

Kucinich

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Cleveland to try to run for Congress in Washington state” said Chairman Dwight Pelz. “It’s sort of ethically tainted ... Democrats aren’t excited about him running here.”

Pelz said the two open seats Kucinich is considering - a new one created by the state’s own redistricting and an open seat to replace Rep. Jay Inslee who is running for governor - will be in competitive districts that lean Democratic.

“These are districts Democrats should win, but I think Dennis Kucinich could lose

natures or live in the state for a certain period of time in order to qualify for the ballot.

“You can move right in and declare for office,” said David Ammons, spokesman for Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed.

That means Kucinich could campaign for several months in Washington before having to officially file as a candidate and lose his Ohio seat.

While still serving as an Ohio congressman, Kucinich could campaign in Washington state as an unofficial candidate

once the new district lines are set. That will probably be around the start of next year. He could keep his Ohio seat until Washington state’s May 18 candidate filing deadline. The state’s primary is Aug. 7. Kucinich said he probably won’t decide until district lines are set at the beginning of next year.

“Congress might be a national office, but you run in a district and the districts haven’t been created,” he said. “I’m not really at liberty to describe a candidacy running somewhere when the districts haven’t been created.”

Over the years, Kucinich has earned a reputation as a maverick with strong anti-war views and a quirky streak. He’s called for a “Department of Peace.” He wanted to impeach former Vice President Dick Cheney, an effort opposed by House

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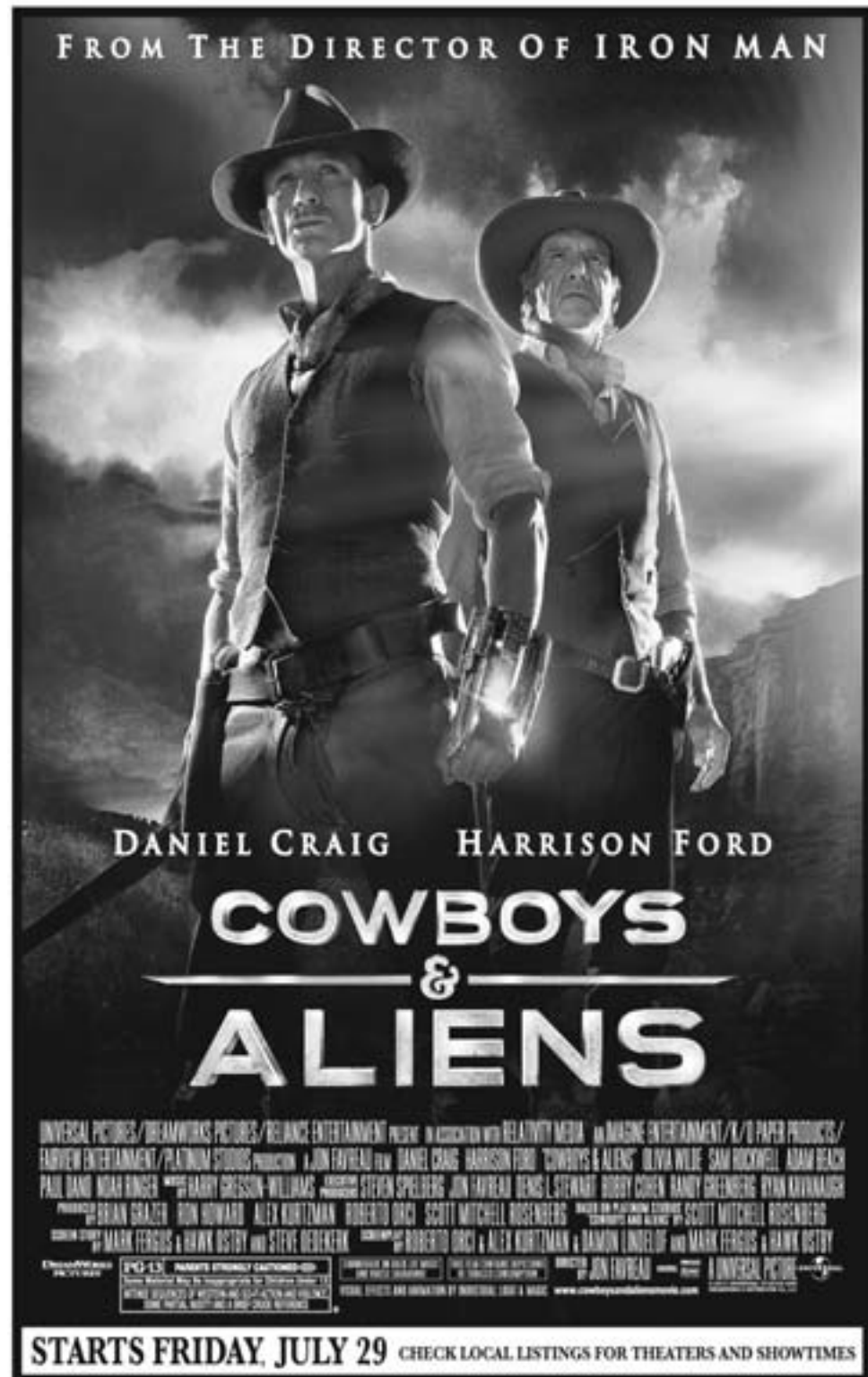
— Washington GOP Chair Kirby Wilbur

either one of them,” he said.

Kucinich said it’s too early to decide where he will run, but he’s “looking forward” to returning to the state.

Washington’s generous ballot access laws could make things easier for Kucinich.

To run, Kucinich would only have to move to the state and register to vote sometime before next spring’s filing deadline for congressional candidates. Washington does not require candidates to collect voter sig-



Good Vibe Fest



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

Michael “the renaissance poet” Moynihan performs at The Good Vibe, an annual free concert at Dr. Blanche Lavizzo Park on July 16. The concert included dance performances, spoken word, and hip hop as well as free food for those attending the concert.

Democratic leaders.

He recently pushed for a House amendment that would have barred funds for the U.S. operation against Libya, but it failed.

In a lighter moment, Kucinich enlivened a 2007 presidential debate when he confirmed seeing an unidentified flying object at the Washington state home of actress Shirley MacLaine. With a smile, he said he would open a campaign office in Roswell, N.M., home to many alleged UFO sightings.

Kucinich pursued the Democratic nomi-

nation for president in 2004 and 2008. He has deep roots in his hometown of Cleveland, where he was dubbed the “boy mayor” after being elected at age 31.

Kirby Wilbur, GOP chairman in Washington state, joked that Republicans would be happy to take up a collection to pay for Kucinich’s air fare to come out and run.

“I pray every night and light candles for him to come out here,” Wilbur said. “He’s so far left and so far out there and so beatable.”

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