

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Lakewood's Only Newspaper And Finest Website

Volume 1, Issue 13, December 13, 2005

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Rape Suspect Apprehended

By Rita Ryland

On Tuesday, December 6, the Lakewood Police Department arrested a 16-year-old Lakewood male on a Juvenile Court warrant charging him with rape in the October 16 assault on a woman at Warren and Madison Avenues.

Working cooperatively, Lakewood patrol officers and detectives identified a suspect in early November and submitted a DNA sample from the suspect to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification. On December 5, B.C.I. reported to the Lakewood Police Department

Patrol Officer Dan Rusnak was the first officer to identify the suspect and he did so with a description provided by the victim. Detective Kevin Kauckeck handled the case.

The suspect was not a permanent resident of Lakewood and did not grow up in the community.

The Lakewood Police Department was diligent and responsive and demonstrated how great police work is done.

that they had matched the DNA from the crime scene to the sample submitted by the suspect. The chances of the DNA belonging to any other person were listed as one in a sextillion.

A warrant was obtained that day and executed on the 6th by the Elyria Police Department. The suspect was taken into custody and transported to the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Detention Center.

The Lakewood Police Department continues to investigate this suspect in regards to any other incidents within the City of Lakewood. Lakewood police detectives will also be cooperating with other agencies in regards to this suspect.

Chief Timothy J. Malley is quoted as saying, "This was truly an outstanding job of police work by uniform officers and detectives of the Lakewood Police Department. They have successfully removed a very violent and dangerous predator from the streets of Lakewood."

Kucinich Convenes Automotive Summit in Lakewood to Save Northeast Ohio Jobs

By Tom Powell-Bullock

LAKEWOOD—At a December 6 summit convened by Lakewood Congressman Dennis Kucinich in his Detroit Avenue office, 75 residents, worker representatives and government leaders from across the region gathered to strategize how to preserve automotive jobs and prevent plant closures in Northeast Ohio.

Kucinich convened the automotive summit to address business pressures on the industry and threats to area jobs at Ford casting and engine operations in Brook Park and at a Chevy stamping plant in Parma, among others. The

public meeting also aimed to show management that Northeast Ohio workers are highly skilled and should not be cut.

"We're working not only to save jobs, but a way of life—to save the American Middle Class," said Kucinich. "What's at stake is our ability to own homes, to have decent health care, to have a pension. These issue are national in scope but affect people locally."

Recently, GM announced 30,000 layoffs and parts manufacturer Delphi Corp. filed for bankruptcy. Ford will consolidate plants in Avon Lake and Lorain and is expected to announce further

restructuring and potential job cuts.

The danger threatens more than Ford, according to Lakewood resident John Colm, president of the local economic development organization Wire-Net.

"Ford might be the crisis of the moment, but we're in the thick of a transition throughout the industry. It goes well beyond Ford—it goes to their supply base and to GM's supply base," said Colm.

According to Colm, small businesses manufacturing parts could also be affected. Cuyahoga County has nearly 100 automotive supply companies employing 12,000 workers.

Solutions?

To level the playing field for American automakers, Kucinich supports imposing tariffs if the Chinese government continues to subsidize low prices for its exports through currency manipulation.

Another solution discussed: control the health costs which saddle American automakers but which Asian and Canadian competitors do not face.

In addressing huge pension costs also facing U.S. automakers, Kucinich wants to ensure "workers are protected" and government intervention

see **Kucinich**, page 3



Lakewood Lawmakers Team Up for Auto Jobs: Lakewood Congressman Dennis Kucinich and State Representative Michael Skindell strategize with 75 Northeast Ohio residents, workers and leaders to preserve local automotive jobs. Kucinich hosted the Dec. 6 summit at his Detroit Avenue office.

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Lakewood Events

MaMa Presents

The 12 Shops of Christmas

The newly formed Madison Avenue Merchants Association (MaMa) is holding their first promotion December 14-22. Anyone can win \$150. Who couldn't use a little extra money this Christmas? Stop by any of the 12 shops and pick up a free entry form. Then all you have to do is enjoy a little shopping on Madison Avenue.

"It is exciting that 12 female-owned businesses have to help bring Madison Avenue back to life," said one of the people at the meeting. We invite all Madison Avenue businesses to join with MaMa. At the *Lakewood Observer*

we love to see businesses and residents take up the challenge of making their store, block, and/or city better.

The 12 Madison Avenue shops are: Ample Duds (17008 Madison), Arts, Scents and Accents (14319 Madison), Bela Dubby (13321 Madison), Chain Link Addiction (13369 Madison), The Coffee Pot (12415 Madiso), Collector's Warehouse (14033 Madison), Goddess Blessed (15725 Madison), Lakewood Home Furnishings (12409 Madison), Lakewood Massotherapy (17301 Madison), Mindful Motion (17305 Madison), Preserving Tomorrow's Memories (15719 Madison) and Turnstyle (13345 Madison).

Check out these fine stores and you could win \$150 and enjoy one of the best cups of coffee in the city. Let's all do our part to keep dollars in Lakewood this holiday season. Only one entry per person, but families are encouraged to participate.



Tyler Burlingame, waiting for the lighting of the Christmas Tree at Lakewood Park.

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Observers Take a Break While LO Gears Up for a Big 2006

The *Lakewood Observer* will not be published the last week of December. When we launched this community-driven "open source" newspaper seven months ago, we never figured on the amount of energy, money and time that it would take to publish *The Lakewood Observer*. But we are all very glad we started it, and now is a good time to look at distribution, size, layout, and look at how Lakewood's only paper and largest, most used website can be improved.

Another thing we will look at is how *The Lakewood Observer* can better serve the city, civic groups, businesses, churches, schools and, of course, the residents. We are here for you; in fact, we are you. In 2006 we have a full slate of ideas and programs we will be unveiling: WiFi, development groups, television, radio, concerts, parties and roundtable discussions. Please enjoy the holidays and get ready to become involved in 2006.

Hot Off The Deck

Join the discussion online – visit the **OBSERVATION DECK**

LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION				
Topics	Replies	Author	Views	Last Post
Dave's Cosmic Subs Coming	2	Lynn Farris	116	Sun Dec 11, 2005 9:35 am
Wish List for the Lakewood Brand	7	Mark Crnolatas	214	Sat Dec 10, 2005 4:25 pm
The Empire State Building and Elementary Schools in Lakewood	8	Bill Call	161	Fri Dec 09, 2005 8:42 am
Are commercial building owner's required to shovel sidewalk?	22	Bill Call	437	Fri Dec 09, 2005 8:03 am
No Child Left Behind?!	47	Jim O'Bryan	1112	Thu Dec 08, 2005 10:51 pm
Joan Roberts				
Fresh Christmas Trees	12	Rhonda loje	189	Wed Dec 07, 2005 3:32 pm
Merry Xmas v Happy Holidays=	10	Tom Powell-Bullock	238	Tue Dec 06, 2005 6:18 am
Falwell's trick to keep you mad				
Scam ?	6	Marty Hout	166	Mon Dec 05, 2005 2:32 pm
GLOBAL DISCUSSION				
uncivil discourse and the global forum	42	kate parker	735	Fri Dec 09, 2005 7:31 pm
Survey Time: Favorite Holiday Movie	4	Mike Deneen	29	Sun Dec 11, 2005 4:27 pm
Ohio State vs. Notre Dame	9	Mike Deneen	108	Sun Dec 11, 2005 8:45 am
Interesting view of the Muslim world	22	Jim Dustin	348	Fri Dec 09, 2005 9:00 pm
Our Congressman Kucinic	40	Jacqlyn Avis	1286	Wed Dec 07, 2005 8:21 pm

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

The LAKEWOOD OBSERVER is published biweekly by Lakewood Observer, Inc., 14900 Detroit Avenue, Suite 309, Lakewood, OH 44107.

216.228.7223

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Become an Observer!

The *Lakewood Observer* is looking for people, ages 15-100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers and illustrators to help with the production of the paper. It does not matter if you are a professional or amateur, our editorial staff will be glad to help.

If you are interested, e-mail to: publisher@lakewoodobserver.com

News releases—If you have information on an event, organization, program or news on *anything* that has to do with Lakewood, send it to: city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com

Calendar of Events—To appear on our calendar of events, e-mail: events@lakewoodobserver.com

Newsies/Delivery People—The *Lakewood Observer* is looking for people that would like to help deliver the newspaper. If interested, e-mail: delivery@lakewoodobserver.com

We need you to get involved! If you have or know of a story, we want it!

Lakewood Government

Council Jumpstarts 2006

At the December 5, 2005 meeting, Lakewood City Council got a head start on the next year.

First, it seated a new member—one of the two new members that were elected. Kevin Butler was elected in ward one to fill the remainder of an unexpired term. Patrick Corrigan, who was appointed to that seat, indicated that he wasn't going to stand for election. The Charter states that when the election of a candidate to that seat is certified, the winner of the election can take the seat immediately and not wait for the new term.

When Butler campaigned for the ward one council seat, he emphasized his Lakewood roots by pointing out that he was a fourth generation Lakewoodite. That was highlighted Monday night when his Dad, Lakewood attorney Dennis Butler, swore Kevin in before the meeting.

The other new member elect, Nikki Antonio, was in the audience getting up to speed. She will take her seat at the beginning of her term on January first.

After Butler joined the other council members behind his newly minted nameplate, council president Robert Seelie called the meeting to order.

Many of Lakewood High School's athletic teams enjoy success during their regular season of play and consequently go on to post season tournaments and state wide competitions, so recognizing the athletes' fall accomplishments has to wait until after Thanksgiving.

Mayor Thomas George and council joined in resolutions praising the Lakewood High School girls' volleyball team, boys' soccer team, and boys' cross

By Stan Austin

Lakewood Observer City Council Reporter

country team for their successful fall and post season successes. The boys' soccer team won the Lake Erie League Championship and District Championship. The girls' volleyball team also took the league honors. Cross country runner Paul Verga took 16th in the State contest. Coach Rick Ventura pointed out that Verga's state time was a personal best of 16:22. This made Mayor George, a member of Lakewood's team in his high school days, wince in admiration and astonishment.

Council member Denis Dunn (at large) is nearing the end of his term, having declined to seek reelection. Dunn had several major initiatives during his four years on council including an indoor smoking ban, adoption of the Citystat program, and establishment of a community relations council.

The smoking ban is resting in committee after extensive debate and revision. The administration is adopting the Citystat program, and Monday night, council finally passed the ordinance for a community relations council. This proposal has undergone much scrutiny by council members and faced some last minute criticism. Resident Frank Murtaugh repeated his objections which are that this council isn't needed and would use scarce resources. Council member Michael Dever (at large) also raised the question of expenditures involved. Council member Kevin Butler (ward one) questioned the basic necessity of the proposed body, and council member Edward FitzGerald (at large)

wanted to put a sunset provision into the ordinance. A sunset provision provides that, after a specified time, the new community relations council expires unless the city council specifically reauthorized it. Council member Seelie (ward three) said that city council could eliminate this new body any time it wanted. Member Mary Louise Madigan (ward four) expressed exasperation at the debate, explaining that these issues had already been discussed in committee.

The city council finally voted in favor of establishing the community relations council by a 5 to 2 vote with Dever and Butler voting against.

Sometimes things break and if a replacement is not included in the regular budget, a separate expenditure must be authorized by council. Radio communications within the public works department have to be subjected to a communications analyzer. This device keeps radio frequencies within proper levels. Public Works Director Beno, at the last meeting, indicated that the current machine had gone past its useful life

and a new one was immediately needed at a cost of about \$30,000. Council passed the emergency legislation.

