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# OPINION

'True happiness comes from the joy of deeds well done, the zest of creating things new.'

— Antoine de Saint-Exupery

## Obama fighting losing battle with Fox

Scripps Howard News Service



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With all the fights he has going — Iraq, Afghanistan, the two little nuts in Iran and North Korea — you wonder why President Barack Obama would pick a fight with Fox News. But he has.

The White House has all but accused the cable channel's commentators of being habitual liars when it comes to Obama. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said many of the network's stories about the administration are "not true."

A White House blog accused

Fox of a "smear" campaign to discredit administration efforts to have the United States host the Olympics. It accused Fox of an "ongoing disregard for the facts" and referred readers to a Web site for "even more Fox lies."

White House communications director Anita Dunn attacked Fox as "a wing of the Republican Party." Actually, Fox is in much better shape than the GOP, which might be better off as a wing of Fox. Instead of the incessant whining the party has fallen prey to, it might give the Republicans some much-needed gusto.

This summer, Obama told rival CNBC that, "I've got one television station that is entirely devoted to attacking my administration."

The Fox broadcast network, unlike the other major networks, has

declined to run Obama's prime-time press conferences and speeches (curiously, in one instance, so as not to interfere with the premiere of a show called "Lie to Me"), although the Fox News cable channel aired them.

The White House not so subtly retaliated by having the president appear on five Sunday talk shows (known as a Full Ginsburg, after Monica Lewinsky's lawyer, the first to pull off that feat). Obama did not appear on the Fox Network's show, prompting host Chris Wallace to call the White House "the biggest bunch of crybabies I have dealt with in my 30 years in Washington."

Also unlike the other networks, neither Fox operation has yet to get a sit-down one-on-one interview with Obama for its stars. And now

the word is that Fox isn't going to get one until at least next year.

The White House says Obama is only being true to the pledge he made to a joint session of Congress — one that the Fox Network skipped — to call out people who misrepresent his positions. That's what the Democratic National Committee is for.

Wallace surely knows that these White House-press feuds are standard fare in Washington. Harry Truman threatened to kick The Washington Post's music critic in the crotch. John Kennedy pointedly canceled White House subscriptions to the New York Herald Tribune. Richard Nixon compiled an "enemies list" of reporters. (When the list became public, many reporters were crushed that they weren't on it.)

It blows over eventually, when each side realizes the other isn't going away. And while the press loves this — Fox's Glenn "The President's a Racist" Beck and Bill O'Reilly have to be loving the attention — it does the White House no good in the long run.

Politicians who wanted to take on an offending newspaper used to be advised to never start public quarrels with someone who buys ink by the barrel. The same might be said of cable channels that have endless reservoirs of electrons and bluster.

We look forward to how Fox News covers Obama's acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo on Dec. 10, assuming something more newsworthy, like Obama winning an Emmy, an Oscar or the Heisman, doesn't occur in the meantime.

### OUR VIEW

## Outlook at Hiram

Chema sees expanded adult market as a challenge for higher education

Hiram College President Thomas Chema was closer to the mark than many in higher education probably would like to believe when he said in his recent interview that the decline in college-age students for the foreseeable future means many colleges must broaden their sights to continue to flourish.

Chema during his recent interview at the Record-Courier said the likely market to take up the slack is adults who have dropped out of college or who wanted to attend, but did not. There are an estimated 150,000 or more of these persons in Northeastern Ohio, he said, and their return to college even on a part-time basis would strengthen their employability in the information age that has taken over the U.S. economy.

Traditionalists in education, who might be tempted to write off those beyond the typical undergraduate age, would do well to recall the adults who attended college after World War II, coming home from having fought in Europe and in the Pacific. Older than the normal college age, that group was considered by most faculties as being among the most highly motivated students ever to pass through the portals of American higher education. They were the people who, having earned their degrees, participated in the American postwar economic miracle that turned the United States into the envy of the world.

Might there not be similar motivation among some of

the 150,000 whom President Chema says should be targeted, adults who have been displaced by the shrinking of manufacturing in Northeastern Ohio, but who have a strong work ethic and with the benefit of higher education might help create a second American economic miracle?

The word "globalization" has become a tiresome cliché because of its frequent use and yet that is the world we inhabit today. We compete with the economies of China, India, Southeast Asia and Japan, not to mention upstarts in Latin America such as Brazil and the Eastern European nations freed 20 years ago from the stifling Soviet yoke.

Encouraging adults to return to college not only to learn new skills, but to expand their horizons, will strengthen the human capital of the nation and Northeastern Ohio.

