

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

Lakewood's Only Newspaper And Finest Website – An Official Google News Source

Volume 2, Issue 7, April 4, 2006

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SWAT! Lakewood Police Return From Arkansas

Lakewood Observer Reporter Stan Austin

The Westshore Enforcement Bureau (WEB) SWAT team just returned from Little Rock, Arkansas where they competed in the Original SWAT World Challenge.

This was an invitation only competition among some of the world's elite SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) squads. Lakewood Police along with officers from Bay Village, Fairview Park, North Olmsted, Rocky River and Westlake made up the team. It was a two day event with four events each day.

Officer Pat Fiorilli led the Lakewood contingent. The Zodiac Attack was one of eight events and

according to Fiorilli the most difficult. The course is a half mile in total length. Team members carry a 650 pound Zodiac boat (an inflatable attack boat) 100 yards and then climb an eight foot wall. Snipers then took shots from 200 to 300 meters.

Four other team members then carried a 185pound dummy across the course, through a car interior, over six, four foot walls, shooting at targets all the time and then carried the dummy back.

Fiorilli said all other events were equally difficult physically. "We competed well and placed as high as tenth in an event and 22nd overall. The competition was over the top!"



Part 2

Parents, Friends and Neighbors

I've started this article a dozen times. I've started it with humorous quotes from a Lakewood police officer who has two children, now young adults. I've started it with the suicide account of a gay Lakewood teen. I've started it with the murder of Matthew Shepard and the recent hatchet and gun attack in a Boston bar. I've deleted them all. Simply, with no humor, no frightening vignettes, I am writing about tender lives, the lives of children who happen to be gay.

Jeanne Hoopes, School Counselor in Lakewood City Schools, said it best:

On Assignment with Rita Ryland

"Every child has special needs." She went on to say, "If we are doing our job correctly, then we will help the child figure out how we as adults can best help them or get them the help they need." I believe her. I also believe that the climate of our larger culture is not warm and welcoming, nor is it inclusive and celebrating its diversity. No. I believe that we are often faced with, as Jim Muth, Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division of Youth, said, "a one size fits all society." And in

the case of gay children, the result is the denial of their sexuality, ostracism, and abandonment by the adults who are their caretakers.

Almost every counselor I interviewed for this series reminded me that not all children who are gay struggle. Not every parent or every family with a gay child swims in a sea of angst. Some kids say, "I'm gay." That's it. Some parents say, "Okay." The child and family are united in their dealings with the greater community. But I think, at their core, children struggle with being gay. And they struggle with how to tell their parents. And they struggle in the classroom. And they learn painful lessons about how to live safely in the larger community.

Gay kids hear mean-spirited phrases like, "That's so gay," "You're gay," or other derogatory remarks. Gay kids watch gay characters on television and believe they need to be funny in order to be accepted. Gay kids watch the news and listen to reports of hate crimes.

Stephanie Boyd, a teacher at Lakewood High School and advisor to the Unity Group, a gay and lesbian student support group, said that gay teens have a higher rate of everything negative - suicide, dropping out, substance abuse, and cutting. Additional risk factors are promiscuity, early sexual behavior, anxiety, mood swings, overeating, and self-loathing - manifested by bulimia - or anorexia, especially in

males.

Counselors are seeing an increase in the number of clients who cut themselves. Kids use any sharp instrument to cut themselves - a paper clip, razor blade, knife, safety pin, or soda can top. They cut shapes, words, or lines on limbs and torso, usually in places that a parent cannot easily see. Or kids hide

continued on page 7

Community Leaders Breakfast



Jack Gustin, CAO and President of Lakewood Hospital, Dr. Dave Estrop, Superintendent of Lakewood Schools, speak with keynote speaker for the event Fred DeGrandis, CEO of Fairview, Lakewood and Lutheran Hospital.

In This Issue

Hot Off The Deck	2
City Hall	3 - 4
Lakewood Library	6
On Assignment	7
Lakewood Sports	8 - 9
Lakewood Theater	10
Lakewood Goes Green	11
Chef Geoff	12
Lakewood People	13
Lakewood Music.....	14 - 15
Minding The Issues	16
Gallery Watch	17
The Buck Stops Here	18
Classifieds	19
Who Is This Man?	20

Lakewood Police/Fire

SWAT In Action





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Hot Off The Deck

<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>

Join the discussion online – visit the OBSERVATION DECK

Topics	Replies	Author	Views	Last Post
LAKEWOOD DISCUSSION				
The Bar Based Economy-Lakewood as the East Side of The Flats	9	Bill Call	230	Mon Apr 03, 2006
Bad Neighbors, or Ugly Property	20	Phil Florian	331	Mon Apr 03, 2006 10:11 am
Dentist?	6	Mark Crnolatas	253	Sun Apr 02, 2006 9:29 pm
Smoking Ban: Will it kill us before the cancer does?	13	Phil Florian	245	Sun Apr 02, 2006 2:26 pm
Vibrant!!	1	Grace O'Malley	69	Sun Apr 02, 2006 5:26 am
Book Club	55	Erin White	2560	Sat Apr 01, 2006 1:07 pm
Lynn Farris				
New baby and new perspective on Lakewood Hospital	5	Phil Florian	115	Fri Mar 31, 2006 10:45 pm
Historic Hall House demolition discussed by Council Monday	32	Mazie Adams	1507	Fri Mar 31, 2006 7:49 pm
The Young, Restless – and Essential Parking lot/Hall House demo before council again on 4-3-06	3	Kenneth Warren	176	Fri Mar 31, 2006 8:42 am

Become an Observer!

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

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

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

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

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

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



Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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Lakewood City Hall

The Budget-- Finally Getting It Right

Council 03.20.06

Stan Austin
Lakewood Observer City Council Reporter

The budget making process of a democracy isn't always a pretty sight. As the aphorism says, "it's like making sausage." When all the elements finally come together, it can be a thing of beauty. This happened last night during the finance committee meeting of council prior to the regular city council meeting.

Over the past two months, city council has held almost a dozen hearings as it struggled with the administration to craft a budget for the city. Two weeks ago only \$40,000 out of an over \$130 million remained in contention. Yet the deal couldn't be closed. Nobody could agree on how to assemble the \$40,000 sum. Last night the pieces finally fell into place. The Department of Human Services received notification that it had finally received a program grant of \$400,000 that allowed it to shift \$20,000 from an existing program into the pot.