Former council member Patrick Corrigan had introduced ordinances to deal with motorized conveyances and expanding the requirements for wearing helmets for kids under 18 years of age. These items passed a second reading.

Finally as part of the jumpstart into the next year, the administration submitted a request for a water rate increase. It will be recalled that in the November election Issue 59 passed, which returned authority to council to set water rates. Director Beno put forward a schedule phasing in increases over three years, increasing the home-stead exemption, and eliminating the service charge over two years. Beno said the increase was needed to raise the money necessary to replace water mains at the same time streets are repaved or rebuilt. Mayor George pointed out that the city was turned down three years ago for state money to repave Clifton Blvd. because there was no money to replace the water main in conjunction with the repaving. He indicated that replenishing the capital fund would finally put the city in position to receive the State funds.

Kucinich

continued from page 1

does not lead to more pension terminations.

"Companies cannot be allowed to hand off their workers' pension plans and place their workers in harm's way. We must be clear that workers' retirement security is not a bargaining chip," said Kucinich.

Kucinich said he hoped the summit would build teamwork between workers, residents, and government leaders at all levels.

Skindell: New Ohio Tax Code

Worsens Problem

Lakewood State Representative Michael Skindell participated in the summit and said Ohio's newly revised tax code adds to the problem when it should be helping.

Skindell hopes to improve tax legislation now moving through the Statehouse, HB 414, to "level the playing field in Ohio's tax code so Honda doesn't have a competitive advantage over Ford, GM, and Chrysler—all of whom buy parts from small manufacturers in the Greater Cleveland area."

As currently written, HB 414

unfairly "picks Honda as the winner" and compounds the tax disadvantages to Ford, GM, and Chrysler created this summer when Governor Bob Taft overhauled Ohio's business tax, according to Skindell.

Taft transformed Ohio business taxes into a new "commercial activities tax" (CAT) on gross receipts, a move which Skindell says imposes redundant taxes during multiple phases of production and increases products' cost to consumers. But Honda avoids many phases of this new Ohio tax because it imports its parts and produces many in-house, whereas Ford and GM tend to buy parts from independent Ohio companies within a 15-mile radius of their plants, all of whom must pay the new CAT tax.

Skindell says this results in a "competitive advantage for Honda over Ford and GM," and notes the American automakers opposed the new CAT tax when Taft first proposed it.

Skindell says the Honda plant outside Columbus pays lower wages, less health care, and fewer worker protections.

The average Lakewood household creates 20 extra pounds of waste during the holidays

REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE

Remind guests to recycle and provide a container.

Keep sponges/rags on hand to wipe up spills.

Buy reuseable gift bags -- don't wrap boxes.

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Lakewood Public Library

Lakewood Public Library: The Television Series

Did you know that your favorite library has its own bi-monthly TV show? It's weirder than you think. No, we don't engage in obscure debates over the Dewey decimal system or announce the names of people with overdue library books. We actually try to have fun with great musical guests, classic cartoons, cheap special effects AND useful information about library services and upcoming programs. The show airs three times a day every Thursday at 11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Cox cable channel 45. If you don't have cable, don't fret. The show is also available on DVD at the Main Library and the Madison Branch. Ask for it by name.

We call our show What's Going On at the Lakewood Public Library? because, obviously, we have imagination to spare. Each episode opens with our highly addictive theme song performed by local band Sanford Drive. You may not have heard of them because they've been keeping a low profile, but two-thirds of these guys comprise half of a band called Smiley Baldazar (www.smileybaldazar.com) that has been making quite a name for itself in the area lately. If you've ever wanted to hear their softer side, here's your chance.

The current episode features a dramatic recreation of the Technology Center class How to Get Your Free Credit Report. No, it doesn't sound all that exciting. That's why we packed everything you need to know into six mildly amusing minutes. This class will help you avoid all the scams and repair your credit without muss or fuss. You might not even fall asleep!

Then we have Public Domain Theatre where we exploit short, cinematic

gems whose copyrights have expired and bring attention to the good people at archive.org who make this segment possible. This month, we're very excited to bring you the surreal classic, 1933's Betty Boop in *Snow White*. Featuring music by Cab Calloway and made four years before Walt Disney's feature length version, this little fairy tale is widely regarded as one of the greatest cartoons of all time.

Speaking of surreal classics, this episode also features an encore performance of Tales of the iBistro Catalog, a special effect extravaganza guaranteed to change the way you use the library (unless, of course, you already know how to use our online catalog). In this chapter, that sweet, innocent blue fairy is haunted by a library transaction from the past. Did she renew that DVD four times or five? Also, she makes fun of Fred's new beard.

Add in a musical demonstration by Scott Franklin, our Booked for Murder mystery club, self-improvement classes advertised by a robot, Sunday with the Friends and more—and you have our December-January episode. To learn more, check our informative little sister web page at www.lakewoodpubliclibrary.com/tv. And if you have any questions or comments or even suggestions, please write us at tv@lkwdpl.org. We may even read your letter on the air! (Ben Burdick)

Library Notes

On the Mailer Backlot

December is a light month for programs at the library. This is saying something given the number of programs the library presents and hosts



month after month. However, the people behind the scenes don't take December off. Instead, it's crunch time for finalizing and assembling the program mailer. The mailer comes out in the middle of February at the tail end of a long team process aimed at bringing complete order to the six-month schedule.

How many programs are presented every six months? The March-September program mailer will contain 182 adult programs, and upwards of 400 children's and youth programs. This averages out to between three and four every day!

Many people work year round to put this ambitious schedule together. If December is the lightest month for programs, it's a heavy month behind the scenes as staff members throughout the library finalize programs, assemble the schedule and iron out logistics. Then a small team drawn from electronic services, working closely with manage-

ment, plots it all on calendars and in drafts of the mailer. The team swings into the new year with a looming four week deadline and puts the wraps on the mailer, the familiar bi-annual booklet that, for the most part, is the last word on the next six month's slew of educational, cultural, and youth-oriented offerings.

Serving Up Changes

Back in the early days of the world wide web, 1994-1999, there wasn't enough consumer bandwidth or media bells and whistles available to tempt content creators to push web pages to crushing limits. All those 14.4 and 28.8 modems were more than enough to slow user's experience of the wonderful web down to a crawl. Faster dial-up modems enjoyed a short-lived moment at the top of the hill but 56.6 didn't speed up the experience much at all.

The new millennium ushered in what was then exotic DSL and nascent fiber connections. Pent-up creativity was unleashed on the content supplier's side. Within a few years it became the norm to encounter java and Flash interfaces, video and audio media, and web pages so loaded with bells and whistles that it became possible for web developers to imagine how one could clog a high bandwidth connection.

The library has never shifted away from the lean and clean approach developed in those early years. The cornucopia of content and web resources is intended to spill out rapidly onto your screen. The working assumption behind this aesthetic is simple: those resources are for all users regardless of their level of savvy or technology. To this end, LPL web content flies against the extravagant fashions of our era by flying into your computers. The emphasis is on quality of content rather than quantity of bells and whistles.

Yet, in the next few weeks, substantial upgrades and reconfigurations of the underlying network structure will allow, for the first time, the library's content and technology staff to contemplate first steps toward advancing multi-media content on parts of the web site. 'Lean and clean' will still be the operative principle, yet users can expect to see more audio and video components in the coming months.

Calendar of Events

	Tuesday 12/13	Wednesday 12/14	Thursday 12/15	Friday 12/16	Saturday 12/17	Sunday 12/18	Monday 12/19
Featured program					4:00pm WRITER'S WORKSHOP		
Childrens programs *both Main & Madison				10:30am/2pm /7pm FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS	10:30am/2pm /4pm FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS	2:00pm FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS	
Computer Program 226-8275 x 127 to register	7:00pm JOB HUNTING ON THE INTERNET		7:00pm QENDRA TEKNOLOGIE for Albanian speakers*		3:00pm SEARCHING THE WEB		
			*Shqipefolesit do te kene mundesine te mesojne mbi sherbimet dhe burimet qe afrohen te Qendra Teknologjike, si edhe hyrje ne kompjuter ne nje klase e cila do te zhvillohet ne gjuhen shqipe.				

Lakewood Public Library- 2 Week Schedule Dec.20-26

call 226-8275 x127 for details | | web: <http://www.lkwdpl.org/calendar/>

	Tuesday 12/20	Wednesday 12/21	Thursday 12/22	Friday 12/23	Saturday 12/24	Sunday 12/25	Monday 12/26
Childrens programs *both Main & Madison				10:30am/2pm /7pm FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS	Closed	Closed	

The Police & Fire Beat

Holiday Home and Fire Safety

Every winter, the media covers at least one major fire. We see a charred building; catch a glimpse of the exhausted, blackened faces of fire fighters and the frozen stare of the building’s residents. If we’re lucky, nobody was injured.

Lakewood has 20-30 serious fires a year. Those are fires where the structure is uninhabitable. On average, repairs take three months.

“It’s cold. We’ve had more snow than usual,” Scott Gilman, Lakewood’s Fire Marshall, waves his hand over a map of Northeast Ohio. We are in a conference room at Firehouse I on Madison Avenue.

Fire Marshall Gilman identified the biggest seasonal problems: Space heaters, Furnaces, Fireplaces.

Space heaters

The most recent fire caused by a space heater in Lakewood occurred in

November, just before Thanksgiving.

It’s best not to use a space heater, but if you must ...

Make sure the space heater you purchase has safety features.

It should automatically shut off if it falls over.

Have a thermostat limiting switch.

Supervise children around a space heater. Children stick items such as toys in the heaters.

Place the heater three feet from anything that will burn.

Never leave it unattended.

Unplug the heater when not in use.

Do not use an extension cord. If



you must use an extension cord, use a heavy duty cord.

Fire Marshall Gilman says one space heater continued to burn even after it was unplugged.

Furnaces

Have the furnace checked yearly.

Make sure the pilot light is functioning correctly.

Make sure flue is open.

Make sure safety features are working

It’s important that the gas/air mixture is correct. Fire Marshall Gilman also recommends the installation of a carbon monoxide detector.

Slife Heating and Cooling in Lakewood (221-0310), and Donnelly Original Heating Cooling and Electric (961-6800) send out maintenance notices with discount coupons twice a year. They will change the filters, check the pilot light, and perform overall safety maintenance.

Fireplaces

Make sure before you burn wood that you have a wood-burning fireplace. In some homes, the gas has been disconnected in the basement.

Have your chimney inspected

Have caps placed on the chimney. “The bottom line is proper maintenance,” Fire Marshall Gilman said. “And never use your stove to try to heat your home.”

It’s cold out there. Lake Erie is about 40 degrees. The temperature bounces around in the teens and twenties. Lakewood homes greet us with snowmen, reindeer skirting across rooftops, and holiday lights. We at the *Observer* wish you happy holidays. We hope you find the Marshall’s suggestions helpful. Stay safe.

Calanni Auto Repair Diagnosis: Flooded by Lawsuits

By Don and Lynn Farris

Calanni’s has repaired automobiles from his garage on Madison Ave. since 1980. Over the years, there have been numerous complaints about the business, often in the nuisance category where he has been cited many times for parking violations and for working on cars outside of the garage. Lakewood Law Director Brian Corrigan sent Calanni’s a strongly worded letter June 14, 2005, indicating that the city could no longer tolerate these practices. Since the city saw no significant improvement in the behavior of this business to conform to the law, the city initiated a law suit on August 11, 2005. This complaint has four counts: Work outside of the principal structure, Parking on the business premises, Parking abuses off premises, and Consumer Sales practices.