Not bound by the dictates of what was, President Chema is urging Hiram College to look at the possibilities of bridge building with community colleges that might turn out students who want to complete their four-year degree at Hiram.

Hiram College, one of the first colleges anywhere to offer the weekend classroom experience for working adults unable to fit the traditional student mold, is already a pioneer in non-traditional adult education. Looking into other ways to tap the adult market could represent an exciting new chapter in Hiram College meeting the challenges of the future.

## Issues 2 & 3?

Overkill by amendments to Ohio's Constitution; voter caution is urged

Although the Record-Courier, along with many other newspapers, has endorsed Issue 2, the state constitutional amendment that would set up a commission to oversee livestock production, we confess to having misgivings about using the Ohio Constitution for a specific initiative like this.

Like Issue 3, which would bring gambling to Ohio via a constitutional amendment, Issue 2 is like using a jackhammer when a simple, ordinary hand-held hammer would do. It sets up a bureaucracy by state amendment.

The normal way to do this

is through legislative initiative that has been carefully vetted in debate in the Ohio House and Senate.

Voters in Ohio should proceed cautiously when introducing gambling or a bureaucracy to oversee livestock production by a constitutional amendment when a more deliberate legislative procedure has always been at their disposal.

In an earlier editorial the Record-Courier urged a "No" vote on Issue 3, which would bring gambling to Ohio by constitutional amendment. We believe a better mechanism is needed to handle casino gambling.

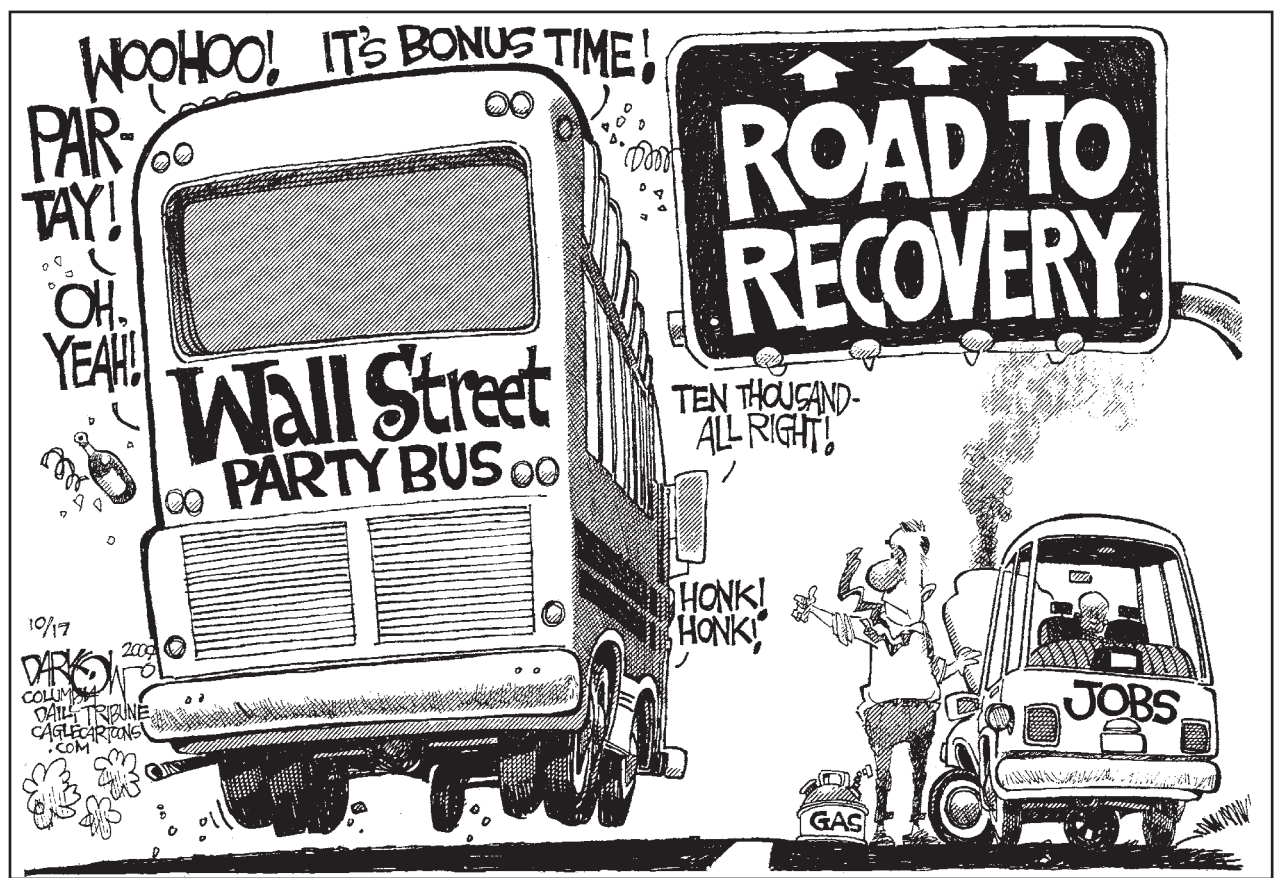
### Letters on election issues due Friday