The Department of Recycling had expenditures that were questioned by council members Ryan Demro (ward 2) and Edward Fitzgerald (at large). Dropped were publicity items such as billboards and refrigerator magnets. Fitzgerald wanted to make sure that it was just those items being dropped

and not other programs such as the popular Adopt-a-Spot. Demro was concerned that the education efforts of the department were duplicating those already provided by the schools. Public Works Director Tony Beno promised Demro that this portion of the program would be redirected to implementing recycling at the Gold Coast condominiums. This not only satisfied Demro but also council member Mary Louise Madigan (ward 4) who wanted a more concentrated effort on recycling in this portion of ward four which she represents.

The Finance Department identified an additional \$20,000 of expenditures to eliminate. The \$40,000 goal was reached.

Members then traveled upstairs to the main council chambers for the regular meeting.

The Lakewood High School Swim Team has enjoyed great success over the decades, consistently producing champions. Maura Anderson, second in the 100 yard butterfly in the Lake Erie League (LEL) championships, brother Neil Anderson, first in the LEL in the 200 and 500 yard freestyle, and Joe Frankenfield, first in the 100 yard

freestyle were recognized by Mayor Thomas George and Council. Could Beijing 2008 be in their future?

Council then turned its attention to Ordinance 12-06-2006, otherwise known as The Budget. Robert Seelie (ward 3) said that this year's process indicates a need to set legislative guidelines in advance, perhaps in June, so the administration can be aware of council's intentions.

Fitzgerald said he would propose a "rainy day fund" or a built in fund balance as a goal so that the budget would be in a healthier position in the future.

Madigan indicated a need to engage the entire community to decide what we want and what we're willing to pay.

Demro hoped for a true commitment to revisit and examine the budget in April and June.

The budget then was passed by a unanimous vote.

Council had second and third readings on expenditure ordinances that had been held up at the last meeting. Among the most noteworthy is an upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant which will raise the grade of sludge produced from a "class B," which has to be trucked away for disposal, to a "class A" which can be sold as fertilizer.

recent years it has fallen into disrepair. Two other parcels are on Edwards, also have houses on them, and are next to a commercial building garage. These houses have many code violations. The owner of these properties also owns McCarthy's Tavern, and wants to demolish the three houses to build a parking lot to further accommodate off street parking for the bar's patrons. The owner wants the city to provide \$150,000 from the parking development fund to help build the parking lots.

The Lakewood Historical Society would like to obtain and restore the Hall House. The next neighbor on Edwards would like protection and respite from the prospect of rowdy bar patrons parking next to his home.

Added to those specific desires are larger questions of the direction of a business development policy. Some of these issues are being discussed on the Observation Deck of the Lakewood Observer.

Finally, as is usually the case, money—who pays and who benefits—is of prime concern.

Jeff Weber and Paula Reed of the Lakewood Historical Society both expressed a desire to preserve the Hall House. Chick Holtkamp, an owner of 30 housing units along Edwards and Ethel Avenues and a descendant of the Hall family indicated a willingness to pay for the purchase of the Hall House. This means that the Historical Society needs a site to relocate the structure and money to move it.

Mayor George submitted a resolution calling for Congress to oppose cuts to the Community Development Block Grant proposed by the Bush Administration. Council voted 6 to 1 in favor of sending a resolution to Congress with Demro voting no.

Parking, business development, housing code enforcement, and historic preservation are constant issues facing Lakewood. Sometimes they all coalesce around one issue. Planning Director Thomas Jordan presented a proposal to develop a municipal parking lot in an area next to Edwards park.

Three parcels are under consideration. One parcel faces Detroit Avenue and has the historic Hall House on it, one of the first homes in Lakewood. In

Mayor George stated, "We are committed to historic preservation. I think we can arrive at a win-win solution to this situation." To that end, an ad hoc committee has been meeting under the leadership of councilmember Kevin Butler (ward one) in whose ward the parcels are, and Jordan. This committee will bring together all of these sometimes competing interests to try and craft a mutually agreeable solution.

Seelie adjourned the meeting at 9:38.

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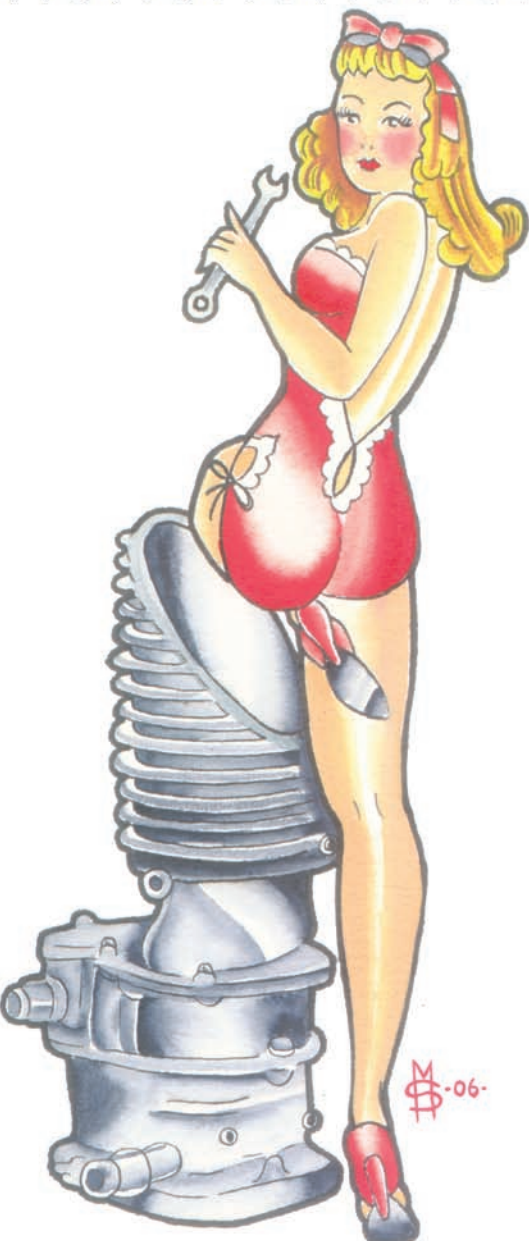
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Lakewood Observations

The Immovable Object

by Suzanne Metelko

When we last visited the “City Council Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee,” they had determined that an RFP (Request for Proposal) was in order and that Director Jordan would develop same and deliver it to the committee for approval.

