

Pressing for preservation

Hulets, great old buildings deserve more consideration

Landmark destruction

Although I moved from the Cleveland area in 1996, I always felt an incredible sense of pride in my hometown. Each year, I bring friends back home to show them around.

Did I show them our great malls and unique suburbs? No. I showed them the "Elliot Ness" bullet holes in the Great Lakes Brewing Co., Nighttown for jazz, Rockefeller's grave, the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. My friends left with a great impression, summed up with "authentic" and "one of a kind." What my friends from Boston and San Diego appreciate most is our industrial-era heritage.

A Cleveland landmark, the Hulett ore loader, is in danger of being scrapped. The city should rebuild the last two Hulets in a prominent spot, such as on the lake next to the Cleveland Browns Stadium. The next time Cleveland is showcased on Monday Night Football, imagine the shot of a unique Cleveland landmark next to the stadium. That's certainly an image you will never see in Phoenix or Orlando.

With all the talk of creating a Cleveland that is cool, a destination for creative people, we have an opportunity to save a defining icon of the city. If the Hulets go for scrap, they can never be replaced, and Cleveland will lose — not a part of its past, but its future.

ADAM BRANDON
Washington, D.C.

No sense of history

I could not believe Thursday's editorial. "Scrap 'em." What an attitude. Why don't we tear down the art museum, the natural history museum, the Western Reserve Historical Society and sink the Mather? These are all symbols from the past.

The Plain Dealer just went down a few more points in my esteem. You young folks apparently never had the chance to watch these machines in operation.

This one-paper town pays again.

WAYNE MATZ
Mayfield Heights

A case of tunnel vision

In his article on the proposed Cuyahoga County administration building project (June 13), Steven Litt notes that "preservationists have not yet protested."

One reason for this is that the preservation community has yet to embrace the architecture of the recent past. Its recognition of architecturally important styles typically stops with the art-deco works of the 1930s and '40s.

Unfortunately, far too many preservationists see modern architecture, including Marcel Breuer's 1968-71 Cleveland Trust building, as symbolic of the destructive urban renewal and urban highway initiatives of the 1950s and '60s, which erased hundreds of good buildings and mutilated cohesive, viable urban neighborhoods. Within the last five years, this situation has begun to change. But clearly, there has yet to develop a groundswell of support for post-World War II architecture in this country.

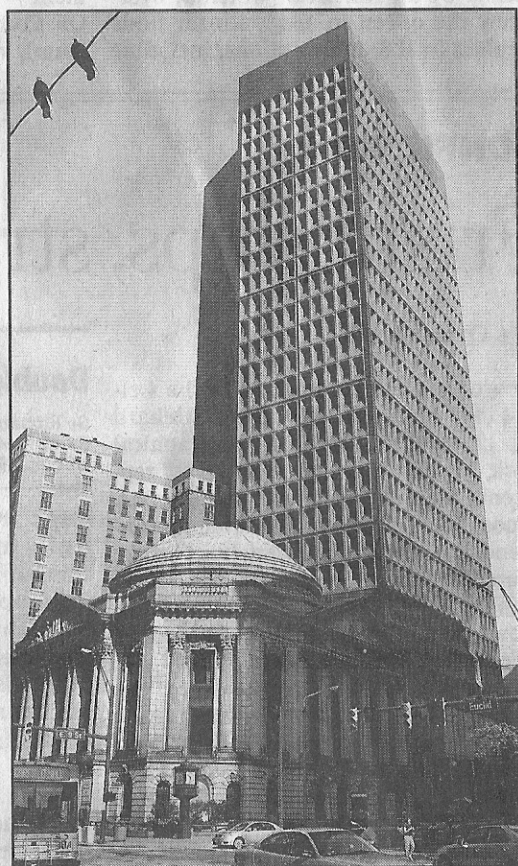
TED A. SANDE
Cleveland

Sande is a historic preservation consultant.

Cheapening the skyline

Wake up, county commissioners. If you are willing to spend tax dollars to demolish a historical Cleveland building, then you can forget about getting any "yes" votes from a lot of people in this county on any future levies. I cannot believe how wasteful it would be to tear down the Breuer Tower. If this building were in Boston or New York or Chicago, city leaders would be thrilled to renovate it and extend its usefulness into the next century.

Cuyahoga County's commissioners seem to



PEGGY TURBETT | THE PLAIN DEALER

Will preservationists come to the rescue of the historic Ameritrust Tower, designed by Marcel Breuer?

have no idea how the destruction of Cleveland's architectural past has weakened our city's standing in Ohio and the nation. Cleveland used to be a world-class city and is trying to regain some of its greatness. But this pattern of tearing down good, solid buildings that have been a part of the texture and skyline of this city continually keeps us in a state of stepping backwards.

We need to not only preserve our past history, but we need to preserve and make better use of our resources.

RICHARD BOZIC
Cleveland Heights

Bozic is an architect.