


Friday, January 25, 2008



Winner of Pulitzer Prize for Tiger Force 

toledoblade.com

TOLEDO, OHIO

SUNNY
17 °
Humidity: 46 %
[more weather](#)




 [stocks](#)
 [click here](#)
[Place Your Ad Online](#) [click here](#)
 [monster](#) [click here](#)

[NEWS](#)
[MARKETplace](#)
[LEISURE](#)
[READER SERVICES](#)
[ADVERTISER SERVICES](#)

▼ advertisement ▼

BUSINESS PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES Associate of Arts in Accounting Associate of Arts in Business Associate of Arts in Information Technology — online —	BACHELOR'S DEGREES Bachelor of Science in Business/Accounting Bachelor of Science in Business/Administration Bachelor of Science in Business/Management	MASTER'S DEGREES Master of Business Administration Master of Business Administration/Accounting Master of Business Administration/Marketing	 <p>University of Phoenix Thinking ahead.</p> <p>LEARN MORE ▶</p>
---	---	---	--

Keyword search 

QwikNav 

Archive search 

Last 30 days search 

 Search 



[Home](#) » [Columnists](#) » [Lessenberry, Jack](#) »

Jack Lessenberry

Article Tools:  [Forum](#)  [Print](#)  [Email](#)  [Index](#)  [Help](#)  [XML](#) [RSS](#)

Article published Friday, January 18, 2008

Clinton has work to do to win African-



▼ advertisement ▼

How Do You Know Which Dealer Has What You Want?



xCars

You'll Find What You Want at the Price You Want To Pay *It's driven by YOU!*

▼ advertisement ▼



American voters



Latest News

Opinion

Sports

Business

Arts/Entertainment

Blade Blogs

Columnists

- » Brickey, Homer
- » de Boer, Roberta
- » Downs, Kendall
- » Drew, James
- » Dugger, Brian
- » Hackenberg, Dave
- » Henry, Tom
- » Emch, Dale
- » Heidbreder, Kelly
- » Hendel, Barbara
- » Holliday & Fischer
- » Hussain, S. Amjad
- » Johaneck, Marilou
- » Kelly, Jack
 - » Lessenberry, Jack
- » Pollick, Steve
- » Powell, Mary Alice
- » Russell, Rose
- » Shribman, David
- » Sigov, Mike
- » Smith, Kathie
- » Thompson, Dr. Gary
- » Walton, Tom

Neighbors

Obituaries

Religion

Daily Log

Weather

Special Reports

Lottery

Today's Front Page

Photo Gallery

MARKETplace
classifieds and more

- [Jobs](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [For Rent](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Notices](#)
- [Business Opportunities](#)
- [Merchandise](#)
- [Service/Repair](#)
- [Garage Sales](#)
- [Recreation](#)
- [Celebrations](#)
- [Churches](#)

CLAWSON, Mich. - Last Sunday, the pastor of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church invited Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D. Ohio), the only Democratic presidential candidate campaigning in the state, to address his congregation after the service.

Hundreds packed into the modest-sized sanctuary. To my surprise, most of them were not die-hard Kucinich supporters. Some were, of course. There were also contingents of his fellow vegans and animal-rights activists and health-care reformers.

But by and large, they were just Democrats hungry to see a presidential candidate - and very angry at their party for denying them the chance to participate fully in the most exciting battle for the nomination any could remember.

Mike Whitty, a business professor at the University of Detroit, put it best. "We are dying out here, and right now, he's the only nurse on the battlefield in the Crimea," he said.

That may be the only time Dennis Kucinich has been compared to Florence Nightingale, but the professor had a point. Thanks to a feud between the national party and the state Democrats, most of the contenders had taken their names off the ballot, except for Sen. Hillary Clinton, who slyly said she didn't need to bother the clerks.

Mr. Kucinich had, in fact, tried to take his name off too, but filed the wrong paperwork. So in the end, he said he figured that he might as well campaign. His decision to do so catapulted him from his 1 percent in New Hampshire to 4 percent in Michigan and in Oakland County, where I saw him speak and take questions on Sunday.

The audience applauded him vigorously, though mostly, it seems, for showing up. (On Tuesday, the area would vote: Ms. Clinton: 44,349; uncommitted: 37,805; Mr. Kucinich, 3,653.)

The Cleveland congressman gave a fairly moderate stump speech, took questions filtered through a moderator (to weed out the loonies, such as the man who asked if he would expose Israel's involvement in the 9/11 attacks). He did his best to sound presidential, though the only person who asked what he would do in the White House was a 12-year-old girl. (He never really answered.)

But before he came (presidential candidates are always late) and after he left, some people in the audience turned to me for answers.

They didn't understand why they couldn't vote for Sen. Barack Obama (D., Ill.) or former Sen. John Edwards or why their state's delegates had been taken away.