As the next meeting begins, we join Councilperson Madigan as she reminds the attendees that it is the intention of the committee to work jointly toward developing a community vision and a strategic planning process, the primary element of which is full cooperation between the administration and council. She asks “does anyone not understand that?”

Silence is mistaken for affirmation.

A bombshell is delivered by Director Jordan as he passes out copies of the current community vision, and explains that the community vision is a direct result of the second amendment of the charter to provide for a general plan for the city. The “city empowers the Planning Commission to create a general plan for the City of Lakewood,” he explains. According to the law department, the Planning Commission is charged with developing the community vision and if council should wish to tamper with it, they will need to formally request that of the Planning Commission. And, oh by the way, just because you request it – doesn’t mean the Planning Commission will act on it.

Strother Martin pops into my head -- “What we’ve got here is...failure to communicate.”

Director Jordan believes the committee has a very limited purpose while the committee has expressed a much broader and community inclusive intent. “I believe there is a definite path to follow to revise the vision – I hope my point isn’t lost that what we’re embarking on is a budget oriented mission. I don’t believe the committee was asked to look at the community vision and that’s the administration’s position on this.” The Planning Director believes that the committee’s objective should be to develop a mission statement and goals and then look at budget planning to reach those goals. That’s what the \$10,000 RFP will buy. And the RFP should make sure to avoid any content that suggests the intention of revisiting the vision because the charter is very clear on that point. Or maybe not. Did the framers of the charter really intend to prohibit city council from initiating a planning process?

The back and forth of it essentially boils down to a point of law. Councilperson Demro believes “we’re traveling in the right direction, but we need a separate legal opinion.” The Clerk of Council is directed to obtain that opinion. In the meantime, how can the city do any meaningful strategic planning without looking at the vision? Demro points out that the 1993 vision resulted in a plan for the development of more car dealerships. “Considering that we just bulldozed one” gets a soft chuckle from around the room.

The question of regionalization looms big. How can the city make any meaningful operational decisions without crafting a current vision that reflects the community’s feeling on

regionalization? If the community of Lakewood is committed to the notion of regionalization, operational and civic strategies will have to reflect that commitment in order to implement successfully. If not, what strategies will the community employ to protect itself from a county commitment to regionalization? “I believe the budget crisis was the catalyst to...a wider look at vision. Without the vision you can’t have the mission which leads to the strategies and implementation points, which allow you to measure where we’re going to be in two years, five years, ten years,” says Demro.

At this point, it is apparent that clarity of purpose is an issue with the group. “I don’t know how to make it much clearer, we’re not just talking about one component, which is financial, we have said this all along,” says Madigan. “If the administration is under the impression that we’re just doing this to come up with a community conversation about finance that is not it.”

Jordan warns: “I again remind you that ...there are certain limitations, that’s why I provided you with the article on the mission driven approach. Any additional charge you hoped to gain is questionable. You have no authority on this matter. You don’t have the money, nor do you have the charge to do it. Go back and ask your fellow council members about it.”

The hour is drawing to a close when Lakewood Public Library Executive Director Kenneth Warren asks “does Grow Lakewood converge or diverge with the community vision? Is it possible to take the mission driven

approach, consider the Grow Lakewood report, align it with the budget strategies ... and put you on a compromise path?” Possibly.

And then another bombshell, lobbed from the side by Councilperson Kevin Butler. The city is facing a \$287 million bill from the EPA for street and sewer reconstruction over the next 40 years. “In this planning process we now have the opportunity to figure out what we want to do over the next 40 years.” How can the community take advantage of that opportunity without revisiting the community vision?

It was an evening full of questions -- except one. Nobody asked why the Mayor wasn’t at the table. He didn’t have to be a member of the committee to participate. He just needed to live in the community. Perhaps his participation could have helped hash out and possibly broker a compromise so that the process could move ahead without the maybes and could bes. It is the Mayor who has raised the alarm and sounded the charge forward. It is City Council and the community who have responded. And yet --where is the synergy?

It is easy to perceive that the power is in the backroom. The Mayor, the City Council, and the Planning Commission --are they all just bureaucracies trying to stabilize themselves by the status quo? If so, the “City Council Ad-Hoc Strategic Planning Committee” is David to Lakewood’s Goliath of politics as usual. I hope they’ve got their slingshots ready.

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Beethoven Meets The Beatles


The Lakewood Project To Perform with Hard Day's Night

By Rebecca Huffman

Come rock out at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium and hear some innovative music from some of Lakewood High School's most talented musicians, combined with some old favorites revived.

After a sold-out performance at the House of Blues in January, the Lakewood Project is teaming up with the Cleveland-based Beatles tribute band Hard Day's Night to bring you an evening of musical entertainment. The Lakewood Project, the world's first high school rock orchestra, mixes acoustic orchestral sound with electric string and rock instruments. Hard Day's Night performs internationally and is dedicated to honoring and reviving the sound of the Beatles.

The two groups will collaborate to play at 7:30 p.m. on April 7th at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium. The Lakewood Project will perform solo



for the first act, playing a selection of classical music and classic rock by Tchaikovsky, Kansas, The Who, and Beethoven, among others. For the second act, they will be joined onstage by Hard Day's Night to rock the house with some of the Fab Four's greatest hits.

This show promises to be impressive and a terrific opportunity to hear two outstanding musical groups in one night, so don't miss it!

Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$5 for Lakewood students and can be ordered at the Lakewood High School Bookroom or over the phone at (216) 529-4047.

Lakewood Observer

Shakespeare Competition 2006

Lakewood Student Receives Honorable Mention

by Heidi Hilty

The Cleveland Branch of The English-Speaking Union is pleased to announce the winners of the 2006 Cuyahoga County Shakespeare Competition, as a result of their performances on Saturday February 25, 2006 at The Cleveland Play House.

Over \$2600 in cash prizes was awarded to students representing 30 schools in Cuyahoga County. All in-school winners also received the Oxford Annotated Complete Shakespeare; all in-school runners-up received Shakespeare's Sonnets.

The County Finals Winner, Ms. McCardle, also won an all expense paid trip to New York City to compete against winners from other ESU Branches across the country in the National Shakespeare Finals to be held at Lincoln Center in April 2006. The National winner will receive a four week summer acting course in Britain, including excursions to many historic sites.

