

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

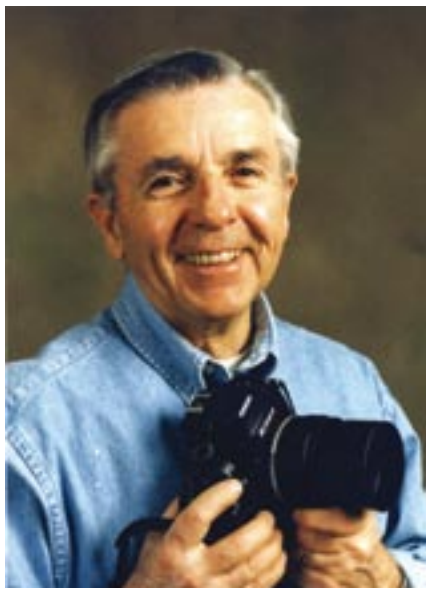
Lakewood's Only Newspaper And Finest Website

Volume 1, Issue 9, October 18, 2005

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Lakewood Resident

Paul Tepley Headed to Hall of Fame



Paul Tepley, the Lakewood Observer's and Cleveland's favorite photographer.

Longtime *Cleveland Press* and recently *Observer* photographer Paul Tepley will be inducted into the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame on October 27 at the Meyers University Club.

Tepley is being honored for his work at the *Cleveland Press* and *United Press*. His photos have documented the good and the bad times of Cleveland sports and other personalities. When you see a photo of "Beer Night," it is probably his. When you see a great image of Jim Brown, Rocky Colavito, Bernie Kosar, or "Sudden" Sam McDowell, it is probably his. When they show Chuck Wepner hitting the canvas after Ali

tripped him, it's always his. He was the eyes of sports to millions of Clevelanders for decades.

Recently the *Lakewood Observer* has been able to coax him out of retirement. Paul learned photography while in the armed forces, as an aerial photographer in Africa and the Mid-East.

Congratulations to Paul for being recognized for a lifetime of great work and photographs.

Visit Paul's website at <http://www.tepleyarchives.com/tepley.htm> to view his work, order archival quality prints for gifts, or to order his great Browns book, *The First Fifty Years of the Cleveland Browns*.

If you haven't seen this book, you're missing the best photo book on the Browns and something wonderful.

Paul Tepley, observed

He first worked as a United Press photographer, starting in 1955. Joined the Cleveland Press as a photographer in 1962. Became the paper's sports photographer in 1967, and held that position until the Press closed in 1982.

Tepley has been a Lakewood resident since 1959. Wife Karen; one child, Christine, who is an occupational therapist in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Lakewood Observer is working on a full feature of one of Lakewood's finest talents, and a pretty darn good guy too.



photo by: Paul Tepley

Lenny Barker



photo by: Paul Tepley

Michael Jordan, the shot!



photo by: Paul Tepley

Marty Schottenheimer talks with Lakewood's own Tom Cousineau.

League of Women Voters Lakewood Chapter Hosts Two Lakewood Election Forums

A healthy democracy depends upon an educated electorate. Moreover, as recent national and local elections have clearly demonstrated, your vote does count. The Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters will host two election forums in an effort to provide voters with more information about the upcoming election.

On Tuesday, October 18, the League will host an Issues Forum at the Lakewood Woman's Pavilion in Lakewood Park at 7 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and learn more about upcoming ballot issues.

These include Issue I, a proposal to create and preserve jobs and stimulate economic growth in Ohio and Issue II, which will allow voters to vote by mail up to 35 days before Election Day. Arguments both for and against each issue will be presented. There will be an opportunity for questions and

discussion from the audience.

The Lakewood Candidates' Night will be held Thursday, October 27,



For more information about the upcoming election and The League of Women Voters, check out pages 4-5, and another section in the next Observer, Volume 10. A complete list of candidates' views available November 2 - VOTE November 8.

at 7 p.m. in the Lakewood City Hall Auditorium, 12650 Detroit Ave., in Lakewood.

Lakewood elections are now non-partisan. The candidates for three Lakewood City Council at-large seats are: Nickie Antonio, Michael Dever, Edward FitzGerald, Suzanne Kennedy Horrigan, Daniel Thomas Brennan, and Timothy Carroll. Kevin Butler and Ryan Salo are in contest to represent Ward I. The candidates for Lakewood City Council will present their positions after which will be a question and answer period. This forum will be moderated by League member Susan Jankite.

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Lakewood Schools

Tricks But No Treat for the Rangers

By Mike Deneen

The cities of Lakewood and Cleveland Heights have a lot in common. In particular, both inner-ring Cleveland suburbs are known throughout Cuyahoga County as two of the most politically liberal places in the area. From Coventry Road to Madison Village, these communities are considered havens for offbeat, eccentric lifestyles.

However, when it comes to high school football, each city's high school team tends to be quite traditional. Throughout the 2005 season, both the Cleveland Heights Tigers and Lakewood Rangers have tended to neglect the pass and preferred to run the ball. When the teams played on Friday, October 14 at Lakewood Stadium, Ranger Coach Jim Slagle decided to change things up with what ESPN refers to as some "trickeration". Lakewood fans enjoyed a beautiful autumn evening and a special halftime performance by the Lakewood 8th grade marching band. However, there was no joy in Mudville as Cleveland Heights prevailed 28-0.

Entering the game with a 1-6 record and no chance at the playoffs, the Rangers pulled an early Halloween trick by doing an onside kick on the game's opening play. Lakewood successfully recovered the kick and began its first drive in Heights territory. However, in a sign of things to come, the

drive stalled and the team had to punt. After an exchange of punts, Heights scored first on a 51-yard touchdown run with 4:24 left in the first quarter. The extra point failed, leaving the Tigers with a 6-0 lead. On the subsequent possession, Slagle again reached into the bag of tricks. The Rangers drove to the Tigers' 46-yard line, where they faced a fourth down and four yards to go. They lined up to punt, but instead ran a fake punt. Unfortunately, the play only went for two yards and the ball was turned over to Heights.

The Cleveland Heights defense was strong all night, preventing Lakewood from sustaining any offensive possessions. Sophomore quarterback Jim Guzay was under heavy pressure almost every time he threw, and the running game was contained. Reliable workhorse running back Nicco Maddaluna was limited to 41 yards on 15 carries, and fellow running backs Josh Wade and Chris Kenney also were also contained. The Ranger defense was stubborn in the red zone. On three different drives, the Tigers were inside the Rangers 10-yard line but had to settle for field goal attempts. However, big plays hurt the Rangers defense, as Heights scored three touchdowns of 50 yards or more.

The Rangers have two games left. On Friday, Oct. 21, they host Shaker Heights; the final game will be Oct. 29 in Lorain against Admiral King.



The Rangers huddle up around Coach Slagle with Curly helping out.

Nine National Merit Semifinalists & Commended Scholars at LHS

The National Merit Scholarship Program has recognized nine Lakewood students for its 2006 program. Three students have been selected as National Merit Semifinalists and six students have been chosen as Commended Scholars.

"Our Lakewood National Merit Semifinalist students are in the top 1 percent of students across the country," said Dr. William Wagner, LHS Principal. "More than 1.3 million students took the test. We can be proud of these outstanding Lakewood students."

Earning Semifinalist status and now working to advance to the finalist level are: Marc Carnovale, Brynn Gorbach-Foster, and Adrienne Strong.

Dr. Wagner also praised the Commended Scholars: "Our Commended Scholars placed among the top 5 percent of more than one million students who entered the competition."

Commended Scholars in the 2006 Merit Program are: Samuel Bocchicchio, Charles Bulger, Brett Cushing, Sarah Malanowski, Colleen Murrett, and Audrey Newbacher.

Through the National Merit Scholarship Program, students receive national recognition and opportunities for college scholarships.

The students will be honored at the Lakewood Board of Education meeting, November 7.

Hot Off The Deck

Join the discussion online – visit the OBSERVATION DECK

LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION Topics	Replies	Author	Views	Last Post
League of Women Voters	0	Jim O'Bryan	34	Sat Oct 08, 2005 5:19 am
2 Election Nights				
A Proposal for a residency incentive	20	Donald Farris	323	Sun Oct 16, 2005 7:34 am
RTA What the #@# \$!	26	Jim O'Bryan	723	Sat Oct 15, 2005 7:04 pm
Issue 7	0	Thomas J. George	34	Sat Oct 15, 2005 8:56 am
Lakewood Technology Summit II	0	John Guscott	24	Fri Oct 14, 2005 2:19 pm
GREAT NEWS FOR LAKEWOODITES!	3	Jim O'Bryan	149	Fri Oct 14, 2005 11:06 am
Best in most liveable area.				
Winter Grey	13	Mark Crnolatas	238	Fri Oct 14, 2005 9:32 am
Spring School Levy -	2	Bill Call	111	Thu Oct 13, 2005 5:40 pm
What is everyone afraid of?				
Real Estate Riddl	18	Kenneth Warren	557	Thu Oct 13, 2005 8:11 am
Lakewood Skatepark Vandalism	9	Mark Schroeder	303	Wed Oct 12, 2005 8:27 am
Taxes, and Section 8 Housing	2	Mark Crnolatas	165	Wed Oct 12, 2005 6:06 am
Bravos and Boos--	2	Bill Grulich	114	Tue Oct 11, 2005 7:43 pm
Preserving our Lakewood Heritage				
What does RTA owe us?	6	Jim O'Bryan	134	Mon Oct 10, 2005 5:02 pm
Lakewood Sports--	15	Mike Deneen	455	Sun Oct 09, 2005 9:21 pm
Reader Feedback Requested				

Become an Observer!

The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 18–100, 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!

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Your Independent Source for Lakewood News & Opinion

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The views and opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the publisher and staff.

Lakewood City Hall

City Council 10.2.2005 Council President Robert Seelie calls the meeting to order...

Council President Robert Seelie called the October 3, 2005 meeting to order.

SS. Cyril & Methodius School is a Catholic school with chutzpah.

Mayor Thomas George and council member Mary Louis Madigan (ward 4) joined in a resolution to commend the school as a Blue Ribbon No Child Left Behind winner. (Details of what goes into this honor can be found in the last issue of the *Lakewood Observer*).

Principal Carol Shakarian and Father Jerome Duke stepped up to the podium to receive the resolution. Father Duke, in his familiar padre hat, gave all the credit for the school's success to Shakarian's efforts and the fact that SS. Cyril did not merge with the other Catholic schools. While this was said in some jest, it demonstrates the deserved pride they have in the school.

Shakarian maintained that it is Father Duke's leadership that resulted in the award. In an exaggerated sigh, Father Duke said all he does is pay the bills!

Under old business, several emergency ordinances authorizing expenditures were passed. Typically, toward year's, emergency ordinances—one which does not require the full three readings—are passed because of the necessity of meshing the city's contracts with other governmental units.

An example of this was described by Assistant Engineer Bill Corrigan (in a series of unrelated Corrigans) in earlier conversations. In a tour of Lakewood Park to demonstrate the construction in progress, Corrigan pointed out different portions of the overall project which had to variously meet deadlines and requirements of the Ohio EPA, the federal disabilities act, and the bonding commission of the state which is providing financing. Corrigan has had to keep one eye on government-imposed schedules with the other eye toward the approaching end of construction and make the two come out together.

Under new business, council member Michael Dever (at large) read a

Stan Austin – City Hall Reporter

communication regarding commercial sign regulations—specifically, sandwich boards and hand-held placards.

You might recall that in early January when folks started thinking about income tax preparations, a local company—Liberty Tax Service which is located in the Key Bank building on Warren Road—engaged people to dress in Uncle Sam and Statue of Liberty costumes. They stood outside the parking lot to draw attention to the company's tax services. Several months later as the weather warmed up, walkers with tall pole signs and sandwich board signs advertising low-priced mattresses started walking a path on Detroit Avenue in the downtown business district. Not to be outdone, Quiznos Sub had an employee carry a long fabric sign up and down the street during lunchtime promoting its sandwiches.

The essential problem according to Dever and local business people is that a storefront business puts in a lot of time and money for professional signage, which has to be approved by the City and the Architectural Board of Review. The sandwich board and placard signs don't have to go through the same procedures and they obscure the permanent signs' sight lines, thus diminishing their effectiveness.

Dever suggested an ordinance that is used by Rocky River be reviewed and requested the law department to draft a proposed ordinance to regulate these moving signs. Mayor George said these sandwich board and placard signs are a "plague on our city" and that the law department is already drafting legislation.

Dever also introduced legislation to change the "right turn on red" conditions at the intersection of Belle and Lake Avenues to adapt to the changing circumstances caused by the new pedestrian flow of the Lakewood Catholic Academy.