Friday, Oct. 23 is the deadline for submitting letters to the editor about issues on the Nov. 3 ballot. Letters must be limited to 300 words.

Friday, Oct. 30 is the last day election letters will be printed. No

letters from or about candidates will be printed.

Letters may be sent to the Record-Courier at 126 N. Chestnut St., Ravenna, 44266 or e-mailed to editor@recordpub.com.



### LETTERS

#### Questions levy bid

A heating line broke on Friday, Oct. 9, at Crestwood High School and the administration chose to close the school. The leak was a minor leak outside of the school that required the application of an 18-inch sleeve and approximately one hour with a backhoe. Why was the school closed? Could it be ammunition to promote the passage of the current levy to build a new high school?

As to the levy itself, the consensus is that \$12.7 million will be paid by the Crestwood taxpayers. The other \$12.7 million is "free money" from the state of Ohio. In reality, there is an old saying, "When you get something for nothing, take very little of it."

Nothing is free. The \$12.7 million that we would receive from the state is from our tax money. Therefore, Crestwood taxpayers are paying the entire amount. There are 88 counties in Ohio. How many school districts are taking advantage of the "free" money? Every taxpayer in Ohio foots the bill.

The administration and school board speak of the 1950s high school building as if it were ancient. It has been stated that students tend to learn better in a new facility. That statement makes one wonder how the students at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, etc., can learn in 200-year-old-plus buildings?

If the high school is indeed in as bad of condition as stated by the administration this only could have occurred through lack of proper maintenance through the years. Repairs, though costly because of neglect, would be less expensive than building a new school.

Crestwood voters should be aware that there are people employed by

Crestwood Schools at all levels who are against this levy.

While I am not trying to tell anyone how to vote, please take into consideration this information when voting.

John A. Vechery  
Mantua

#### For library levy

Recently, I swung by the library after work to pick up a book. I didn't remember it was Wednesday and the library closed early.

I'll pick it up tomorrow, I thought, but the library is closed all day Thursdays. Maybe you've had a similar experience?

I thought how blessed we are to have an excellent library. Also, what a shame it is all the vast resources sit out of reach on the other side of a locked door.

I realized how I've grown to take for granted the library would be open despite gradual slipping away of funding. For me, a last-minute Sunday trek to Borders for a book that sits free on the library shelves is an inconvenience, but for others, it means a whole lot more.

With the economy weighing heavily on most, and greatest on the retired and unemployed, the library isn't just a place to take out books, but to learn and grow, be entertained and access resources that can enhance and change lives. All this at a cost everyone can afford.

We need to give back to our libraries. The Portage County District Library receives nearly 95 percent of its funding from the state. The state has reduced funding by about 32 percent since 2001, and reductions will continue.

With depleting resources, the PCDL has a significant need, not only to keep its collection of books, magazines, CDs and DVDs updated and available, but in some nearby communities, to keep the doors open.

It's time we support the PCDL. On Nov. 3, vote "Yes" on Issue 6. The cost is small, the value great and the benefits almost unlimited.

Ben Sutton Jr.  
Aurora

#### Taken for a ride

Mr. Obama's dog and pony show on the White House law with the doctors in the white coats reminded me of a time 34 years ago when my wife and I spent a year behind the Iron Curtain on a job in Romania.

At the seeing-off ceremony at the airport as dignitaries were leaving, there was a huge crowd of Romanian citizens. They were what we referred to as rent-a-crowd. They had been assembled by sending city buses out through town with a Communist Party thug on board whose job was to accost citizens with instructions to "get in the bus" — to be delivered to the airport.

I hope the "doctors" enjoyed their bus ride.

There was no "Record-Courier" in Romania and if I had written this letter there I would have expected a knock on my door.

You should be aware that there are people in place in our president's inner circle who firmly believe that the Romanian and Venezuelan model is of the highest order. How soon do you suppose I should expect a knock on my door?

F. Corl  
Randolph

### DOONESBURY