The city has been joined in their law suit by the Attorney General of Ohio, Jim Petro. The Attorney General has made a 12-count complaint that Calanni has violated the Ohio Consumer Sale Practices Act and the Motor Vehicle Repairs and Services Rule.

In the lawsuit, the Attorney General alleges that they have received seven complaints against Calanni. The complaints describe a pattern of deception on behalf of Calanni where consumers are given deliberately low verbal estimates of the cost of repairing their vehicle, only to be confronted by the demands for payments that exceed the allowable 10 percent deviation from the repair estimate. The Attorney General alleges that there have been refusals to release consumers’ vehicles, when the consumer refuses to accede to Calanni’s demand for exorbitant charges, and consumers are then blind-sided with Calanni’s demand for excessive “storage” fees, which the consumer was not made aware of beforehand.

“Ohio consumer laws are clear: businesses must follow certain procedures when engaging in automotive repairs that ensure customers are aware of what the shop will be doing to their vehicles,” Petro said. “The laws serve to protect consumers and businesses alike, and I will not tolerate violations.”

The Cleveland Better Business Bureau on July 27, 2005, revoked Calanni’s membership due to the company’s

failure to respond and failure to resolve consumer complaints. Additionally, the Better Business Bureau states that the company has failed to eliminate the underlying cause of patterns of complaints.

On Oct. 6, 2005, Forbes Fields and Associates brought a law suit on behalf of five individuals against Calanni. They are charging him with fraudulent business practices and violating the Ohio Consumer Sale Practices Act.

Calanni indicates that he was not aware of the Ohio Consumer Sale Practices Act until he was charged with violating it. He states that he has contacted the other auto repair facilities in Lakewood and many of them were not aware of it either. Calanni feels that the government has a responsibility to inform him of the law. Now that he is aware of the law, he indicated that he was following it. Despite this, Calanni contends that everyone had an estimate and that they all approved the work that he did. He states that he repairs thousands of cars and there are only a few complaints over a number of years.

The hearing is set for December 20, 2005.

Anthony LaCerva: Leading Lawyer from Lakewood Changes Firms

Lakewood’s Anthony J. LaCerva, recently named one of Northeast Ohio’s Leading Lawyers by *Inside Business*, is joining the Litigation Department of McDonald Hopkins Co. LPA as a shareholder.

“I have been a business litigator for 18 years,” says LaCerva, who is leaving Calfee, Halter & Griswold, LLP, where he rose to litigation partner.

After obtaining a law degree from the University of Toledo, LaCerva served as a law clerk for Judge Robert E. DeMascio, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

At McDonald Hopkins Co. LPA LaCerva will continue to practice commercial, intellectual property and bankruptcy litigation.

While the move to McDonald Hopkins as litigation shareholder marks a new chapter in an impressive legal career, LaCerva is especially gratified to have earned Leading Layer ranking from *Inside Business*, a magazine which undertakes a peer selection process each year to rank the top one percent of lawyers in Northeast Ohio.



As a busy litigator, LaCerva knows that time is a precious resource. He understands that Lakewood provides a strategic advantage. “I love the six-mile commute to downtown,” says LaCerva.

As a family man with children, LaCerva enjoys the quality of life in Lakewood as well.

“My wife and I love raising our three boys here. Lakewood is the most interesting suburb in Cleveland and we intend to stay,” he says.

Another Life-Saving Response

By Rita Ryland

In the last edition of the *Lakewood Observer*, I ran an article on the *Lakewood Dispatchers*.

Here’s another example of their quick-acting, life-saving response.

Just before Thanksgiving, Dispatcher Anne Klueber received a 911 call. The caller put the phone down. Ms. Klueber heard voices in the background and heard the sound of a smoke detector. The address of the caller came up on her screen. Dispatcher Klueber notified the fire department.

Scott Gilman, the Lakewood’s Fire Marshall, states that as the fire department pulled up to the home, the intensity of the fire increased tremendously. “Because of her quick action, it prevented significant damage to the house.”

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Lakewood Sports/Education

LHS Wrestling Preview

By Todd Shapiro

In his seven years at the helm of the Lakewood High School wrestling team, Head Coach Vinnie Curiale has overseen a dramatic transformation in the Rangers program.

From a program with just 15 wrestlers that could not field a full roster, the Rangers have transformed into a top-notch program that competes against the top teams in the Lake Erie Lake and scores highly in some of the area's top tournaments.

The 2005-06 edition of the Rangers wrestling team opened up action with a seventh-place finish in the 25th annual Knights of Columbus Invitational at Avon Lake High School on Dec. 3.

Lakewood's 111 points included second place finishes by Senior Co-Captain Ryan Walker (145) and Freshman Tony Scimienti (112).

Scimienti, who is the nephew of Coach Curiale, worked his way up from Little Rangers youth wrestling program and the Lakewood middle school program to earn his way into the starting lineup by defeating fellow Freshman Peti Tapolyai in a best two-of-three competition prior to the start of the season. Curiale feels this is just the beginning of Scimienti's success as a Ranger, "As long as he keeps working hard he could achieve great things."

Senior Matt Curley's 18-8 victory in the third place match of the 135 pound weight class against Avon

Lake's Mark Tomanek was his 118th in a Ranger uniform, setting a new school record. Curley finished eighth in last year's Division I state tournament.

The Rangers seventh place finish in a 18-team field that included four teams that finished in the top ten in their division at last years state tournament, Elyria in Division I and Bellevue, Avon and Padua in Division II, will serve to prepare them for a schedule that includes some of the area's top team.

Lakewood will travel to Shaker Heights on January 7 for the LEL conference dual meet championship. The Rangers are hoping to improve on last year's third place finish in the conference meet. Coach Curiale said there are both advantages and disadvantages

to having the conference meet so early in the season, "the early date allows athletes time to recover, heal up and get ready for sectionals, but the downside is it is rough for some kids to make weight so early in the season."

The Rangers have three home matches in the latter portion of the season. On January 20 the Rangers battle the Cougars of Lake Catholic. Tri-meets with Bay and Nordonio on February 3 and Valley Forge and Bedford on February 10 close out the home portion of the schedule. The Valley Forge match will be a homecoming of sorts for Senior Chris Chapik who transferred to Lakewood this fall after spending the first three years of his high school career wrestling for the Patriots.

One early season disappointment for Rangers was a sprained knee that has kept senior Ben Duval out of the lineup at 171 pounds. Duval, who started as a sophomore, is attempting to comeback from a broken back suffered his junior year.

Curiale is hoping that if his team remains relatively healthy they will be able to improve on last year's seventh place sectional finish. In addition to the Rangers, the Southview Sectional features Elyria, Southview and nine-time defending state champions St. Edward.

While the Rangers are not yet ready to compete head-to-head against the St. Ed's of the wrestling world, if Curiale has another seven years to improve the Lakewood wrestling program, a seismic shift may occur in the balance of power between the Rangers and their crosstown rival.

Lakewood Board of Education Takes a Stand Regarding 'No Child Left Behind' Federal Act

In a unanimous vote, the Lakewood Board of Education passed a Resolution calling on legislators for the improvement of the federal No Child Left Behind Act and asking other organizations and parents to take similar action. The Resolution states:

WHEREAS, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) mandates significantly more requirements for large schools and school districts with diverse populations; and,

WHEREAS, this has been documented in a study conducted by Harvard University; and,

WHEREAS, the Lakewood City School District is adversely affected by No Child Left Behind (NCLB) in terms

of student performance requirements, student performance reporting and financial obligations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Lakewood City School District requests that other school districts, other public bodies, parents, parent organizations and other interested community members, join with the Board in taking formal action by asking Congress to improve No Child Left Behind (NCLB) as follows:

- Adopt more flexible requirements and assessments for special education students
- Adopt more common sense and more

flexible assessment requirements for children for whom English is a second language

- Adopt more equitable requirements for schools and school districts (For example, Lakewood had to meet 112 federal standards in 2004-05. A neighboring district had to meet only 24 federal standards)
- Fully fund the No Child Left Behind Mandate, as well as the other federal mandates that remain unfunded or under funded. Unfunded and under funded federal/state mandates increase local property taxes.

Design and Heritage Meetings Announced

The Lakewood City School District's Design & Heritage Committees held a joint Kickoff Community Meeting Tuesday November 29 at 7 p.m. at Lakewood High School. Architects and committee chairs discussed Phase II plans for the renovation of Lakewood High School, as well as the renovation of Emerson and Horace Mann into elementary schools. In attendance were about 100 people.

School Board President Edward Favre welcomed everyone and introduced the speakers. Superintendent Dr. David Estrop gave an overview of the project and the need for community participation. Architects provided an update and a timeline for going forward. This was followed by Q and A from the attendees.

People were offered the opportunity to sign up for Design-Elementary, Design-LHS, Heritage, or Transition-LHS committees. The next step for the Design committees will be to meet and tour the buildings:

LHS Design Committee

Thursday, December 15, 2005
LHS East Cafeteria 7 p.m.
Meeting, optional building tour
(Next meeting will be Thursday, January 5 at Horace Mann Middle School in the Music Room)

Elementary Design Committee

Thursday, December 15, 2005
Horace Mann Middle School
Music Room 7 p.m.
Meeting, optional building tour
(Next meeting, January 12 at Horace Mann Middle School, Music Room)

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Lakewood Sports/Education



The winners of scholarships from First Federal of Lakewood: (l to r) front: Megan Ventura: Avon H.S., Kara Lauver, N. Olmsted H.S., Alyssa Heitmann, N. Olmsted H.S., Abby Fabich, Buckeye H.S., Erin Lavelle, Magnificat, Tom Kozlowski, St. Ignatius, **Brian Cully, St. Edward**. Back: Nick Edmunds, N. Olmsted, Matt Kurz, Fairview H.S., John Nakel, Race Director, Gary Fix, CEO First Federal Lakewood, **Ricky Hiles, Lakewood, H.S.**

High School Runners Receive Scholarships From First Federal of Lakewood

By Victoria A. Policard
LO Staff Writer

They didn't take their money and run. They ran, and now their being awarded with money.

In August 2005, First Federal of Lakewood sponsored their 13th annual Classic at Mastick, a fundraising race in the Cleveland Metroparks. Proceeds from the race went to benefit the organization's college scholarship fund for high school cross-country runners. Most of the distance runners come from schools in Cleveland's western suburbs—including Lakewood. There were over 500 people, of all ages, who registered for the race.

On November 19, 2005, First Federal of Lakewood on Detroit Avenue handed out 12 checks that totaled \$6000. Each student received \$500. All recipients were nominated by their high school's cross-country coaches. Among the scholarship winners were: Ricky Hiles of Lakewood High School, and Brian Cully of St. Edward High

School in Lakewood. Academics, athletics, teamwork and citizenship are all components of our fundraising race, said Gary Fix, chief executive officer and managing officer of First Federal of Lakewood

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Recreational Skating Sessions

Monday	10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.	Adults Only
Tuesday	10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.	Parents/Tots
	7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.	Family Skate
Wednesday	1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.	Adults Only
	4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.	Skills Practice / All Ages
Thursday	8:30 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.	Adults Only (Live Organ Music)
Friday	8:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.	All Ages
Saturday	10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.	All Ages
	2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	All Ages
	8:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.	All Ages
Sunday	2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.	All Ages
	8:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.	All Ages

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Saturday 12/17 2:00-4:00 PM

Christmas Vacation

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Tuesday 12/20	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Thursday 12/22	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Friday 12/23	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Monday 12/26	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
	8:30-10:30 PM	All Ages
Tuesday 12/27	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Wednesday 12/28	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
	(No Adult Only Today)	
Thursday 12/29	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Friday 12/30	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages
Monday 1/02/06	1:00-3:00 PM	All Ages

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Lakewood's Finest

Bill Hixson Decorates the White House

By Kathleen South

He flies through the air every year about this time bringing Christmas cheer to one and all. And, so does Santa Claus. Lakewood's "Mr. Christmas," Bill Hixson makes his annual trek by air to Washington D.C. to bring the spirit of the season to the East Room of the White House. He's made this pilgrimage his ever year since the Reagan years.

