

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source For Local News And Opinion – An Official Google News Source

Volume 3, Issue 10, May 15, 2007

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Lakewood Symphonic Choir Performs At Carnegie Hall



photo by Scott MacGregor

The Purple and Gold stands out on stage at Carnegie Hall

by Scott MacGregor

New York City - On a beautiful, sunny spring day in May, the city of Lakewood was proudly represented by a special group of Lakewood High School students who had traveled together by bus all the way to New York City to sing at one of the world's most prestigious performing arts venues, Carnegie Hall.

The Lakewood High School Symphonic Mixed Choir, directed by Dr. Lisa Hanson, was invited by Dr. Earl Rivers, the conductor and music director of the Vocal Arts Ensemble of Cincinnati, to perform with several of the best chamber choirs in the country on a rendition of Requiem by John Rutter.

As the participants took the stage,

the Lakewood students, wearing their distinctive purple and gold robes, were easily recognizable among the large assembly. As the lights dimmed and the opening phrases of the Requiem began to resonate inside the acoustically perfect theater, the audience was treated to a flawless performance, punctuated by an exacting blend of octave harmonies rendering an ethereal, ultimately compelling musical composition. The Lakewood students performed, as they always do, like seasoned professionals despite finding themselves in a place far, far away from the familiar confines of the Lakewood Civic Auditorium or the Barton Center.

"It didn't really hit me at first where I was," said Colleen Reynolds, who is a member of the choir's alto section, "until I looked out into the



photo by Scott MacGregor

The Lakewood High School Symphonic Mixed Choir joins the best choirs in the country for a performance on stage at Carnegie Hall

audience sitting in this beautiful theater. It is really an amazing honor to be performing here."

The journey to Carnegie Hall was the culmination of months of planning, fundraising, and hard work by many. Funding for the trip came from the George Read Foundation, the Lakewood High School Alumni Association, the Lakewood High Music Boosters, the students, and their parents. No taxpayer money went into the funding of this project.

During the 5-day excursion, the students were kept active by an aggres-

sive itinerary that led them to many of the exciting sights and sounds of New York City, including its museums and historic places, such as the Statue of Liberty and Ground Zero. On their last day, the Choir appeared on the CBS Early Show before taking the long bus ride home, accompanied by their shared memories and the goodwill created by their talents and well-mannered behaviors.

The City of Lakewood and its school system have much to be proud of as a result of the outstanding accomplishments of one of its better kept secrets, the Lakewood High School Symphonic Mixed Choir.

Tracks Are For Trains

Program Designed To Increase Safety On and Around Train Tracks

During the week of May 14, which has been designated as the National Operation LifeSaver Train Safety Week, Lakewood will kick off a brand new program designed to communicate this danger to people in our community, and to make them aware that this is now an enforceable infringement of the law. "This is an important program because we see a lot of children and adults using the tracks as a short cut or a place to hang out," said Edward Favre, Lakewood Police Sergeant, School Board Member, and Chair of the Committee. "We want our children to be safe around train tracks."

The "Tracks Are For Trains" program includes: new signs posted at all crossings, and along the tracks; educational materials distributed to students and parents; warnings to be issued to those caught walking on the tracks; and eventually, anyone caught walking along the tracks will be fined.



Doug Bunsey from the Lakewood School System, videotapes an announcement for Channel 74 featuring; B.J. Bland (Special Agent, Norfolk Southern Railroad), Susan Adams (Public Relations Coordinator, Lakewood City School District), Larry Schuck (Special Agent In-Charge for Norfolk Southern Railroad), Edward Favre (Sergeant, Division of Police Assigned to Office of the Mayor) and Bernie Madison (Division Manager for Lakewood Division of Streets & Forstry).

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Are You Aware of the Closest Primary Stroke Center?



 **Lakewood Hospital**
a Cleveland Clinic hospital



If you suspect a stroke, time is critical. At Lakewood Hospital we're not only your closest choice for stroke treatment, but your best choice, too. We're one of a few Ohio hospitals certified as a Primary Stroke Center by JCAHO*, which means our stroke program meets national standards for significantly improving patient outcomes. We also have one of the region's only Neuro Integrated Care Units, with experts and technology at the forefront of neurological care.

Protect the Ones You Love

Know the warning signs of a stroke and think **FAST!**

F – Face. Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

A – Arm. Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?

S – Speech. Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Does the speech sound slurred or strange?

T – Time. If you observe any of these signs, then it's time to call 9-1-1.

For your free stroke information kit, call 1.877.234.FITT (3488).

www.lakewoodhospital.org

*The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

Your Life is Our Life's Work.

City Council

City, Blue Star Moms, Honor Holtz

Council President Robert Seelie called the May 7, 2007 meeting to order at 7:34 P.M.

Seated in the audience were members of the Lakewood Blue Star Moms. They are the mothers of our military men and women serving throughout the world. Council member Nickie Antonio (at large) joined them at one of their regular monthly meetings which are held at Lakewood Christian Church. She was particularly impressed by the fact that these mothers carry the burden of the knowledge that their children's daily duties put them in harms' way.

This was brought home to the Lakewood community when Navy Petty Officer Michael Holtz died in January while serving on a submarine. So on behalf of the Blue Star Moms and in honor of Michael Holtz, Antonio

requested that the city add his name to the Veteran's Memorial Plaque at Lakewood Park.

Council unanimously agreed and Mayor Thomas George directed remarks and remembrances of the Holtz family to Michael's parents who were in the audience.

The rules and ordinances committee has held several meetings as it has worked to revise civil services policies followed by the city. Among its recommendations to the full council are doubling the number of points for applicants who reside in Lakewood and improving requirements in favor of veterans. Additional points improve an applicant's opportunity of being hired. Also under this committee's jurisdiction are the rules for private parades

Stan Austin

and running races on the city streets. Modifications to the fees for those events were recommended, requiring private sponsoring organizations be held responsible for some of the up front fees.

Under new business member Ryan Demro (ward two) is proposing changes in the curfew law for children not accompanied by a parent or guardian. Specifically, he wants the curfew for those under 13 years of age to be 9:30 P.M. to 5:00 A.M. between 14 and 16 years old 11:00 P.M. to 5:00 A.M. and 17 year olds to be off the streets, sidewalks or public property from midnight to 5:00 A.M. Parents would also be held responsible for their kids who are out after curfew.

Mayor George indicated that the

administration has been looking hard at the curfew laws and will be working along these lines to change them.

Public Works Director Tony Beno asked for authorization to extend the Gypsy Moth Control Program to allow spraying on private property. He emphasized that this is essential in controlling that insect.

Finance Director Jennifer Pae submitted an ordinance to issue tax increment financing bonds for the Cliffs project along Sloan Avenue. The amount is \$250,000 more than what was anticipated last year. According to Planning Director Thomas Jordan the project had been held up by the Metroparks, whose property abuts the private development. There was concern about surface access on the part of the Metroparks. Mayor George enlisted the aid of the Cuyahoga County Commissioners who have authority over that park district. Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones personally visited the site for his own evaluation. A solution in the form of a private access road which reflects the additional money was the result. A recent visit to the Rocky River shoreline of that building site shows that construction has resumed. Two barges with an excavator and a crane are docked and ready for action.

Director Jordan also introduced a proposal for a Joint Economic Development Zone between Cleveland and Lakewood. Cheaper rates for water purchased by Lakewood from Cleveland and an agreement by each city not to "poach" or offer competing inducements for new businesses are the main features of this agreement.

This agreement will be fully reviewed by council's committees and according to Mayor George "It promises to be a landmark agreement of regional cooperation."

Finally, when it comes time to buying food for your pup consider this. The city is accepting a donation of coupons in the amount of \$450 from Nutro Products to buy Nutro Max dog food for one of Lakewood's K-9 units. The company has a program for working police dogs through which it offers their product.

Barton Center Volunteers Contribute 21,552 Hours

Barton Community Center recently honored the many volunteers who have assisted the organization during the past year. At a dinner show and a reception held in April, 257 individuals were recognized for having volunteered a total of 21,552 hours at the Center during the previous 12 months. This astounding volunteer total is equivalent to more than 10 full-time employees.

"Our volunteers are simply terrific," stated Center Director Jean Finlin. "Without the volunteers, our small staff would never be able to provide the many programs, activities and services offered at Barton Center. It is really a win-win, as our volunteers socialize, make friends and have fun, at the same time that they are helping others."

As an example of the activities provided with volunteer support, the Barton Center Transportation Group provided a total of 7,505 rides

in Lakewood to doctors' offices, grocery stores, hair dressers, etc. One class assembled old greeting cards into picture books for patients at Metro Hospital. The Knit and Crochet Class made scarves and another group collected food; all for the benefit of the Lakewood Christian Service Center.

Several members organized a letter-writing campaign with the USO, and sent hundreds of warm letters to service personnel serving overseas. Many volunteers worked in the various Barton Community Center shops such as Hodge Podge clothing and furniture resale shop, The Corner Store, Book Nook, Greenhouse, Ceramics Shop and the recently opened Fabric Shoppe. Many more volunteers helped at the monthly dinner-shows attended by more than 1,000 this year; and the monthly birthday luncheons with more than 1,100 participants.

The following Barton Center

Members were given special recognition for volunteering more than 500 hours during the year: Ursula Randolph, Rosemary Faulhaber, Sophie Syzmanski, Betty Varga and Illona Papp. Rita Merritt topped the list by volunteering a total of 1,223 hours.

