

# Five days that shook City Council

By Gary R. Clark  
and Brent Larkin

The Week That Was in Cleveland politics began in secret conversations last Monday.

It built to an electric charge that ripped through 11 people at a combination meeting and encounter session that began Tuesday and ended in the early morning Wednesday.

It climaxed about 10 hours later in a proud moment — one dedicated to solidarity and openness

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## ANALYSIS

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— under the Rotunda at City Hall.

It began crumbling Thursday amidst intense political pressure and racial taunts and finally ended with a thud on Friday the 13th

— in bitter disappointment for some and a bittersweet victory for one.

The palace revolt led by a group of councilmen — whites and blacks, from East Side and West — was headed off at the pass. Possibly it was a victim of the openness the group said was needed at City Hall.

The target was 50-year-old George L. Forbes, a councilman 18 years, council president eight and a powerful political figure

with equally powerful friends: blacks and whites, politicians, ministers, lawyers and corporate executives.

The challenge to his leadership was masterminded by Councilman Michael D. Polensek, who soundly defeated Forbes' majority leader, David Trenton, in the Nov. 3 race for the new Ward 11. Polensek put together a coalition of six West Side councilmen and five

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