The English-Speaking Union's annual Shakespeare Competition is a

Winner
Miss Erin McCardle of Laurel School; teacher Mr. Dana Hart

Runner-up
Miss Denise McKinney of Cleveland East Tech;
teacher Ms. Maureen O'Brien

Third Place
Miss Lauren Berger of Hathaway Brown; teacher Ms. Molly Cornwell

Honorable Mention
Mr. Peter Tabelaing of Lakewood; teacher Ms. Charmian Perttu
Miss Shannon Copfer of Magnificat; teacher Ms. Lisa Ortenzi
Mr. Bill Goff of Westlake; teacher Ms. Ann Smythe

Dr. Tom Joynes Memorial Award
Mr. Ben Drda of Benedictine; teacher Mr. Mark Francioli
Mr. Herb Felton of Mayfield; teacher Ms. Jennifer Morland

curriculum-based program designed to help high school students develop their understanding of Shakespeare and their ability to communicate that understanding. Participants study,

memorize and interpret a monologue and a sonnet in as many as three qualifying stages – at the in-school, Branch and National levels. Student finalists at the Branch and National levels must

also present a cold reading in addition to their two prepared pieces.

Initiated in 1983 with 500 students in New York City, the Shakespeare Competition has given over 200,000 young people the opportunity to explore the beauty and scope of Shakespeare's language and the timeless themes embodied in his works. Currently the program reaches 16,000 students and 2000 teachers in 56 ESU Branches across the United States. Cleveland Branch is proud to have hosted the first National Shakespeare Competition in 1986. We also take pride in having produced a National winner in our 21 years of sponsoring Cuyahoga County Competitions.

The English-Speaking Union of the United States is committed to promoting scholarship and the advancement of knowledge through the effective use of English in an expanding global community. The ESU carries out its work through a network of 75 Branches and affiliates in the United Kingdom and 50 other countries, sponsoring a variety of language and international education programs.



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Lakewood Public Library

Personal Development & Transformative Learning In the Library

Transformation is a tricky concept. At its broadest it means change from one form to another. Still it gets confused with words such as development, and even with the word change itself. To say the egg changes into the chicken is okay but it’s more accurate to call the process a transformation of egg into chicken.

Another way of looking at transformation is to consider it a change in form so thoroughgoing that the old state or conditions cannot be returned to or recaptured. Often transformation is understood not to result from incremental change, although there are counter-examples.

Sometimes a clearly transformative process blends step by step change with dramatic change. Consider the example of learning to ride a bike. Slowly one learns how to balance and steer and react and ride a two-wheel bike. When the rider makes his first solo flight this slow build-up in skill

and experience pays off in a transformation which happens in an instant and is irrevocable--at least--as a matter of experiential learning.

On April 15, at 3 p.m. in the Main Library, Stephen Calhoun, a lifelong learning specialist on the Lakewood

Public Library’s electronic services staff, presents the third session, Novel Pathways Through the Library, of a seven part series, Personal Development & Transformative Learning In the Library. This session leverages library resources to create what is the equivalent

of an on-the-spot oracle. During the session experiential toolmaker Calhoun facilitates a demonstration of the library made into something akin to the I-Ching, Tarot, Runes.

For more information: <http://www.lkwdpl.org/transformative>

Virtuoso Klezmer Violinist, Brings the Ancient to the Future

One of the oldest ideas about music is that the musician is merely the blessed channel for inspiration, with inspiration having its origin in the higher worlds. This idea is concretely conceptualized in several of the traditions of north African, middle eastern, eastern European and central Asian music.

Klezmer is the term for the folkloric traditions of Eastern European Jewish music, yet the term is rooted in the concept Kly Zemer, meaning vessel for music. The vessel is the musician and it’s straightforward to understand that something glorious pours into the

human vessel so that musical inspiration may pour out. And, be heard.

The dividing lines between different cultures can sometimes be stark. The relationships between Jewish and Roma and Islamic music are self-evident if an interested listener takes the trouble to, in effect, listen comparatively. These different musical cultures came together and penetrated each other over long shared histories and in locations from Spain to Central Asia. At the level of the village, and in the daily, necessary musical messaging among cultures, the leap is not too

great at all: what’s poured into the vessel, finally, is universal.

Steven Greenberg is one of the pre-eminent Klezmer violinists of our time. It is most apt to see his virtuosity in service to the universal themes found in eastern European folk music. This is because his range encompasses a wide variety of village traditions, traditions associated with Klezmer and gypsy music and with folk music of Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia and Hungary. The violinist plays in The Second Saturday Folk Music Series, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Main Library Auditorium.

Lakewood Public Library Calendar

<http://www.lkwdpl.org/calendar> • 15425 Detroit, Lakewood, Ohio 216-226-8275

April 4-April 18 Schedule of Programs and Events

Tuesday April 4, 2006 LAKEWOOD PARENTING - SPIRITUAL PARENTING

Whether or not you have a particular religious affiliation, explore ways to nurture your child’s innate spirituality with Reverend Constance L. Grant.

AN EVENING WITH SUE MONK KIDD 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

See Sue Monk Kidd, author of the bestselling novels The Mermaid Chair and The Secret Life of Bees, at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium and support the Lakewood Public Library Foundation. The Secret Life of Bees was awarded the 2004 Book Sense Paperback Book of the Year, nominated for the Orange Prize in England and chosen as a Good Morning America’s Read This! Book Club pick. The Mermaid Chair is the recipient of the first-ever Quill Award. Other works include the acclaimed memoirs Dance of the Dissident Daughter and When the Heart Waits. Copies of her books will be sold at the event. General admission tickets are \$12.00 in advance and \$15.00 the day of the event. Tickets are available at the circulation desks of the Main Library and the Madison Branch, all area Borders Books and Music stores and the Beck Center for the Arts (216) 521-2540 where Visa and MasterCard are accepted. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Program begins at 7:00 p.m. Lakewood Civic Auditorium 14100 Franklin Boulevard.

Thursday April 6, 2006 HOW DOES YOUR HOME & GARDEN GROW - SAFE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

Jim Lenahan of Lenahan Electric will summarize the benefits of the many new electrical devices and systems that have recently hit the consumer market, helping you to create a safe, environmentally friendly and cost-efficient home. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Friday April 7, 2006 FILMS ON FRIDAY

The Invisible Man (1933) Directed by James Whale NOT RATED H. G. Welles’ classic is arguably improved in this horror milestone. The special effects still chill. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday April 8, 2006 WRITER’S WORKSHOP

Renew your creative energy and get positive feedback from fellow writers. Whether you’re a seasoned pro or just have a hankering to write, everyone is welcome to join this workshop. 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

SECOND SATURDAY FOLK MUSIC

We’re honored to present one of the finest traditional Klezmer violinists in the world, Steven Greenman.