Nine members were honored for volunteering more than 25 years at Barton Center, including: Dorothy Belgrave, Loretta Cubberley, Arleen Edwards, Rosemary Faulhaber, Bob Kelemen, Jean Lee, Dorothy Novotny and Martha Zitner. Carol Meermans is the longest serving volunteer, as she started volunteering at Barton Center 41 years ago in 1966.

In addition to individuals, various community groups also volunteered at Barton Center including Lakewood High students from H2O, children and parents from the Adventure Guides, the Lakewood Jaycees and the Kiwanis Club of Lakewood.

To inquire about volunteer opportunities, call the Barton Center office at 216-221-3400. Barton Community Center is located on the Ground Floor of the Westerly Apartments at 14300 Detroit Avenue and is open M-F 9 AM-3 PM.



FBI agents hope this poster generates tips that will lead them to the two would-be carjackers who shot an agent April 28. The men tried to force agent Brian Vigneaux, 50, to give up his agency-owned yellow Hummer. When he refused, one of the men shot him in the chest.



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www.lakewoodnewlifechurch.org
Lakewood New Life is a non-denominational church



Lakewood Public Library

One-Of-A-Kind Items To Be Sold At Gala Auction

In support of its expansion and renovation, Lakewood Public Library will be auctioning dozens of items from all over the Greater Cleveland area. The list grows every day as more supporters donate to the cause.

The recently ranked #1 public library in the U.S. will sell several library items, such as solid wood bookcases and distinctive pieces from its Children's & Youth Services Department, as well as many other items, at the silent auction. The auction will take place during the library's "Be the First to See the Best" celebration gala on Saturday, June 23, which begins at 7:00 p.m.

"We are very excited to hold this historic event to the public," says Director Kenneth Warren. The library plans on live entertainment, food, and tours of the new facility during the celebration. Warren says of the auction, "it's truly humbling that our supporters have come forth to offer so many enticing items for every budget. We hope this will be an evening the entire city will remember."

Sports lovers will enjoy bidding on such items as tickets and merchandise from the Cleveland Indians baseball club, Lake Erie Monsters hockey team, Ohio State University football team, Lake County Captains, Northfield Park Harness Raceway, and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Active individuals will be intrigued by offerings from Boston



"Be the First to See the Best" chair Shannon Strachan aboard the Young Duck. A dinner cruise on the Young Duck is just one of the many exciting items up for auction at the library gala.

Mills Ski Resort, the Kalahari Resort and Waterpark, Big Met Golf Course, and golf coach Pat Ringenbach, who is offering personal golf lessons. Romantic getaways are also just a bid away, with a one-week stay at a beach villa in Siesta Key, Florida or a weekend stay at a ski cottage in Pardee, New York.

Who hasn't wanted to ride in the Goodyear blimp? Try to outbid your friends for a two-person ride over Cleveland on the "Spirit of Goodyear"! A flight lesson from a licensed pilot, including photos, a private Lake Erie dinner cruise on the "Young Duck", and seats on the Trolley Tours of Cleve-

land's "Lolley the Trolley" are among other donations to be auctioned at the "Be the First to See the Best" gala.

Those interested in art, culture, history, and the achievements of

mankind will find offerings from the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Botanical Garden, Cleveland Public Theater, National Inventors Hall of Fame, and the Lakewood Historical Society to their liking.

Gift certificates to local stores, restaurants, and professional services are also available, including Target, Dick's Sporting Goods, Gales Garden Center, Gingham Goose, Pier 1 Imports, photography packages, handmade toiletries from local soap artisans, Curves, Reagle Beagle, Charles Scott Salon, Carrabba's Restaurant, Chipotle, Pacers, Players on Madison, Winking Lizard, and coffee selections from Novo Coffee.

As donations pour in, the library has set up a website to detail the gala. Be sure to visit www.bethefirsttoseethebest.com for a complete list of offerings and event details.

Notice: The library is seeking more items for the silent auction. No item is too big or too small! Contact Anne Calabrese at atc1956@aol.com.



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LAKEWOOD LIBRARY GALA RSVP

Join us for an extravagant evening of hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, a silent auction, live music and dancing as you get the first look at the newly-renovated library, designed by renowned architect A.M. Stern. All proceeds from the gala will support public art Both in and around the new library.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2007
15425 DETROIT AVENUE, LAKEWOOD OH
SEVEN O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

LAKEWOOD LIBRARY GALA RSVP

☐ **I can't wait to be the first to see the best - count me in!**

- ☐ **PUBLISHER \$ 5,000** 20 VIP tickets with valet parking; gala room sponsor prominent company name on printed materials, gala publicity and gala signage; full-page advertisement in commemorative event program. (\$3,900 tax deductible)
- ☐ **AUTHOR \$2,500** 10 VIP tickets with valet parking; gala publicity and gala signage; half-page advertisement in commemorative event program. (\$1,950 tax deductible)
- ☐ **LIBRARIAN \$1,500** 10 VIP tickets with valet parking; quarter-page advertisement in commemorative event program. (\$950 tax deductible)
- ☐ **AVID READER \$100** x _____ number of tickets = \$ _____ (\$45 per ticket tax deductible)

☐ **I'm going to have to see the best some other time, but I'd still like to make a donation!**

name _____

phone _____

email _____

☐ My check made payable to LPL FOUNDATION for \$ _____ is enclosed.

☐ Please charge my _____ Mastercard _____ Visa for \$ _____

name as it appears on card _____

credit card number _____

expiration date _____

Payment may also be made online at www.bethefirsttoseethebest.com.

ALL TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT THE DOOR

Lakewood Public Library

The Books That Can't Get Packed

by Audrey Sumser, Supervisor,
Children's and Youth Services

When the Lakewood Public Library's Children's and Youth Services Department reopens on July 9th in the new addition, even our youngest patrons will be in awe of our new space. While it will ultimately house the department's audio-visual collection, for the next several months, our space will contain not only children's music, DVDs, and books on CD, but those books that we just couldn't bear to pack away. How could we possibly decide what books were worthy of making the move with us? When decision-making time finally arrived, we were forced to make some difficult choices: What books would stay? Which ones will go? Ultimately, the collection we compiled meets the interests and needs of our patrons—the youth of Lakewood. Whether the books are perennial classics or part of a multi-million dollar series whose final installment will be released this July, our collection will continue to offer our patrons a variety of quality titles that are worth checking out.

Picture books offer a unique visual and literary experience to readers of all ages and often form the building blocks of literacy, so it was clear that the New York Public Library's "100 Picture Books Everyone Should Know" were a necessary core collection. Classics such as Margaret Wise Brown's Goodnight Moon and Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar as well as more contemporary favorites like Mo Willems' Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! are just a few titles found on the list that offer readers vibrant illustrations and memorable stories. Those Caldecott Award-winning books not already included on the aforementioned list will also supplement our collection, providing readers with titles that represent the best in children's book illustration. And while not technically picture books, Jean Marzollo and Walter Wick's highly engaging I Spy series will also be included, offering young readers visual riddles to explore.

Selections of our first readers and

beginning chapter books are popular choices for emergent readers. These books help children practice their developing reading skills and offer a transition to more challenging reading levels.

Newbery and Printz Award titles, which honor distinguished contributions to the fields of children's and young adult literature, will comprise a large portion of our juvenile fiction section as will those books included on many of Lakewood schools' summer reading lists. New fiction as well

as popular series such as the Series of Unfortunate Events will also be available in the department, and with J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows due on July 21st, our collection will include all of the books in the wildly popular and lucrative series. Even our children's magazines will find a temporary home in the addition, providing readers with fun facts, activities, and a dose of pop culture.

All of the staff in the department have their own personal favorites that

they'd like to see in our new space. Some of these books will make it onto our shelves because they are part of the collections listed above; others will find themselves safely tucked away until our department reopens at full capacity in early 2008. Will we miss them? Absolutely, but in the interim, our collection will offer readers of all ages a well-rounded look into the world of children's literature. In the end, that's what makes a children's library a great one.

Battling "Summer Learning Loss" For Over 100 Years

by Andrew Harant

In 1897, Cleveland Public Library acquired 1,000 new children's books for its collection. They developed a program which brought children into the library over the summer to read new books and to share their good finds with other children. In this same year, a librarian in Hartford, Connecticut invited children for book talks once a week during the summer, and the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh provided books to neighborhood playgrounds during the summer.

From these early programs, summer reading clubs in public libraries have gone global. Canada and the United Kingdom both support national summer reading programs, many state libraries in Australia run summer reading clubs, as do 95% of public libraries in the United States.

Today's summer reading clubs promote reading in such ways as playing fun games, making cool crafts, collecting stamps or stickers, earning rewards, and entering drawings for prizes of all shapes, sizes and price ranges. However, the central activity is, of course, reading. Heather Dolman, who authored a study of St. Albert Public Library's Summer Reading Game, wrote that "reading is a complex activity that

involves message getting and problem solving activities." When reading, we translate printed symbols, construct meaning from them, and understand them in the narrative context. In doing this, we exercise multiple parts of our brains. By answering questions about what we read, or simply talking about

Today's summer reading clubs promote reading in such ways as playing fun games, making cool crafts, collecting stamps or stickers, earning rewards, and entering drawings for prizes of all shapes, sizes and price ranges.

it with someone, we exercise even more parts of our brains. Starting at birth, children begin acquiring the skills that they eventually need to become readers, which typically happens when they begin school.