"It's a wonderful time of the year," he said.

This year's theme was "All Things Bright and Beautiful: Love of Nature." The East Room has two evergreen trees decorated with fresh red roses, large green balls and a graceful spray of clear beads. The four mantles sport topiaries, hot pink freeze-dried roses and antique candelabras. "It is a wonderful honor. It's a lot of work but it's what you have to do," he said proudly.

Sometimes Mr. Hixson's work has lead to comical interactions with the First Family. During the first Bush presidency, the family dog, Millie, made her way to the East Room. A member of president's staff called to the dog. Then, the crew heard Mrs. Bush's amused voice calling from upstairs, "Are you talking to me or my dog?"

Past White House holidays have decorations have included the English Dickens theme, toys and Santa Claus. In addition to his annual trip to the nation's capital each year, he has his own piece of the North Pole in his store at 14125 Detroit.

The small space in the back of the store includes a tightly packed collection of theme decorated trees, ornaments and several pieces of the 400-figure scene from the old Halle's Department Store downtown. One

year, before the store's addition, they hung the trees upside down because the floor space was already so crowded.

Another in Hixson's bag of goodies are the ornaments he has designed. He forwards his designs for the glass bulbs to Europe, where they are hand blown and painted by hand. The themes of his ornaments include leprechauns, Cleveland's own Mr. Jingling, man in space, snow man, birds and the dove of peace.

Traditionally, Hixson gives several of his ornaments to the President and his family for their personal quarters. This year, President Bush will receive the dove.

Hixson's attachment to Christmas is rooted in the Depression. As a boy, he would typically have a stocking filled with apples, oranges, tangerines, walnuts and, in a good year, candy or even a toy. There were seldom any good years during the Depression.

"I never had a train set as a child so, when I got older, I grew up a man with children's toys. It makes up for those other years," he said, with a wry smile.

Even his Rocky River home is decked out for the season all year round. His personal year-round Christmas collection includes five trees, to which he will shortly add fresh ones, 35 nativity sets, antique glass and hand-carved wooden ornaments, a teddy bear, train and a collection of music boxes. "If you play music, you have to be in a good mood," he said.

Hixson's business began, and still is, centered on the floral trade and he still teaches floral arranging here and in Japan. A former student provided him with the White House connection.

Some of the glass bulbs Hixson designs have a serious Christmas theme, while others are more frivolous holiday

lore. One story features a pickle, a frog and a pig. The pickle means good luck. The frog, which jumps ahead, could be a prediction of a new job or a new home. The pig means you will be rooting around, with little advancement.

The tradition of the pickle came from a part of Germany some 40 years ago from a family doing glass blowing in their cottage. The tradition is that the first child who finds the pickle on Christmas morning will have good luck that year. He or she, in turn, hides it for the next child. One year, Hixson sold 2,000 pickles in three weeks.

Another features a cat and a dog, said to be the first animals to see the baby Jesus. Both were only able to make muffled sounds, until they met the babe in the manger. After meeting Jesus, they were able to make the sounds we hear now. "If it's not true, it should be." He said.

According to the legend of the poinsettia, a young girl came to the stable to worship the baby Jesus. She cried because she had no gift for the child. Her tears turned into a flower, the poinsettia.

Through his ornaments, Hixson is happy to share in the joy of that first Christmas. "I am so pleased to have any part in soothing the newborn baby. Since then, Mary has blessed all in the pure memory of that first night."

All in all, Hixson, 75, is happy to be "Mr. Christmas." "I have the most wonderful job in the world. I could make a lot more money in real estate but I would hate every minute of it," he said. He added, "It's a wonderful time of the year."



Lakewood's and the nation's Christmas tree master, Bill Hixson, standing in front of the tree he designed this year for the White House. This year's theme, set by First Lady Laura Bush, was flowers. Bill used roses and ornaments in his 2005 tree.



Not all is serious at the White House. Here a young Bill Hixson gets the snow treatment while working on a Christmas tree.

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Lakewood's Newest Businesses

Beautiful Vision: ArcAncient Opens on Lakewood's Emerald Canyon

By Ken Warren

Lakewood's Emerald Canyon, overlooking the Rocky River, is a magical place filled with intriguing possibilities for entertainment, healing and shopping. When commercial property owner Mickey Krivosh contemplated the best retail business models for 4,000 square feet of space at 1391 Sloane Avenue, the imaginative, lush and holistic mix of interior design and healing enterprises operating at ArcAncient seemed the perfect fit.

As proprietors Vanessa Rodriguez and Gloria O'Neill explored the possibilities for relocating their store to Lakewood and realizing their dream of total sensory healing on a horizontal retail platform that combines everything from furnishings and massage beds to esoteric books and herbal tinctures, they realized that Krivosh had presented "the perfect space to walk our talk."

Rodriguez credits Krivosh with possessing not only a fabulous property but also the visionary and caring character that makes him a great landlord for an enterprise as attuned to good vibes as ArcAncient.

"Mickey's been really beautiful in this process," says Rodriguez, who produces an original all-natural and pure line of Aromatherapy products for consumer and body workers on the Emerald Canyon site.

Indeed, beauty is the unmistakable quality that informs the subtle object flow in ArcAncient, which opened in Lakewood on October 9. In walking through the store, Rodriguez provides a keen sense that each business, whether



Top, one of the therapy rooms; below, a small sample of some of the furniture that is for sale in the showroom.

Elements Café or Graphic Design, whether Gifts and Accessories or Body Work in the Ether Room, must encourage the customer to experience beauty from the inside out and the outside in.



Vanessa Rodriguez

The interior design objects on display are beautifully presented. Selection is O'Neill's specialty, a craft that emerged from interacting with body work clients who were always taken with her décor. As a result O'Neill decided to combine body work with formal training in interior design.

Now, at ArcAncient in Lakewood, O'Neill's experience of putting beautiful objects in healing space for body work takes "Interior Design" to another level.

There is a rich store of metaphysical and therapeutic knowledge that informs the ArcAncient ensemble. To a considerable degree, ArcAncient's energetic thrust is rooted in Polarity Therapy, a comprehensive health system that includes bodywork, diet, exercise and self-awareness.

Working with the human energy field, Polarity Practitioners seek to affect a balance in electromagnetic patterns expressed in mental, emotional and physical experience. Both Rodriguez and O'Neill are Polarity Practitioners.

"Most people are touch starved," says O'Neill, who provides in addition to Polarity Therapy classes, seminars and sessions in Aromatherapy, Reiki and Yoga.

With an accent on the energetic, Elements Café provides "Nourishment for Life." Organic and fair trade coffee and teas are served. In addition there is

a complete menu of juices and smoothies that range from Blue Moon Healer: Blueberries, Mixed Berries, Banana, and Pomegranate Juice to Green Goddess: Spinach, Cucumber, Parsley, Celery, Granny Smith Apple, and Liquid Chlorophyll.

Robin Sobolewski, owner of Elements Cafe, believes "We truly are what we eat, think and do!" With a background in massage, polarity bodywork and nutrition, Sobolewski is helping to create a third place amenity within ArcAncient.

Rounding out the ArcAncient ensemble is Web Design, Logo Design, Business Card Design, Page Layout & Advertisement Design available from Robin Chmura and Val Czajkowski, both graduates of Virginia Marti College of Art & Design.

"Our premise is love. Our mission is to activate sensory reception and total healing," says O'Neill.

For Rodriguez, "It's all about taking care of your temple."

At the core of ArcAncient's beautiful vision is the magical connection between temple, house, body and soul. ArcAncient's visionary level of healing through colors, correspondences, elements, shapes and touch is properly associated with soul making. From essential oils to plush fabrics, from Reflexology to Reiki, the Anima Mundi is alive and well at ArcAncient.

Grand Opening – Dough Boy's Bakery



Dough Boy's Bakery on Detroit Avenue opened December 3 in the old Amy Joy Donut Shop at 12901 Detroit Ave. "We are very excited to have reached this point! We have spent countless hours changing the interior of the old Amy Joy Donuts into a funky, fresh third space that offers free wi-fi service," said Julia Artbauer. Dough Boy's Bakery has a selection of "baked fresh daily" goods that range from doughnuts to cookies to elegant pastries, and cappuccinos, lattes, mochas and espressos are made to perfection on our top-of-the-line espresso machine. Pictured above are: Dan Radish, Laura Greathouse and Melissa Normile.

Back From Iraq

Lakewood Resident and Retired Marine Shares His Photos

By Victoria A. Policard
LO Staff Writer

Whether he’s roaring around Lakewood on his Harley Davidson or working as a tugboat captain on Lake Erie—he’s often reminded of the time he spent in Iraq recently.

Retired Marine Master Sgt. Tim Colburn, 43, of a U.S. Military Special Operation Task Group, can’t help it. The injuries he suffered there are a constant reminder.

“The Humvee I was in was hit with two improvised explosive devices aka roadside bombs,” Colburn said.

Colburn’s injuries in the May 16, 2005 incident in Iraq included a broken arm, a separated shoulder and “shrapnel in my ankle and all over the right side of my body.”

“I’ve had two surgeries since I’ve been back, and I go to physical therapy Monday through Friday.”

Not that he’s complaining. Colburn said he’s very happy to be back in the U.S.

“If Americans would go to some of the other places in the world, they’d realize that they take for granted where

they were born.” He continues, “We are blessed to live in America.”

Colburn, a Desert Storm veteran, has been a member of the U.S. Military for 15 years (he retired after 13 years of service then volunteered to go back in for two more years). He’s traveled with the military to Africa, “all over Europe and the Middle East,” Grenada, Panama and recently Iraq. He’s received three Purple Heart metals and is an honorary member in the 2/11 Armored Cavalry Regiment of the U.S. Army.

“It doesn’t happen very often. Marines aren’t in the Army,” Colburn says with a laugh.

Besides recovering from his injuries and heading back to work at the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers, Colburn said he’s not sure what the future holds for him as far as going back into active military combat. He said thinks that he probably won’t be at the level of heath necessary to go back.

“I would go back though, so someone else’s brother or son doesn’t have to go,” he says in a serious tone.

Colburn, originally of Wilmington, N.C., has lived in Lakewood since 1994.



Photo: Todd Bevis

“Army Maj. Hendricks and I in a small Iraqi town after a successful sweep and clear of the area.”

“If Americans would go to some of the other places in the world, they’d realize that they take for granted where they were born. ... We are blessed to live in America.”



Photo: Tim Colburn

“A female and baby on a religious pilgrimage in the province of Iskandariyah. The province’s nickname is ‘Death’s Triangle’ because Sunni and Shiite Muslim sects come together there. It can be an extremely violent place on a day-to-day basis.”



Photo: Tim Colburn

“Duty in all kinds of weather – this is combat during a sandstorm in Iraq.”



“I’m (on left) talking to a few Iraqi plain-clothes and police officers about re-establishing security infrastructure in their area.”

Back From Iraq



Photo: Tim Colburn

“This is an artillery and air strike in Fallujah, Iraq.”