Presented by Fritz Schaufele, curator of Folk Music Arts for the Lakewood Public Library. Performers are subject to change. Seating is limited. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance. Visit <http://www.lkwdpl.org/saturday> for the latest updates. 7:30 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday April 9 SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS - WORLD MUSIC MEDLEY

Jim Kalal and Sylvia Gallo travel the world with just two guitars. 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

MANGA CIRCLE

Have dreams of publishing your own manga comic? Want to learn more about visual storytelling? Our goals are to provide art instruction and support to fellow otaku! Sponsored by DELETER of Japan. (<http://www.deleter.jp>) 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Monday April 10 YOUR LAKEWOOD HOME - THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Sarah Hobbs from the Cleveland Restoration Society will give pointers to Lakewood homeowners working on their older homes. The program will include maintenance tips for masonry repair, porch railings, window replacements, additions and much more. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

PROTECTING YOUR COMPUTER

Learn how to keep your computer virus and spyware free. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center
Call 226-8275 x127 to register for this program

Saturday April 15, 2006 NOVEL PATHWAYS THROUGH THE LIBRARY

Part 3 of Personal Development & Transformative Learning In the Library

The question addressed in this session is: how might exploration in a library generate advice? How might, in effect, a library’s pictorial and written material act as the equivalent of an oracle? Using as starting point a resonant personal question, this session, once again, emphasizes immediate implementation of a practical transformational tool. 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

FAMILY MUSIC & MORE - Foster Brown’s Stories & Songs

Spend a Saturday evening at the Library and enjoy programs featuring musicians and other talented performers. Performers are subject to change. Seating is limited. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS April 7, 8, 9 April Showers • April 14, 15 Click, Clack, Cluck!

Make the library a part of your family weekend time with programs featuring stories, activities, music and crafts. Our staff will provide materials and ideas for families wishing to continue reading and storytelling at home. The programs are free and there is no need to register in advance. Choose the day, time and place most convenient for you. Day Time Friday 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m. Saturday 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. Sunday 2:00 p.m.

Every weekend of the year in the Children’s and Youth Services Department at Main Library and Madison Branch

Observer's On Assingment

Parents, Friends...

Continued from page 1

the marks by wearing wide bracelets and wristbands, long pants and shirt sleeves. If a person cuts themselves, it doesn't mean they are gay. It does mean they need professional counseling.

Mary Hall, Assistant Director, Lakewood Department of Human Services, Division of Youth, says openly gay kids are at risk of being bullied, harassed, and beaten. A boy who is effeminate or a girl who is butch are among those children who are the most vulnerable, said Renee Althof, R.N., CNS. These children may not necessarily be gay. They may be developing their sexual identity, trying on new ways of being. Nevertheless, they are bullied, harassed, beaten into that "one size fits all." Of the child not yet out to their parents, Mika Major, Lakewood resident and Director of Programs at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Center of Greater Cleveland, said, "Some kids come to the center because they are being bullied. The child feels that they can't really tell their parents why they're being bullied if they're gay."

"Bullying may occur in common areas such as hallways where teachers may not hear what is said or see what is done," said Boyd. But she added, "It's starting to be uncool to be a bully."

Some gay kids are shunned. Classmates and friends may withdraw when they find out the person is gay. And, as I said in Part I of this series, neighbors, once happy to greet the child, are no longer friendly when they find out the child is gay. They turn their heads. They wait in their cars until the child has passed to avoid saying hello. Muth said that shunning, a form of emotional violence, is the most painful outcome of being gay. In a family system, invitations to family get-togethers may dwindle. My friend in Lakewood, whose son is now in his thirties, told me her family and friends rarely ask about her son. It hurts.

When kids feel as if they don't have a trusting parent, a safe place, they may begin to isolate themselves. The gay child, not yet out, may step further into the closet. And as Major said, "Human beings are not here to hide."

Feeling they have no one to trust, children may internalize the struggle and become depressed, self-medicate with drugs, or drop out of school believing they don't fit in. According to Major, twenty-five percent of gay kids, including transgender, drop out of school.

Some kids, in an effort to prove to themselves and others that they're not gay, may engage in promiscuous activity. Hall said that sexual activity, even casual sex, has been normalized. Developmentally, this can be a time of confusion. That alone makes one vulnerable. Hall emphasized that it is natural to be attracted to kids of the same sex. She added that today, it is more acceptable for kids to admit attraction to both sexes.

Even if a child declares that they are gay, it doesn't mean they need to or will engage in sexual activity. Counselors caution that the values held by the family are the same when there is a gay member. Essentially, the same rules apply. Just because someone is gay, doesn't mean they are sexually promiscuous.

When the counselors talk about children, they are talking about pre-teens and teens. Today, kids are identifying themselves as gay at a much earlier age. Muth said that currently kids are coming out to their friends in middle school and high school. John Farina, Development Director at the Beck Center, came out to a guidance counselor in junior high school. The counselor confirmed to John that he was okay. Farina stressed the importance of finding a trusting adult.

Unity Group membership at Lakewood High School has grown, with an increase in the number of freshman. However, not all Unity members are gay. Some have relatives or family members who are gay.

"Kids are looking to see a reflection of themselves, a sense of belonging," Major said. In Lakewood and nearby there are a number of places for children to obtain support, whether they are gay or not, and deal with some of the risk behaviors identified. The advice for kids from many of the coun-

selors I interviewed was reaffirming and reassuring. Boyd recommended that pre-teens and teens who are struggling with sexual identity, "...take your time, don't label yourself, don't be in a hurry to come out to anyone." It's a process.

Students can talk to their counselors. If they are a student at Lakewood High School, they can talk to the advisor or a member of the Unity Group. In addition to Unity Group, Lakewood High School offers support through a Newcomers group that helps to ease the transition to the high school and a Family group for girls who have a difficult home life. This is a high-functioning, confidential support group.

The LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland is a safe place for kids with supportive staff and programs. Additionally, PFLAG Cleveland (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) has a confidential information line, literature, and monthly meetings at Trinity Cathedral. Some of the literature addresses how to come out to your parents, family and friends.