Over the summer months, school-age children are at risk of what experts call "summer learning loss," a decrease in knowledge and skills acquired during the school year. Losses have been estimated at a month or more in terms of grade-levels. In a seminal study, Barbara Heyns found that reading was the single summer activity most strongly related to summer learning. In fact, the more children enjoy reading, and the more they read independently, the more educational success they will have, regardless of their socio-economic status.

Libraries are well positioned to provide children with the opportunity to read more over summer months.

They possess a wealth of books from which to choose, make available librarians to help a child find an enjoyable book, and offer summer reading clubs. Children who participate in summer reading clubs tend to maintain or improve reading skills regardless, of age, gender, or socio-economic status. In Los Angeles County, teachers reported on over 900 students upon their return to school. Some students were involved in summer reading clubs, and others

were not. A significant number of club members performed at or above grade level in many areas of testing than the other students. The students themselves perceived their reading skills as having improved. Other studies have shown that children will read more if they belong to a reading club, that they will discover new authors and new reading interests, and that their self-esteem and social interaction skills will be positively affected.

From May 14 through August 18, Lakewood Public Library will be running its 2007 summer reading club, themed "Team Read," at Main Library and Madison Branch. Children from birth through high school may register to read their choice or 30 books or for 30 hours over the summer. Each child will collect stamps, get rewards and enter prize drawings. Call (216) 226-8275, ext. 140 or (216) 228-7428 for more details.

Employment Opportunities At The Library

CLEANING/JANITORIAL

Lakewood Public Library is seeking an energetic, organized individual to perform maintenance routines including dusting, floor care (buffing); collecting litter/trash; cleaning restrooms; shoveling snow; basic electrical and plumbing; must be able to lift 75 lbs. Valid Ohio drivers license required.
Day, evening and weekend work. 40 hours per week. Salary is \$9.50 per hour. Please call Kim Paras at (216) 226-8275 ext. 102 to arrange for an application.
Lakewood Public Library is an EEOE.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE CLERK

Lakewood Public Library is looking for an experienced and poised office professional with good administrative, bookkeeping and computer skills. Proficiency in Microsoft Excel required. 10-key adding machine, good typing skills, internet and e-mail a must. Must be highly organized, dependable and energetic with excellent interpersonal skills. Valid Ohio drivers license required.
Salary rate is \$11.50/hour. 40 hours per week. Qualified and interested applicants may call Patty Steele at (216) 226-8275 extension 104 to arrange for an application. Lakewood Public Library is an EEOE.

Library Events Calendar

Wednesday, May 16 JARED POTTER KIRTLAND

The Lakewood Historical Society's Mazie Adams considers the life of Western Reserve University's Medical School co-founder Jared Potter Kirtland and recounts his career as a naturalist, horticulturist, Civil War surgeon and prison reform advocate. She'll also spotlight his Lakewood estate, Whippoorwill, famed for its extensive gardens and orchards. 7:00 P.M. in the Women's Pavilion in Lakewood Park

Thursday, May 17 SCIENCE VS. MAGIC

A book discussion program for students in fourth through eighth grade. Explore new worlds in six amazing fantasy and science-fiction series. We'll read the first installment of each saga to determine whether aliens are smarter than fairies, or whether genies are more powerful than Greek gods. Each title must be read by its discussion date. To register, please stop in, call (216) 228-7428 or use the form provided on the last page of this booklet. Space Race by Sylvia Waugh 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. in the Madison Branch

Lakewood Wellness

Starving The Soul

The Lakewood Observer is proud to announce Annie Stahlhaber is available online in the Observation Deck in the new Wellness/Holistic Section to answer nutrition questions. Eating disorders affect too many young females. Recently there has been a rise in the media focus on Hollywood starlets who apparently suffer from anorexia.

An eating disorder can be characterized by undereating to the point of starvation which is anorexia, bingeing and purging which is labeled bulimia and overeating which leads to obesity. While there are specific characteristics in each disorder, all have extremely negative health consequences. Anorexic females are often over-achievers, bulimic females tend to be people pleasers and obese females can be both.

My senior research paper for my psychology degree was on Bulimia and Female Role Expectations. My partners and I surveyed several eating disorder clinics as we delved into research on the topic. For people who have never suffered from an eating disorder, it is bewildering that someone can literally starve himself or herself, or overeat to the point of obesity, or get caught in a cycle of bingeing and purging. To healthy individuals food is nourishment for the body and not much more. For the person trapped in the prison of an eating disorder food is symbolic of love, of control, of escape. Regardless of the eating disorder, at the core of it is self-loathing. It is not possible to truly love and accept yourself and harm yourself.

Unfortunately we live in a society that judges us by our outside. Overweight children are taunted unmercifully. They are made to believe that they are not attractive or worthy. Often thin and socially beautiful girls are made to feel as if their worth is in their looks, and they will do whatever it takes to maintain their “ideal” weight. The images that young females are bombarded with are often harmful and confusing; idols who are too thin, artificially altered, dressing to provoke attention. It is no surprise that every time you turn on the TV some celebrity is in rehab for something. They are dying inside, but society still judges them by their outsides.

Eating disorders are multi-faceted diseases. They have multiple causes and their treatment is not easy or quick. Food is only the symptom. It is not about food, it is about love and acceptance. We learn at an early age that food can be a substitute for love. We are soothed with food, comforted with cookies, told to eat even when our bellies are full. We all get mixed messages as children about the value of food. Why do a few turn food into the enemy, into a disease? If there were a clear-cut answer, there might be a clear-cut cure. We are humans, nothing about us is that simple.

I can tell you this from my research and from my own self-imposed prison at

the ages of 16 to 21, eating disorders are a sign that something is broken inside. When you look in the mirror and see fat, or see ugly, it is because inside you are screaming for self-worth, for acceptance, for love. It doesn’t matter where you lost them, or if you never had them, but it is imperative to find them or the eating disorder will never be cured. It is not possible, at any weight, to look into a mirror and like what you see if inside you feel worthless.

Female role expectations are different than they were 60 years ago. Some of these we can rejoice in and others I wish we could bury. With the women’s movement women were finally seen as equals, allowed to vote, allowed to choose a career or children, allowed to get out of the kitchen and have an identity other than wife or mom. These newfound freedoms carried a price. Women had to work harder in

Justine Cooper

the workplace for less respect and less pay than men. Top that off with the new image of desirability -Twiggy at a very unhealthy weight - for women to emulate.

So how do we balance all of the expectations, to be scholarly and career-minded, yet smile and look “good”? How do we teach our daughters to balance media images with reality? For a start, don’t reward with food, comfort with food, or substitute food for love. Hug them and tell them you love them every day. Tell them they are beautiful. Teach them about positive female role models like Sandra Day O’Conner, Oprah and Nancy Pelosi.

Children will model what you do. If you look in the mirror and call yourself fat, your daughters will program that. Sit down and eat healthy meals with them to show that is really important. We cannot pass on what we do not

possess. Be healthy because it is all we really have.

If you know a young girl with an eating disorder do not minimize it. Get her help or it is a life sentence. I have seen an 18-year old girl die of a heart attack because she starved herself. I have heard the story about my father’s cousin who had anorexia. She came home from work one day and sat down in a chair and her heart stopped. She was in her thirties and left three children. Other serious physical effects include damage to teeth, damage to the esophagus and stomach, ailments from lack of nutrition. Sufferers need help to recover from an eating disorder. Do not get angry with them; you wouldn’t be angry if they had cancer. No one really wants to live this way.

The city of Lakewood offers free counseling to youth through their Division of Youth Services (529-6870). They can also advise if more intensive counseling is needed.

What Can You Say About Huntington’s Disease?

by Eva Weissman

Probably not much - and you are not alone. So far, public awareness of Huntington’s Disease (HD) has not been high. Yet, just as many people suffer from Huntington’s Disease as do those with other genetic and certain neurological diseases.

MAY IS HUNTINGTON’S DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH and HD families, their friends, physicians; media representatives, legislators and many other concerned citizens are spreading the word about this tragic disease throughout the country.

Remember Woody Guthrie who wrote the well-known song: “This Land Is Your Land, This Land Is My Land? Huntington’s Disease often has been called Woody Guthrie’s Disease because the disease killed this famous folksinger. After his death Woody’s widow, the late Marjorie Guthrie started the international and national HD organizations, as well as the Northeast Ohio Chapter. In 1982 she received the key to the City of Cleveland in recognition of her humanitarian efforts on behalf of all our citizens.

Today, the Huntington’s Disease Society of America (HDSA) is headquartered in New York City with local chapters throughout the land. HELP FOR TODAY AND HOPE FOR TOMORROW is more than a slogan. HDSA’s goal is to make this the last generation with Huntington’s Disease.

More and more people recognize how important HD research is since it also sheds light on various other neurogenerative disorders, including Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and Lou Gehrig’s Diseases. The Huntington’s Disease Society of America (HDSA) supports research, sponsors support groups, disseminates updates, news announcements and information about Huntington’s Disease.

Since the early beginnings of the local chapter, Lakewood has been a focal

point of bringing people and programs together, holding meetings for West- as well as East- siders and inviting families from the Akron/Youngstown area. The Lakewood Public Library hosts the chapter’s website, lkwdpl.org/hdsa. And, the annual HDSA campaign for the successful Amaryllis flower bulb fundraiser originates in Lakewood.

Public speakers; guest lecturers of national and international renown; scientists visiting or working at University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University and MetroHealthMedical Center regularly meet in Lakewood; and often with Chapter leaders who reside here: Marion Good, Nancy Roth, Kenneth Warren, Jeff Weber, and Eva Weissman to name just a few. Actor and HD spokesperson Scott Plate per-

formed for the benefit of HDSA as did Vincent Dowling of the Great Lakes Theater Festival. Many notable people have attended receptions at the Winton Place to learn about the various HDSA area programs: Awareness, Research, Education and Advocacy.