Many projects and capital improve-

ments are financed each year through the Community Development Block Grant program. As part of that program, a local committee of volunteer citizens must review the applications for expenditures which are submitted by individuals, agencies and other city departments. This year the co-chairs of that committee were Cindy Marx and Frank Murtaugh. They submitted their report which was explained by Planning Director Thomas Jordan. In his remarks, Jordan indicated that he is anticipating funding cuts of 5 percent

by the Congress in next year's appropriations and is budgeting accordingly. A resolution directing the Mayor to submit the report was passed.

Council President Seelie then looked at the clock, which read 8:46—a surprisingly short meeting. Seelie could have seized on this rare opportunity to end the meeting right then. However, he humorously asked "what do you want to do now?"

Like any good politician, Denis Dunn (at large) sensed a vacuum, a lull, an opening. He dived in by announcing an upcoming event. The meeting ended at 9:23.

Local Girl Returns Home: New Associate Editor for The Lakewood Observer



Victoria Policard on graduation day. Above right is a photo of then Victoria MacPhearson playing basketball.

The *Lakewood Observer* has a new associate editor: Victoria A. Policard.

Victoria recently graduated from the University of Florida (Gainesville) with a degree in jour-

nalism. She grew up in Lakewood and graduated from Lakewood High School. Victoria, who is newly wed, lives in Lakewood with her husband Dan and their two dogs, Savannah and Cody.

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Flu and Pneumonia Immunizations in Lakewood

By Kathleen South

The time to swat the flu bug is now.

The Lakewood Department of Human Services is taking reservations now for flu and pneumonia shots. The clinics begin October 24.

Those eligible for the flu immunizations include people who are 65 and older, babies between the ages of 2-23 months old, women who will be pregnant during the flu season and individuals with a chronic condition, including asthma, diabetes, heart or lung problems, according to Debbie Barrow, city nursing supervisor.



The city suggests a \$10 donation for Lakewood residents and a \$15 donation for non-residents getting the flu immunization.

"No one will be turned away because of the inability to pay for the flu shot," said Barrow.

Dr. William Riebar, head of the infectious disease department at Lakewood Hospital said the flu shot will completely or partially keep people from getting the flu. "It will protect you and the people near you," Riebar added.

Reservations for pneumonia shots are also being taken. Unlike

flu shots which are necessary annually to protect against the latest strain of influenza, pneumonia shots need to be given once and only to seniors. The cost is \$25 for Lakewood residents and \$35 for non-residents. The department will bill Medicare Part B for both types of vaccine.

These clinics are scheduled:

- Oct. 24: 9:30-11 a.m. at Fedor Manor, 14006 Madison Ave.
- Oct. 27: 1-2:30 p.m. at Lakeshore Towers, 12506 Edgewater Drive
- Nov. 3: 1-4 p.m. at Lakewood Woman's Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park
- Nov. 10: 2-5 p.m. at Lakewood Woman's Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call (216) 521-1198, or on the web: www.ci.Lakewood.oh.us.

Lakewood Elections

Help For Lakewood Voters

The League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt and other leaders of the National American Women Suffrage Association. They led the campaign for the newly ratified Nineteenth Amendment that said it was illegal for states to deny the vote on the basis of gender. After getting that problem solved, the League stayed solid and for the past 85 years has developed into a national, state and local organization that voters look

to for the straight scoop on election information.

For many, elections are a confusing morass of television commercials, candidate and issue endorsements, and media manipulation. Over the years the League of Women Voters has emerged as an organization to which voters can turn for clear facts about election issues and candidates through League sponsored candidate and issues public forums and LWV Voters Guides.

The League of Women Voters has

two clearly stated missions: advocacy, which allows the League to take positions on issues, and education, which creates public policy forums, candidate's nights and printed material for the benefit of the public.

The advocacy arm of the League is a measured, carefully considered process. When an issue emerges the League may decide to support, not support or simply decline to take position. The League presents both sides of an argument and decisions are made on

the basis of consensus. Although the League may take a position on an issue, it will not support an individual candidate.

The Lakewood Chapter of League of Women Voters—Cuyahoga Regional Area is an active organization committed to educating Lakewood voters about the upcoming election. A Voters Guide strictly focused on Lakewood candidates and statewide issues will be published and distributed at public locations throughout the city.

Election Thoughts

By Mary Osburn

It is often said that in a democracy, the people get the government they deserve.

All elections are important—from presidential elections to races for local city governments. People's lives are affected by those they elect to public office. If you don't think so, look at the way local, state and national figures behaved in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and what it did to people's lives.

In Lakewood we are about to elect a city council. Anyone who knows anything about Lakewood knows that this city is facing a number of challenges as we forge into the future. The good news is, Lakewoodites are interested and pay attention to what is going on.

The issues are all over the map. Quality housing in an aging community for aging baby boomers,

maintaining a quality school system, accommodating the changing needs of a diverse community along with the day-to-day tasks of keeping the garbage picked up and maintaining the streets and public facilities are among the many challenges this city faces. It certainly behooves the voters to make an effort to know as much as possible about the candidates in order to make an informed decision.

I'm convinced that many people who don't vote aren't apathetic—they simply don't know whom to support. The reason can be as simple as they don't know what they are looking for in an elected official. But there are some basic qualities upon which we can all agree. Integrity and honesty are crucial qualities in a public official, along with a solid intellect. Candidates with good, fresh ideas about tackling some

of the city's problems and a clear vision should make voters take a second look and listen. Too often, good people are disregarded because of the fracture of partisan politics. We can't afford that kind of thinking in Lakewood.

I'm usually pretty clear on my candidates, but frankly this year I do not know whom I am going to support. But, I sure know the qualities I'm looking for in a city council. I think that a collegial atmosphere in city council and with the mayor's office will go a long way toward accomplishing what needs to be done in order for this city to forge ahead.

Too often, city officials have been mired in their own agendas and partisan politics, which frankly is insulting to the citizens. Although we now have non-partisan elections, Lakewood is still very much a partisan town.

In order to be effective, elected officials need to be able to reach over to the other side of the aisle. The council should be a body where colleagues respect each other even if they don't agree. It is often said that civility is a lost value that should be revisited. I couldn't agree more.

I have to say that I respect each person who is seeking public office. It's not easy to conduct a campaign, work full time and, for many, have a productive and full family life. Moreover, it takes guts to put yourself out there, face the scrutiny of the voters and the press, and take a stab at it. As in all things where there are winners and losers, anyone who has the guts to run is a winner.

I will certainly be paying a lot of attention to this election, as I do every election. I will certainly vote and I hope to see you at the polls.

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Lakewood Elections

Lakewood Chapter of League of Women Voters Studies November Ballot Issues

The League of Women Voters will host an Issues Forum at the Lakewood Woman’s Pavilion in Lakewood Park at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, October 18. The organization has studied the statewide ballot issues. The public is encouraged to attend and learn more about upcoming ballot issues outlined below.

Issue 1

League Explanation: Placed on the ballot by the General Assembly, this proposal pairs an infrastructure bond program with economic development funding to stimulate economic growth and create jobs. It would declare that local government public infrastructure, financial support for research and development and development of sites and facilities in Ohio that support industry and commerce are “public purposes,” so that government grants and loans can be made to private businesses, research organizations, and educational institutions for development purposes.

The amendment would authorize the state to issue general obligation bonds of up to \$1.35 billion for local government capital improvements to infrastructure (this portion is a renewal of a 1995 amendment); \$500 million to provide financial assistance through state and local government and state-supported and state-assisted institutions of higher education for research and development (similar Third Frontier funding is currently provided through the General Assembly); and \$150 million for state use to develop job-ready sites and facilities in Ohio. It authorizes the legislature to pass laws providing for implementation, including issuing and paying for the bonds.

This amendment would overrule the prohibition against the state government or any local government investing in private companies.

League Pros:

1. This amendment would provide a much-needed influx of funding for the infrastructure needs of local governments, including repair of roads and bridges and water and wastewater facilities.
2. Bond money will aid in transforming Ohio’s economy from its emphasis on heavy manufacturing to a more high-tech, knowledge-based economy.
3. Creating job-ready sites will speed job creation at a time when Ohio is struggling with unemployment.
4. Accountability is to be ensured in the enabling legislation, including limits on the use of eminent domain.

League Cons:

1. This amendment would override current Ohio constitutional protections against state and local governments giv-

ing away public tax dollars to benefit private business interests. The private market, not the government, should finance research and development.

2. In repaying the bonds, legislators lose flexibility in allocating funds for other state services that may be more urgent.

3. Proponents of the amendment anticipate that research and development funds will leverage private sector and federal investment dollars, but there is no requirement in the amendment itself that funding be matched or supplemented.

Issue 2: Early Voting

League Explanation: The proposal would provide for early voting, without stating a reason, by mail or in person during the 35 days prior to an election.

League Pros:

1. No-excuse early voting would encourage greater voter participation in elections by making voting more convenient.
2. Election officials can serve voters more easily than at crowded polls.
3. If there is a problem with the ballot or with voting equipment, there is time to fix it.

League Cons:

1. Voters who cast their ballots up to 35 days prior to an election may miss the revelation of significant information that would cause them to change their vote.
2. Mail-in ballots may be more susceptible to fraud or coercion.
3. In-person early voting may be more expensive to administer, particularly if additional sites, staff and/or equipment are needed.
4. Early voting may introduce new dynamics to the campaign process that distract from the discussion of issues and the merits of the candidates.

Issue 3: Limiting Political Contributions and Reforming Campaign Finance

League Explanation: This proposal would establish limits on contributions to candidates, political action committees, and political parties. Further, it would establish a number of additional prohibitions relating to contributions. It would also provide for public disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures.

League Pros:

1. The proposal would strike down recently enacted \$10,000 contribution limits and reduce limits to \$2,000.
2. The proposal would limit contributions from individuals under

the age of 18, unless the contribution comes from the individual’s personal funds (thereby eliminating contributions from parents on behalf of their children without the children’s participation).

3. The proposal reinstates Ohio’s long-standing prohibition of political contributions from corporations.

League Cons:

1. This proposal would place dollar limits for campaign contributions in the Ohio Constitution that may become unrealistic in the face of rising campaign costs and will be difficult to change. This level of detail does not belong in the Constitution.
2. Overly broad provisions of the amendment may impinge on individuals’ right to freedom of speech while participating in the political process, and are vulnerable to constitutional challenge.
3. The current limits, which increased substantially in the past year, allow contributors to give to the candidate of their choice without resorting to evasive tactics to circumvent low limits.

Issue 4: Independent Redistricting Process

League Explanation: This proposal is intended to address a lack of bipartisan input in redistricting/reapportionment for both Congressional and legislative districts. It would replace the current Apportionment Board, which consists of partisan elected officials, by providing for creation of an independent redistricting commission. It specifies that competitive districts (between the two major political parties) should be created whenever possible. The new process would allow any person or organization to submit a redistricting plan for consideration by the commission. This proposal also would authorize elections based on the new redistricting plan in the year following its adoption. Thereafter, redistricting would occur only following the federal decennial census.

League Pros:

1. This new process is designed to remove partisan politics from the redistricting process by allowing any person or organization to submit a redistricting plan for adoption by an independent redistricting commission.
2. The creation of competitive districts would restore a meaningful voice to voters by allowing them a choice of candidates, and would end the recent phenomenon of elections being decided by the primary instead of the general election.
3. The need to be elected from

competitive districts should moderate the positions of candidates who, without competition, tend to represent the extremes of their parties’ positions.

League Cons:

1. Competitiveness would be the primary consideration in designing new districts, and could infringe on the rights of minority voters to elect representatives of their choice.
2. The provision delineating membership on the independent redistricting commission is so restrictive that members will not be easily found, and may unconstitutionally restrict political participation by members.
3. The boundaries for competitive districts may not, in the end, look that much different from current gerrymandered districts. If standards such as compactness and other criteria established by the U.S. Supreme Court are not followed, the plan could be subject to judicial challenge.

Issue 5: Independent Election Administration

League Explanation: This proposal would establish a bipartisan state board of elections supervisors as the state’s chief elections authority, a responsibility currently held by the secretary of state. The state board of elections supervisors would function similarly to Ohio’s county boards of elections. They would hire a director to manage the day-to-day functions of election administration, but the board itself would retain authority to make all final decisions on elections matters.

League Pros:

1. An independent board of elections supervisors would remove the possible taint of partisanship or conflict of interest on the part of an elected secretary of state in the administration of elections.
2. Selecting, rather than electing, a state director of elections would professionalize the elections staff, which currently is subject to a partisan system of patronage.

League Cons:

1. The amendment wording fails to remove from the Ohio Constitution the election administration powers of the secretary of state, thereby creating a conflict within the Constitution.
2. Even though the board would hire a state director, the board itself is charged with making all election-related decisions by majority vote, thus diffusing accountability when something goes wrong and introducing the possibility for partisan wrangling.

For more LWV information, see www.lwvcra.org.

