

THE REPUBLIC

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"We shall endeavor to make our paper the champion of the people of Bartholomew County and we shall advocate, irrespective of political considerations, all measures that have for their object the good of the community. In short, we hope to make our paper such as no intelligent person in the county can do without."

— Isaac T. Brown,
 Founding Editor, 1875



THE REPUBLIC FILE PHOTO

Ricky Berky, left, explains the history of Crack the Whip to walking art tour attendees Oct. 24. The tour was offered by Landmark Columbus' Advocacy and Education Committee and Reach Healthy Communities.

Group makes big impact with city's heritage

COLUMBUS is world-renowned for its architecture, and visitors often come to the city expressly to see the city's artwork and architectural treasures. Because they are significant, so is the task of maintaining them.

More information

To learn more about Landmark Columbus, sign up for its newsletter by going online to landmarkcolumbus.org, or the organization's Facebook page at facebook.com/landmarkcolumbus.

It is an important responsibility and a challenge. As some of the architecturally significant older buildings age, even more attention is needed to preserve them.

Another challenge is that some of the caretakers of these pieces are aging, too. A next generation of preservationists is needed.

That why it's been refreshing to see Landmark Columbus step up to the task.

The grassroots organization formed at the end of 2014 through the Heritage Fund — The Community Foundation of Bartholomew County. Its purpose is to care for and celebrate the city's design heritage.

Landmark Columbus has been quite busy in a short amount of time. For example:

- It organized a series of monthly Chaotic Tuesday events at The Commons, inviting people to watch as the Chaos I sculpture comes to life, and learn about it.

- In August, it organized volunteers to clean up the landscape architecture surrounding North Christian Church in Columbus. The church, one of seven properties in the city designated a National Historic Landmark, suffered significant tree damage during a mid-July storm. Volunteers wanted to preserve landscape architect Dan Kiley's vision for the church grounds.

- Members led a public walking tour in October to showcase the city's design heritage.

- The organization presented a public conversation event in October to inform residents about Landmark Columbus and see who might be interested in joining their effort.

Landmark Columbus has picked up the torch on preserving the city's design heritage, which is important to keep city gems preserved for future generations of residents and visitors.

Considering its efforts to involve volunteers, the organization presents a great opportunity for local residents to get involved and aid a worthy cause now and for years to come.



ALL BARK, NO BITE

With so many opinions, how can everyone be right?

WE seem to be in a constant battle for the attention of the general public in our media-laced world. I guess this always has been around since attention-grabbing headlines always have been a staple of the news world. But I wonder, with our saturated online communication life, it we have taken it to a new level.

Are we "crying wolf" so often and in so many places that there is no longer any truth out there for general consumption? I know I have become a great skeptic to many news items. What happens when we have no collective accurate information? Does everyone's view become valid? Let me give some examples.

There has been a recent flurry of articles about the dangers of eating red meat. The hype is that consuming red meat, especially processed meat, raises your risk of cancer by 18 percent. To most of us that sounds significant, but is it?

If you dig into the details you find that consuming red/processed meat every day increases your chance of developing cancer from 5 percent to 6 percent. Both of those numbers are correct, at least by the latest studies. Which one is the most attention getting? Which one did we hear about? Attention is grabbed by big numbers, so we hear about the 18 percent.

When I was first diagnosed with high blood pressure, my doctor was pretty adamant that I take drugs to lower my numbers. I did



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take those and still do, but I decided to do a little research on hypertension (high blood pressure). I found that my uncontrolled BP versus my controlled BP, raised my risk from 4 percent to 6 percent. Now, in the hyped world that is a 50 percent increase. That sounds like a pretty impressive number, but the raw data of 4 percent to 6 percent, not so much.

So, what is my point here? We live in a democracy that requires some level of informed electorate in order to decide who and what we want as our direction and leadership. Are we getting good information? Or are we getting hyped at every turn. It seems like you can find data to support about just any position you want to take.