For more information, contact the HDSA NE Ohio Chapter’s Founder and Life Board Member, Eva Weissman at (216) 226-6633. Alan M. Tartakoff, Ph.D., Professor of Pathology and Director of the Cell Biology program at the CASE Medical School, also a NE Ohio Chapter mainstay, is the Chapter’s Science Advisor. National Office: www.hdsa.org. The Huntington’s Disease Society of America brings HELP FOR TODAY AND HOPE FOR TOMORROW.

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Lakewood Observer

Localism And The Regional Economy

by Nadhal Eadeh

With troublesome financial times ahead, a devolving political system, and an apathetic public, a decline of civic democracy is inevitable. The increasing national debt, the permanent war economy and decreasing political power for the average citizen make the case that a new approach is needed for citizens to reclaim civic democracy. The most sensible approach is through Localism. That means, at the simplest level, dining, shopping, and participating in civic life, locally. Localism has no political ideology or orientation, it is meant to build a more cohesive and sustainable community.

On the flip side, advocates of regionalism argue consolidation of city, social, and county services may be the best solution to the areas ills. The problems with regionalism hinge on fallout from centralized decision making: Who gets what? With a more centralized regional approach, it is likely affluent communities will have more say in what goes on locally. Would regionalism rid itself of local checks and balances? If regionalism means a centralized bureaucracy, then how would it not be susceptible to control by regional elites? The questions one should ask are: who benefits materially? Who is behind this regionalist ideology? Has it worked in other parts of the country?

Nationally, an apathetic public with reliance on corporate media have created the conditions of a mass society. In effect, ordinary citizens get limited spheres of thought from talking heads. In the words of the distinguished sociologist C. Wright Mills, “many people who are disengaged from prevailing allegiances have not acquired new ones, and so are inattentive to political concerns of any kind. They are neither radical nor reactionary they are inactionary.” Therefore, one must understand the means of history-making are in the hands of a few. By policy and propaganda, the few will attempt to control the future of local civic affairs under regional regimes.

In the age of centralized thought, the role of independent reasoning and citizen journalism are crucial for cre-

ating a more cohesive and engaged Lakewood-centric populace. Yet Lakewood faces a growing problem with the establishment press that disregards the good of local citizenry while promoting the prestige of the American corporation.

A common myth articulated is “budgets are tight - we can not adequately fund education, health care, and other social services.” For elected officials to act on this myth for the sake

In the age of centralized thought, the role of independent reasoning and citizen journalism are crucial for creating a more cohesive and engaged Lakewood-centric populace.

of the corporate welfare state is to rip apart the fabric of local communities and to burden the financial infrastructure with increases in property taxes. The corporate welfare state is, of course, a form of private socialism that benefits America’s largest corporations. Corporate welfare costs the U.S taxpayer 100 billion dollars a year; it promotes “economic growth;” it out-sources America’s jobs; it promotes investment in foreign entities in the name of free trade; and it consolidates assets in the name of competition. Its corporate directorate and lapdog politician’s inform the public the “economy is doing great” and that things have never been better for the American people. Meanwhile, the economy of the past 7 years has put 5 million more Americans into poverty and placed millions more without health insurance.

Most U.S corporations argue tax abatements make them more competitive in the global economy. Some view abatements as corporate welfare. According to Ralph Nader, “patching the corporate drain on public resources will require an informed and mobilized citizenry that both forces changes in our systems of campaign finance, lobbying and political influence, and demands careful and critical scrutiny by the media, Congressional committees and ultimately the citizens who lose out from government transfers of resources, privileges, and immunities to corporations.” On a similar note, Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND)

states multinational corporations use off-shore tax shelters in the Cayman Islands to avoid billions in taxes. The amount of money lost to tax havens is an estimated \$200 billion annually. Dorgan writes, “Free trade” is just jingoism. It means nothing. Free trade is just a mantra created by the multinational corporations and their friends in politics to describe an opportunity to ship American jobs overseas. Trade agreement after trade agreement is

unfair to our country. ... we have to create rules that are fair, rules that lift us up rather than push us down.”

When large multi-nationals refuse to pay their fair share, it increases the burden on America’s small businesses and average taxpayers. Furthermore, understanding the implications of a regressive tax system on future of the American economy is imperative. Policies such as NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) were created by the corporate directorate to weaken America’s labor unions and suppress wages in the name of “economic growth” – which is to say, corporate profitability for the few. In fact, statistics show the median wage coupled with inflation has remained flat for the past 30+ years.

Neo-liberal apologist and former President Bill Clinton remarked, “NAFTA means jobs. American jobs and good-paying American jobs. If I didn’t believe that, I wouldn’t support this agreement.” Since the inception of NAFTA the American economy has lost nearly a million jobs mostly concentrated in the manufacturing industry. Additionally, recent economic trends point to a rise in the service industries (clerks, waitresses, janitors, etc).

Many of the aforementioned problems might have been solved if a corporate monopoly had not purchased political power. Likewise, lack of a strong and independent third party is a primary reason why public policy for the last three decades does not reflect the will of the “common good.” If one

looks at the finances of both political parties, one finds most donations come from the political donor class. This stratum mostly represents the top 1% of the income bracket.

Jeff Faux, author of The Global Class War argues “the same four financial firms Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, UBS, AG, and Morgan Stanley were among the top ten donors to both George Bush and John Kerry.” Clearly corporate power has led to the largest gap between rich and poor in the industrialized world.

So what is the solution locally? The capacity of the Cleveland area to produce well paying jobs is dwindling. Local leadership suggests gentrification as a remedy for the area’s social ills. Displacing an impoverished populace to other areas is only a short term solution. Ohio City and the Tremont area are believed to be the resurgent “hip” places to reside. But, where do you bury the economic loss? It is imperative for local leaders to understand that Cleveland, like other cities in the rust belt, is dying. The old industrial belt that churned out well paying union jobs has been replaced with a patchwork of service jobs.

Some suggest a shopping center similar to Crocker Park as a means of economic development in Lakewood. If reason and rational thought are to prevail, one might ask: How a city with a below average median income, and a vast small business base could support a high end retail establishment? If the average Lakewood resident cannot afford to shop at the high-end retail stores, who will? If the more affluent Rocky River, Bay Village, and Westlake residents have their own high-end shopping centers, why would they come into Lakewood? Who will form the customer base? What happens if these businesses fail? What happens when the retail giants put the smaller shop out of business? How do we attract new owners to vacant storefronts if the city’s population has finite economic resources? Ultimately, in troublesome financial times, the role of reason in civic affairs should be paramount to creating a more cohesive Lakewood. That’s why writing for the Lakewood Observer is one key to civic democracy and local power.



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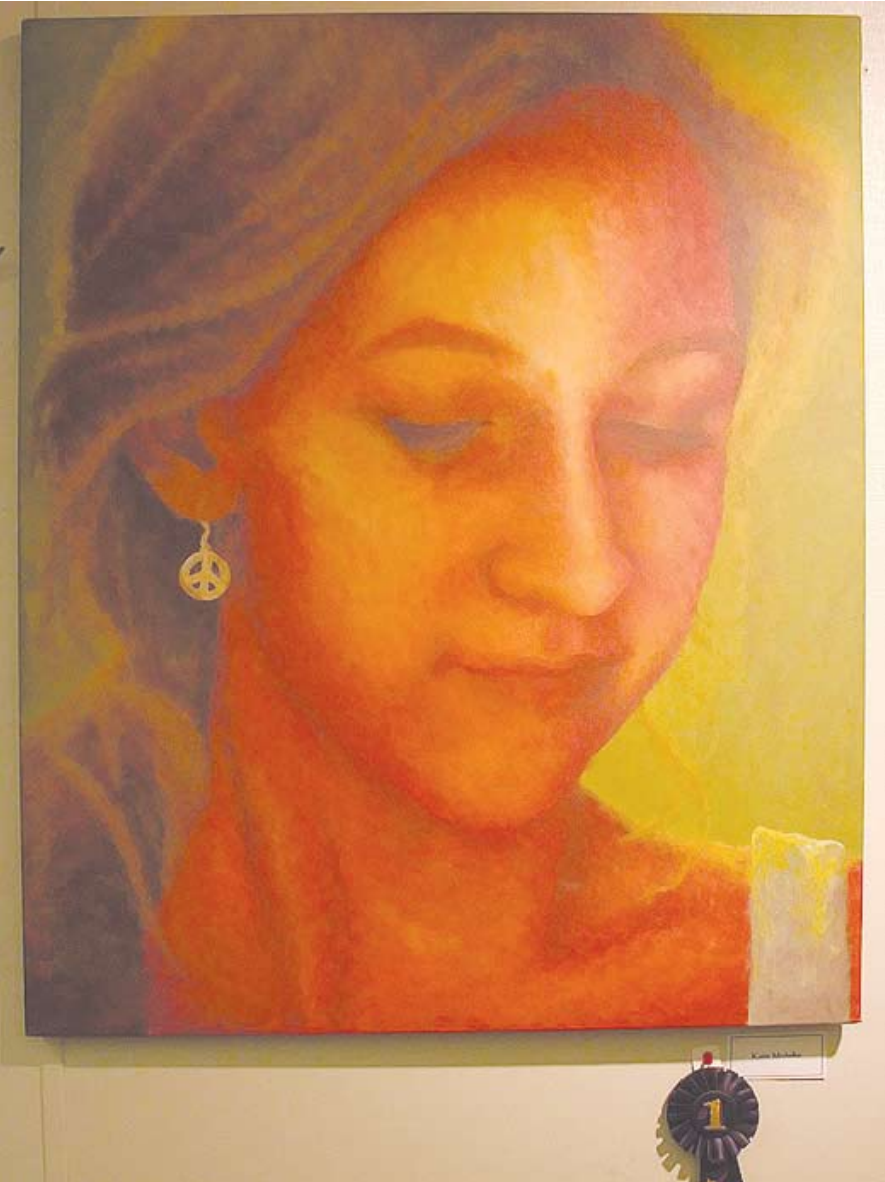
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Back To Basics

In this column, I will mount my soapbox to pontificate upon an issue which seems to grow larger day by day. I know that many readers would much rather read a lighter, spirited piece, perhaps a discussion of spring veggies or an ode to my Weber. But, unfortunately, I think that we all have to come to the sad realization that there are new and increasing dangers to the security and safety of our food supply, most of which are caused by our own eating and buying habits. These are serious issues that must be addressed before we can talk about those veggies and grills.