They didn't know whether to be more mad at the Democratic National Committee or their own bumbling leaders

Two days later, African-Americans in Detroit showed what they thought.

Polls had shown Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Obama dividing the African-American vote pretty evenly. But on primary day, seven out of 10 voted uncommitted. Only one in four voted for Hillary Clinton.

This may mean nothing in the fall. The folks in St. Andrew's Church had nothing but contempt for George W. Bush and the Republicans. But they were virtually all white.

African-American voters I talked to - hardly a scientific sample - seemed far more sullen. If Mr. Obama is not the nominee, they weren't all that sure how eager they were going to be in November.

- [New Today](#)
- [Snip & Save](#)
- [Grocery Coupons](#)
- [Shopper's Advantage](#)
- [Shop Blade products](#)
- [Photo Reprints](#)
- [Front Page Reprints](#)

What is clear is that any Democrat will need a united and enthusiastic black electorate if he or she is to have any chance of winning Michigan, Ohio, or the nation on Nov. 4. If she manages to beat Mr. Obama (not to speak of Mr. Kucinich) for the nomination, Mrs. Clinton may well have a great deal of repair work to do.

Health-Care Answer? Last year, during her State of the State address, Gov. Jennifer Granholm said she wanted to insure every uninsured person in Michigan. Given the enormosity of state budget problems, that soon disappeared from the radar.

However, last week a new group called the Healthcare for Michigan committee announced that it intended to collect signatures and place a constitutional amendment guaranteeing universal health care on the state ballot in November. The proposal has been endorsed by the Granholm administration. Lt. Gov. John Cherry told me the administration would work to help the panel raise money to put it on the ballot.

Interestingly, the proposal as of now says absolutely nothing about how much universal health care would cost - or how it would be funded. John Freeman, a former state representative who is chairman of the campaign, said the details would be left to the governor and legislature to work out if the amendment wins approval.

That's an interesting approach to responsible planning. What's more, Mr. Freeman added that he thought health-care coverage could be provided to the one million or so uninsured Michiganders without increasing state spending.

If you believe that, do not major in math.

Jack Lessenberry, a member of the journalism faculty at Wayne State University in Detroit and The Blade's ombudsman, writes on issues and people in Michigan.

- » E-mail him at OMBLADE@aol.com or call 1-888-746-8610.
- » Read more Jack Lessenberry columns at www.toledoblade.com/lessenberry

RECENT RELATED ARTICLES

- [Chill, Bill](#) | 01/25/2008
- [Nearly half of nation's governors endorse presidential candidates](#) | 01/23/2008
- [Look for meaning, not the magic](#) | 01/18/2008
- [Unnecessary distraction](#) | 01/18/2008
- [Democrats court Nevada's Latino vote](#) | 01/18/2008

[More related articles »](#)

▼ advertisement ▼

- LEISURE**
- [Worship Guide](#)
 - [Snip & Save](#)
 - [New Car Dealer Guide](#)
 - [Golf Guide](#)
 - [Restaurant Guide](#)
 - [High School Guide](#)
 - [Arts/Events Calendar](#)
 - [TV Listings](#)
 - [Movie Showtimes](#)
 - [Horoscopes](#)
 - [People2People](#)
 - [Online Forums](#)
 - [e.thePeople](#)
 - [Mud Hens Cam](#)
 - [Destinations](#)
 - [Home and Garden](#)
- READER SERVICES**
- [RSS News Feeds](#)
 - [Partnerships](#)
 - [About/Contact Us](#)
 - [Educational Services](#)
 - [Customer Services](#)
 - [Email Newsletter](#)
 - [Help/FAQ](#)
 - [Toledo Pros](#)
 - [Find a business](#)
 - [Find a person](#)
 - [Maps and directions](#)
 - [Set as homepage](#)
- ADVERTISER SERVICES**
- [Classified](#)
 - [The Blade](#)
 - [toledoblade.com](#)
 - [Mechanical Specs](#)

Special Sections
TOMA
Advertiser Proofs



University of Phoenix™
Thinking ahead.

ONLINE PROGRAMS

ASSOCIATE'S DEGREES
Associate of Arts in Business
Associate of Arts in Health Care Administration
Associate of Arts in Information Technology

BACHELOR'S DEGREES
Bachelor of Science in Business / Management
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration
Bachelor of Science in Management

MASTER'S DEGREES
Master of Business Administration
Master of Arts in Education
Master of Information Systems

[LEARN MORE →](#)



© 2007 The Blade. By using this service, you accept the terms of our privacy statement and our visitor agreement. Please read them.

The Toledo Blade Company, 541 N. Superior St., Toledo, OH 43660 , (419) 724-6000

To contact a specific department or an individual person, click here.

The Toledo Times ®