Photo: Tim Colburn

“This little girl is covering her ears from the noise of the (U.S. military) Bradleys and tanks roar by her at dusk.”

“I think this girl was getting married. You almost never see women wearing white veils in Iraq.”



Photo: Tim Colburn



Photo: Tim Colburn

“This picture of a Marine, I don’t know his name, doesn’t need words. The photograph says it all.”

Lakewood Historical Society

A Museum for Lakewood

By Mazie Adams

In a recent issue of *The Lakewood Observer*, columnist Robert Buckeye pondered, “What Should We Ask of Museums?” On a daily basis museum curators consider the issues of what to collect and how to present what they have collected. The Lakewood Historical Society collects and preserves the regional cultural heritage of our community and makes this information available to everyone.



Our city became great through the hard work and inspiration of regular citizens, and we celebrate these people in the collections of the museum. Each artifact tells a story about our heritage. At the Oldest Stone House Museum in Lakewood Park, one will find information about early 20th century Lake Avenue estates as well as information about Lakewood’s various mayors. These are just samples of the rich history of our community that you will find there. Here are some more:

Displayed in the kitchen of the museum is a sampler by Anna Margaret Yundt on which she stitched “In memory of George Augustus Yundt who died, March the 1st, 1834, age 4 years 6 months and 9 days.” This simple piece of folk art tells the story of everyday life in the early 19th century, a time when childhood deaths were very common and when young girls found time

to memorialize a lost sibling during busy, difficult days on the Ohio frontier. Also on display is a photograph of Yundt’s son, Winfield, dressed in a Union army uniform. Such artifacts offer insights into the American Civil War and its impact on small communities like Rockport Township, which was the former name of our present-day Lakewood.

The beautiful grey silk wedding dress of Emma Beach tells a wonderful love story. Sabrina and Henry Beach arrived in Rockport Township in 1864 bringing five-year old Emma with them. Henry Beach developed several properties, including the Beach Terrace row houses that still stand on the northwest corner of Detroit and Beach. At age 20 Emma married a local policeman, Charles Townsend. Townsend was among those who signed the petition that led to Lakewood’s incorporation as a city in 1889.

The museum houses the diaries of Alfred Hall. These diaries document his life in our community from 1881 to the 1910s. Alfred describes the fantastic changes that Lakewood underwent in this time, growing from a small hamlet of less than 3,000 people to become a booming, dynamic street-car suburb of over 40,000 people.

An old-fashioned milk can at the museum provides a peek into small businesses in our city. Dairies like Dzurec’s served not only Lakewood but surrounding cities as well. Founded on Dowd Street in 1923 by Slovak immigrant Lorence Dzurec, this small local business grew into what is now Dairymens. What a wonderful, enduring success story about a hard-working Lakewood émigré.

In addition to historical artifacts, the Lakewood Historical Society collection also contains over 22,000 photographs. Images of homes, people and businesses tell many stories about our community. Homeowners interested in restoration frequently use this collection to find old pictures of their homes.

The archives of the Lakewood Historical Society explore the lives of



thousands of Lakewood-ites. When the historic Faerber-Morse house was embroiled in its recent controversy, the Society provided much-needed historical information about the home and the people who have lived there. A fascinating widow businesswoman owned that home for many years, investing thousands of dollars into its upkeep during the 1910s and 1920s. Her story also reminds us of Lakewood women who struggled for the right to vote, for financial independence and for happiness.

By collecting fascinating documents, photographs and artifacts for over 50 years, the Lakewood Historical Society has preserved these stories for generations to come. Moreover the Society continues to grow thanks to the generosity of our community members who continually donate new items.



The Society is looking forward to an exciting future that includes expanded facilities in Lakewood Park. The addition of a new building near the Oldest Stone House Museum will enable the Society to continue to collect artifacts from our distant and more recent past.

There will also be more room for exhibits to inspire and educate the entire community on the diverse and exciting history of Lakewood. A new space will also help to protect these artifacts, providing much needed, state-of-the-art storage to insure the preservation of these tangible pieces of history.

By throwing open a window to our past; we can better honor the history that has made Lakewood the city we love today. This allows us to approach our future with creativity and confidence.



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Lakewood YMCA

YMCA Memories Fuel Fundraising

By Vincent O’Keefe

As you may have noticed, there is a lot of heavy lifting going on at the future site of the Lakewood Family YMCA on Detroit Avenue. But soon those construction crews and cinder blocks will turn into Lakewood residents and sports equipment as the building moves toward its opening date in January, 2007. Although the building is going up on schedule, the YMCA’s fundraising efforts continue. So far, approximately \$8 million has been raised toward the goal of \$10.5 million.

Countless Lakewood residents have many fond memories of their experiences at the YMCA, and those memories foster great support for its rebuilding. But few residents have as much history with the Lakewood Y as Don Wilkinson. Don moved to Lakewood from Cleveland Heights in 1932, when he was six years old. He has lived here ever since. His first exposure to the YMCA occurred when he attended Garfield Elementary School. At that time the Y provided a physical education program for the local schools.

In our recent interview, Don provided a brief history of the YMCA in Lakewood. He recalls the city’s local branch was established in 1921 and operated out of an office at Detroit and Belle. In 1939, the Y moved to an

old mansion that stood at the current site of the baseball field on Edwards and Detroit (across from where the new YMCA is being built). This mansion was called simply “the Y house,” Don explains. In 1957, the city and the YMCA essentially swapped properties across the street from each other on Detroit. By 1959, the expanded (and now demolished) YMCA was built, and some time later the old “Y house” land was turned into a city park.

Don graduated from Lakewood High School in 1943 and eventually became a mechanical engineer at Standard Oil. He joined the Lakewood YMCA in 1955. His warmest memories of his many years of membership involve his participation in the “Y’s Men’s Club.” This community service club formed in 1952 and operated for about 40 years. One of its largest fundraisers was the annual Christmas tree sale that many Lakewood residents remember well.

A lesser-known fact about the “Y’s Men’s Club” is that in the 1960s the group built a slot car track in the basement. There were four parallel tracks for the speedy three-inch cars, and for about 15 years from September through May the track would be open every Sat-



Don Wilkinson

urday morning for Y members. Don explains that most of the users were “boys and girls of all ages who would build their own cars or buy one at the hobby shop down Detroit Avenue.” Sometimes there would be as many as 30 youths having fun and competing for various awards and trophies. Don cherishes that time at the Y: “My experience working with young people in that age range taught me so much.”

When asked why people should donate to the YMCA’s rebuilding, Don had several answers. First, it is a chance for Lakewood to gain “a recreational conditioning facility that simply does not exist in the city.” Second, it is “an opportunity for a year-round swimming program for adults and children.” Third, and perhaps most important, “the YMCA provides an opportunity to fulfill community service responsibilities. It was my introduction to community leadership.” He adds that as a Standard Oil mechanical engineer, he did not have many other chances to engage in

the community in such a meaningful way.

At age 79, Don is still involved in the community as a member of the YMCA Metropolitan Advisory Committee. His intergenerational experience highlights an important way the YMCA influences Lakewood’s future. Another way it impacts the future is through its youth programs. Steve Crone, Associate Executive Director of the Lakewood Family YMCA, explains that in addition to expanding services for all YMCA members, the new facility will have a special emphasis on youth programs, especially ones that encourage leadership skills. Some examples include “Leaders Club,” “Youth and Government,” “Black Achievers,” and “Model U.N.” Crone also notes that “the YMCA will work to supplement the programs in Lakewood that already benefit teenagers and are so important to the community.” Two examples are the H2O program and the Chat Room.

Beyond the YMCA, much of Detroit Avenue in Lakewood is in the process of a dramatic transformation thanks to building projects like Rockport, Rosewood, the library, and Garfield Elementary School. The new YMCA building will also play a key role in the virtual renaissance of this important Lakewood thoroughfare. But as history has shown, every renaissance needs its patrons. Residents and businesses are urged to consider a donation of any size to the rebirth of a building that will nurture new memories for years to come. Pledge cards are available at Geiger’s, First Federal of Lakewood, and the temporary Lakewood Y branch at 18524 Detroit Road. Those interested can also visit the web site at www.clevelandymca.org under Lakewood branch information or contact Cullen Carey, Lakewood YMCA Capital Campaign Manager, at 216-263-6854.

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Lakewood & The Prism

Where Did All the Bohemians Go?

Examining the Latest Prism Cluster Segmentation Report

By Kenneth Warren

As part of its educational mission, knowledge creation strategy and resource delivery method, Lakewood Public Library examines the Lakewood market with particular attention to demographics, attitudes, cultural values, financial assets and creative capital. Using consumer segmentation systems and story-telling techniques, Lakewood Public Library strives to deliver broad marketing information about the city on a timely basis. This marketing information is designed to help businesses and organizations offer the right products and services in ways that can appeal particularly to Lakewood consumers. Prospective businesses, developers and residents can also benefit from the rich array of marketing tools focused on the Lakewood market.

One resource suited to Lakewood Public Library's marketing services is a "geodemographic segmentation" tool called Prism from Claritas. As a segmentation tool, Prism is based on the premise that households within a "neighborhood" are fairly similar in their demographics, lifestyles, and purchasing behaviors.

A Prism lifestyle cluster is a classification of a neighborhood that incorporates many different variables such as family status, income, consumer spending behaviors, media and advertising influences, and even leisure and recreational activities. These variables create a "portrait" of the households in that neighborhood.

Prism's roots as a cluster segmentation tool can be traced to political analysis. In Cluster Analysis (1970), Daniel Bailey and William Tryon applied the technique to four decades of U.S. census data generated in the San Francisco Bay Area. These census tracts were analyzed according cluster variables such as socioeconomic status, employment, condition of housing, etc. A cluster analysis of 40 years of election results indicated general voting behavior remained identical for these tracts over those four decades. While new residents moved in and out of tracts, the aggregate political behavior therein stayed the same.

Prism suggests that birds of a feather flock together. According to Prism, the U.S. consumer market is divided into 15 different groups and 66 different segments. These segments are based on degree of urbanization and socioeconomic status.

Last year Claritas reshuffled Prism segmentation categories, changed income ranges, compressed age spans and blended ethnic categories. Now the Prism focus is on households rather than population.

The latest Prism report suggests that the economic news for Lakewood is not quite as positive as the flows captured last year. Urban upscale categories last year totaled 56% of all Lakewood households. In the latest Prism report slightly more than 50%

of all Lakewood households fit the upscale categories.

There is suggestion Lakewood's high apartment vacancy rate is having an impact on the total households captured by the Prism Report. The latest report captures segmentation flows for 25,515 households, down from 26,290 in the year before. That's 775 fewer households.

A portion of the loss in households might classify in the Bohemian Mix category. Last year, with the change in Prism's categorical structure, the upscale Bohemian Mix category, was compressed to 35 years of age and under. The life style is single.

The Bohemian Mix cluster is described as "A collection of young, mobile urbanites, Bohemian Mix represents the nation's most liberal lifestyles. Its residents are a progressive mix of young singles and couples, students and professionals, Hispanics, Asians, African-Americans and whites. In their funky rowhouses and apartments, Bohemian Mixers are the early adopters who are quick to check out the latest movie, nightclub, laptop and microbrew."

The dismal regional economy is clearly doing nothing to create conditions for the upscale Bohemian Mix category to consume and survive in Lakewood. This young, mobile, upscale and educated category is seeking opportunities in Chicago, New York and the West Coast.

Making matters difficult for Lakewood is growing competition from Cleveland, which is attracting some of this cluster to Ohio City, Tremont, the Warehouse District, and to a lesser degree at least right now, the area around CSU.