Grow Lakewood

Citizens' Committee Recommends Strategic Goals for Lakewood Challenges Residents to Take "Bold Action"

LakewoodAlive Hosts More Than 100 for First Public Presentation of Grow Lakewood Committee's Findings.

By Tom Powell-Bullock

LAKEWOOD, Ohio—Lakewood is at a "tipping point" and must adopt a forward-looking plan for development or face decline, according to a citizens' advisory committee convened by Lakewood Mayor Tom George to propose long-term strategic goals for the city. The Grow Lakewood Committee publicly presented its findings for the first time at a late September forum and challenged the more than 100 Lakewood residents attending to take "bold action" and work with city hall in task forces to develop action plans for its recommendations. The forum was sponsored by LakewoodAlive, a nonpartisan economic development group, at Grant Elementary School.

After a greeting by LakewoodAlive President Mary Anne Crampton and introduction by Mayor George and moderator Jay Foran, members of the 12-person Grow Lakewood Committee took turns presenting their findings.

"Bold action is required," declared one slide from Grow Lakewood's presentation. "Doing nothing is not an option."

Grow Lakewood was convened by Mayor George and confirmed by City Council to "take a fresh look" at development in Lakewood, according to Committee member Joe Stewart, including identifying goals, means for achieving them, and finding the money to pay for them.

Such work is valuable since Lakewood lacks "an existing comprehensive plan which lays out time-frames and detailed steps for implementation" of economic development, according to outgoing Lakewood Chamber of Commerce President Tim Laskey, although the City has commissioned some studies which make recommendations for specific projects.

The Grow Lakewood Committee worked for more than a year to generate its report, conducting 19 meetings, 15 interviews, and 8 consultations by a committee of 12 Lakewood citizens. Committee members represented a broad spectrum of experience and a high level of expertise.

"The committee participants were sharp, knowledgeable people who devoted a lot of time to the process and who did a good job of interviewing

many people in the community, gathering input, and making presentations to the Chamber and others," says Laskey.

Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan complimented the high caliber of the Grow Lakewood Committee's deliberations. "Every LakewoodAlive meeting is like going to a graduate-level class—but it's more fun. And it's free!" she said.

mittee's big-picture assessment.

Four "strategic impediments" facing Lakewood named by the report include aging infrastructure in need of replacement; a tight city budget lacking funds to upgrade infrastructure; tastes favoring urban sprawl and new homes in Avon or Medina; and the inconvenience of limited parking.

Lakewood's strengths include its

the chief means for achieving these goals growing housing values, adding commercial space and Lakewood-based jobs, and cutting city expenses to free up revenues for infrastructure investment.

The Grow Lakewood Committee regards housing as the "economic lynchpin" and recommends formation of a Housing Commission to define housing quality standards, identify gaps in housing stock, and develop housing support programs, among other issues.

To address city finances, Grow Lakewood recommends savings through efficiency and new cuts to make room for an annual \$3 million capital improvement budget plus a self-replenishing \$2 million economic development fund, as well as sufficient funds for a 30-year cycle of street repavement.

Committee member Mark Timieski noted that Grow Lakewood found "a consistent vision and identity ... continuously came up: a walkable city and different use of the streets by different groups of people at all hours of the day."

To capitalize on Lakewood's walkability and livability, the Committee recommends improving shopping and other life necessities to strengthen the city's appeal to home buyers who prefer Lakewood's older housing. To achieve this, Stewart recommends creating a "land bank" to pool space for new parking or commercial developments.

During the question-and-answer session, the audience raised issues across a broad spectrum: policing strategies, parking spaces, community development corporations for Lakewood, lakeshore erosion protection, rising water rates, and possible relocation of city hall to a downtown commercial core, among others.

Foran acknowledged that some may criticize the report as stating the obvious but defends the findings as nonetheless useful: "Grow Lakewood's report gets the issues out there on the table, makes them official, and it's coming from a community group which



This slide from the Grow Lakewood Committee's final report issues a call to arms to Lakewood citizens. Grow Lakewood Committee member Ed Favre says the "tipping point" is a window of opportunity for reforming Lakewood which is open now, but "won't always be." (image courtesy of Grow Lakewood)

According to Committee member (and forum moderator) Jay Foran, Grow Lakewood was partly inspired by the successful, open deliberations for school reconstruction and consolidation.

Grow Lakewood Committee member Ed Favre agrees. He likened Grow Lakewood's work to "a lengthy brainstorming process which was very collaborative, accepted input, and applied more brain power to these challenges."

"There was a lot of hands-on work here—not just sifting through paperwork. There were site visits and interviews with city employees," said Favre.

Committee member Pam Smith adds that Grow Lakewood "was able to think outside the box, and we had the luxury of time that often is lacking on Council to do so."

Strategic Priorities Recommended by Grow Lakewood

Grow Lakewood named strategic impediments, strategic goals, and key strategies for achieving them. Foran described these as "driver issues" and "areas of focus" identified by the Com-

engaged residents, its blend of commercial and residential, its walkability, and convenient location.

The six strategic objectives identified by the Grow Lakewood report are maintaining safety, improving infrastructure, improving city finances, making city government leaner and more accessible, improving neighborhood and housing quality, and attracting appropriately sized commercial development.

These recommendations were based on analysis, not merely opinion, said Favre. "[Grow Lakewood Chair] Mike Summers compiled our findings in a matrix, and the strategic recommendations we made were those issues that came up repeatedly when the gathered information was examined."

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Grow Lakewood

Grow Lakewood - continued

will add credibility and hopefully serve as a launching point. It will hopefully create consensus.”

Follow-Up to the Grow Lakewood Report

The Grow Lakewood report was presented to Mayor George in the summer, and he has now delivered it to City Council for consideration.

How will the report be followed up? Mike Summers, Chair of Grow Lakewood Committee, hopes city leaders will respond with action.

“We believe that our study would provide a very good starting point for the next round of strategic discussions. It’s a good skeleton, but we need to add flesh on all the bones,” he said.

Favre agrees. “Our charter was to identify and prioritize the key issues facing the city, the beginning of a strategic plan. The next stage is to develop this into an action plan. It’s up to the Mayor and the Council to determine how,” he said.

Foran, likewise, hopes community working groups will be established to “do the deep dive” into the details of the issues raised.

Mayor George says he expects and intends that the City will follow up on Grow Lakewood’s report.

“The whole intent from the very beginning was to have follow-up to the recommendations. Analysis is just the first part of the process. The implementation is the next logical step and the intent is that we would give full and complete consideration. The report has now been delivered to Council and I would hope they would act on it in a timely manner,” said George.

Council President Robert Seelie also expects to follow up on Grow Lakewood’s report in the coming months. He said one way to do so may be to incorporate some recommendations into the new City budget, which Council will be working on this winter.

Seelie also welcomed citizen task forces to follow up on the recommendations: “I would be open to citizens committees on any number of those proposals. I believe ‘the more the merrier’ in communities coming up with solutions and new ideas.”

Councilwoman Mary Louise Madigan, who attended the LakewoodAlive forum along with Councilman Ryan Demro, also wants the City to follow up on Grow Lakewood’s recommendations.

“It is our job to act on this, clearly. The whole report needs to be reviewed ... to identify what can be done on a cost-effective basis in the 2006 budget. We have to figure out what we can do inexpensively first,” she said.

Madigan and Demro teamed up to take one immediate action already: They endorsed Grow Lakewood’s recommendation of creating a new Housing Commission at City Council’s October 3 meeting. Madigan said the Housing Commission proposal “is wonderful and could be immediately addressed, directly, in Council’s Housing Committee.”

Favre hopes any new Housing Commission will “go into uncharted territory.”

“The Housing Commission should not be a reactive or regulatory body that interprets existing law and regulation. It should not be a Council commit-

tee—it should recruit experts to think outside the box,” he said.

Summers encouraged Lakewood residents to use Grow Lakewood recommendations as a barometer to assess City Council candidates.

“As voters, we have a chance to make a choice among the candidates based on whom we think would advance these goals,” said Summers.

Citizen Participation in Grow Lakewood Recommendations?

The Grow Lakewood Committee challenged the audience to take ownership of the city’s challenges, take action to address them, and become a part of the solution.

Madigan concurs on the importance of citizen participation and points to LakewoodAlive as an example of a volunteer-driven effort to improve Lakewood.

“This is a city of volunteers. If people stop volunteering in this town, we wouldn’t get anything done. We have to use that energy,” she said.

Grow Lakewood member Nickie Antonio is optimistic that Lakewood residents will respond energetically to the report.

“Lakewood has an incredible level of high-caliber citizens who want to be involved in charting the course for our community. Outside consultants are shocked at how exceptionally involved our citizens are in community committees,” she said.

Mayor George considers “citizen-input committees” to be “a very effective tool at engaging the public and building community consensus,” so anticipates “seeking resumes for the Housing Commission, for one.”

Seelie also welcomes citizen participation. “There are two boards in the makings. If individuals are interested in serving in advisory capacities, they should send a letter of interest to the City Council office or to the Mayor.”

Seelie adds that private individuals can act directly through such non-governmental forums such as LakewoodAlive and the Chamber of Commerce.

“It doesn’t necessarily have to always get done through the city government,” he said. “I think this could be the spark to increase the attendance to the Chamber of Commerce, LakewoodAlive, and other good organizations.”

Madigan had proposed several ideas to solicit citizen participation. “Does the Administration call for volunteers? I would hope the mayor publishes a phone number for volunteers to call in to signal their involvement,” said Madigan, who also suggested creating e-mail list-serves and arranging credit-earning internships for urban studies students at Levin College as low-cost ways to follow up on Grow Lakewood recommendations.

LakewoodAlive president Mary Anne Crampton said she can help Council get volunteers.

For more information:

You can read the complete Grow Lakewood report yourself by visiting <http://www.lakewoodalive.com/>. (Access the report directly at <http://www.lakewoodalive.com/growlakewoodreport.pdf>), and <http://lakewoodobserver.com/growlakewood.pdf>

Breast Cancer Awareness Month Lakewood Hospital’s Hope Program

While one out of eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime, early detection of the disease greatly improves treatment options, chances for successful treatment and survival. If you can’t prevent breast cancer, the next best thing you can do to protect your health is to detect it early. Recognizing symptoms, getting regular check-ups, and performing self-exams are just a few ways you can do this.

What is breast cancer?

Cells in the body normally divide (reproduce) only when new cells are needed. Sometimes, cells will divide for no reason, creating a mass of tissue, called a tumor. Tumors can be benign (not cancerous) or malignant (cancerous). In breast cancer, as well as in some other cancers, a tissue cell becomes abnormal and reproduces without control or order, forming a malignant tumor.

Am I at risk for breast cancer?

If you are a woman, you are at risk. (Men can also get breast cancer, but this is rare.) You may be more likely to develop breast cancer if you have one or more risk factors, but having a risk factor does not mean that you will get the disease. Seventy percent of all women with breast cancer have no known risk factor.

What are the risk factors of breast cancer?

The greatest risk factor for breast cancer is heredity—having a mother, aunt, sister or daughter who has breast cancer. A woman who is 35 years old has a one-in-622 chance of developing breast cancer, yet a woman who is 60 has a one in 24 chance. Lakewood Hospital is proud to sponsor the Hope Program on Oct. 22 and 29. Please call now to schedule your Hope Program appointment: 216-521-6700.

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Breast cancer will strike 200,000 times and claim more than 40,000 lives this year. Unfortunately, advanced or metastatic breast cancer is not curable. Therefore, emphasis must be directed toward early detection. More than 96 percent of women who are diagnosed with breast cancer at its early stage survive for greater than five years, according to the American Cancer Society.

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- Age 40-49, every one to two years
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- Examine your breasts each month
- Have your breasts examined by a health care provider at least once a year

Lakewood Hospital encourages women to participate in a special mammogram screening at a reduced rate of \$50. Screenings will be held on the last two Saturdays in October.

Call 216/529-6700 to schedule your Hope Program appointment.

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Slife of Life

SWAT Team Deployed at Kauffman Park

By Dan Slife

What's the middle-class Lakewood kid to do with his energy and time? Either it's wallow alone in the muddle. Or it's call a S.W.A.T. team huddle. The Lakewood kids huddled in the thick of the swarming mob gathered around Kauffman Park have answered that question. When seeing the swarming kids from afar, it is difficult to realize that within the swarm there really is a Lakewood S.W.A.T. team ramping up a rough and tumble positive identification of youth with the good of the city. They are doing so on their own creative, energetic and unsanctioned DIY terms, of course, the way youth has been doing it for ages. Sure, there will be bumps along the way, but let's probe for positive potentials.

In socio-economic terms the youths hanging out in the parking lot of the Seventh Day Adventist Church on any given evening are representative of "the situational working class." They might be smoking cigarettes. Out of school, free from the dress code, they sometimes wear the long T-shirts of the hood. More often than not, they are making more noise than the average Lakewood adult would care to indulge.