"Parental meltdown is an old story," said Major. "Parents worry, fret. All the negative stereotypes are wrong." Kris Jares, LISW, Lakewood Hospital, Teen Health Center, recommended that parents refrain from criticism or condemnation. She suggested that parents listen, be supportive, ask questions, ask questions that are not judgmental, and talk to a counselor about how to start a conversation. Kris said the response, "You're going through a phase," angers

the kids.

The message for parents from the counselors is the same as for children - "You are not alone." According to Jane Daroff, mother of a gay son and founding member of PFLAG Cleveland, "PFLAG is the best ballgame in town." Every month 35-38 people meet at Trinity Cathedral. Sometimes young gay people attend. It gives the parent a chance to ask questions they may be afraid to ask their child. It gives the child a chance to ask questions they may be afraid to ask their parents. "Something magical happens." Daroff said, reassuringly. Newcomers get a large portion of the evening.

"Parents have a coming out process as much as the child does," said Tim Marshall, Director of Communications of the LGBT Center of Greater Cleveland. "Once kids come out of the closet, parents go in," Daroff said. Kids get angry because parents don't get on board readily. Kids need to give their parents time.

"It is important for the parent to seek support because this is a complicated issue at times. How are you going to help this child find out who they are?" asked Hoopes. Hall stressed, "It's so hard for parents. They beat themselves up. They need friends, family to go to and not deal with this in isolation."

Lakewood is a community filled with valuable resources. The counselors stand ready to assist you, your family, and, most importantly, your tender child as you walk through the process of coming out as a family.

North Ridgeville Poet Comes to Lakewood for Inspiration

By Kenneth Warren

It's tough to be a poet living in North Ridgeville, Ohio. For Arden Z. Heller, Jr. the deleterious effects of suburban sprawl on the poet's imagination are clear.

"We have destroyed our land for housing we can't afford. There's no town center. It's a bed and breakfast with no town feeling. That why there are no arts basically in North Ridgeville."

The flames of Venus, goddess of love and beauty, lick the imagination of this left-handed Libran poet from North Ridgeville, who visits Lakewood frequently in order to encounter his true muse.

Indeed, Heller's love poems carry something of the sea foam that arose from Aphrodite: "She walks along the sand/the beach is yellow-bright/and foamy white/where tongues of water/lick its edges."

As a school boy, Cupid's arrow moved through Heller's pen. "The only thing I know is I wrote love letters, poems and mushy notes to girls when I was ten," says Heller, looking back on his earliest impulse to express his urge to merge.

Now the poems flow through Heller in Zen mode, too.

"Yesterday I wrote eight poems. I feel them coming through me and I just write them down."

Inspired by the people on the street and the fine old homes, Heller likes to walk anywhere in the city.

"In Lakewood I can take an old time constitutional. I love just to walk," Heller explains.


"The people are friendly and artistic in Lakewood," says Heller.

Heller is especially drawn to the arts scene now flourishing at Local Girl gallery, where copies of his book, *Every Where I Am*, are available for sale.

"I've been coming to Lakewood Public Library since 1977. I've never seen a library that keeps more of the older books. There's a great poetry section, and a great video collection, too," says Heller.

The Reed Thomason mural that spanned the east wall of the Children's and Youth Services wing is a favorite source of inspiration for Heller. He expressed relief to learn the mural has been safely placed in storage for the library's renovation period and will re-appear upon completion of the expansion and renovation of the Main Library.

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Lakewood Sports

LHS Baseball Team Pitching In For 2006

By Mike Deneen

Lakewood High's "boys of spring" returned to the baseball diamond on Friday, March 31st in the second annual Early Bird Tournament. Head coach Jerry Gruss, a teacher at LHS since 1985, has been head coach for five years. He and assistant coach Bruce Giberson lead a 19-man roster that features a lot of youth, with only five senior letter winners returning for 2006. The team is not expected to have a lot of home run power, so the team is planning to play a lot of "small ball"—baseball lingo for manufacturing runs by stealing bases and timely hitting. The ability to play effective defense will also be important.

As with any baseball team at any level of competition, pitching will be the key to the team's performance this year. In professional baseball, pitchers are specialists dedicated to only that position. In fact, in many leagues (including the American League, where the Indians play) pitchers do not even have to bat. However, at the high school level most of the roster "pitches in" to handle the duty. On this year's Ranger squad, at least eleven of the



LHS' Boys of Spring.

nineteen players will be doing some pitching in addition to their regular position duties.

Among the returning players on this year's team are seniors Chris Kenney, Kyle Richards, Rick Hiles, Matt Pickens and Zach Schreiber. Kenney and Richards bring a lot of versatility

to the roster. Kenney plays third base, outfield and pitches. Richards plays both first and third base in addition to pitching. Matt Pickens, also a pitcher, will handle the important position of shortstop. Hiles will handle the middle infield, helping out at both second base and shortstop. Schreiber will play the

outfield positions.

The large junior class, which has 12 players, is led by two-time letter winner Tim Labar. He plays shortstop and pitches. One-year letter winners include outfielder Paul Barner, outfielder/pitcher Adam Hrdlicka and Taylor Kraus. Kraus is another highly versatile player, serving as a pitcher, outfielder and catcher. Also handling the physically demanding catching position will be juniors Ron Giermann and Alex Botsch. Juniors Rob Pecl and George Wright will be in the infield, and as will both of the team's sophomores Greg Bennett and Sam Norris. Juniors Anthony Lauren, Zach Poole, Jeff Trivett and Ted Brink will all be contributing in the outfield.

After the Early Bird tournament, the Rangers' home schedule includes twelve more home dates, including games against each of their Lake Erie League rivals. In addition, there are doubleheaders scheduled for April 19 against Rhodes and May 6 against Bay. All home games will be played at Lakewood High, whose newly refurbished field is among the finest in the state.

Winterhurst Hockey – High School Club Team

By Joseph Geither

The Winterhurst Hockey Association is a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the growth and development of youth hockey. WHA exists as an educational / recreational organization that provides a progressive pathway for children from ages 4 - 18 how to play the exciting game of ice hockey. WHA is a member of the Cleveland Suburban Hockey League (CSHL) - which consists of over 25 member organizations - and operates under the auspices of USA Hockey, the national governing organization for amateur hockey in the United States. Winterhurst Ice Rink in Lakewood serves as the "home ice" for practices and home games.