What does that do to us? Instead of the promise of a more educated and informed populace, we have more factions and more separation and conflict, all claiming to have data to support just about all positions, no matter how bizarre some may be. (I know, we each define what "bizarre" may be). If everyone's view is

right, then "right" becomes moot. With this overload of data, the hype gets stronger to gain attention. There is simply too much conflicting information out there to support some sense of critical thinking. That seems to get replaced by passion and energy based on personal bias. We have gun issues, abortion issues, gay issues and others that take the place of serious understanding of the big problems facing the nation. Systemic issues that defy simple hype, but shape our duty, get ignored in favor the latest narrow studies and biases.

Before you react and think that I am saying that these issues have no importance, I am not saying that. But we need to do a triage on what is facing us and take care of those issues that have the broadest and deepest effect.

We seem to have become more interested in our personal causes where we have our own data that proves our point. Becoming right is more important than understanding. Making noise to get attention becomes key to being noticed. Kind of looks like the current state of our presidential politics!

We have traded hype for substance and real understanding. And now we may have lost any ability to find factual truth. I guess the loudest voice now wins.

Columbus retiree Tom Lane is a community columnist and all opinions expressed are those of his own. He served as a consultant to a number of companies in his career. He can be reached at editorial@therepublic.com.

LETTERS

Mayor-elect, paper treat Brown poorly

From: Carl Malysz
 Director of the Columbus Community Development Department
 Columbus

I want to thank The Republic for not reporting my departure as the city's director of community development in the obituaries, although I initially thought as much, as it was buried on Page 4 of your Nov. 6 edition.

Perhaps my resignation would have been better served as front-page news if it had not been brought about by Jim Lienhoop. He informed me that he would be terminating my employment with the city on Jan. 2. He never gave me a chance. That will be his prerogative as the mayor.

But the hypocrisy of his actions is glaring. Lienhoop repeatedly and vociferously criticized Mayor Kristen Brown for demoting the parks director. That news and his resulting actions and criticism of Brown dominated your front

pages for a year. Then Lienhoop campaigned for mayor, implying he wouldn't fire anyone. So much for campaign promises, or was that only smoke-and-mirrors speak?

I also thought your editorial "Smooth mayoral transition good worth pursuing in months ahead" published the same date was typical of your all too often pretentious and self-serving evaluation of the Brown administration.

I thought the local press — any press, for that matter — should always strive to be objective, fair and balanced. I cannot say the same for The Republic.

You have been beating the bash Brown drum for the entire two years and seven months that I was privileged to serve the city of Columbus working for Brown. I am astonished at how often your editorialists have ridiculed her decision-making and her many so-called conflicts with the Common Council.

Despite what Mayor-elect Jim Lienhoop was quoted as saying in The Republic

regarding how he intends to govern, the city of Columbus is indeed a municipal corporation, a third-class city as defined by Indiana statute. Third-class cities are organized as "strong mayor" form of local government, wherein the mayor — or the corporation's CEO — is the chief executive officer. Put another way, the mayor runs the city, and the Common Council, which you have been content elevating above the law, is there to approve the mayor's budget and legislate and nothing else.

It will be interesting to see how Lienhoop chooses to operate City Hall during the next four years. Does he abdicate and follow your preferred administrative structure — with the Common Council as the de facto executive branch — or will he exercise strong executive leadership as Columbus' mayor/CEO?

In my opinion, Brown was exactly the type of mayor that Columbus needed at exactly the right moment in time — a

fiscally conservative, honest, results-driven CEO intent on achieving the local government excellence that Columbus citizens deserve. If The Republic cared to objectively report what her administration accomplished despite the attacks perpetrated by the Common Council, your entire readership would likely be amazed.

I want to wish the very best to the residents of this great city, Columbus. I also want to wish the best of luck to the current management of The Republic as the new ownership assesses your future.

Apology, but veteran coverage too much

From: John Tinkey
 Columbus

If I have stepped on any toes about my letter to the editor about veterans, I apologize. My father was a veteran. I fully support the veterans. But their coverage was too much, and people thanked me for writing the letter.