Neither the eyes nor ears of the passerby are likely to be charmed by



Some of the members of the S.W.A.T. Team. From left to right: Paul Chieky, Tyrone Dobbis, Justin Toeller, John Lippy and Alex Lash work to create their civic space as they see it.

this rag-tag mass of youth. However, against all odds, they actually possess a sense of self-organizing civics roughly consonant with the Lakewood legacy. Their cultivation of urban space is both acute and restorative in ways that

the un-inquiring observer will miss every time.

The S.W.A.T. huddle of kids without jobs is a telling image of working class America. The economic and social realities of a de-industrialized nation impinge on the S.W.A.T. huddle. As civic traditions are generally squeezed from the American pop-cultural conscience, along with the middle class that advanced them, these Gen Y youth are responding as best they can without guidance to the chaotic world in which they've found themselves. On a basic human level, they are creating a civic/tribal structure that engenders measures of respect for each other within open, public space.

In the S.W.A.T. huddle the kids possess a nimble tribal sense of civic morality. As America's middle class implodes, this group of Lakewood kids is tuning itself to a new politically flexible, culturally pluralist middle that allows for give-and-take relationships in civic space. They have the flexible cultural capacity to make a space into a place. Is anyone paying attention?

Litter is under attack when the S.W.A.T. team is at work. To hang onto their place, the S.W.A.T. team makes it a practice to tend to the area's substantial litter problem. Quite literally, this S.W.A.T. team is picking up the pieces of a world in chaos. As they pick up the pieces together, burrito wrappers meet the psychic scar tissue of youth, creating a unique sense of safety in good company.

In this urban space they've created a sense of place that "feels more like home, it's like our home," according to Josh Hain. It's a DIY third place, a new home for Lakewood's unfolding civic legacy. The S.W.A.T. team is thus the story of youth dangling from the vanishing middle, attempting within this particular place to re-stitch the wounds of a social order that have been

largely raped and pillaged.

The S.W.A.T. team is tight, bright and conscious of the need to maintain harmony and DIY intelligence in Lakewood. Thirsty for contact and communication with neighbors in Lakewood, they have a lesson to teach us, if we're willing to listen.

"We're the S.W.A.T. team—Special Winning Attitude Team," says punctured rapper Kyle Rains, who calls the rough civic tune with authority and verve. These guys are the Kauffman Park regulars.

Maybe you have seen them, or even called the police on them. Did you know their message is all about respect? Respect for yourself, your neighbor, and your "hood" in the "Wood." How the message of respect for yourself and others informs the interface between the S.W.A.T. team dudes and the young girls drawn to the park remains an important subject for future *Lakewood Observer* inquiries.

Nonetheless, this rugged picture of emergent community norms among youths hanging in the situational working class "hood" is not an easy sell to cowards, racists and squares. The story of the S.W.A.T. team is definitely worth telling from the S.W.A.T. team's perspective, because their voices speak for an effort to create a set of rules under stressful life conditions wherein the dominant moral code is tottering and social chaos is increasing.

It is telling, but not in obvious ways, that they turned to a church in a time of trouble. When transient groups of teenagers, who lacked respect for DIY community norms appeared on their scene, the S.W.A.T. crew nearly lost their place to hang. As active and intelligent problem-solvers, they negotiated with the Reverend at the Seventh Day Adventist Church and obtained permission to meet up in the church's private lot. There they ride bikes,

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Slife of Life

skateboard, hang out and goof off. In exchange, they keep the lot free of litter and do what they can to minimize litter in the park and surrounding lot.

"The trash cans are always overflowing at Kauffman Park. We're always filling them," Kyle says pointing towards the park from the church parking lot.

Sure enough, paper bags and fast food wrappers pile on top of the can, swaying in the breeze. Either there aren't enough cans or they aren't emptied at a frequency matching this S.W.A.T. team's efficiency and dedication to place-making.

Kyle Rains and Dan Ulrich lead this self-organizing collective. Under their leadership, the S.W.A.T. crew has established a clean, safe place where Kauffman Park regulars can hang out without parental oversight, while attempting to minimize unlawful chaos-making within the park's vicinity. Because they believe in themselves as young Lakewood neighbors of good conscience, they believe they can police themselves.

That doesn't mean that challenges to the good order of the S.W.A.T. crew never occur. The S.W.A.T. crew swears the "regulars" aren't there to cause trouble. As Josh Hain explains, "Ever since the kids from Madison Park have been coming here, they've been getting [everyone] kicked out."

It's all about perception, Kyle explains. Race matters, too, when many of the kids from Madison Park are black. "When I give someone a friendly handshake they assume we're in a gang."

For ages, adults have felt threatened by the high-energy horseplay of youth. As perceptions about race and class register on the radar screens of adult passersby, assumptions are often made about the quality of life in a city. These assumptions are often wildly inaccurate about the human quality of life each of these energetic and intelligent youth are actually developing in their hangout.

"When kids get loud, it's automatically [assumed to be] violent [by adults]," says Matt Dawes.

When enough of the children engaged in the horseplay are dark in complexion, people are quick to make assumptions that gang violence and drug dealing are fast becoming the dysfunctional community norm.

While these hazards are real in any unsupervised urban place, the truth, in this particular engagement, veers from these assumptions. When the S.W.A.T. kids hang at Kauffman or in the Church parking lot they understand the need for reciprocity in creating a community place. "If you want to keep a place," Ulrich says through a cloud of exhaled cigarette smoke, "you respect it. It's amazing how far respect will go."

On keeping up with the trash duty, Ulrich explains that sometimes when the irregular crowd tries to leave a mess, he and Kyle "have to stand around and tell them to pick up their trash." With Kyle as the brawn and Ulrich as the brains of their operation, they cre-

ate and maintain a functional distance between the group and the saboteurs, the young and the old.

It must be noted that Lakewood's amenities are very porous, attracting youth from east, south and west. This must be registered as a concern. For it is to be expected that violence and gang related activity can easily rise as "large groups come and go" through Lakewood.

In the face of migratory chaos-making and neglect for the needs and interests of middle and lower class youth, these S.W.A.T. boys have set up shop. With considerable intelligence, they have organized a haven of relative

process, which can land good neighbors in his crew and bad neighbors outside it. For Kyle, it's all about keeping the city clear on simple and complex terms of engagement.

Other careless crews, either new to Lakewood or from outside the city, are all too often litter thugs, who disrespect the place and the efforts S.W.A.T. team is making to sustain their hang.

With S.W.A.T. team there are only a few rules required for a youth to enter into the diverse mix of the self-organizing civic network. Don't yell, litter, drink alcohol, smoke weed, fight, or engage in any other behavior in such a manner that disrespects the place and

it's not surprising that adult perception still rules the day.

"What I've noticed about some in Lakewood [is] they'll do anything to keep a kid down," says Matt Dawes.

Dawes' perception that Lakewood is not in tune with the social needs of youth is reinforced by economic pressures that create a hyper-individualism of fierce resource competition. Unfortunately, attention to the needs of the underclass is easily left in the dust as America's industrial strength declines in a geopolitical rat race to the bottom.

Security pressure at Lakewood High School is a beef with S.W.A.T. team. After the school day is over, when



stability and mutual support in a world that seems increasingly hostile to their needs.

"Most of us are middle and lower middle class," explains Josh Hain. Many of these kids face the challenges of divorce, home foreclosure and unemployment on the home front. Despite, or perhaps because of this, they have created a place where respect and tolerance rule the day.

As group leader, Kyle pushes the S.W.A.T. team to achieve increasing levels of group tolerance. "I'm open. Most people aren't open to other social groups. I'm a social chameleon."

Class and racial dynamics tell part of the territorial tale wherein tensions sometimes occur between the Madison clicks and S.W.A.T. boys. Kyle attempts to toe a winning line with creative leadership. When hanging with the S.W.A.T. crew, Kyle assumes his most creative leadership role by simply keeping the hangout clean and on the right side of street legal.

In mastering the simplest things first, Kyle has discovered at the simplest level of friction that litter plays an important part in the differentiation

elicits police intervention.

From time to time there have been reports of drinking in the park. S.W.A.T. team members credit themselves with keeping a lid on alcohol and drug consumption. According to Tyrone Dobbis, "During the summer there were only four arrests ... for drinking [in the park]" while S.W.A.T. was present. When asked about drug dealing in the park, and whether the presence of hard-core drugs had been detected, Kyle responded that "nobody in Lakewood knows what crack is, other than the pavement."

While the scent of marijuana might occasionally pepper the air, these S.W.A.T. dudes attribute such disrespect for the rules of the place to other, transient groups. Actual violence beyond horseplay is surprisingly low, given that on any night the number of youths hanging out in the Kauffman Park vicinity ranges anywhere from 10 to 40.

"We play fight. I've seen one real fight up here and that was a spill-over of some [stuff] that started at school," says Kyle.

Even with violence, drug use and chaotic behavior kept to a minimum,

crowds of kids are dispersed, administrators assume the boys to be security threats, they complain. Under increased security pressure, they feel that their needs to socialize on an informal basis can no longer be satisfied on school turf. At the same time, video surveillance at the high school and parks increases feelings of paranoia. These kids feel that they are being watched.

While the S.W.A.T. team feels the pressures of the police state encroaching on their freedom to assemble, they are responding in ways that are remarkably positive in light of the conditions and resources at their disposal. Rather than pursuing a path of prison-bound chaos making by acting out in Kauffman Park, they are attempting to establish a sense of order in a sea of social and economic chaos.

What the S.W.A.T. team has created is a space where learning takes place without the school. Here, at the head of Arthur Avenue, they learn from and take care of each other. It's a hard knocks brotherhood. In a space lacking walls, ceilings and curriculum they've

see **SWAT**, page 17

Lakewood Events

Fun Run and 5K to Help Support Lakewood Charities

The Junior Women’s Club of Lakewood (JWCL) proudly announces the creation of a new and different fun run and 5K race. The Great Pumpkin Fun Run and 5K Race is scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2005 at 8:30 a.m. at Lakewood Park.

This year funds raised will go to the Lakewood Y, the Lakewood Public Library and the H2O program.

Costumes are not required, but



Karen Lenehan, race co-chair, and Shelly Napolitan, Lakewood resident, runner and all-around good sport, dressed as Thing 1 and Thing 2 from Dr. Seuss’s Cat in the Hat.

they are encouraged. Awards and prizes will be presented for fastest finishing times, best costumes (individual and group), as well as for both the longest and fastest “caterpillars” (groups of five or more that remained joined together throughout the race). “It is our hope the ‘fun’ in this run gives it staying power as an annual tradition,” said Lynn Foran, JWCL President.

Pre-registration forms for the Great Pumpkin Fun Run and 5K Race are available at www.hermescleveland.com. Participants are encouraged to pre-register by October 20. Race day registration will also be available at Lakewood Park beginning at 7:30 a.m. The first 300 registered will receive a long-sleeved t-shirt. The event is being promoted by Hermes Sports & Events.

Hosting a fundraising race is not a new idea; however, the Lakewood Juniors believe incorporating the Halloween fun into the event will make it a stand-out event for the city. “The mission of JWCL, a long-standing group of community volunteers, is to raise funds for Lakewood-based charities,” said Foran.

For further information on JWCL and the Race, contact race co-chairs Karen Lenehan at 216-521-0120 or Juliann Sutton at 216-226-1877 or contact Hermes Cleveland at 216-623-9933.



Kiwanians Dave Slife and Bo Rog cook up some clams at recent Kiwanis Clam Bake.

Kiwanis, a Long Tradition of Service in Lakewood

By Victoria A. Policard

He was sitting in Caribou coffee shop donning a navy-blue blazer with a small gold pin on his left lapel. It gleamed with the letter “K.”

The K on John Huetter’s pin stands for Kiwanis. Huetter is the 84th president of The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood. Huetter and fellow Kiwanians, as they refer to themselves, seem to have a presence all over Lakewood: the middle schools, high school, clam bakes at Lakewood Park, they make and sell donuts and much more. Many residents ask, what is Kiwanis?

“We raise money to give it away to children in the community,” said Marie Andrews, a member of The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood. “Our emphasis is children.”

Huetter adds, “Kiwanis is a civic organization that works for the betterment of the community.”

Kiwanis history

The first Kiwanis club, started in Detroit in 1915, was originally comprised of professional men who joined the club to promote the exchange of businesses among its members. The name, Kiwanis, is an American Indian expression that means “we trade.” Within four years of the club’s birth, the Kiwanis’ mission changed to one of a less self-serving goal—community service. Their official motto is: “Serving the Children of the World.” Since its Detroit inception, the club has undergone many major changes. The “organization for men” now has over 50,000 women as members, and the service club has expanded to 96 nations and geographical areas.