This year the WHA offered a high school aged program for ex-WHA players who found themselves matriculating at a high school without a varsity hockey program. This program was put in place to give high school aged players a chance to stay on the ice, rather than quit. A child on the ice is seldom in hot water. This team competed in the North Coast Club Hockey league, in cooperation with Lakewood High Schools athletic department and head coach Scott Little. They competed as Lakewood Club Hockey, and wore old LHS jerseys.



The 2006 Winterhurst/Lakewood Club Hockey Team.

cleared the team had tied for first place in league play with a 9-1-1 record. The team then climbed through the playoffs beating VASJ and Walsh Jesuit to put themselves in the playoff championship. Unfortunately they lost this to Medina HS Club.

The team success gave them enough wins to qualify for the Club Hockey State championships, along with Medina, Gilmour Academy, and Jackson HS. This tournament was held

in Columbus the same weekend as the Ohio High School Athletic Assoc. state playoffs which were won by Padua HS.

Out of the twelve teams in Columbus from Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati area, the Lakewood Club team finished fourth, qualifying for the semi-finals with wins over Centerville HS and Cincinnati Elder HS. The team finished fourth in the state.

This team had phenomenal success, with an overall record of 24-13-3 ,

a total of 40 games! Our HS Club games record was 19-6-1. Team leadership was supplied by the captains, Sr. Ryan Adams, Sr. Jon Bucheck and Sr. Kevin Katlenbach.

It is hoped this initial success can be built on and this program can keep providing HS aged players an option for many years to come. Information about this team can be obtained from the WHA website.

www.winterhursthockey.org.

Lakewood Sports

Girls' Rugby Preps to Defend State Championship

Todd Shapiro

The Lakewood Girls Rugby team has been busy preparing to defend their state championship both on and off the field. After completing a season which saw them beat Westerville to win the state championship, advance to the Mid West regional tournament, and then on to nationals in Milwaukee where they finished eighth, the girls have been busy training and fundraising to prepare for the 2006 season.

According to team manager Alison Breckel fundraising is often a tougher battle than the scrums on the field. "We have team budget of \$10,000 a year and that is before going to Nationals that's makes it closer to \$20,000," Breckel said. "We've done car washes, bake sales, karaoke nights – every imaginable way to raise money." Because the team is a club and not a varsity sport they get no funding from the high school athletic department.

On the field, the girls started training in October for the season which began March 19. Head Coach Andre Bruwer, who played professional rugby in his native South Africa before becoming a substitute teacher at Lakewood High School, said the months of preparation is ready to reap rewards. "The girls are more than ready for the season." In his third season coaching the team, Bruwer continues to be impressed by the work ethic of his squad. "It takes a lot of dedication to come out here and practice almost all year around. When I first started coaching the girls, I tended to want to take it easy on them, but they train as hard, if not harder than the boys." In addition to Bruwer, the Rangers are also guided by assistant coaches Paul McCabe and Garret Prom.

That training will be tested with a



The 2006 Lakewood high Girl's Rugby Team.

schedule that features matches against area teams including Mayfield, Highland, Hudson and perennial nemesis Parma. Although Lakewood defeated Parma 84-0 last spring this year's match, which will be contested April 12 at Cleveland's Edgewater Park, promises to be a spirited match. The Rangers open up the home portion of their schedule April 2 against Hudson High School. The stiffest competition in Ohio may not take place until the state tournament where Lakewood is anticipating a rematch against Westerville.

To make it back to the state finals, the Rangers are counting on the consistent play of captains Erin Norton,

Danielle Rusnak and Paula Lanzer. In addition to leading the Rangers, Norton was also selected as captain of the Team-Ohio All Star Team at the conclusion of the 2005 season. Norton feels the team has a good chance at bringing home the hardware for the April 22 state tournament again this year. "We lost 10 seniors from last year's team. But we have been working hard all winter and feel like we could make it to states again." Norton, who played softball her freshman year before being turned onto rugby, is looking forward to playing rugby next season at Eastern Illinois.

Even if the Rangers are success-

ful in defending their state title, the season may not have a happy ending. With the venue for this year's national championship shifting from Milwaukee to Maine the girls will need to raise \$10,000 in a matter of two weeks if they qualify for the national championships. Coach Bruwer said his staff has discussed the situation with the girls, "As is stands right now we can not afford to go to nationals even if we should qualify. Just the bus to get us to Maine would cost \$7,000."

For more updates about Lakewood Girls Rugby visit their official website www.lhsgirlsrugby.com

LHS Choirs and Band Receive Superior Ratings at OMEA District Contest

By Anne Palomaki

On Friday, March 10, and Saturday, March 11, the Lakewood Symphonic Mixed Choir, Symphonic Treble Choir, Wind Ensemble, and Symphonic Band participated in the OMEA District Contest. The choirs performed at Bay High School and the bands at Westlake High School. The timing of the performances of all four groups was carefully coordinated since several of the talented students at LHS were in several groups, both choral and instrumental.

The performances by the ensembles from Lakewood High were a huge success! All four groups received the highest possible rating, a Superior. The Symphonic Mixed Choir was the

only AA Class (most difficult level) to receive unanimous Superior ratings from all four judges. After the students performed three prepared pieces on stage for 3 judges, they were then led to a separate room, given a piece of music they had never seen, and asked to sight-sing (choir) or sight-read (band) the piece for a fourth judge. The culmination of the four judges' ratings resulted in the final score.

Congratulations to the student musicians in these four ensembles and to their directors, Dr. Lisa Hanson and Mr. Brian Maskow for their superb musicianship and their outstanding representation of Lakewood.



Photo by Rhonda Loje

Lakewood Theatre

Beck Center Next Hit Musical - The Full Monty

Mary Bodnar
Lakewood Observer Theatre Critic

Adapted in 2000 from the hit Brit film, *The Full Monty* is a story of six unemployed steel workers who, after exhausting all other job opportunities, decide to earn an unconventional living by performing a male striptease act.

Beck Center Artistic Director Scott Spence directs this exhilarating show in the company of Musical Director Larry Goodpaster and Choreographer Martin Céspedes. “What makes *The Full Monty* innovative,” says Spence, “is that it is a musical for the ‘common man.’” “The desperations of out-of-work American mid-westerners, make not only for great humor, but great empathy.” Spence continues, “That these everyday characters from Buffalo chose to embrace humiliation as a means to support their families, is taking a cook’s position at McDonalds after completing graduate school (this

happened to me!). These men put on brave faces that the audience can only applaud and commiserate with. This is a musical about the ‘true’ American hero - the working class.”

