

OUR NEW LOOK: Same Great Magazine, Bold New Design

# Cincinnati

# POWER

## Who Runs the City?

Mark Mallory,  
for one. Plus  
Jean-Robert,  
Nancy Zimpher,  
A.G. Lafley, and  
79 other power  
players in media,  
business, faith,  
culture, and more



Why Curtis  
Sittenfeld  
Loves  
Laura Bush

by LINDA VACCARIELLO

Are We  
Ready for the  
Big One?

by P. F. WILSON

My Short,  
Scary Life as a  
Ghostbuster

by AIESHA D. LITTLE

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# Cincinnati

OCTOBER 2008

## 90 THE STATE OF THINGS

Who runs Cincinnati? A returning native examines the government, corporate, and nonprofit interests bent on rebuilding the city. Some are old names, some are new, but all face the same task: to make us great again.

BY POLK LAFFOON IV

## 114 I, GHOSTHUNTER

A quiet country lane. An ordinary farmhouse. A reporter with a jones for *Unsolved Mysteries*. At first, hanging out with the Cincinnati Area Paranormal Existence Research team is just an evening's entertainment. But it's only fun until someone gets poked by a ghost.

BY AIESHA D. LITTLE

## 118 FROM HERE TO ETERNITY

The lawns are immaculate, the neighbors are quiet, and everywhere you look there's a local celebrity. Since 1845, Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum has been the city's most prestigious address. No wonder people are dying to get in.