In the past few years, we have seen ever expanding news coverage of various recalls due to salmonella, E. coli, tainted meat products, and many others. As consumers, we seem to have developed almost an acceptance that there are certain problems that we must accept because of our reliance upon prepared foods and kitchen shortcuts.

The most recent news stories, however, expose the dark side of our food supply system in stark terms. Granted, the events to which I am referring relate to pet food: specifically, a chemical contaminant that was found in materials (wheat gluten and rice proteins) imported from China. Melamine, the contaminant, is an industrial chemical similar to cyanide. It has a variety of industrial, and some medical, uses.

It is, however, highly toxic. To date, deaths from the ingestion of this chemical have been limited to our feline and canine family members and, while there has been a great deal of upset and some outcry, there has been very little recognition of the possible contamination of the human food supply. Scientific studies have found the effects of human ingestion of animal flesh that has been tainted by contaminated feeds to be negligible, but the problem, nevertheless, is something to consider.

Over the past half-century, we have grown further and further away from “scratch cooking.” In general, people no longer feel the need to blend olive oil and vinegar with herbs and spices in order to make salad dressing when there are hundreds of varieties on the grocery store shelves. Toaster strudels, microwave sandwiches, and

Jeff Endress

all manner of prepared foods enable us to spend less time in the kitchen. With this trend comes a lack of concern as to what ingredients may have found their way into a dish and, even more importantly, from where those ingredients

have come and how they have been inspected, imported, and approved. We tend to believe that the FDA undertakes rigorous inspections of imported items, but, by and large, that simply is not the case.

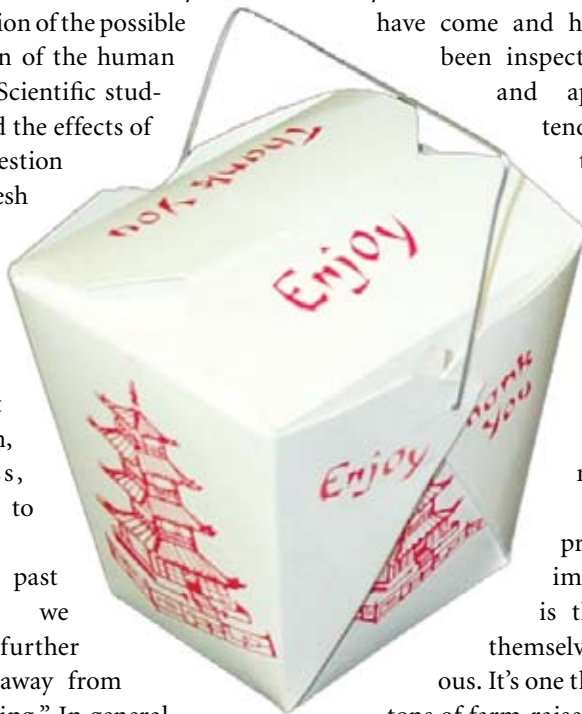
One of the problems with imported goods is that the items themselves are innocuous. It's one thing to inspect tons of farm-raised Thai shrimp and Chinese catfish, but much of what we import are component part ingredients found in many prepared foods - guar gum, lecithin, rice protein, wheat gluten, and dried herbs and spices. Lecithin is an emulsifier; it keeps products such as chocolate from separating. Rice protein is favored as a substitute for animal protein and has

the benefit of being hypoallergenic. Wheat gluten has been used as a meat substitute for many years in China and is frequently utilized as an additive to bread to make it chewier.

In addition to these food additives, the chemical additives (such as colorings and preservatives) make the list of potential ingredients mind-boggling. But, generally speaking, their use (and the use of a myriad of other additives) is common because they can extend shelf life or enhance texture and color. In short, these additives are gratuitous, but, because of our reliance on prepared and packaged foods, necessary. I would challenge any reader to page through their copy of Joy of Cooking and find a call for lecithin. Last time I looked, my copy of Julia's “Way to Cook” had no mention of guar gum. In other words, these commercial additives are absent from our “scratch” preparations.

Now, I am not saying that we can't mishandle our own “scratch” cooking and end up with a case of food poisoning (one way that comes easily to mind to accomplish that is a slow-cooked Thanksgiving turkey). But, those conditions are within our control. Assuming we use a level of common sense, wash our hands, and keep cold foods cold and hot ones hot, we should be okay. The same is not true of the occasional convenience food that happens to contain poison as an additive.

What makes this situation so deplorable is that it is also so avoidable. Some pet owners, the recent recipients of huge vet bills, have taken action. They have elected to prepare their pet food from scratch - with no additives and with absolute control over what goes in. We need not wait for the same tragic contamination to occur to our food sources and, if we do away with the convenience items laden with additives, we may avoid such an issue altogether. While some might call for more thorough inspections, I prefer to know what is in my food by way of adding each ingredient myself. The current state of affairs should be a wake up call to bring our kitchens back to basics, to know what ingredients are going into recipes, and to take back control over what goes into the food we eat.





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Lakewood History

Lakewood Historical Society Invitation

by Mazie Adams: Executive Director
of the Lakewood Historical Society

The Lakewood Historical Society is announcing an invitation to a kick off for its new Preservation Fund. This wine-tasting benefit is scheduled for July, 2007. The event will be held at Rozi's Wine House at 14900 Detroit Avenue. Tickets are \$20. Please plan to attend this pleasant event to support a worthy Lakewood cause.

The Preservation Fund was established to preserve and protect Lakewood's historical structural assets and in response to the threatened fate of the historic Hall house on Detroit Avenue. The Hall house is one of the oldest, original structures left on Detroit Avenue. Originally built in 1870, its current owner wants to use the site for parking and has agreed to donate the building. A descendant of the Hall family is willing to place the structure on his property and rehabilitate it. This move would keep the house on Hall land and return the house to its original use as a private residence. The Lakewood Historical Society is looking to raise funds necessary for the move.

In addition to saving the Hall house, the fund will be used to promote and protect Lakewood's most



Hall House on Detroit Avenue

valuable assets - its architecturally significant homes, historic commercial districts and idyllic parks - things vital to Lakewood's distinctive character. By continuing to link our community's past, present and future through the preservation of our built environment, we retain this sense of place as "Lakewood." Preservation, combined with appropriate economic development, is key to maintaining the beauty of our neighborhoods, retaining our high quality of life and keeping

our community as a whole vibrant. Lakewood is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places due to the way it was developed. The history of

our community and its structures makes our city unique and valuable. It is that value that needs to be protected and preserved.

The Lakewood Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of Lakewood's cultural heritage. In addition to operating the Oldest Stone House Museum in Lakewood Park, the Society maintains a photo-file collection, archives of Lakewood memorabilia and hosts events for groups and schools and special historical programs.

For more information about the Fund and the event, please contact:

The Lakewood Historical Society
Mazie M. Adams,
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Pulse Of The City

Those Among Us:

Lakewood's Veterans Of Foreign Wars

Gary Rice

I went to the public meeting of Lakewood VFW Post 10646's installation of officers on Thursday, May 3rd. I was there at the invitation of my good friend and Post member Harvey Streitel. They meet monthly at the Lakewood Senior Center at 16024 Madison at Northland Avenue.

I'd been thinking about doing a column for Memorial Day titled "Those Among Us." I thought that perhaps over some great VFW coffee and chili I could pick up a few stories to share with you.

You know the kind. The guy storms a German machine gun nest, or single-handedly knocks out a Tiger Tank. I thought that might help us understand and appreciate more about what veterans have done for this country.

The guys were very kind to me, and more than welcoming. For the record, they like that chili STRONG! We discussed many topics: wives, kids, grandkids, family deaths, how retirement's going, and what's going on at the new veterans' cemetery at Rittman, in Medina County.

As far as the war stuff went, they just would not talk about it. At least on the record. Maybe they will, some time in the coming weeks or months. I just don't know. I doubt it. After all, I'm sure the veterans of Lakewood VFW Post 10646 did all they could



photo by Gary Rice

Lakewood VFW Post 10646 incoming officers taking their obligation. New officers include Commander Patrick McAllister, Senior Vice Commander James Hurd, Junior Vice Commander Eugene Shank, Quartermaster George Pieh, Chaplin Phil Koran, Judge Advocate Ed Ramos, 3 year Trustee Tex Phillips, two year trustee Jules Rewald and one year trustee Tom Farkas.

to keep the horrors of combat away from our homeland. Many of their friends died, keeping war far away from their families, and these guys were not about to change that mission now. Especially with me.

