of the week and "beat the bureaucrat,"

among other ideas — through which you can contact us and have your opinion printed. We envision *City Beat* as more of a conversation among friends than a sermon from your elders.

Just a couple of pointers before closing... This prototype was produced to demonstrate to potential readers and advertisers what *City Beat* will look like when published. All the articles are real; the letters, calendar listings and display and classified ads are not. Do not try to see the Smashing Pumpkins Monday at Hara Arena, for instance, even though the music listings suggest so.

Volume 1, Number 1 of *Cincinnati City Beat* will appear in mid-November. We'll pick up the conversation then. ©

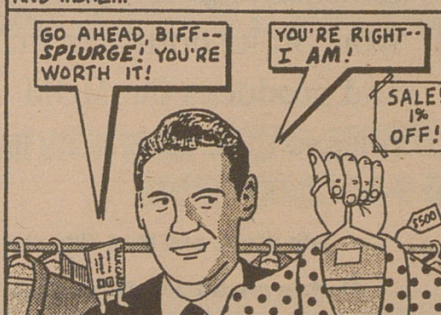
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THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

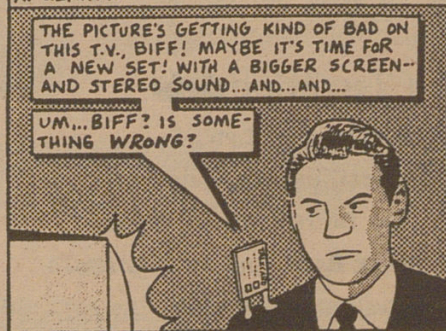
ONE DAY, BIFF'S BANK SENT HIM A NEW CREDIT CARD... THANKS TO THE WONDERS OF MICROCHIP TECHNOLOGY, IT WAS A VERY SPECIAL CARD...



BIFF AND HIS CREDIT CARD QUICKLY BECAME INSEPARABLE... AND HE BEGAN TO RELY ON HIS NEW FRIEND'S ADVICE MORE AND MORE...



IN TIME, HOWEVER, BIFF BEGAN TO WONDER IF HIS FRIEND REALLY HAD HIS BEST INTERESTS AT HEART...



SADLY, BIFF EVENTUALLY FOUND IT NECESSARY TO SEVER THE RELATIONSHIP.