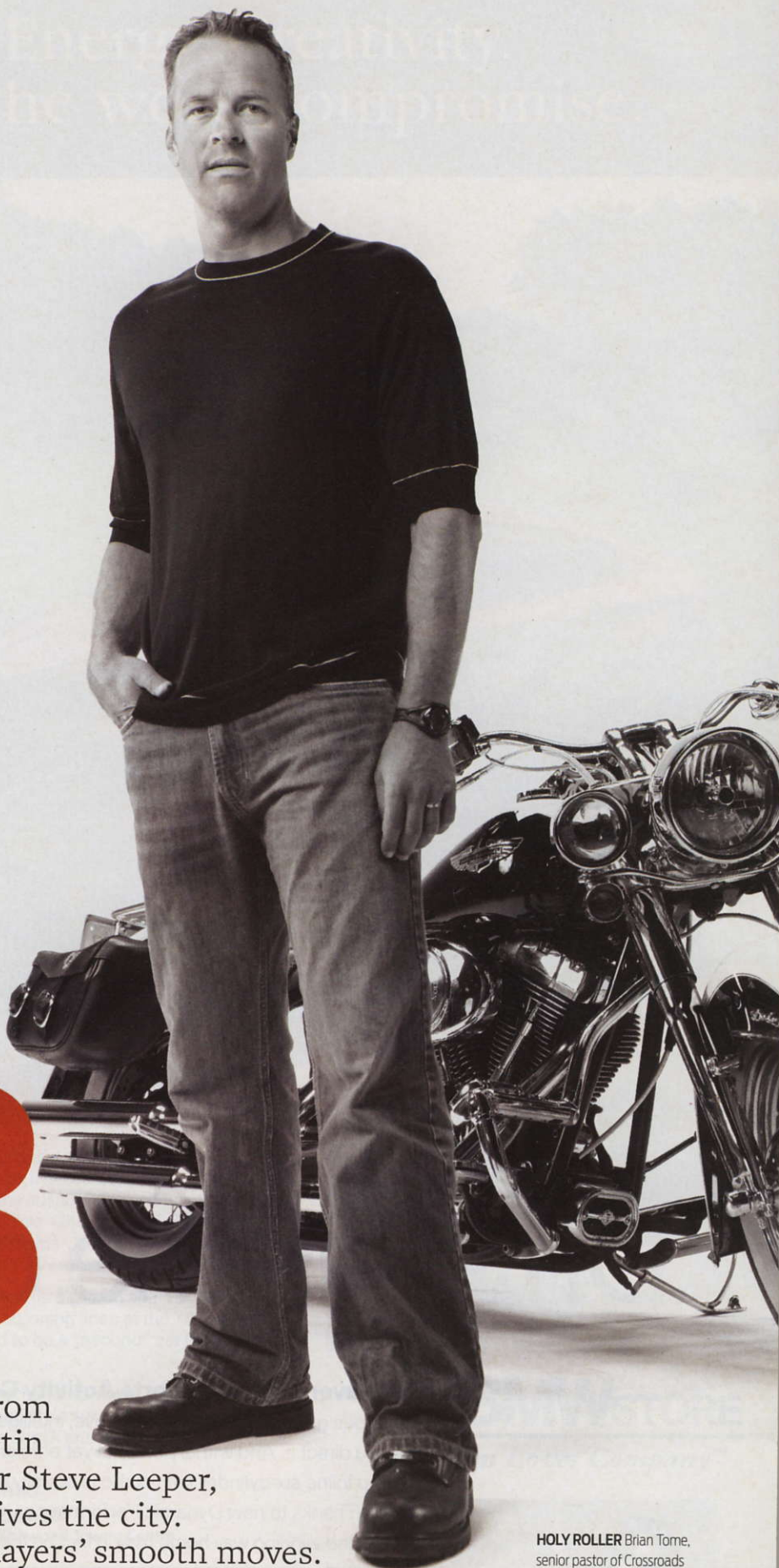
BY LINDA VACCARIELLO

# 93

## THE POWER LIST

Who's got the power? From master restaurateur Martin Wade to master rebuilder Steve Leeper, meet the muscle that drives the city.

**PLUS:** Five key power players' smooth moves.



**HOLY ROLLER** Brian Tome, senior pastor of Crossroads

# education

## JOHN KUCIA

Administrative Vice President, Xavier University

**AGE:** 61 **CLAIM TO FAME:** Kucia is piloting Xavier's ambitious building program, where a new academic quad and a 20-acre mixed-use development are exploding around campus. **WHY HIM?** Whether it's soothing neighbors, schmoozing donors, or prepping for presidential candidates, Kucia's always in the thick of things. **GOOD PRESS:** He oversees the popular Cintas Center and XU's athletic programs, including last year's NCAA Elite Eight men's basketball team.

## JAMES VOTRUBA

President, Northern Kentucky University

**AGE:** 63 **CLAIM TO FAME:** In his 11 years leading NKU, Votruba has increased enrollment and faculty, raised academic standards, and set off a campus building boom with the Bank of Kentucky Center, a \$37 million student union, and more to come. **WHY HIM?** He knows how to partner. "His leadership transcends the public/private/nonprofit sectors," says A.J. Schaeffer, board member of Vision 2015, which Votruba co-chairs. "He's built a model for orienting NKU's mission beyond the campus." **SIDE JOBS:** Serves on the boards of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the National Campus Compact, and the Association of Governing Board's Council of Presidents.

## DARLENE KAMINE

Consultant, Cincinnati Public Schools

**AGE:** 56 **CLAIM TO FAME:** The centerpiece of CPS's \$1 billion renovation project are community learning centers: schools that also house health clinics, child-care centers, and social-service agencies. Kamine works with residents, businesses, school officials, and nonprofits to plan each one. **WHY HER?** Kamine's work requires a diplomat's finesse; every constituent envisions something different, and conflict is inevitable. **CAREER PATH:** Kamine spent almost two decades as a juvenile-court magistrate, immersed in the lives of Cincinnati families.

## KEVIN BRIGHT

Superintendent, Mason City Schools

**AGE:** 55 **CLAIM TO FAME:** Bright has maintained the highly regarded Mason City School's "excellent" state rating even as the district has doubled in size. **WHY HIM?** Ohio Superintendent of the Year in 2003, Bright's the go-to guy for advice about passing school levies and improving ESL education. **STUMBLING BLOCKS:** Conservative board member Jennifer Miller snipes at Bright and the district, and some parents grumble about the district's growing mass: 11,000 students spread across just six schools.

## BILL BURWINKEL

Founder, Adopt A Class Foundation

**AGE:** 58 **CLAIM TO FAME:** Burwinkel, CEO of National Marketshare Group, Inc., started Adopt A Class five years ago after his employees worked with students at Oyler Elementary in Lower Price Hill. **WHY HIM?** The foundation now has 105 businesses partnering with classrooms in at-risk neighborhoods. "Bill's relentless about getting things done," says Oyler principal Craig Hockenberry, where Burwinkel sits on the local decision-making committee and chairs the design team for the school's renovation. **SIDE JOBS:** Serves on the boards of Price Hill Will and the Queensgate Business Alliance; chairs the Westside Summit and the housing committee of the Lower Price Hill Community Council.

# NANCY ZIMPHER

President, University of Cincinnati

**AGE:** 61 **CLAIMS TO FAME:** In her five-year tenure Zimpher has improved the school's finances, campus, enrollment, faculty recruitment, research funding, fund-raising, and academic reputation, landing UC in *The Princeton Review's* 2009 *The Best 368 Colleges*. **WHY HER?** Zimpher's taken a huge role in the community. Most notably, she chairs the board of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce, serves on the boards of 3CDC and United Way, and co-chairs the CBC's Education Task Force. **STUMBLING BLOCKS:** Some alums are still fuming because she ran off Bob Huggins, but UC trustees aren't paying attention: They approved a 22 percent salary bonus, even though Zimpher asked for a bonus limit of 15 percent.



KAMINE



BRIGHT



BURWINKEL



KUCIA



VOTRUBA

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