See...there's the movie war stuff, and then there's the real war stuff. If

you don't know the difference, you weren't there. End of story.

I picked up little shadows of stories: "These guys were on Iwo Jima," "That guy fought off Japanese kamakazi attacks from the deck of a ship," "Those guys are Marines..." By the way... never, but never, call a guy or gal an "ex"-Marine. It doesn't work that way.

A smile, a firm handshake, the Pledge of Allegiance... The passing of leadership to a new team. If you look close, the gray hairs disappear. In the blink of an eye, their brown wool covers (don't even THINK of calling them hats) bring your imagination to a vision of young hearts filled with simple goals: to keep this country free, and come back to their wives and sweethearts. And make and keep peace in their homes, churches, families, and lives.

They talked about decorating the graves, too. There are so many graves to decorate. This VFW post alone will decorate hundreds of graves for this coming Memorial Day. The guys lost four of their own from the Post this past year.

After eight decades of life, these

guys could be coasting. But they don't work that way. They visit schools, post the colors for various groups (that's bringing in the flag), and go out on parades just to keep the spirit of patriotism kindled in our hearts. They have their Relief Fund with the sale of those poppies.

They also participate in prayer services. Don't you pray? Then you've never been in combat.

They make sure that America's Prisoners-of-War and Missing-in-Action are remembered, too. Always. These guys are awesome.

Americans these days are divided on the Iraq War, as they have been with other conflicts during other times. But the men and women who serve, and have served, on the front line of Freedom deserve our continued respect and admiration, whatever one's political point of view.

As Rudyard Kipling wrote in his poem "Tommy," "Makin' mock o' uniforms, that guard you while you sleep, Is cheaper than them uniforms, an' they're starvation cheap..."

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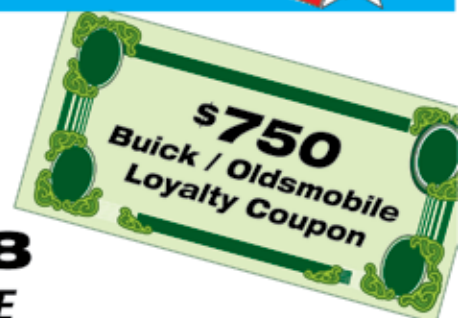
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What Is The Price Of Watching?

Michael Herr was not embedded. In his magnificent account of the Vietnam War, *Dispatches*, one of the great books of our time, Herr sees himself as one of the grunts. He shares their dangers, fears and daily miseries of an impossible life. They give him their helmets and flak jackets, find him mattresses to sleep on. "You're all right, man," they say. "You got balls."

One day while they watch a jeep filled with correspondents drive away, Herr hears a soldier say, "I hope they die." Herr was not their brother and, in another passage, explains why. He hears a young soldier dismiss the domino theory and other government rationales for the war by saying, "We're here to kill gooks. Period." "Wasn't at all true of me," Herr thinks. "I was there to watch."

What is the price of watching?

Jonathan Kozol, a Harvard graduate, concerned about the inequities of American life and of our pervasive racism, goes into a Boston ghetto to teach school – see how he can help – and writes a book about his experience, *Death at an Early Age*, to draw America's attention to what an unequal society ignores. The book is powerful, a right and righteous indictment, but it does not change things, although it does open doors for Kozol. At cocktail parties years later, people who have had one drink too many sidle up to Kozol and whisper, how does it feel to have made a killing off those kids?

John Berger, a Marxist who despaired of a human society under capitalism, leaves London for a peasant village in the French Alps that the modern world is fast disappearing. His trilogy calling attention to the plight of the peasants and the humane way in which they live is moving, heart-wrenching, powerful if not uplifting, but Berger receives the same judgment Kozol does and Herr gives himself. At a discussion of his writing, a man in the audience asks, how does it feel to make a living off those whose living you could not change?

Herr, Kozol and Berger can stand back, leave, choose not to be where they are. Those they write about can't.

The stories we hear from the relative at the funeral, the guy at a bar or a friend over coffee at the diner are different. The relative passes along what has come down to her mouth to mouth for generations. The guy tells us about a journey he has taken, a place we have not been. The friend explains what happened down the street yesterday. What gives their stories weight is experience. They have been there.

Those on CNN have not. They go to where the news is, tell us what they see, watch, as Herr characterizes it. They bring us news we would not know otherwise, but is this the same as experience? Or, to put it more precisely, how does this news became part of our experience?

News is information, not experience. "The value of information," Walter Benjamin writes, "does not

survive the moment it was new. It lives only at that moment." Think of Anna Nicole Smith. Think of Imus. Think of....Tomorrow's news wipes today's from memory. Its intent, Benjamin argues further, is "to isolate what happens from the realm in which it could affect the experience of the reader. The principles of journalistic information (freshness of the news, brevity, comprehensibility, and, above all, lack of connection between the individual news items) contribute as much to this as does the make-up of the pages and the paper's style."

A Hardware Dilemma No More

by William George

Bobsons Hardware used to be the place. As far back as I can remember, if you wanted something out of the ordinary, you went to Bobsons to get it. Whether it be a rubber washer for an ancient faucet or a tiny screw used on a drawer hinge, you could count on Bobsons to have it.

And the service was spectacular. Rarely did I walk in without the offer of "May I help you" within seconds. If I was unsure how to best repair something, a service professional at Bobsons was sure to know.

But then Bobsons was gone. And just prior to their closing, things had changed at the store. No longer was service quite as timely. No longer were clerks quite as knowledgeable. There was another hardware store on Madison near Warren, but the owner was terribly rude, so I didn't go there much. He eventually closed.

So I started going to Ingersoll Hardware on Detroit Road in Rocky River. Life was good again. For the past 10+ years, Ingersoll has been on par if not better than Bobsons in their level of knowledge and in the unordinary items they stock. Ingersoll truly stepped up to the plate to cover my needs.

And this is where my dilemma begins. Being a recent advocate of taking action in my city's future, I discovered a new hardware store opened

I expect to be challenged here, and what I have written I see as much a challenge to myself. We need to know what is going on in the world as much as we need to know what is happening down the block. I would not have mentioned Herr, Kozol and Berger if they were not vital to me. But we need to know the limits of our understanding. Those who tell us what they see have an obligation to those they see, and how they assume that obligation is a measure of how much we trust them. Soldiers, Herr comments, "would ask you with an emotion whose inten-

up in Lakewood. Lakewood Hardware is located on Madison Avenue directly across the street from the new Harding middle school. In order to follow my new mantra, I decided to give it a shot. I was easy on them, needing only a toilet flapper to replace the worn out one at my mother-in-law's house. I met the owner, a very personable guy, and the service was good.

But you see, I'm a very loyal person. If you treat me right, I'll be a customer for life. That is the way I do things and it has always paid dividends. But Ingersoll is not in Lakewood, Lakewood Hardware is. So what do I do? Remain loyal to Ingersoll or to my city? It is a tough decision.

I want the city of Lakewood to flourish. And one of the best ways to help is to spend my money in my city. It helps promote business, which promotes taxes for the city to operate. But there is nothing worse than having an issue late Sunday afternoon and having to run to the hardware store only to find they don't carry the part you are looking for. And that is the loyal side of me, and perhaps the impatient side of me also. You see, I hate having to go back a second time and usually feel some anxiety when everything is not just right. I also own rental property and feel the need to correct issues in a timely fashion. In the long run, it keeps my properties full if the tenants have good service.

Did I mention that there are seven

sity would shock you to please tell it, because they really did have the feeling that it wasn't being told for them, that they were going through all this and that somehow no one back in the World knew about it." How to make someone's experience part of someone else's, not just information that inevitably disappears in the next day's news.

Perhaps this article is no more than a plea to return the importance of the storyteller in our lives. "The storyteller," Benjamin tells us, "joins the ranks of the teachers and sages." He gives counsel.

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Minding The Issues

Arthur, Mr. Wells, And The Frontier Mentality

America, historians tell us, has been largely shaped by its frontier. Of all the types of frontier life, none has received more popular attention than the Wild West, and perhaps the best-known and most enduring example of Wild West life is the gunman-to-gunman shootout.

The scenario is familiar to all: There is a good guy and a bad guy (white hat and black hat – no doubt as to their identities). They face one another (shooting in the back violates the Code). The bad guy reaches for his gun (he's the aggressor). However, the good guy is faster on the draw, and so despite the bad guy's initial advantage, the good guy shoots first and usually shoots the bad guy dead.

This is the Frontier Mentality. It has several implications: There are good people, acting righteously, and there are bad people, who act for evil purposes, and there is no doubt which is which. Good people have a built-in natural advantage that enables them to overcome bad people, given a fair chance. Therefore social problems are to be solved by the good people exercising their talent for force and violence against the bad. In other words, we need only make sure that the white hats have shooting-irons and are able to use them. This point of view emphasizes personal responsibility – good or bad outcomes rest on the actions of the individual.

Gordon Brumm

In addition, the Frontier Mentality ignores causes and distinctions (other than the simplistic distinction between the good and the bad, of course). It assumes that the righteous are always mighty, and will always win out in a contest of force and violence (not quite the same as the doctrine of Might is Right, though it could slide into that.)