According to the Kiwanis Interna-

tional website, there are over 250,000 Kiwanis members. In a year’s time the group has raised and donated close to \$1 million and contributed 6.2 million hours of volunteer service.

Kiwanis in Lakewood

With its organization in 1921 with 83 members, The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood is the city’s oldest (and first) service club. Over the years, the group has contributed in various ways to Lakewood’s youth and its community at large.

Each year, five \$10,000-scholarships are awarded to Lakewood high school seniors, said Don Fox, past president of The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood. Students must be Lakewood residents, but they don’t need to attend Lakewood public schools.



Matt Mathiott thinking of doughnut \$\$!

Other contributions made by The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood include: a 1996 donation of an illuminated community sign on Warren Road, a new van donated to The Achievement Center for Children in 1988, and the building of a community shelter at Lakewood Park in 1971.

Many Kiwanis members say that the fellowship and common purpose that they share with one another is the perk or reward of the club.

Whether they’re selling candy, clam bake tickets or the donuts they make, Lakewood Kiwanians said it’s all part of building generations of community leaders.

The little gold pin seems to stand for a lot.

The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood meets every Tuesday at noon in the Lakewood Masonic Temple on Detroit Avenue. For more information, call: (216) 226-9225, or on the Web: www.lkwdpl.org/kiwanis/



Some of the quilts to be auctioned off.



Quilt Auction at Lakewood Methodist Church

By Anne Palomaki

A Quilt Auction will be held at Lakewood United Methodist Church, 15700 Detroit Ave. (the corner of Summit and Detroit) on Sunday, October 23 at 3 p.m. The quilts may be viewed from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$3. There will be over 120 items including full-size quilts, table runners, wall hangings and baby quilts. The quilts were hand-quilted, hand-pieced, appliquéd or machine quilted. A silent auction will also be included in this event. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are available in the church office from 9 to 4:30 p.m. daily as well as at the door on the day of the auction.

All proceeds will be donated to Flat Rock Homes, which is a Health and Welfare agency in covenant relationship with the United Methodist Church. Flat Rock serves children, adolescents and adults who are mentally retarded or developmentally disabled. The Flat Rock Home is located west of Norwalk, Ohio.

Fright Music in God’s House

What: A Little More Fright Music. The return of our popular Halloween organ concert featuring Larry Picard playing music that is both eerie and comical on the Schantz organ and the Eric Herz harpsichord. Also Amy Hall will sing two sets of songs, one focusing on music popular in 1905. This is being done as part of Lakewood Congregational Church’s 100th anniversary celebration. As last year, the space will be decorated, the performers will be in costumes, and you can see the playing style of the organist up close thanks to projections on a large screen above the organ. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be taken.

When: Sunday, October 30, 2005 at 4 p.m.

Where: Lakewood Congregational Church, 1375 West Clifton Blvd.

Why: Part of the Festival Arts Series at Lakewood Congregational Church.



Marie Andrews observed enjoying clams.

Events and Happenings



Ninth Annual Pumpkin Palooza

Calling all Pumpkin Fans

By Celia Dorsch

Pumpkin Palooza is Sunday, Oct. 30, from 1-4 p.m. at Lakewood High School's east gym, east cafeteria and L-Room. Admission is free. Donations of canned goods will be accepted at the door.

Palooza's Great Pumpkin Patch will be filled with over 100 decorated pumpkins. Looking at the pumpkins is free. For 25 cents, you can buy a raffle ticket for your favorite pumpkin. Pizza will be available to purchase from Roman Fountain or Domino's. There will also be a bake sale of home-baked goods.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from Pumpkin Palooza will be donated to two local charities: Lakewood Christian Service Center and Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp.

Pumpkin Palooza will also feature indoor carnival games, children's crafts, a costume parade, a "haunted hallway," and storytelling in a "spooky" setting. The McKinley Elementary School choir will kick off the event with a special Halloween performance at 1 p.m. in the east gym.

Started in 1999 by Lakewood's youth volunteer program, H2O "Help to Others," dozens of other organizations and city departments now help to host this event. Larsen Architects, Hinkley Lighting, Fairchild Chevrolet, and First Federal of Lakewood are among the major sponsors this year.

Pumpkin Decorators Needed

Anyone can decorate a pumpkin for Pumpkin Palooza's raffle. Real or foam pumpkins (available at craft stores) can be used. There is one restriction: no carved pumpkins. Buyers want to be able to display their pumpkins as long as possible.

Bring all decorated pumpkins to Lakewood High School's east cafeteria. Please use the entrance under the north gym overhang at the front of the building. Pumpkin drop-off dates and times are: Friday, Oct. 28 from 3-5 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 30 from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. For more information, call H2O: (216) 529-4173 or (216) 529-6045



West End Halloween Window Walk

Join the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce and the Beck Center for the Arts in the West End Halloween Window Walk. It features a Halloween window painting contest open to all students in grades K-12. Students will be assigned one storefront window in the West End. Students must paint their window the week of October 23.

Judging will take place on Saturday, October 29 from 10 a.m. until Noon. The Awards Ceremony will be held at the Beck Center for the Arts at 4 p.m. on October 29. Prizes will be awarded in different age categories. Windows will be cleaned on November 1 by the students in the West Shore Career Tech, Job Training and Work Study Program.

Contact the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce at 216.226.2900 to participate.

South Lakewood Woman's Club Luncheon

Card Party on November 9

The South Lakewood Woman's Club will hold a Luncheon Card Party to support their Lakewood Philanthropic Charities given each year. The event will be Wed., Nov. 9, 2005 at the Beck Center's Skylight Room, 17801 Detroit Ave., starting at noon. For reservations information, call Rosemary Calkins at 216-221-5997.

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Winterhurst offers many programs for adults and children.

The following is the schedule for recreational skating.

Adults only \$4.50/\$5.50

Adult Only sessions are for ages 18 and over.

General Admission Fees -

Resident \$3.00 Non-Resident \$4.50.

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
Thursday	8:30 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.	/All Ages
		Adults Only
Friday	8:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.	(Live Organ Music)
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

Special Skating Sessions

Halloween Costume Skate & Contest

Sunday, October 30, 2005 2:00 P.M. - 4:00P.M.

Prizes Awarded for BEST Costumes

DJ skates / Live DJ at rink side!

Admission for DJ Skates is only \$5.00

October 21, November 18, December 16, 2005

Birthday Parties may be scheduled during the following

Public Sessions only: Wednesdays 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Saturdays 10:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Sundays 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

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Lakewood Library

Upcoming Programs at the Library

Announcement: Lakewood Technology Summit II

Lakewood Councilman Ed FitzGerald will lead a community discussion about how technology can be used to improve city services and quality of life in Lakewood. Topics will include wireless network services in Lakewood and its possible uses.

When: Friday, October 28, 2005, at 7 p.m.

Where: Lakewood Public Library, Main Library Auditorium (15425 Detroit Ave., Lakewood, OH; phone: 216-226-8275)

Who should attend: Civic leaders, elected officials, representatives from technology and communications companies, journalists, citizens

The Author's Story

Case Western's Ruth Sylvester is back to discuss some great books.

Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner. Thursday, October 27 at 1:30 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Songwriting Workshop

Susan Weber and Walt Campbell are back to help you write your own song using tools like rhyme scheme, meter, form, continuity and repetition. Space is limited. Please call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register.

Tuesday, November 1 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Speculations

9/11: What's Wrong with this Picture?

Independent Investigator Mel Reckling takes a comprehensive look at scientific evidence that may cast doubt on the official government account of the events of September 11, 2001.

Tuesday, October 25 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Family Coupon Clipping

Lakewood's Coupon Queen, Tracy Woolbright, will show you how to bring home the bacon with money left over for family fun.

Tuesday, October 18 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

An Evening with Loung Ung

Support the Lakewood Public Library Foundation and enjoy an evening of literature and refreshment with Loung Ung, author of the critically acclaimed *First They Killed My Father* and the new smash hit *Lucky Child*. Tickets are \$35 per person and may be purchased at the Main Library and Madison Branch Circulation Desks. Copies of the books will be on sale at the event for signing.

Monday, October 24 at 7 p.m.
Beck Center for the Arts
17801 Detroit Avenue

Qendra Teknologjike

Albanian-speakers can learn about the services and resources offered by the Technology Center as well as some computer basics in a class taught completely in their native language. 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.

Thursday October 20 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center. Registration is required; please call 216-226-8275 ext. 127 to register.

Appearing at Lakewood Public Library Award-Winning Haitian Author

By Vincent O'Keefe

An American Book Award Winner, a Pushcart Short Story Prize, a National Book Award finalist, an Oprah Book Club selection—for a highly talented writer, such a list might comprise a lifetime of literary achievement. For author Edwidge Danticat, the list was achieved before reaching her mid-30s. Danticat will appear at Lakewood Public Library on Wed., Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium. This free event is part of the Creative Writer's Reading Series at the library, a collaborative effort by the Lakewood Public Library and Cleveland State University's Department of English, Poetry Center, and Creative Writing Program.

Edwidge Danticat (pronounced Ed-WEEJ Dahn-tee-CAH) was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti in 1969. At age four, she was separated from her parents when they immigrated to the United States. She and a younger brother were raised by relatives until 1981, when at the age of 12 she rejoined her parents and two new siblings in Brooklyn, New York. Two years later she published her first writings in English. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in French literature from Barnard College and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Brown University in 1993. Since then she has published three novels, a short story collection, two works of juvenile fiction, and a variety of non-fiction works. She is now based in Miami, Florida.

Much of Danticat's fiction involves 20th century Haitian history, particularly the time of the Duvalier government and its brutal secret police, the Tonton Macoutes. In fact, one of her most recent works is *The Dew Breaker* (2004), a novel comprised of several short stories that explore the actions (and their aftermath) of a "dew breaker," or torturer, who worked for the tyrannical Haitian government as a young man in the 1960s. In the following excerpts from our recent interview, Danticat describes some of her philosophies as a Haitian-American fiction writer.

VO: How and why did you decide on the structure of *The Dew Breaker*? Do you consider it a novel, short story collection, or something else?

ED: I consider it a combination of novel and short story, something in

between. I had written the stories separately as stories then realized as they were coming along that there were common threads between them, so I decided to further mine and explore this and I realized that this picture of one man—the dew breaker—was emerging. That's how the structure came about.

VO: Do you feel that you write your fiction for a specific audience, a more general one, or both? What would you most like American readers—especially those who may not be very familiar with Haiti and Haitian-Americans—to gain from the works?

ED: I want to write for whomever feels they want to read my work. I think all writers want the widest possible audience. However when I sit down to write, I usually imagine the girl I was when I was 16 who was looking for books with images of herself, or like herself in them. I write for that girl. And now that I am a mother—my daughter Mira is six months old—I also feel that I am writing for my daughter.

VO: Why do you write juvenile fiction—e.g. *Anacoana: Golden Flower* and *Behind the Mountains*—in addition to your adult fiction? What would you most like juvenile readers to gain from these works?

ED: I was meeting a lot of young people who came to my readings with their parents and the parents would say to me, "I'd like my son or daughter to read your books, but I don't think they're ready for them. Some people think my books are too harsh and sad for young people, so I decided to write those books for younger people. However, I think adults can read them too. These books also speak to/from the younger woman in me. It's like that girl I was, when I was 16, writes those books, so she can have them to read.

VO: When you write historical fiction, how much of an obligation or burden do you feel towards those who lived that history? In other words, how do you negotiate the ethics of writing about real people in fictional ways?

ED: It takes me a while to warm up to writing historical fiction because I think it's a very large task. You want to take liberties of course with the past, but you want to honor those who lived it especially if they lived something ter-

see **Author**, page 16

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Where & When: Lakewood Public Library
10 a.m. or 7 p.m., on Thursday, October 27th

Limited Seating, RSVP Now:
1-866-339-1238

Chef Geoff

Leftover Time

By Jeff Endress

So often, I hear the familiar refrain from friends, associates and readers, “Chef Geoff, I’m just too busy to worry about cooking dinner after I get home from work.” It is an all too familiar problem.

Our lives are crowded by obligations that sap our time like a thirsty mosquito. There are the professional obligations of work, a necessary evil to pay the bills. There’s the personal time drain for running errands, fixing the broken light switch, mowing the grass, and watching the Browns’ game. There are community involvement, church, board meetings, drafting lengthy dissertations for the *Lakewood Observer*. And of course, there are the family issues that devour huge chunks of our available time: getting the kids to soccer practice, attending school meetings, getting the kids from soccer practice, Boy Scouts, running off to Front Line to get new soccer shoes (both turf and indoor), making sure homework is done, soccer games, and of course there’s soccer. Our schedules are so jammed packed it is little wonder that when it comes time to think about dinner we reach a point of temporal overload.