In the old days of Prism, Bohemian Mix could account for 26.5% of all Lakewood Households. Now under the new Prism Bohemian Mix is a younger segment of Lakewood population. While Bohemian Mix is still Lakewood's fourth largest segment with 9.04% of all households, the cluster is down from 13.92% of the total. There was a loss of 1,353 Bohemian Mix households in Prism's current data capture for Lakewood.

The loss of a coveted upscale urban category, understood in the '90s shortly after the Vincent Drost murder to be vital to Lakewood's economy, identity and turnaround, is worth pondering carefully in order to make sense of the city's 21st century flow states.

While Lakewood as 'Gen X mecca' retains purpose in a narrative that describes the city's current consumer flow and demographic churn, this cohort is growing older, getting married and leaving the newly constructed Bohemian Mix category. As Gen X ages, some push beyond 35. As Gen X reproduces, perhaps slimming down to one

income to be with the kids, they leave the upscale Bohemian Mix category for mid-scale demos. Others who age and reproduce themselves out of the under-35 Bohemian Mix cluster may turn up in the urban upscale American Dreams mix. Should a Lakewood Gen X Bohemian Mix couple find the female re-invented into a "Desperate Housewife," then they are likely headed to Rocky River and Strongsville.

The latest Prism report, with the broadening of the mid-scale demographics confirms the era of Gen X edgy counterculture is over in Lakewood. Madison Avenue is proof of that. B-Ware is gone. The shift in media distribution combined with the grind of parenting on premises proved a one-two knock blow. The Madison Village of Chris Andrews is ancient history. Consequently there is less in the way of countercultural retail to beckon young high school visitors from the exurbs, who might grow up thinking that living in a Lakewood apartment might be cool.

There is a new shape to Gen X culture on Lakewood's Madison Avenue, reflecting a generation now engaged in parenting. On Tuesday nights on Madison Avenue Gen X mothers knit at bela dubby. This is the scene on Madison Avenue today. A new scene may emerge tomorrow, one likely to reflect the interests of an aging, parenting and income strapped Gen X.

The Prism picture of flow states has changed, and so must the storyline to reflect Lakewood's churning market conditions.

Anthropological survey work with three recently arrived unmarried 20- and 30-somethings indicates that Cleveland destinations such as Eco-city and Tremont are now more appealing than Lakewood.

The key take-away from both the latest Prism and the anthropological survey work is that Lakewood's moment as an upscale singles hot spot is over, at least for now.

Perhaps some singles from the Bohemian Mix category got married and decided to stay. That is a good thing. Perhaps some took an income hit and slid down to mid-scale Urban Achiever.

However, evidence also suggests that Lakewood is currently home to Gen X "countercultural pro-creatives," now parents with three, four and sometimes five children. Easily scared and fiercely protective of children and animals, this cohort will want assurances that their children are safe in the diverse urban setting. If Lakewood fails in that assurance, a retro ranch in Fairview Park with a basement playroom could easily satisfy their housing and security needs.

The point is that with money and population flow going away from the region and with overdevelopment con-

tinuing Lakewood cannot afford to be complacent about what it takes to keep family clusters that produce stability and create a sense of norms amidst near constant churn.

The current Prism flow capture suggests Lakewood is not growing as a place for either cultural creatives, i.e. boomers and Gen Xers not currently involved in the parenting project. Richard Florida's upscale "creative class" of singles has moved on. That's not the end of the world, but the beginning of a new spin cycle.

So Lakewood's identity as a Gen X mecca for Indie cultural pro-creative families and civic skateboarders is the current marketing meme worth spinning from current segmentation data.

Lakewood's immigrant legacy continues to grow through the three particular Prism categories: 1) American Dreams; 2) Urban Achievers; 3) Multi-Culti Mosaic. Lakewood's three largest clusters, each with significant multi-lingual and immigrant dimensions, now comprise 56.88% of the total households.

American Dreams is an urban upscale category. At 24.39% last year, American Dreams now accounts for 25.37% of all Lakewood households with 6,473. American Dreams is described by Claritas as "a living example of how ethnically diverse the nation has become." In this comfortable middle class segment of middle-aged immigrants and children live, one in ten speaks a language other than English.

Lakewood's second largest cluster is Urban Achievers, a young urban mid-scale demographic that is under 35. Prism explains: "These young singles and couples are typically college-educated and ethnically diverse: about a third are foreign-born, and even more speak a language other than English."

There are 4,608 Urban Achiever households in Lakewood. It is possible that income and purchase constrictions have led some Bohemian Mix of old to classify now in this young urban mid-scale cluster, which increased by 136 households. Urban Achievers grew to 18.06% of the total households, up from 17.01%.

Another urban mid-scale growing cluster, with significant immigrant and multi-lingual characteristics, is Multi-Culti Mosaic, now 15.45% of Lakewood households. According to Claritas, "An immigrant gateway community, Multi-Culti Mosaic is the urban home for a mixed populace of younger Hispanic, Asian and African-American singles and families. With nearly a quarter of the residents foreign born, this segment is a mecca for first-generation Americans who are striving to improve their lower-middle-class status."

Money and Brains, another urban upscale category, remained in the 7% range, with 1852 households. According to Claritas, "The residents of Money & Brains seem to have it all: high incomes,

Lakewood & The Prism

advanced degrees and sophisticated tastes to match their credentials.” Age is over 45 for Money and Brains. This upscale cluster, filled with the civic backbone of Lakewood, is one that the city would like to grow and must struggle to retain in the face of aging, reduced incomes among younger generations, new downtown developments and more remote retirement destinations.

Who on the Lakewood bench will replace Money and Brains?

Young Digerati, another urban upscale category, aged 22 to 44, is arguably the cohort that could age into the replacement for Money and Brains. However, Young Digerati slipped to 2.47% from with 3.65% of the total Lakewood household population.

“Young Digerati are the nation’s tech-savvy singles and couples living in fashionable neighborhoods on the urban fringe. Affluent, highly educated and ethnically mixed, Young Digerati

communities are typically filled with trendy apartments and condos, fitness clubs and clothing boutiques, casual restaurants and all types of bars—from juice to coffee to microbrew.”

There was a loss of 329 Young Digerati households.

Young Digerati marry types now imagined in media as Desperate Housewives. Lakewood is not exactly a Desperate Housewives destination. When Young Digerati marry and make it, they are likely to move out to more upscale suburban locations.

Add the loss of 329 Young Digerati to the 1353 Bohemian Mix lost and Lakewood’s claim on the cool, young, tech savvy upscale demos has obviously slipped.

Lakewood will always be a city subject to churn. As “sticky” as we hope to make the city, churn will always be the challenge and the opportunity that requires attention. Churn keeps the city

fresh, the civic backbone well-toned.

One cad has described Lakewood as “a comfortable old shoe.” Though Lakewood can boast Virginia Marti College is in its borders, neither brown lizard Nacona Cowboy Boots nor hip pointy Beatle boots can convey like “a comfortable old shoe” the metaphorical sense of the mid-scale leveling of Lakewood’s fashion forward flow. What the most recent Prism report suggests is that Lakewood’s hip upscale fashion forward cultural creative edge is, at least for now, eclipsed.

From the Rainbow Flag to Community Currency to the smoking crackdown on bars, Councilman Dennis Dunn attempted to advance such a vanguard at City Hall.

Many in Lakewood’s more conventionally minded middle segments might suppose the eclipse of communitarian, ecological and liberal values will prove to be a good thing for a city

that needs to get back to basics. In this sense, “It’s Lakewood’s Time” means building the civic educational infrastructure that will allow the churn smartly to work its way through the cultural norms of Lakewood’s family and immigrant gateway legacy.

The undeniable trend captured in the latest Prism report is that Lakewood is showing a new aging trend in baby boomers and Gen Xers. At the same time there is an extension of mid-scale income clusters at the expense of the upscale clusters.

Again it must be remembered that the Prism report is based on the capture of spending flows, consumer choices and income streams. So the sense of Lakewood settling in a middle place on Prism scales is evident in the latest report. Neither gentrification nor cultural/technological revolution will be supported in the current cluster segmentation.

Lakewood’s middle is expanding. Contributing to the gain in mid-scale groups on the rise is Close-In Couples, which increased from 1039 to 1476 households. This group is predominantly older couples over 55. This is an integrated cluster, sometimes with African-American, Asians and Hispanics represented, that lives in older homes in the urban neighborhoods of mid-sized metros. High school educated and empty nesting, these residents typically live in older city neighborhoods, enjoying secure and comfortable retirements.

Lakewood is an urban place that can boast about the decency and humanity that rides its mixed economy. While there is still much urban upscale population, there remain some economically hard-pressed urban core segments, which account for roughly 10% of total Lakewood households. This number has not changed. Given the Cleveland economy, it is surprising that the urban core percentage is not far higher.

Under the old Prism system, economically stressed Single City Blues could account for between 19% and 25% of total household population. Now Single City Blues is no longer used in Prism as an urban core category. Lakewood’s urban core categories are Big City Blues, City Roots and Urban Elders.

In Lakewood’s urban core categories, there was a loss of 594 households in the “City Roots” cluster and a loss of 308 in the Big City Blues cluster. There was obvious churn in the flow between City Roots, downscale mature homeowners, and Urban Elders, a poor older singles group that rents. While City Roots lost 594 households, Urban Elders increased by 677 households to 5.44% of total.

Big City Blues, a downscale younger urban mix, totaled 790 households, 3.10% of the total.

Ultimately, it’s the quality of human relationships in both neighborhoods and institutions that make people feel good about living in a place. Together we build, one encounter at a time, the affective, civic and cultural capital that can attract and retain good neighbors who will enrich the fabric of our city over time.



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Minding the Issues

Intelligent Design:

Skeptical Thoughts About the Skepticism

By Gordon Brumm

Never learned much biology ... But as time went on I came to understand that the accepted principles of a field of study contain, along with the true and profound, a certain amount of enshrined obtuseness bordering on stupidity. (The professions of academia and journalism are the chief examples in my catalogue, but there is no reason to believe that the sciences are exempt.) So there may be some advantage in looking at the Intelligent Design controversy from the outside.

When I looked at the controversy I expected to see the biologists and other scientists mounting impeccable arguments against Intelligent Design. After all, they claim to occupy the intellectual high ground, defending reason and science against the blind dogmatism of religionists. But I was disappointed. The scientists' arguments in some cases were shaky, and the scientists often seemed to expect the lay person to agree with their arguments simply because they came out of the mouths of scientists. In addition, a few objections to their position occurred to me independently, and I found no answer in what I heard. So I still have my doubts and skeptical questions, and these are what I will lay out in this column and the next one. I welcome good answers, if any are forthcoming.

I have no religious stake in the controversy. My only interest is clear and critical thinking, and I don't want to see one dogma attacked in the name of another.

First, a plague on both houses:

Evolution vs. natural selection. Evolution is one thing; natural selection is another. Evolution is the parade of the species through time, each species growing in some way out of what went before. Natural selection is the supposed means by which evolution comes about—a process in which random mutation causes some slight change in a few individuals of a species and this change allows the individuals to thrive in its environment (nature “selects” these newcomers over their rivals) and eventually constitute a new and different species. Again, evolution and natural selection are two different processes, and the evidence that counts for one is different from the evidence that counts for the other. The evidence for evolution lies in the fossils of past species. The evidence for natural selection, as I understand it, lies mainly in the observable change in species in response to changes in their environment.

Furthermore, Intelligent Design is compatible with evolution (i.e., evolution could have been accomplished through Intelligent Design). So the battle is not between Intelligent Design and evolution, but between Intelligent Design and natural selection.