The Wild West shootout was replicated in Cleveland's Inner City some weeks ago when 15-year old Arthur and his companion, displaying a handgun, accosted and threatened Mr. Wells in

of circumstances in which the shootout produced the right winner (although it most certainly did not produce the best result, which would have been the survival of all who were involved). It was happenstance that led to the result; it could have been otherwise. Consider a few What-ifs:

What if Arthur, seeing Mr. Wells draw his gun, had shot first, and had killed Mr. Wells?

What if Arthur had had no intention of shooting, perhaps hadn't even loaded his gun? (I offer this not as criti-

the asylum: The criminal is extolled and the would-be victim is condemned. Vigils for Arthur. Vandalizing for Mr. Wells. What we see under the rock has rightly been called a thugocracy.

About this situation, the Frontier Mentality has little to say. The answer lies not in individual responsibility, but in social responsibility; not in decisive application of force but in reflective examination and intelligence. First we need to make distinctions – obviously, between those residents of the Inner City who are law-abiding and those who are affiliated with the thugocracy. We also need to distinguish between excusing the thugocracy and explaining it, finding its causes.

Why is it that so many endorse the cause of criminality? Is it some hideous perversion of the spirit of opposition exemplified by civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr.? Is it the immediate and long-range effects of poverty and discrimination? Or something else? Or a combination?

The Frontier Mentality, as I mentioned, is of no value in explaining or eradicating thugocracy. Indeed, it may well be a contributing factor. It may be that the emphasis on force and violence, so prevalent in our society, leads some young people to see force as the way to settle their disputes, redress their grievances, and achieve success, legally or otherwise.

It is not the solitary gunman, quick on the trigger, who can solve this problem, but rather the entire community -- political leaders, experts, and committed citizens of all stripes and from every part of the region. We all have a stake in overcoming the thugocracy and in curing the social pathology that underlies it.

For this reason I was surprised and delighted to see Kevin O'Brien, in his Plain Dealer column of May 2, state that the welfare-to-work approach ("demanding that poor moms go to work") has been a mistake, and has worsened the problems it was meant to resolve. After noting the record of parental neglect and abuse that had made Arthur the hoodlum he was, O'Brien proposed supporting single mothers on condition that they raise their children to be responsible and competent citizens.

Perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised at reading this, because I know nothing of what O'Brien has written on this particular subject in the past. But I do know that many writers of his ilk criticized the welfare policies of previous decades, which provided support to poor single mothers without requiring work in return, on the grounds that such policies corroded individual responsibility. We have seen where that viewpoint gets us.

So O'Brien's proposal, along with the multitude of other outcries, is a call for every viewpoint and every neighborhood, urban and suburban alike, to come together in battling this malignancy.

We all have a stake in overcoming the thugocracy and in curing the social pathology that underlies it.

front of his home. Mr. Wells had his own handgun. He beat Arthur to the draw and shot and killed him.

I thoroughly agree with the majority opinion (alas, not universal) that Mr. Wells was justified in the shooting. If I had been in Mr. Wells's place, I probably would have done the same.

What I question is the generalization that every righteous citizen should be allowed and even encouraged to carry his or her own firearm for protection -- that a shooting iron should be provided to every white hat.

Is the Frontier Mentality the answer? Or have we seen a particular set

cism of Mr. Wells, but merely to point out that there are consequences of any shooting, righteous or not.)

And in regard to the Virginia Tech shooting, I offer a couple of What-ifs addressed to the proposition that every student and employee at every university should bear a firearm for protection:

What if everyone had a gun, and some totally innocent but strange-acting student, with a bulge under his (or her) clothing, was shot by a righteous citizen who suspected the student of holding a handgun with bad intent?

What if, after a bout of binge drinking, a group of drunken students staged a shootout and massacred each other? (This possibility has been mentioned by a university official.)

As an answer to the problems posed by the Cleveland shooting, the Frontier Mentality is chancy at best. Any adequate solution has to recognize that the problem is not merely personal – the good individual confronting the bad individual – but societal. The response to the incident was like the lifting of a rock to reveal a nest of vipers (surprising to those outside the Inner City, though all too familiar to residents of the area) – a situation that is shocking, appalling, incredible, disgusting – choose your own adjective.

It is as if the inmates are running



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Lakewood Perspective

An Anonymous Call To Arms

Bret Callentine

I'm here for one simple reason: to put forth my own opinion. If my personal point of view at all matches yours, consider it coincidence, not the result of any personal attempt on my part at mainstream acceptance (I gave up any attempt to be "popular" back in junior high school). That's not to say that I don't welcome your feedback or won't accept your criticism. But, let's get one thing straight: I don't take requests. So, don't ask me to champion your cause. And, if you want an article written on a specific subject, write it your darn self!

The reason I bring this up is that, following my article entitled "Wanted: Pride in our Neighborhood" (volume 3, issue 7), I was forwarded an anonymous letter signed only "A Concerned Citizen." I won't go into specifics, but, following a brief description of the criminal activity that plagues their particular area of town (a synopsis that included the plea "please tell me when living in Lakewood meant living in fear of your life"), the writer asked, "Is there anything you can do to help?" Following this question, this person inquired if I could write an article to this effect.

To the author of this letter and anyone else who feels they have similar circumstances:

There is probably nothing I or anyone else can do to alleviate your fear. Put plainly, if you find yourself in a situation where you truly believe your life is at stake, I don't want to hear that you "can't afford to move." If your fear has even the smallest foundation in reality, then you can't afford NOT to move. The only question is: to where? If you know of a location or neighborhood where there is no crime, I'd love to hear about it.

Now, I don't want to trivialize this topic. Unfortunately, there are bad people in this world and, unfortunately, some of them live in our area. Fortunately, we each have the power to do something about it.

Living in fear is not living and criminal activity can only prosper in an environment replete with paralysis of public action. The need to remain anonymous is representative of a shortage of the very virtues that must assert themselves in order to rise above injustice. If you do nothing, then they've

already won. Courage isn't about being fearless; it's a choice that involves the strength to do what's right regardless of personal consequences.

So, if you're looking for help with your problem of fear, the answer is still that there is nothing that I can do. But, if what you meant to ask was: "Is there anything we all can do to help?" Then, the answer is an emphatic: YES! While my name isn't Clark Kent and this isn't exactly the Daily Planet, I can help fight crime (I just can't fit into those spandex tights).

After receiving that letter, I was able to sit down with Lakewood Police Chief Timothy Malley (okay, so maybe I do take requests...just don't expect me to turn into Carl Monday). Since I'm an op-ed writer who makes no pretense of being "fair and impartial," I'll be straight up with you. I love our police department; I think they're doing an incredible job with the resources they have, especially given the rather unique size and scope of the population which they serve. That said, I wanted to talk with our police chief about how we as citizens could help the police, not the other way around.

Chief Malley pointed immediately to the fact that the public is a huge source of information for the

department. There's no one better at recognizing suspicious behavior on a block than its residents. You know better than anyone else who should be there and who shouldn't, what's out of the ordinary, and how a particular disturbance was initiated.

The Chief also said that calls can definitely influence police presence, suggesting that great care is given to collect as much data as possible in order to determine patterns and then respond in an appropriate fashion. As far as crime prevention goes, we are the eyes and ears of the police force. If you see something that doesn't seem right, call it in - don't just sit back and hope that someone else will take care of the issue.

As for knowing when to call and for what, Chief Malley assured me that the city has two to three dispatchers on duty at any given time, so, when in doubt, call anyway and let them determine the proper course of action. Simply make sure to call the correct police line and be aware that response time can be dictated by events that may well be outside your realm of control.

As a rule of thumb, dial 911 for emergency cases involving an immediate threat to life, health, and safety. The Lakewood Police Department (LPD)

also has another hotline (521-1234) that can be used for emergencies of a timely nature that might not represent the same level of potential danger as above. For instance, if you're in a car accident and someone is hurt, dial 911. If you're in a car accident and no one is injured, but you're blocking rush hour traffic with glass everywhere, call the 1234 number. The dispatcher will always answer the 911 calls first, but both receive high priority. For issues that require the attention of the LPD, but aren't of an immediate concern, call the main number (521-6773).

Just so you know, the average response time to a level one call (such as a crime in progress) is just over four minutes (4:02 according to the Chief). This is on par or better than many comparable municipalities.

In this day and age when just about everyone has a phone at their fingertips, the only reason the police aren't catching criminals faster is that you're not dialing faster.

If you're curious as to other ways you can help bring about the change you desire in the neighborhood, I suggest you contact the Lakewood Police. At the very least, go to www.ci.lakewood.oh.us/safety_police.html and check out some of the many special services they provide.

Puppy Mill Survivor Finds 'The Sweet Life' In Lakewood

by Gerry Nelson



Bella

I lost my little pug last winter. He was very sick and I know I did the right thing with the little guy. But, as anyone who has lost a pet knows, it is very hard.

I was moping around and so was my other dog Sara, a Boston Terrier. A friend of mine said "look, you've always had two dogs...why not get another rescue dog?"

She put me in touch with a lady in Olmsted Falls who rescues dogs from "puppy mills" that Amish folks run in Geauga County. I called her and she said she had a little Boston Terrier who had been at one of their farms living in a cage for all of her three years.

I decided to go see the dog. I went out there with my dog, Sara, to make sure that she would approve of a new family member. Once we arrived, we met Bella and knew she would be coming back to Lakewood with us.

Bella is a dear, little Boston who weighed 14 pounds when I brought her home. She now weighs 19 pounds. I've

had Bostons for many years and am a devotee of the breed. During her time at the puppy mill, Bella had been bred everytime she was in heat. This is something no reputable breeder would do.