The situation is undoubtedly worse for those who don’t like their kitchens, much less the thought of actually cooking in one. But, even for those of us who view cooking as a recreational activity with gastronomic fringe benefits, sometimes our time banks are just too drained. Thus, we take short cuts, declaring that microwave hot dogs and Kraft Mac-n-Cheese is really the latest trend in dining. Without adequate time to prepare a meal, we resort to carry-out pizza or hitting a franchise eatery. While one might question the time management skills of those who complain they can’t find an hour to cook dinner, but are able to devote 55 minutes to standing in line at Outback, that is an issue for later reflection. The fact is, the pressures on our schedules are very real, the lack of time acute, and our ability to plan, cook and serve a nightly meal suffers as a result. Time

management can help, and in the kitchen, actually planning on “leftovers” can be the perfect solution. Before you stop reading, with visions of greasy, reheated dried-out pork chops, give me a little credit; those aren’t the kinds of leftovers I’m talking about.

In general terms, the process of preparing any given dish does not increase dramatically by increasing the number of portions. Assuredly, cooking times may increase, but you don’t have to constantly monitor the oven. When I cook Thanksgiving dinner, I always cook a turkey to serve 20, even though I seldom serve more than 10. While the roasting time will increase, except for basting, the additional roasting time does not require my time. And when I’m through, there’s turkey that can now be turned into sandwiches, tetrazini, croquettes and so forth. Likewise, if I’m making a pot of spaghetti sauce, it takes no longer to make 2 gallons than 2 quarts. Why make a dozen meatballs when the investment in time to make 100 is not significantly greater (the key being baking, not sautéing)? I frequently buy two flank steaks or London broils, cook one and freeze the other in its marinade, perhaps pre-sliced for later stir fry. When you prepare extra, you have a freezer full of “prepared meals” that can be on the table with little preparation time and only cooking required.

My favorite dish for advanced preparation is lasagna. The prep time to assemble lasagna for 24 is only minimally greater than making a single batch for six. Four quarts of sauce simmers the amount of time as one. Two boxes of pasta cook in the same amount of time as half of a box. Assembling the additional trays for the freezer only takes another 10 minutes or so, and multiplying the ingredient amounts should take no time whatever. But the net result is three freshly made dinners, ready to pop in the oven from the freezer on a night that you’re just too busy to cook. And, if you package your “leftovers” in a disposable foil baking dish, you even avoid the clean-up.

The REAL DEAL Lasagna (Serves 9 generously)

I frequently quadruple the recipe and freeze 3 pans for future use.
DO NOT cook if freezing.

For the sauce:

- 1/4 cup olive oil, extra virgin
- 2 tbsp. finely chopped, fresh Italian flat leaf parsley
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed and chopped
- 1/2 cup finely chopped yellow onion
- 1/2 lb. ground chuck
- 1/4 lb. ground pork
- 1 large can (28 oz.) Italian (Roma) tomatoes (undrained)
- (2) 6 oz. cans tomato paste
- 2 tbsp. sugar
- 1 tbsp. salt
- 2 tsp. oregano
- 1 tsp. basil
- 1/4 tsp. pepper

Saute onion, garlic and parsley in 1/4 cup olive oil until tender and onions are translucent. Add ground pork and ground chuck, sauté until browned. Add tomatoes, tomato paste, sugar, salt, oregano basil, pepper, mix well, mashing tomatoes. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to a low simmer, cover and cook 3 hours, stirring occasionally.

Lasagna:

- Sauce (as above)
- 1/2 box lasagna noodles
- 1 lb. ricotta
- 1 lb. mozzarella, sliced thinly
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan (Regiano preferred)
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil

Cook the noodles in salted water until JUST al dente. It is better that they be under-cooked than over-cooked. Immediately cool under running cold water. Toss noodles in oil and return to pan of cool water; keep separate during assembly.

Using a 2 1/2 - 3 inch high, 9 x 12 pan, assemble as follows:

Ladle sauce on bottom to cover pan. Follow with a layer of noodles, ricotta, mozzarella, sauce, Parmesan. Use three layers in all, ending with sauce and Parmesan. (I usually alternate the direction of the noodles as it seems to help the finished product maintain its shape). Bake at 350°, 45-50 mins. and allow to rest 10 minutes before cutting (this will allow it to firm up).

If you’re freezing extra uncooked lasagna, wrap in plastic followed with foil. Frozen lasagna can be cooked directly from the freezer. Cooking time will be 1 hr. 15 mins. Since trying to spread the ricotta can be a problem, I pipe it on with a pastry bag, making a crosshatch pattern. If you don’t have a pastry bag, use a large zip-lock with a 1/2-inch cut from one corner.

Serve with fresh garlic bread, a cold tossed green salad of baby spinach with sliced cremini mushrooms with a balsamic vinaigrette and a nice Merlot



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Lakewood Mail Call

Your August 23, 2005's "Minding the Issues" article titled "Supreme Court watch: Activist Judges" by Gordon Brumm was timely as there is a vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court now.

However, as I will explain, it failed to properly address the Supreme Court as it should relate to its members Constitutional Oath of Office.

Before I address the article point by point, I want the reader to be aware of the following:

All elected officials as well as appointed for life Supreme Court and Federal judges take an Oath of Office.

In that Oath, they swear their allegiance to preserve, protect and uphold the Constitution of the United States.

The Congressional Oath of Office reads:

"I, (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservations or purpose of evasion and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

The question that the tax paying public deserves to know is: Do any members of Congress abide by this Oath, as they all swear to do?

It is possible to honor the above Oath, but no incumbent dare do so if they want to hold on to their elected position. To do so would disrupt most of the functions of government as practiced today.

To protect the special interest, highly corrupt "system" of government that reigns today, all members of Congress are expected to perjure themselves (a crime for US unelected citizens) and regularly violate their sworn Oaths. Secure in knowing they'll

never be held accountable to it, or you. By the media, their political party or the religious right.

This amounts to gigantic government fraud against every American citizen!

The U.S. Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Land (Article VI), and any statute, to be valid, must be in agreement. It is impossible for both the Constitution and a law not in accordance or violating it to be valid. One must prevail.

The Sixteenth American Jurisprudence, Second Edition, Section 256 reads: "The general rule is that an un-Constitutional statute, though having the form and name of law, is in reality no law, but wholly void, and ineffective for any purpose; since un-Constitutionality dates from the time of its enactment, and not merely from the date of the decision so branding it. An un-Constitutional Law, in legal contemplation, is as inoperative as if it had never been passed. Such a statute leaves the question that it purports to settle just as it would be had the statute not been enacted.

Since an un-Constitutional law is void, the general principles follow that it imposes no duties, confers no rights, creates no office(s), bestows no power or authority on anyone, affords no protections, and justifies no acts performed under it...

A void act cannot be legally consistent with a valid one. An un-Constitutional law cannot operate to supersede any existing law. Indeed, insofar as a statute runs counter to the fundamental Law of the Land, it is superseded thereby.

No one is bound to obey an un-Constitutional law and no courts are bound to enforce it."

Mr. Brumm is incorrect in stating that strict constructionists "look to the

intent of the Founders who wrote those words."

The entire Federal Judicial Branch of government and all the ABA approved attorneys ignore the Constitution and abdicate their responsibility to enforce its mandates and provisions.

Mr. Brumm then lists "three reasons" for disregarding the founders' intent. He goes on to justify the blatant violations of our country's founding Document and the Founders' original intent in stating "We can't know What the Founders' intent was."

The historical record easily dismisses that inaccuracy. *The Federalist Papers*, written by James Madison and other Constitutional Convention delegates explained the discussions and intent during the entire drafting process of our Constitution. It clearly shows what the completed document's intent was and what the Founders were thinking about and debating during its creation.

The Constitution was written in simple language so the common man, whose interests it was written for, could

understand it.

Again, Mr. Brumm errs in using the term democracy to describe our government although he is correct in stating it is "majority rule."

What we are no longer taught in school, is no longer spoken by politicians or priests is that we live in a Republic ("For the Republic for which it stands" says it best) featuring Constitutionally limited government.

Unfortunately, Mr. Brumm's biggest misrepresentation is that there are any "Constitutional restraints" applied, implemented or respected by our runaway, emerging police state government.

He then poses the question, "What exactly are the proper purposes of government?" as if, they too, are undefined or exist in the same incorrect realm as he claims the Founders' "intent" didn't.

The record says the Founders of our Constitution were crystal clear in what were the "proper purposes of the government."

—Dennis Novak

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The Buck Stops Here

By Bob Buckeye

On January 8, 1815, Andrew Jackson defended New Orleans from British attack in the last battle of the War of 1812, a battle which took place 15 days after the peace treaty of Ghent had been signed. It took more than that time for news of the treaty to cross the ocean and travel south by stagecoach to New Orleans. Today, we know something almost as soon as it happens. Who can forget the images the day of September 11 transmitted cross-country on computers? Or to see what Katrina did to New Orleans as soon as, if not before, the government?

Those, who, like Eliot Weinberger, live a mile north of the World Trade Center saw a world whose images cameras may have seen but did not see. Weinberger's record of that day is, as he describes it, "some notes from a temporal and emotional limbo. ... There are no cars, no mail, no newspapers." We cannot know the maelstrom except from inside it, and those of us

outside it, no matter how much we may be moved by what we have seen, are left with today's images to remember, followed tomorrow by others, perhaps elsewhere in the world. If living is a leaving of traces, as Walter Benjamin argues, we do not find them in the images the media supplies. Only the first-hand account from the eye of the storm can take us there, and once there, we understand it is not what we see from the outside. The diary, letter and scrawled note carry an authority the journal and novel lack. Call these fugitive writings messages in bottles sent from terra incognita.

In the weeks before the fall of Berlin in WWII, a German journalist begins a diary on April 20, 1945, Hitler's birthday, and four days after the opening bombardment for the Soviet attack on the city. There were no newspapers, radio was dead, clocks and calendars no longer made any sense. She was cut off from any news, and soon had no sense of time. "We no longer know a thing," she writes.

Published anonymously as *A Woman in Berlin* in 1954 in an English translation, the diary is an inventory, a work of memory, a counterarchive, an act of resistance against defeat written in the most difficult circumstances, often by candlelight with nothing but a pencil stub. "My fingers are shaking as I write this," she notes. "We took a direct hit." It continues through street fighting, the rape of German women by Soviet troops, Hitler's suicide on April 30, the German surrender of Berlin on May 2, until June 22, when she stops, after government, no matter how provisional or weak, returns to the city. "I haven't been writing," she notes. "And I won't be either—that time is over."

Germans were not ready to read her account when it was published in German for the first time in 1959 and the book was met with hostility and silence. At one point, she notes, "It can't be me this is happening to," which is what most Germans wanted to believe, no matter the evidence. Of one rape, she scribbles in the margins

of her diary—to be used by novelists—"the unfamiliar body on top of her. Her nails dug into the stranger's hair, she heard the cries coming from her own throat and the stranger's voice whispering words she couldn't understand. ... She howled into the pillow and wanted to die." She gives Gerd, her boyfriend who has returned from the Russian front, her diaries, but he can't find his way through them and once he reads about the times she was raped he finds a reason to leave.

"These are strange times," she concludes. "History experienced first hand, the stuff of tales yet untold and songs unsung. But seen up close, history is much more troublesome—nothing but burdens and fears." Too troublesome for the historian who waits to hear the songs of the times or for those who prefer to hear the tales the tribe of the press tells of the Crescent City. Out there is a woman in a New Orleans, a man in the delta, a child whose childhood is gone. Out there, burdens and fears. Out there, a leaving of traces.

Minding The Issues

The Culture of Life (American Style)

By Gordon Brumm

Before turning to the main subject, I would like to praise religious persons of uncommon good will. I am thinking of medical missionaries throughout the world. I am thinking of the missionary priests in Latin America during the 1500s who tried to save natives from the evils of European conquest, and of their latter-day counterparts who composed the Liberation Theology movement until it was squelched by the late pope. I am thinking of the four nuns killed in El Salvador. I am thinking of those religiously-inspired civil rights workers and martyrs, of whom Martin Luther King Jr. was only the most illustrious. And many, many others.

With these noble deeds in mind, I look at the “Culture of Life” and I ask, “How could an idea like that ever get started?”

This is not a completely fair estimate, however. It depends on which version of the Culture of Life we’re talking about.

The first developed expression of the Culture of Life is Pope Paul II’s *Evangelium vitae* (Gospel of Life). This is a long document, replete with biblical/theological references, aimed at protecting life in all its forms and situations. It condemns a wide variety of avowed evils, emphasizing abortion (along with embryonic stem cell research) and euthanasia, but also concerning itself with peace, social justice and charity. The following are among the evils it sees as poisoning human society: capital punishment; “disgraceful working conditions, where people are treated as mere instruments of gain;” “an unjust distribution of resources between peoples and between social classes;” war; the arms trade; genocide; and harming the “ecological balance.” The document commands respect. Whether it commands allegiance, of course, depends on whether or not one accepts its bedrock assumptions.