That is why I am astounded and appalled to find evolution and natural selection thoroughly confused by those on both sides of the controversy. Generally, “evolution” is used to refer to

both evolution and natural selection, with no effort to distinguish between the two, and no recognition that different kinds of evidence are relevant to the one and the other. So whether by intention or not, the evidence for evolution is used to support natural selection, or vice versa. The media follow along. For example, a recent article in *The New York Times Week in Review* spoke of “intelligent design as a challenge to evolution,” and in several other places opposed evolution to Intelligent Design. (There are exceptions, to be sure. For example, Edward O. Wilson got it right when he spoke of “evolution by natural selection.”)

To my mind, evolution is established fact, beyond any doubt. Not so natural selection. The basic question is: What has caused evolution? Is it natural selection? Or Intelligent Design? Or something else?

All of my comments and questions, therefore, refer to the battle between Intelligent Design and natural selection (not evolution). I begin with a claim that opponents of Intelligent Design see as settling the dispute once and for all, at least in the educational arena.

- Intelligent design is not and cannot be science, because science is concerned solely with natural, observable events, not the supernatural. This is probably the scientists' most sweeping contention. It is clearly false, though the scientists might have a point behind the point.

Science is the fruit of scientific method, so we must take a close look at what the scientific method is. It begins with a hypothesis—a statement, or principle, that generates observable and specific predictions. If the predictions turn out to be true, the hypothesis itself is considered to be true (i.e. verified), and becomes part of established knowledge. If the predictions turn out to be false in whole or part, the hypothesis itself is thereby falsified. When a hypothesis is verified it is often accorded the status of a law. The term “theory” may apply at any stage of verification. (Thus to say that evolution is “just a theory” means nothing and betrays an ignorance of scientific method. The significant question is not what label is applied, but only the degree to which the hypothesis, law or theory has passed the test of verification.)

For example, the law of gravity states that all bodies attract one another. That, along with subordinate principles that specify how strong the attraction is, generate predictions about falling bodies. One of these is that freely falling bodies on the surface of the Earth will accelerate downward at a certain rate (32 ft. per second/second, if I remember correctly.) This prediction can be verified by observation, that is, we can look at freely falling bodies, measure their rate of acceleration, and determine whether the prediction is true or not. As a mat-

ter of fact, the predictions have turned out to be true. Thus the law of gravity has been verified. It is part of our body of knowledge.

But please note that the law of gravity itself is not an observable event, not part of nature. It is a principle, an idea. It resides, if anywhere, in the minds of those who think about it. The observables are the bodies falling at a certain rate in accordance with gravity, not the law that explains their fall.

The same holds true for an Intelligent Designer as explanation for the evolution of the species. One could formulate a hypothesis about the Intelligent Designer and draw predictions from it; if these predictions turned out to be true the Intelligent Design hypothesis would be acceptable as proven science. Of course, the Intelligent Design hypothesis would be different from the law of gravity in that the cause it appeals to would be a supernatural entity, rather than an abstract principle as in the case of gravity. But what of it? The sole function of science is to explain observable events. How the observable events are explained—as long as the explanation is adequate and consistent—is irrelevant. To exclude any possible explanation from consideration before it is tested is simply bad science.

What would an Intelligent Design hypothesis look like? (There might be a classroom exercise here.) It would of course assert that an Intelligent Designer exists and would generate predictions about the Intelligent Designer's effect in the world. These predictions would have to concern the future, not the past (otherwise they wouldn't be predictions), and for all practical purposes they would have to be general in form. Here's a rough possible example: “An all-powerful Intelligent Designer exists and has designed all the species so that every living creature enjoys complete happiness.” To test the predictions generated by this hypothesis we would need a definition of “complete happiness” in terms of specific observable events. This is a tall order, but it's no more a challenge than the science of psychology faces (thus behaviorism). In any case, the point is irrelevant because on any conceivable definition of happiness, the hypothesis is false. But it gives some idea of what an Intelligent Design hypothesis might look like.

To my knowledge, no Intelligent Design proponent has formulated such a hypothesis, much less tried to verify it by testing its predictions. And in the absence of such an effort Intelligent Design remains only incipient science, or pseudo-science. But the mere fact that such an effort hasn't succeeded (or even been tried) doesn't mean that it couldn't be tried and couldn't be successful. Intelligent Design is not inherently or essentially unscientific.

But here's the point behind the

point: It might be that intelligent design advocates don't care about predictions of observable events, because they just presume that an intelligent designer has caused all evolutionary changes. If that is the case, the Intelligent Design theory surely is unscientific, for its advocates are substituting their religious beliefs for the scientific method. So we need to be clear about what Intelligent Design advocates claim.

So far they seem to be content with the argument from irreducible complexity, which holds that living organisms are so complex that they couldn't possibly have arisen through natural selection. This, as far as I can see, is not an effort to propose a hypothesis and test it; rather, it's an attempt to knock down someone else's hypothesis. Furthermore, the scientists seem to be doing pretty well in refuting it. In any case, it refers to the realm of observables, and can't be counted out as inherently or essentially unscientific.

Here are two more arguments made on behalf of natural selection:

- If we abandon the doctrine of evolution through natural selection, we abandon the basic framework of all biology. This seems to be an extravagant claim, but even if it is true, so what? So much the worse for the basic framework of all biology if it must rely on a blind (should I say religious?) faith in evolution through natural selection.

Furthermore, it has become a truism that science advances through “paradigm shifts,” the old framework being abandoned in favor of the new—e.g., the Newtonian paradigm replacing the Aristotelian. If this is true, then the true enemies of science are those who cling without justification to the old paradigm.

- We see natural selection occurring all around us, as seen in the evolution of viruses and bacteria under attack by medications. This is true. When we take medication to combat viruses or bacteria—and especially when we stop taking the medication before we should—some of these pathogens survive the medication. Perhaps a random mutation serves to protect them, though I don't see how anyone can tell, and since the surviving pathogens are better suited to the environment than their fellow organisms, they survive and thrive. Thus we have a new strain that is resistant to our medication.

But what does this have to do with the evolution of species? The battle of the bacteria may offer us a rough illustration of how natural selection works, but it offers little if anything by way of proof. For we have one particular type of situation—and an artificial one at that, in which the agent of selection and evolution is introduced by human agents. (Ironically, human agents in this case play a role somewhat analogous to that of the Intelligent Designer.) To take this as evidence for a process of natural selection occurring in radically different environments, thousands or millions of years ago, involving quite different kinds of organisms, is a gross overgeneralization.

Chef Geoff

New Year's Eve: Chef Geoff's Night In

New Year's Eve. With a nod to St. Patrick's Day, probably the biggest party date on the calendar. It always seems to be a special night, a time for a special dinner or night out on the town as we wait expectantly for the turning of the yearly page to bring us a better year than that which we are leaving. Because it is an almost universally special night, many take the opportunity to take advantage of the would-be revelers and capitalize on their need to paint the town. Please excuse me as I wax cynical.

We find that the better restaurants drastically pare down their menus for New Year's Eve. While the practice is usually "spun" as a "special" menu, what it means in reality, is that the kitchen is gearing up for increased traffic, focusing on dishes that don't require as much prep and attention, and limiting the options that would otherwise be available a week earlier. It isn't unusual, to see entrée choices cut down to 5 or 6, appetizers to 3 or 4. Sometimes the menu limitation are packaged as single price multi-course dinners, but in reality, no matter how presented, your evening is being pinched to make things easier on the restaurant. Then, of course, there is the practice of creating "seating times" for New Year's Eve. This is an effort to force three turn-overs of the tables and "schedule" kitchen activities. Upon calling for reservations, you are informed that there are seatings at 5:00, 7:30 and 10:00 (and if you take the later seating there is a free champagne toast at midnight!) This means, that you have to tailor your plans to someone else's schedule. It generally also means that you can forget about casually relaxing after dinner with an espresso or brandy, unless you choose

the late seating. After all, the next shift is already scheduled and probably waiting in the bar as your impatient waitperson pushes to clear his tables. As an added bonus, at New Year's Eve, the special menus also have special pricing (and I don't mean discounting) and perhaps an included gratuity to assure that the wait staff willing to work New Year's are generously compensated.

You always have the option of forsaking your favorite eatery and joining the throng at one of the massive parties held at various hotels and party centers. These glamorous events will feature multiple stages, a variety of live music, perhaps an included evening's stay and brunch the morning after all enjoyed with a thousand of your closest friends. But, even the free noise makers, black tie dress and champagne toast at midnight can't disguise the reality that feeding 500 people, en masse, means either a buffet of steam tables and lines or banquet style chicken breasts with over-cooked green beans almondine. Then, of course, there's also the distinct prospect that someone at your table, even before the complimentary champagne toast, will become embarrassingly inebriated and begin telling "too much information" personal stories or discussing recent medical treatments complete with demonstrations and displays.

After the clock strikes 12 and you've had your complimentary champagne toast; you get to navigate your way home. Hopefully you haven't imbibed to the extent that New Year's Day finds you in the Municipal drunk tank. After all, traffic enforcement will be tight and you may encounter one or more sobriety check points, but even if you've sipped Perrier all evening (with

the notable exception of that complimentary champagne toast) you still have to be very wary of all those revelers whose driving ability is "altered". They don't call it amateur night for nothing. Upon arriving home, its time to pay the sitter (if you were lucky enough to find one) and take her home. Don't forget a healthy bonus; it is New Year's Eve after all. I would refrain from providing any underage babysitter with a complementary champagne toast. After experiencing all of the above, not just once, but a number of times, I have concluded that there must be a better way.

Already disenchanted by options available for New Year's Eve, I think my annual New Year's Eve tradition began 15 years ago. The kids were small, and finding a babysitter was a problem. Friends, with whom our kids played, were having the same problem. I suggested that I would prepare dinner, the kids could have a sleep over, and we could dine at our own pace. We then determined that it would make sense for the whole family to stay the night, and we'd enjoy brunch the New Year's morning. And so it began, a New Year's tradition with Mary and Ed, and their kids, that continues to this day.

I think the initial menu developed because I just couldn't decide what to make. Being a special occasion, it needed to be special. Any number or dishes could fit that bill. Steak Diane done tableside would be nice, but so would Angel Hair pasta with lobster. Of course, you can't beat rack of lamb but there's a lot to be said for grilled duck breast. And what about dessert? From this indecision, fueled by either a stroke of genius or insanity, I finally came to a revelation. I wouldn't have to decide if I made them all. And thus was born the New Year's Eve seven course dinners. Over the years, it varied, and sometimes had a common theme. One year, all the courses involved wild game; duck, elk, and boar among others. One year, in deference to Ed's dislike of seafood, we dined on every imaginable cut of Black Angus beef, prepared in a variety of ways. But whatever the theme or menu, it usually follows a basic outline. First, the kids were set up with personal pizzas and a supply of movies. Once they got settled in, we could turn

to the adult concerns; First course: a delicious nibble of appetizer, usually by the fire, with a cocktail. Second course: a steaming tureen of soup, usually cream based. Third course: Seafood (except for Ed) sauced on homemade pasta. Fourth course: Something on the wild side, maybe game, maybe foie gras, but something unusual, followed by a fresh fruit sorbet. Fifth course: Beef. Sixth course: Salad and Seventh Course: Dessert, followed by a complimentary champagne toast (Sometimes we don't make it to dessert by midnight). While it may sound like a huge amount of food, the portions I use are small, as you would find in a tasting menu or chef's table when dining out. I like to pair each course with an appropriate wine and some vegetable garnish. It isn't unusual for our dinner to take three hours or more (thus virtually guaranteeing that we miss Dick Clark's Rockin New Year's Eve). Is it a lot of work? Well, to be honest, I do spend considerable time in the kitchen all day preparing, but frankly, I don't view that as work. I actually look forward to any opportunity to cook for friends and family and am despondent when I lose that chance.

