

## **Grand Rapids Press**

**March 30, 2007**

### **Rhetoric and reality**

The March 25 edition of The Press quotes Peter Secchia as stating that he has resigned his leadership position with 23 is Enough to promote a downtown Grand Rapids casino project ("Could GR get casino? You bet," Press, March 25).

Mr. Secchia says his prior casino opposition was based on economics.

Can someone who has been a United States ambassador and chairman of the board for Universal Forest Products be so careless that he does not even bother to examine the positions held by the organizations he leads?

Mr. Secchia says his opposition to the Gun Lake casino was economic. 23 is Enough's Web site says that casinos result in increases in violent crime.

Mr. Secchia says his opposition was economic. 23 is Enough's Web site says that casinos result in increases in domestic violence.

Mr. Secchia says his opposition was economic. 23 is Enough's Web site says that casinos result in an increase in child abuse.

Mr. Secchia says a casino would help fill downtown restaurants, bars and hotels. 23 is Enough's Web site says that casinos drive out local eating and drinking establishments replacing them with casino-operated businesses.

Is Mr. Secchia telling us that he did not believe all of the things that 23 is Enough said under his leadership or is he saying that those things are acceptable for downtown Grand Rapids as long as the profits stay in Grand Rapids?

- ROGER W. MILLER/Shellbyville