“Culture of Life” was picked up by social conservatives in America, but with basic changes—or distortions. Its American champions freely chose among the trends that Pope John Paul had denounced. Conveniently forgotten were the death penalty, war, exploitation of workers, genocide, fair division of the world’s resources, and ecological balance. Enthusiastically embraced was the Pope’s denunciation of abortion, embryonic stem cell research, and euthanasia (as exemplified in the Terry Schiavo case).

Let’s look at the Culture of Life as adopted by social conservatives here in the U.S. Two points about this viewpoint deserve notice:

(1) All the injunctions are negative (“shall not”). Positive measures to preserve life, not to mention enhancing it, are non-existent, even for the most vulnerable. There is no mention of pre-natal care, nor infant care, nor health insurance for children (or anyone else), nor increased income for the poor or near-poor, nor initiatives to

prevent warfare. And so on.

(2) Life is to a large extent equated with biological processes. The recipients of protection are not conscious and functioning human beings, but rather non-conscious or barely conscious beings. The biological process of life is valued, not the enhancement and expression of conscious life. Culture of Life it may be, but not a culture of living.

Of course, Culture of Life advocates see no distinction between biological processes and conscious functioning. It’s all life. A passage from *Evangelium vitae* illuminates the issue. Condemning embryonic stem-cell research, it states, “If spare embryos are destroyed or used for research, that reduces human life to the level of simply biological material to be freely disposed of.” Others of us, of course, see no distinction between such embryos and biological material to begin with.

But Culture of Life advocates don’t recognize the distinction. For them, a laboratory embryo is on a par with a functioning human being. (If this seems far-fetched, consider those who doubt that trading the “life” of an embryo from a laboratory in order to save the life of a grown human is morally justified.) And conversely, a fully developed human being is on a par with a laboratory embryo. The Culture of Life tends to degrade our lives by construing us primarily as biological processes, not as conscious, aware, decision-making persons. The Culture of Life is a Culture of Suffocation.

At bottom, therefore, the issue is how we view our lives—and what we as a society do about it. We are conscious beings—that is non-controversial, but it gives rise to the question: Are we to enhance our lives as conscious beings to the utmost, giving everyone the greatest possible opportunity to live

—unless the health of the pregnant woman is endangered, in which case abortion is usually not considered punishable anyway. And the pregnant woman would have to be charged with at least being an accessory to murder.)

The difficulty, for abortion-rights opponents, is in the proving. The Supreme Court and the public at large have every right to say, “Why should we believe the embryo/fetus is a person just because you say so?” Science can’t prove the case (and how ironic if social conservatives appeal to science on this point when they dismiss it on so many others.) Nor is there a consensus among the public.

The abortion-rights opponents claim that abortion is murder and when asked for a reason they say that according to our religious convictions, life begins with conception. Thus they import their religious convictions into the definition of murder, which is then used to form the law—a clear violation of the letter and spirit of the First Amendment. They can’t have it both ways: They can’t make the objective, factual claim that abortion is murder, and then back that claim up by appeal to their subjective religious dogma.

In short, foes of abortion rights have a tough row to hoe (no pun intended) in proving their claim that abortion is murder.

In the meantime, I see strong hints that they don’t really believe abortion to be murder. Here are several pieces of anecdotal evidence, in no particular order of importance:

(1) In *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court overrode a Texas law prohibiting abortion (and thereby, of course, set a precedent applying to all state law). That Texas law therefore tells us something about the reasons for abolishing abortion. While the law said nothing explicitly on the subject, the prescribed sentence is certainly significant. A person guilty of abortion was to be sentenced to “not less than two nor more than five years” in the penitentiary. (Article 1191 of Texas code, per *Roe vs. Wade* decision, FN 1.) This was not a sentence that fit the crime of first-degree murder! The rationale behind the Texas law must have been something other—and something less serious—than murder.

(2) In a *New York Times* article of October 5 on Supreme Court candidate Harriet Miers’ religious beliefs, her former campaign manager is reported to have said, “Ms. Miers said she had been in favor in her younger years of a woman’s right to have an abortion, but her views evolved against abortion, influenced largely by her born-again religious beliefs.” Ms. Miers is extremely intelligent and well aware of the world—and has been throughout her adult life. If she considered abortion to be murder, then why did she approve of it in the earlier period of her life? Nothing about the nature of abor-

*... if abortion is murder,
it certainly is first-degree murder.
There are no extenuating circumstances—
unless the health of the pregnant woman
is endangered, in which case abortion is
usually not considered punishable anyway.
And the pregnant woman would have to be
charged with at least being an accessory
to murder.*

The significant distinction, I would argue, is between “human life” and “the life of a human person.” I can be described as “human life” but so can my fingernail. We’re both human tissue—biological material. But being a human person, or having the life of a human person, is something else again. My fingernail does not have the attributes of a person, in particular those attributes that derive from consciousness. And neither does an embryo in a laboratory dish.

Common sense and the law also seem to recognize this distinction. College scholarships for laboratory embryos are unlikely, for example, as is prosecution of laboratory personnel for destroying them.

Of course, a desperately ill person considering euthanasia (or a terminally unconscious person for whom euthanasia is being considered) is not an embryo. But the same principle applies, theological dogma about the value of suffering notwithstanding. Conscious life is non-existent in these cases, or if it exists it has negative value only; still the Culture of Life insists that the biological processes be maintained.

In short, a human person, capable of consciousness and of human functioning, is one thing. A piece of tissue—biological material—is quite another thing.

an aware and active life, bound freely to one another? Or are we to go in the direction of life determined by biological processes and dogmatic principles? To repeat from a previous column (Issue 4): “It’s the Grand Inquisitor all over again.”

But there is still the special case of abortion. For according to the current argument of abortion-rights foes, abortion is murder, and the victim is not a mere embryo isolated in a dish. (Advocates of abortion rights, of course, hold that up to a certain point at least, the embryo/fetus cannot be a victim because it is not a person.)

If foes of abortion rights could prove that abortion is murder, in the straightforward and literal sense, they would have a virtually airtight case. For murder is not a private affair; it is harm done by one person to another. Furthermore, there is a social consensus that murder must be prohibited and severely punished. So if abortion is proven to be murder, both the public and the courts would have to agree, in reason, on its prohibition just as they agree on the prohibition of murder. The privacy argument that now supports the legality of abortion would be swept aside.

(Note also that if abortion is murder, it certainly is first-degree murder. There are no extenuating circumstances

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Spilled Ink

Author

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rible. You want to respect that and still tell the story you want to tell so I try to walk that line. I try to be as faithful to real events as I can when they are mentioned as such, but I also allow that fictional characters live in a fictional world and function that way.

VO: Do you expect to continue writing works primarily focused on Haitians and Haitian-Americans? Why or why not?

ED: So far I see my work focusing primarily on Haitians and Haitian-Americans. For a while, yes, because that's what I am most passionate about. That's the subject that most moves me.

There is no doubt the subject of Haiti moves Danticat, for her fiction has been moving readers for over a decade now, and her most recent novel is no exception. In the opening story of *The Dew Breaker*, readers are introduced to a former "macoute," or torturer, late in his life, when he has become a low-profile barber in New York City and a respectable husband and father. In fact, in "The Book of the Dead," his adult daughter is a sculptor who narrates how much she adores her father: "I'm really not an artist, not in the way I'd like to be. I'm more of an obsessive wood-carver with a single subject thus far—my father," (4). Unavoidably prominent in all her sculptures is the "blunt, ropelike scar" that runs from her father's upper cheek to his mouth (5).

The daughter had always been led to believe that her father's scar was from his time as a prisoner in Haiti, but in the story he finally makes a terrifying confession to her: "I don't deserve a statue. ... I was never in prison," (19, 21). He continues to her amazement: "I was working in the prison. ... This man who cut my face, I shot and killed him, like I killed many people," (22). Suddenly, the daughter experiences a chilling reversal of adoration. After he reveals that her mother knows his story as well, the daughter's entire worldview is upended, and she can only call her mother to ask: "How do you love him?" (24). This momentous question reverberates throughout the book, as each story delves into different aspects of the many lives in both Haiti and New York City affected by the torturer's brutality. Danticat's novel fully probes

the ongoing aftermath of trauma and its inevitable mixture of grief, rage, vengeance, fear, sympathy, and forgiveness, among other emotions.

Among the book's many highlights is the final story entitled "The Dew Breaker: Circa 1967." The story is a gripping tour de force that uses a roving omniscient narrator to interweave the psychology of the dew breaker, his future wife, and the fateful prisoner who scarred his face with a broken chair leg. Aspiring creative writers can learn much about shifting points of view and using poetic prose from this masterful short story. The entire collection of stories was recently named a National Book Critics Circle Award finalist.

Like *The Dew Breaker*, much of Danticat's fiction is based on traumatic events from Haiti's history. Her first novel, *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, was published in 1994 and describes the lives of four generations of Haitian women as they courageously endure oppression and violence in both Haiti and the United States. The book later became an Oprah Book Club selection. In 1995, she published *Krik? Krak!*, a collection of stories about love and hope in spite of the brutality of Haitian life. The book was a National Book Award finalist. She published *The Farming of the Bones* in 1998, a historical novel (and American Book Award winner) about the 1937 massacre of Haitians in the Dominican Republic.

Unlike many writers of adult fiction, Danticat has also published two works of juvenile fiction: *Behind the Mountains* (2002) and, just this year, *Anacoana, Golden Flower*: Haiti, 1490. *Behind the Mountains* appears in the Orchard Books' First Person Fiction Series. The book tells the story of a Haitian girl's immigration to the United States. *Anacoana, Golden Flower* is part of The Royal Diaries series from Scholastic that are fictional works based on real royal figures and actual historical events. The novel takes the form of a diary "written" (in an oral culture) by Anacoana beginning in 1490. She is the powerful wife of the chief of Maguana and a warrior who encounters the first white men to arrive in the West Indies.

A sample passage from "Last Quarter Moon, Day 16" displays Danticat's ability to capture the voice and perspective of such a historical figure: "The pale men have reached our shores. ... From

[their] sticks they fired bursts of lightning into the air, which startled and frightened our people, forcing many of them to flee. ... Their eyes were fair, the colors of jade and lapis, and many of our men were entranced by these colors and whispered to one another how these might be gods who had captured the sea in their eyes and could produce lightning at will" (128-129). Later in the diary, however, Anacoana emphasizes that her culture is much richer than simply the story of a conflict with newcomers, and the diary includes many other parts of her heritage.

In addition to her fiction, Danticat's nonfiction includes *After the Dance: A Walk Through Carnival in Jacmel, Haiti*. She is also the editor of *The Butterfly's Way: Voices from the Haitian Diaspora* in the United States and *The Beacon Best of 2000: Great Writing by Men and Women of All Colors and Cultures*.

Danticat's appearance as part of the Creative Writer's Reading Series is celebrated by both Cleveland State University and Lakewood Public Library. Lakewood resident Michael Geither, assistant professor of English at Cleveland State University and the chair of its Creative Writing Subcommittee states, "Cleveland State is very happy to be collaborating with Lakewood Public Library. Many of our students and creative writers come from Lakewood." Director of the Lakewood Public Library, Kenneth Warren, declares, "The Poetry Center at Cleveland State University is delivering an incredible authors series to Lakewood at no charge. Obviously, our community needs to demonstrate that we have the interest to enjoy and listen to these authors." The other authors in the series are Charles Baxter (Nov. 17) and Fenton Johnson (March 30).

Culture

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tion nor about the nature of murder changed during the time of her religious conversion. Thus her opposition to abortion must have had some other reason behind it, other than the belief that abortion is murder.

(3) In a most interesting column in the July 11 *Newsweek*, Anna Quindlen reports on the emergency contraceptive called "Plan B" or "the morning-after pill." She describes it as "an emergency contraceptive that works by inhibiting ovulation, fertilization or implantation. It won't work if you're already pregnant, but it will stop you from becoming pregnant. ..." Yet she also reports efforts by abortion-rights opponents to prohibit Plan B. One far-right-wing organization, she said, opposes all such medications on the grounds that they constitute "early abortions."

So here's a clear case in which organized opponents of abortion rights condemn abortion (as they see it), in a case where the "abortion" could not possibly be murder—for there is no embryo to be murdered.

But if these opponents do not really believe that abortion is murder, what is their real reason? The probable answer, I believe, is The Natural Law Theory. This is a theological and philosophical viewpoint with a long history during which it has appeared in many forms, but in essence it holds that all beings, human beings included, have a set of natural tendencies (placed by God, according to the religious versions). Morality consists in acting in accordance with our human natural tendencies, one of which is procreation. Procreation is prevented by abortion (as well as by contraception, such as Plan B.) Thus abortion is against Natural Law and therefore immoral and sinful. In Anna Quindlen's column we see perfect examples of people whose opposition to abortion conforms perfectly with Natural Law theory—they condemn the morning-after pill simply because it obstructs procreation—though they don't mention Natural Law and in all probability are totally

unaware of it.