All of our kids are older, and in recent years have left our traditional celebration for their own, but we still do New Year's Eve, and enjoy overnight house-guests who travel the great distance (from far off Independence). I'm already looking forward to preparing a great meal, spending hours in relaxed conversation and maybe playing some crazy late night game while enjoying some espresso and a brandy. I'm not sure yet precisely what will be served December 31, 2005. My culinary muse usually inspires me several days before. I will probably, once again, think about paring down the menu, but, undoubtedly will once again reject that idea as being akin to what I'd experience if I chose to go out. But, I do know that, when we dine, it will be on our schedule, with my menu choices, without lampshade adorned table dancers or rubber chicken ... and we will greet the New Year the next morning after a wonderful evening spent with great friends (with a complimentary champagne toast). And isn't that what New Years is all about?

Anne's Pals

Chef Geoff x 300 = \$1,750 at LUMC

By Anne Palomaki



Over 300 children and adults gathered at Lakewood United Methodist Church to make gingerbread houses for the Christmas season. This is a tradition that started 10 years ago and has become a favorite time for many families. Each person purchases a ticket to make a house and all the money is donated to a charity. For several years, it was given to the Cleveland Habitat for Humanity chapter. This year, over \$1750 was donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief to build and restore homes affected by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and the earthquake in Kashmir. Amy Wheatley, chairman of Church and Society, was in charge of the project. Members of the Faith in Action committee met to make all the gingerbread pieces that are used to make the houses.

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Lakewood Stages

T.I.D.Y. World Premiere Comedy at the Beck Center

The world premiere of T.I.D.Y opened live on the intimate Studio stage of the Beck Center Friday, November 18th to an expectant audience. Eric Coble, the quiet, unassuming Cleveland Heights playwright behind T.I.D.Y, designed the play so that it would be set in the city where it's currently being produced. As a result, there were many silly references to Cleveland, Parma, the Great Lakes region, the store Marc's, etc. The play is full of surprises and patrons are warned at the entrance about gunshots, smoke and explosions.

T.I.D.Y. stands for Total Identification Yield Program. Successful actress and playwright Sarah Morton plays Emily, an eccentric and anal 30-something computer programmer. Emily, who leads a very simple and routine life (i.e. boring), finds herself catapulted into the middle of sabotage, conspiracy and mortal peril all because of the attention her T.I.D.Y program has attracted from the "wrong crowd" (i.e. the C.I.A., unscrupulous business people, corrupt governments, creepy Freemasons, and space aliens—yeah,



From left to right, Kevin Joseph Kelly as the Ice Cream Man and Sarah Morton as Emily Danbert: "When a pint just simply won't do."

Now at the Beck Center Beauty and the Beast



By Mary Bodnar
Theater Critic

that is not a misprint). I couldn't quite wrap my mind around the introduction of the space alien in the closing scene. Somehow, it all came down to the alien and the cat, named Mr. Huckle.

All Emily really wants to do is be home alone, eat her T.V. dinner, sit on the couch with her cat and go to bed. Sounds exciting, doesn't it? This girl needs some excitement to liven up her life. Soon she finds herself meeting strangers in parking garages in an attempt to get to the bottom of all the confusion.

Things start getting out of hand when the librarian's jet gets blown up right after his meeting with Emily. A wake of disaster trails her and soon she is suspicious of everyone around her—the Cable repairman, the ice cream guy, a co-worker, Mother and ex-husband. It turns out she has reason to be paranoid and the dialogue between her and these individuals is hysterically funny. Pretty soon the audience is wondering what's real and what's not. Actress Rhoda Rosen is incredible as Sylvia Danbert, Emily's mother.

This play is a must-see for every librarian. The hilarious opening scene, one of my favorites, takes place in a public library between librarian Mr. Casolaro, played by talented Kevin Joseph Kelly, and Emily. (See excerpt)

Being a regular high volume library patron myself, I constantly battle the heavy responsibility of keeping track of the due dates for, on average, 42 items for my 10, 8 and 6 year old, my husband, and myself. This is not an easy feat. I live for July 4th and wait anxiously for my friends from Lakewood Public Library to march by in the parade with their happy reassuring faces and their secret stash of dog bones. Since they don't seem to give

them out readily, I dash into Lake Road like some crazy fool waving my arms and dancing around until I get what I need. Unfortunately, my children have started to follow my example and they are out there like little puppies begging for dog bones (or dinosaur eggs or whatever form my "Get Out of Jail Free" card comes in that particular

year). I have even been known to negotiate with my sister and have coerced her to attend the parade in my absence to obtain a redemption bone for me when my family was on vacation. No, she doesn't even live in Lakewood.

Eric Coble was one of the speakers at the Write-On Series workshops held at East Cleveland Public Library several years ago that I attended.

T.I.D.Y. is running until December 18th at the Beck Center for the Arts.



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Dance in Lakewood Thrives: Lakewood Recreation Dance Recital

By Mary Bodnar

The Lakewood Recreation dance recital entitled, "The Nutcracker and other Holiday Treats" premiered on the evening of Tuesday, November 22nd, 2005 at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium. Two very dedicated sisters, Peggy Brennan and Patty Hayes, choreographed, planned and implemented this huge recital featuring over 190 dancers.

The ballet classes performed seven fantastic pieces from the traditional ballet classic, "The Nutcracker." The various jazz dance and tap dance classes performed pieces ranging from the old-time ("Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" by singer Brenda Lee) to the modern ("Santa Claus is coming to Town" by Mariah Carey.) The audience received all pieces enthusiastically.

Both women have taught dance in Lakewood for over 25 years. For this dance session Patty, the first of the sisters to join the Lakewood Recreation Department, taught seven ballet and four jazz dance classes. Peggy, who started dancing at age three, taught everyone from young children to adults via six tap dance classes. Their combined success and years of experience have rewarded them with a very loyal following of students and satisfied parents in the city of Lakewood. Peggy and Patty are nothing short of super heroes. Peggy Brennan, who married Bill Stockdale four days after the big recital (How did she do it?!) also works full-time by day in payroll/HR for the City of Brecksville. When she is not teaching ballet, Patty Hayes is the full-

time children's librarian at Garfield Elementary School in Lakewood.

Not only do the Lakewood Recreation Department's dance students have access to such incredible teachers, but also classes are very affordable, averaging approximately \$ 37 per class for Lakewood residents. That is an incredible value for the skills that students develop in ten weeks of dance lessons. In addition, unlike most overpriced dance schools, the recital is also free and open to family and friends of students. (There is nothing worse than paying big bucks for your seven-year-old to learn to dance and then having to turn around and fork out another \$80 for tickets for granny and grandpa!)

Kudos, Patty and Peggy, for a putting together another great dance show for Lakewood!

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Lakewood's Pets

Lakewood Woman Turns Passion Into Profit

There is an old saying that goes “find a job you love, and you will never work a day in your life”. One Lakewood woman has taken that advice to heart, turning her passion for animals into a successful business. Although having lived in Lakewood for only a few years, Whitney Callahan has had a quite an impact on the community. In addition to helping lead the effort to build the local dog park, she has taken a leadership role in helping the Lakewood Animal Shelter.

Like many people, Whitney developed her love for animals at an early age. Her mother instilled a respect for animals, and together they took in stray animals. They also raised and

showed champion Chocolate Labradors. She was taught by breeders and veterinarians how to assist the mother dogs giving birth, and whelped over 40 puppies in five years. She would sleep in the same room with the mother and her puppies for the first week, making sure that no puppy was ever accidentally rolled onto and that the puppies stayed healthy.

Originally from the east coast, Whitney moved here after a long distance relationship with her husband, Mark. The couple lived in the Warehouse District for a few years, and then began looking for a house. They fell in love with Lakewood because of its homes with big front porches and tree-

lined streets. “It seemed like a friendly, diverse neighborhood where we could start our new family,” says Whitney.

She quickly made an impact on our city, working as one of three co-chairs, along with Shelley Gould-Burgess and Brittany O’Connor, to build the Lakewood Dog Park. The dog park effort began in early 2002, and culminated with the park’s opening in June 2003. Throughout the process, Whitney spent hundreds of hours conducting research, raising money and meeting with city officials.

For the past two years, Whitney has served as Vice President of CCLAS, Citizen’s Committee for the Lakewood Animal Shelter. She has focused on generating ideas for fundraisers, such as the annual “The Hair of the Dog Happy Hour and Silent Auction” which will be held next spring.

It was then that the idea for “Inn the Doghouse”, her very own doggie day-care and boarding business, was born. She got together with friend and fellow dog park volunteer, Pete Spanos, to create a dog daycare business where dogs could be boarded on site while allowing them playtime during the day. In addition, they envisioned on-site grooming and an animal-friendly cat boarding room. After six months of planning, the business opened on October 22, 2003. Despite long hours and the risks that come with any new business, Whitney is thrilled. “It was the best decision I’ve ever made,” she says, “I love my job, I love seeing my dog friends, and Dublin, her Bullmastiff, couldn’t be happier”.

After two years, business is good. In fact, ITD expanded in September, when it acquired additional space to sub-lease to North Coast Dogs, the highly respected dog training school. The businesses are exploring the opportunities to offer programs such as “train while boarding” at the facility. Inn The Doghouse is open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday for daycare and weekend hours are available for pick-up and drop-off of boarding dogs. For more information please visit www.innthe-doghouse.com or call (216) 651-0873. North Coast Dogs can be reached at (216) 221-DOGS (3647) or on the web at www.northcoastdogs.com.

“Bummer The Cat” Struggling To Recover

As reported in edition 11 of the *Observer*, a seven-month-old cat was shot and paralyzed with a pellet gun in its Atkins Avenue backyard on October 30. The cat, which is named “Bummer,” has been released from the hospital and is again living with its family. Although the family is glad to have Bummer home for the holidays, he continues to have no movement in his rear legs, and veterinarians say the chances are slim for him to recover movement. However, he has regained slight movement in his toes. He is cared for by Doris Fecser, his 83-year-old owner, and her daughter, Linda Rieue.

In addition to his physical wounds, Bummer has been traumatized by the incident. He is now afraid to play in his backyard, and has become afraid of strangers. Previously, he had been very outgoing to people and enjoyed spending time in his yard. Despite his problems, Linda describes Bummer as “feisty,” and indicates that he still enjoys playing and being with the family. Police are seeking information on the incident. If you have any information, contact Lakewood Police. A reward is being offered. If you would like to donate to the reward fund or make a contribution toward Bummer’s vet bills, please call Linda at 440-570-4101.



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Be an Angel for Lakewood's Homeless Pets

By Mike Deneen

The Citizens Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS) is holding its annual Angel Tree fundraiser. Pets General Store on Madison and the Lakewood Public Library (main branch) on Detroit have been kind enough to host CCLAS's Angel Trees. Individuals can purchase, for \$5, an ornament that will hold his or her name and a pet's name to be displayed on one of these trees.

For each donation of \$5, an angel goes on one of our trees with the name of the person donating, and the name of the pet being remembered or honored. If one person donates \$50 or more, CCLAS will send him/her a hand-made punched tin ornament to put on their tree at home.

Please call Catherine at 216-221-7953 with any questions.

CATS OF LAKEWOOD

BY LAURA DUMM



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