When we brought her home and let her loose in my good-sized backyard, she stood quite still. She sniffed the air and ran around in a big circle as fast as her little legs could carry her.

I must tell you, Bella has taken to the "sweet life" very well here in Lakewood and is turning out to be a grand little dog who goes to school and loves to walk in the Metro Park.

I really think these "puppy mills" are shameful and should be outlawed. The people that run them look on these dogs as commodities and not as our companions and beloved members of our families.

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Letters To The Editor

Operation Paintbrush Should Expand

Dear Lakewood,

Often, during my weekly call to my mother, the conversation turns to some aspect of Lakewood that is missing in her community an hour to the west. After St. Patrick's Day we chatted about the special fried green tomato and havarti sandwiches from Melt (her town is more of a Bob Evans type of place). On numerous occasions she's talked about moving to the bottom floor of a Lakewood duplex once she retires, and while I'm sure she looks forward to truffled corn bisque from Souper Market, it is Lakewood's services that she really admires and that I consider a keystone of this community.

Several weeks ago I read an announcement in The Observer about Operation Paintbrush, a Division of Community Development program that assists lower-income Lakewood homeowners with the cost of exterior painting. Normally this would be the sort of program I would talk with my mom about as I walk the dog; however, I can't help but think 'The Thinking City' can do better.

I have been unable to track down information specific to Ohio, but our good neighbors across the lake estimate that approximately 80% of residential greenhouse gas emissions in Canada are produced in the process of heat-

ing the home and it's water. It is also estimated that the average Canadian home produces more than 13,000 pounds of greenhouse gases every year (for comparisons sake, it would take driving more than 14,000 miles in my 2001 VW station wagon to produce the same amount of greenhouse emissions).

I propose that in the future the funds used for Operation Paintbrush be recommitted to assisting the same homeowners with the purchase and installation of high-efficiency furnaces or boilers, Energy Star windows, and/or insulating their attics and walls.

My background is music, so this is far from my area of expertise. There are many angles from which to examine this, from the cost and benefit of the various potential projects, to the increases in property value for the homes and neighborhoods involved. Despite my background, I do know that when I purchased my home a few years ago, the boiler was already 55 years old. When it was brand new, he told me, it might have been 50% efficient; he also told me it was three times larger than what the house required.

While we may ultimately have to live with an eyesore on the block, I can't help but think that given the opportunity to make an environmentally responsible choice, as well as provide a helping hand that will pay dividends for years to come for the families involved, it is an obvious decision to redirect the dollars of Operation Paintbrush.

Devin Baty

Living In Peace

Dear Lakewood,

Why do we live in Lakewood? I can honestly say, as a native to upstate New York and having lived in several other states, that Ohio – specifically Lakewood – has some of the friendliest, kindest, best people I have met. It was definitely a good choice for my wife and me to purchase a house in Lakewood and start a family. The schools are great; the teachers are caring and kind.

What I don't understand is how do we live in peace? What would you do if you had a neighbor that refused to let you cut a part of your front lawn? What would you do if that neighbor verbally

assaulted you? What would you do if he swore at your six-year-old son for running on his grass? The list goes on. Today, the same neighbor attempted to run me off the road.

What I don't understand is when the police were notified, nothing was done. How bad does it have to get before someone gets hurt? I don't understand why, in such a heavily populated city,

the police can't seem to help bring peace and justice to the residents.

My wife and I are hardworking people trying to raise our son to be the best he can be. We don't deserve this. If it continues, I guess we'll have to sell and leave Lakewood, like many others have decided to do.

A loyal but discouraged friend,
Paul Burns



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Lakewood Real Estate

Noting our Neighborhood

Lakewood's Front Porches

by Sunny Updegrove

The front porch is the means by which your home says 'Hello...and Welcome!'. Without question, a porch sets the stage and feeling of any home. Imagine comfy wicker with colorful cushions, rocking chairs, Boston ferns, and a handsome wooden swing with a familiar squeak. First impressions are generally lasting ones, of people as well as homes. If your home is on the market today, make sure that first impression is one that beckons the buyers to sit a spell and put their feet up, grab a favorite book or tune in to the Indians game after the lawn chores are complete. A home and its porch can conjure up memories of neighbors taking their evening stroll and stopping by for a friendly visit or even remembering that a first kiss was shared on that swing while parents watched the news inside.

A front porch serves as a buffer

from the inside to the outside world. It's a place of serenity in those first or last moments of the day. It offers a marvelous window on Mother Nature, shade from the sun and protection from the rain, while observing the wonders all around. Squirrels run rings around the maple tree, robins pluck worms from the dew covered lawn. Sunday morning's rush to services is followed by the slower, peaceful pace afterwards, as parents stoop to tie a shoelace and brush a stray lock of hair from a forehead.

Lakewood homes boast front porches of every style and size. The styles range from beautiful Greek Revivals, Victorian gingerbreads, glorious wraparounds, luscious and elegant or staunch and sturdy. It is the season to enjoy whatever style of front porch your home offers. Make the most of that space not only to enhance the value, but also to create memories to be shared for many years to come.

Realty Reality:

Questions From Our Observer Readers

by Maggie Fraley

Many people, including LF of Lakewood, wonder, especially in today's Buyer's market, ..."Why buy a house instead of renting?"

It's a great investment! Rent payments go to a landlord, but mortgage payments work twice for you- first, as payment for where you live and sec-

only, as a source of personal credit as equity builds. Homeownership builds wealth in several ways, with “forced savings” as your mortgage is paid down, plus appreciation that increases your investment’s value. Owning also provides many tax breaks. Last but not least, the emotional enjoyment of owning your own home is priceless!

A Lasting Tribute To A High School Romance

by Val Mechenbier

At the turn of the century at West High School (where McKinley Elementary now stands), Edward Gilbert courted the lovely Viola Corrigan. They married, built a home at 1427 Arthur Avenue, and both

became active in civic life. Edward partnered with his friend Herbert Mathews in a real estate venture during the time of Lakewood's most spectacular growth, whereby he helped name many of Lakewood's streets, including "Edanola" Avenue: *Edward + Viola.*

Refinancing And Home Equity

by Maggie Fraley

An interesting national fact from the Ohio Association of Realtors Newsletter is that “despite a slowdown in housepricegrowth, borrowers continue to refinance their loans, extracting approximately \$70.5 billion in cash

from their home equity in the first quarter of 2007, down slightly from \$77.0 billion in the fourth quarter of 2006. According to the Federal Reserve Board, homeowners had nearly \$11 trillion in home equity at the end of 2006, an increase of 30 percent over the past three years.”

Lakewood Real Estate Information

(According to Multiple Listing Service)

by Andy Tabor

APRIL	2006	2007
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Multi-Family Closed	13	7
Multi-Family Pending (Under Contract)	Unavailable	7



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 <p>1230 Lakeland \$143,900</p>	<p>Spring flowers add color & cheer to a yard abundant with perennials! Incredible woodwork rarely seen—moldings, doors, built-ins including dining room buffet. Finished 3rd floor. Kathy Lewis 216-226-4673 ext. 2060</p>	 <p>1080 Rosalie \$219,500</p>
 <p>11850 Edgewater The Lakehouse \$62,500</p>	<p>Lovely Lake views from this 7th floor, 1 bedroom unit. April '07 updates: Professional paint, carpeting, Sparkling & refreshed kitchenette. Truly a delight! Sunny Updegrave (216) 401-3353 sunnyup1@cox.net www.SunnySellsLakewood.com</p>	 <p>1321 Chase Ave. \$168,500</p>
 <p>1239 Gladys Ave. \$139,800</p>	<p>So charming—hardwood floors, natural woodwork, fireplace, bay window. New kitchen is bright & cheerful. Great location close to Lakewood amenities—library, park, shopping. Call today! Kathy Lewis 216-226-4673 ext. 2060</p>	 <p>1556 Westwood \$85,900</p>
 <p>15220 Hilliard \$134,900</p>	<p>This 2 family is priced to sell Motivated out of town owner Wants this SOLD! All replacement windows Freshly painted 4 bedrooms and 2 full baths Sunny Updegrave (216) 401-3353 sunnyup1@cox.net www.SunnySellsLakewood.com</p>	 <p>1307 Hathaway \$164,900</p>
 <p>1523 Lauderdale \$133,000</p>	<p>Priced reduced!!!! "Don't judge a book..." Because this beautiful interior will surely be a surprise Inlaid floors, oak columns- A touch of Victorian splendor Sunny Updegrave (216) 401-3353</p>	 <p>3418 W. 98th St. \$88,500</p>
 <p>13822 Clifton \$233,000</p>	<p>For full details go to 13822clifton.lucien.com or call Andy Tabor 216-226-4673 ex 2020. See More listings at www.andytabor.com Andy Tabor 216.235.5352 andreastabor@cox.net, www.andytabor.com.</p>	 <p>13316 Hazelwood \$99,000</p>
 <p>2117 Carabel \$144,900</p>	<p>For full details go to 2117carabel.lucien.com or call Andy Tabor 216-226-4673 ext. 2020 See more listings at www.andytabor.com Andy Tabor 216.235.5352 andreastabor@cox.net, www.andytabor.com.</p>	 <p>1487 Grace \$196,500</p>
 <p>13304 Hazelwood Low \$60's</p>	<p>JUST REDUCED! Value priced 3 bdrm w/huge kitchen to delight. Roll up your sleeves then reap the benefits. Sunny Updegrave (216) 401-3353 sunnyup1@cox.net www.SunnySellsLakewood.com</p>	 <p>1445 Grace \$224,876</p>

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