But how could abortion-rights opponents fail to know their own mind when they claim that abortion is murder? Well, in the first place it's not surprising that people are unaware of their own attitudes. Consider racism—many people in all positions on the political spectrum (myself included) may believe they are free of racism but when they are tested by actual events they find otherwise. William Bennett is a recent example.

Secondly, the conclusions to be drawn from the abortion-is-murder rationale and the Natural Law rationale are similar. Natural Law holds that the embryo must not be destroyed. So does the abortion-is-murder argument. But the concept of Natural Law is hardly a household word, whereas the concept of murder is quite familiar.

So I think that what has happened is this: The precepts of Natural Law theory have been implanted, through the centuries, in the minds of many religious adherents, but the theory itself has been forgotten. Thus people may be convinced that destroying the embryo/fetus is wrong, and putting the cart before the horse they jump to the most obvious explanation, namely, that abortion is murder.

Let's note, finally, that if the rationale behind prohibiting abortion is that it violates Natural Law, as opposed to its being murder, then abortion-rights opponents are playing an entirely different game. For there is no consensus against breaking Natural Law, as there is against murder. Natural Law theory is a moral viewpoint inspired by religion; therefore to make it the basis of law violates the letter and spirit of the First Amendment.

So abortion is not really the special case it seemed to be. We have no reason to believe that it constitutes murder, and if my suspicions about the real reason behind opposition to abortion rights are correct, the anti-abortion-rights movement is of a piece with the rest of the "Culture of Life" in trying to impose their constrictive morality on the rest of us.

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SWAT *continued from page 9*
created their own structure. A sense of hope for the future binds them in creating a new rough-hewn community norm. They are the next generation; they care about the future.

In doing their job, Lakewood police officers have sometimes noticed that the S.W.A.T. boys are, in effect, “good kids.” Savvy officers allow the “good kids” to remain in the park after the troublemakers have been booted.

The S.W.A.T. team consists of relative newcomers to Lakewood. Of the nine boys present for the inquiry, only one has a generational history in Lakewood. The other boys have arrived here over the past four to seven years. They come from Avon Lake, Boston Heights, Broadview Heights, Cleveland and Parma.

If these “good kids” on the hang represent the future of our inner-ring melting pot, things are looking brighter

than the un-inquiring observer might first assume. These working class kids are organically intelligent. They’ve struggled to make meaning of a world that seems so determined to hold out on them and leave them to the dogs. This is a group of kids who care, not only about each other, but about the world around them.

At school, most feel alienated. Ulrich explains, “I’m smart, just not school smart.” It’s a problem that public education has been dealing with for decades. As a system, public education finds historic roots in preparing an industrial workforce. As this system has been adjusted to meet the needs of a de-industrializing economy, the very core once served by public education is left in the dust.

Indeed, if the recently launched “Lakewood Cares” is successful in its attempt to provide support, training and employment opportunities for Lakewood’s “situational working class,”

S.W.A.T. kids will then have to re-evaluate their critique of the disconnect experienced on the educational front. Such initiatives cannot work from the top down. Students must step up to the plate. They must enliven the programs with their own good order, like they have attempted to do in Kauffman Park. They must show the community and themselves that their success and that of the city are intertwined.

In the hang there is already a grudging respect for the work of Lakewood City Schools. There are even positive signs that members of the S.W.A.T. team are seriously applying themselves on the path of learning.

Matt Toeller, an LHS student and S.W.A.T. kid, is excited about the upcoming school year. Look past his punk imago and you’ll find a child passionate about learning the languages of his buried European roots. He’s beginning with German 1 this year. Matt is a huge fan of war. In fact, he and many

of the boys cite the legendary military history teacher Terry Walker for giving the “best class I’ve ever had.”

Craig Martin, who moved from Avon Lake four years ago, has not had an easy time adapting to the standardized education template. He now looks forward to taking advantage of the new electronic education options afforded by the Lakewood Academy. Eventually, he sees himself working in the technology field, putting his growing skill-set to work. However, Craig will not be attending the physical Lakewood City Academy, a one-floor section the Old Building. He’s chosen cyber learning on-line.

According to Rick Wair, “The Lakewood City Academy is, by definition, a community school sponsored by the Lakewood Board of Education. Practically speaking, Lakewood City Academy has the ‘flexibility’ to create an educational program and schedule that will better meet the educational learning styles and personal needs of a group of students that sometimes did not have their needs met in a traditional school setting.”

Clearly the program is already showing its value, keeping a student like Craig on track, motivated, and with a sense of hope in the future. This is a tall order for formal education. But this tall order is clearly complemented by the informal education in DIY civics that occurs around Kauffman Park. Kyle calls it a “school without learning.”

The S.W.A.T. kids are learning as they go. They represent Lakewood’s diamonds in the rough, possessing a latent capacity to move this city in a positive direction. Amplifying and attracting this new, melting pot culture in a practice that combines a sense of civic pride and duty, respect for the people and place, an organic sense of the working class, and group survival through community begins right here. If “Lakewood Cares” is true to its name, these are the kids that we want to help on formal and informal paths of neighborhood, person and school. It’s Lakewood time to listen and engage our youth. We all must realize that we inhabit the city together. We must see ourselves, black and white, pierced and punctured, in the Special Winning Attitude Team.



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Gallery Watch

By Chelsea L. Waschek

bela dubby
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Current Show: “Drunken Bottles, Franken Hearts and other Friends,” a scary show for a scary month! The show features small sculpture works by San Francisco artist Ross Kennedy. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Thursday 10 a.m.–10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.–12 a.m.
“My Masterpiece: Art classes for toddlers,” Each class focuses on a par-

ticular artist or style of art and includes story time that coincides with the lesson. All lessons are new, and each class develops attention span as well as the following skills: fine motor, gross motor, listening, sharing and social. Traci Morrison of the Children’s Museum of Cleveland teaches the four five-week sessions. Classes are Saturdays from 10–10:45 a.m. or 11–11:45 a.m. Sessions include supplies and snacks. To register call Jill Crino at 216-221-4479 or e-mail beladubby@hotmail.com.

Local Girl
16106 Detroit
(north side near Granger)
Current Show: “Sur La Table,” a showcase of over 20 of the finest potters, ceramicists and clay artisans from The Cleveland Clay Artists Guild
Back by popular demand are hand-painted silk classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Each student will complete an original 8 x 54 piece of hand-painted silk. The fee is \$35 per student, which includes supplies. These classes are open to people of all levels of artistic expression!

“Martini Madness & Wild about Wine!” It’s football season, ladies! Spend a Monday evening (6:30–9:30 p.m.) sipping wine and tasting treats as you design a set of four martini or four wine glasses using wire wrapping, painting and etching techniques. The \$25 fee per set of four glasses includes all materials.

Local Girl requires reservations for all classes. Please call Linda @ 216-228-1802 or visit www.localgirlgallery.com.

Pop Shop
17020 Madison
(on the corner of Cordova and Madison)
Current Show: “The Sugar Coated Show,” a sweet Halloween themed show!

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Pop Shop is always looking for artists. Those interested can contact Rich at 216-227-8440 or at thepopshop@gmail.com.

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Lakewood Theater

Who's on Top?

Top Dog/Under Dog at the Beck Center

By Mary Bodnar
De facto Theater Critic

Top Dog/Under Dog is a powerful play which explores the tragic human condition of two adult African-American brothers who are the by-products of not only a deadbeat Dad, but a deadbeat Mom as well. It is intimate and provocative, yet its shocking and tragic content is enhanced by the “in your face” nature of the Studio Theater at the Beck Center. It grabs you, pulls you in, and you become a part of their seedy life.

The two brothers wrestle with their past—a dysfunctional family and tragic childhood resurface as well as the tensions of trying to make it through life now as disadvantaged adults. Their father’s bad idea of a sick joke was to name the eldest son “Lincoln” and the youngest son “Booth.” This serves to emphasize the contention between them. There is a humorous irony in what they do for a living and their respective names. Booth is a “wannabe” successful “Three Card Monty” card hustler and Lincoln is an Abraham Lincoln impersonator about to be replaced by a wax dummy.

Very different in personality, the relationship between Lincoln and

Booth, five years apart, examines resentment, power struggles and sibling rivalry in the inherent tension between the two brothers. Grace, a third character, is never seen by the audience, but through clever navigation in dialogue is clearly seen by the viewer in their mind’s eye. I half expected her to be in the lobby following the performance on opening night, Friday Sept. 30. Her unpredictability and abandonment of poor Booth exactly parallels his mother’s desertion when he was a child.

The unbelievable demands of a two-person cast are met skillfully by



From left to right, Jimmie D. Woody (standing) as Booth and Ed Blunt (sitting) as Lincoln in *Top Dog/Underdog*.

both Ed Blunt (Lincoln) and Jimmie D. Woody (Booth) who give phenomenal performances without the distraction of an elaborate stage set. The entire production takes place in a seedy rooming-house room.

Jimmy D. Woody, astonishing in his portrayal as Booth, is a native Clevelander with some killer biceps (did I say that?). He and Ed Blunt, equally compelling as Lincoln, display amazing chemistry on stage. Apparently, they only met and began rehearsing in September; unbelievable. The testosterone and energy they emit is almost palpable. Ed Blunt, who has the good looks and intensity of Denzel Washington, certainly is no slouch when it comes to spending time in the gym. These guys are incredibly built (did I say that?). Enjoy; there are plenty of scenes where they are changing clothes. Ed Blunt, from Shaker Heights originally, now resides in Brooklyn, N.Y. and is a seasoned Broadway actor. He graduated from drama school in '96 and really enjoys working with a small audience in the intimate Studio Theater.

Top Dog/Under Dog earned writer Suzan-Lori Parks the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for drama. More importantly, she was the first African-American woman to win that title.



Jimmie D. Woody as Booth.

Top Dog/Under Dog, directed by Dale Ricardo Shields, who holds extensive professional achievements, runs now through Oct. 23, 2005 at the Beck Center for the Arts, 17801 Detroit Ave. in Lakewood.

Lincoln: (to Booth regarding his name change) “You gonna call yrself something african? That be cool. Only pick something that’s easy to spell and pronounce, man, cause you know, some of them african names, I mean, ok, Im down with the power to the people thing, but, no ones gonna hire you if they cant say yr name. And some of them fellas who got they african names, no one can say they names and they can’t say they names neither. I mean, you don’t want yr new handle to obstruct yr employment possibilities.”

Lakewood Eats

Szechwan Gardens:

Some Like It Hot When East Meets West

Most reviews in other publications show off newer places with weird food stacked in odd arrangements on non-conforming plates to be different and exciting. We have taken a softer approach and decided for this issue to dedicate our time and tastes to a local eatery that has been satisfying Asian food lovers for 22 years. Mr. Hoa Lam took ownership of Szechwan Gardens restaurant in 1987 and re-vamped the menu in 1993. The establishment serves up authentic Chinese and Mandarin cuisine in a simple and comfortable setting. A quiet, out-of-the-way place that has a loyal following.

We stopped in for lunch and ordered away frivolously knowing we could not possibly eat everything but looking forward to eating leftovers at home. We started off with two appetizers of the six offered on the luncheon menu. They were both excellent. First was Crab Rangoon a serving of five Rangoons (star-shaped crisply fried wontons with a sweet filling of crab, cream cheese, and other secret ingredients), followed by homemade pot stickers (pan-fried dumplings). Ours were stuffed with spicy sausage and mild exotic herbs.

Next we sampled the Egg Drop soup; incredibly rich broth full of

buttery eggs, chives, and light vegetables—delicious, thick and very hot. (Careful!)

For our entrées we selected Hunan Beef (spicy please) and Shrimp with Garlic sauce. Both were ample portions loaded with meats and veggies, along with chewy brown rice. Service was polite and attentive.

We asked Alice, the manager, why she believes Szechwan Gardens enjoys such a loyal following. She responded, “People know our food is authentic” and “People love our value on all items.” She went on to say that the favorite appetizers are Crab Rangoon, and pot stickers (coincidentally). Dinner entrée favorites include General Tso’s Chicken (a brown spicy sauce served with crispy fried chicken), a bargain for only \$11.25, as well as Szechwan Spiced Lobster and Hunan Lobster, both offered for only \$14.95. We also highly recommend the General Tso’s Chicken here.

The atmosphere is simple and background music is corny Chinese sounding stuff just to get you in the mood for some serious eating. At these prices, we promise you will not go away hungry.

By Robert Bond
Restaurants & Wine

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The manager, Alice, layin’ out a good meal at Szechwan Gardens. “It’s all good.”