The Beck Center’s production of this soul-baring musical is sponsored by Cox Communications and LakewoodBuzz.com. *The Full Monty* opens on the Mackey Main Stage March 17th and runs through April 9th. Show times are Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

Don’t get caught with your pants down! Order your tickets today! Call the Beck Center box office at (216)521-2540 or log onto www.beckcenter.org. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors (65 and older), and \$17 for students (22 and under with ID), which includes a \$2 administrative fee per ticket applied at the time of ticket res-



ervation. Rush tickets for students (22 and under with I.D.) are offered for \$10 each on Thursdays and Sundays only, 30 minutes prior to curtain, based on availability. Group discounts are avail-

able for parties of 12 or more. The Beck Center for the Arts is located just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.

Scandalous!

Beck Center for the Arts Presents *The In-its day* Infamous Comedy: *Mrs. Warren’s Profession*
March 31 - April 30, 2006

Named “Cleveland’s Best Theatre Company” in 2002 and 2004 and “Best Controversial Show That Wasn’t” in 2005 by Scene Magazine, the Beck Center for the Arts proudly presents Cleveland’s first couple of acting, Dorothy and Reuben Silver, in George Bernard Shaw’s modern classic *Mrs. Warren’s Profession*. Directed by Scott Plate, *Mrs. Warren’s Profession* opens in the intimate Studio Theater on March 31st and runs through April 30th.

Squarely confronting explosive social and moral issues, Shaw’s infamous succès-scandale dramatizes the conflict between Mrs. Warren and Vivie Warren, her daughter, over the revelation that her mother’s “profession” happens to be the world’s oldest. Yes, the charming and pragmatic Mrs.

Warren runs a brothel-several, in fact, all across Europe.

Directed by Scott Plate, *Mrs. Warren’s Profession* features Cleveland favorites Bernadette Clemens as Vivie Warren, Michael Regnier as Mr. Praed, Dorothy Silver as Kitty Warren, Jeffrey Grover as Sir George Crofts, Nicholas Koesters as Frank Gardner, and Reuben Silver as Reverend Samuel Gardner. Scott Plate’s local directing credits include acclaimed productions of *The Old Neighborhood*, *Closer* and *The Waiting Room* at Dobama Theatre, as well as *Eleemosynary* at the Cleveland Women’s Theatre Project. He has worked regionally at Atlanta’s Alliance Theatre, assisting on productions of *The Piano Lesson* (southeastern premiere) and *Flyin’ West* (world premiere), while staging productions of *La Ronde* and *The Imaginary Invalid* for the Alliance Theatre School. Plate muses on his current work, “*Mrs. Warren’s Profession* has long been one of



my favorite Shaw plays, a passionate and thorough debate bracing enough even for 2006, much less 1894. It’s the best argument for prostitution I’ve ever read.”

The Beck Center’s production of *Mrs. Warren’s Profession* is sponsored by 90.3 WCPN, Cleveland Scene Magazine and Lakewoodbuzz.com and is presented with the generous support of the Ohio Arts Council and the Cleveland Foundation. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. There will be no performances on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 14, 15 and 16. Tickets are \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$17 for students (22 and under with I.D.). Rush tickets for students (22 and under with I.D.) are offered for \$10 each on Sundays only, 30 minutes prior to curtain and based on availability. Discounted rates are available for groups. For tickets, call 216.521.2540 or visit www.beckcenter.org. The Beck Center is located just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood.



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Lakewood Goes Green

Will Lakewood Support Car-Sharing?

By Jan Greenfield

Are you aware that one shared car can get anywhere from 6 to 20 privately-owned vehicles off the road? Car-sharing has come to 28 North American cities, and now it's about to arrive in Lakewood -- if it can get a little help from Lakewood friends and neighbors!

Ryan McKenzie is the entrepreneur who began CityWheels with a \$30,000 grant from the Cleveland Foundation's Civic Innovation Lab. Ryan had spent the past five years as Transportation Program Manager at EcoCity Cleveland -- promoting public transit, biking and walking with the goal of improving the quality of life in urban neighborhoods. He came to realize that as long as households have one car per driver, they have an incentive to use those cars and not use alternative transportation.

CityWheels opened its first car-sharing site at Oberlin College. On February 9, 2006, a 2006 Toyota Prius and a 2006 Scion xB became available to Oberlin students and townspeople who are over 21 years of age and have a clean driving record for at least 3 years. The college, through its Environmental Policy Implementation Group, gave administrative backing to the project and is even providing discounts to students to use the program in an effort to reduce the number of cars on Oberlin streets.

In March, McKenzie placed CityWheels cars in Ohio City, where he resides, and in Cleveland Heights. And by April, perhaps Shaker Square and . . . Lakewood?! All Ryan needs is to see demonstrated interest in car-sharing from Lakewood citizens. We're the ideal community since we are the most densely-populated city between New York and Chicago; we already have many residents committed to walking, biking, shopping and even working in

Ryan's goal is to place several shared-cars into a community so that members are always within 10 minutes' walking distance of at least one vehicle.

Lakewood (see Home-Based Businesses LO 2/7/06). Some of these people could be called "reluctant drivers"; there are times when their legs or the Circulator won't do; but they would prefer not to own a second car (or perhaps any car at all) if they had a good alternative.

If you think you may fit this bill, or that you might like to divest yourself of a second or even third vehicle in the family, it's good to keep in mind the potential savings of such a move. The American Automobile Association calculates that a newer car driven 15,000

annual miles costs its owner \$5,988 (for 2005). With car-sharing, you pay a one-time fee of \$99 plus approximately \$8.50 for each hour you drive the car (incentives reduce the hourly rate as usage increases). CityWheels pays for the insurance, maintenance and gas for the vehicle. The shared-cars provided are highly fuel-efficient (including some hybrids), so in addition to benefiting you economically, they improve air quality, traveling and parking congestion and

get more neighborhood residents back on the streets to build community and keep an eye on what's going on!

Ryan's goal is to place several shared-cars into a community so that members are always within 10 minutes' walking distance of at least one vehicle. He plans to have 16 cars in operation by the end of 2006; 50 cars in 2 years; and 100 within 3 years. Along the way, he will listen to car-sharing clients and if there's a demand for a 2-seater sports car or a luxury car, he will provide those as well. Fortunately, because car-

sharing was begun in Europe decades ago, the operational and technological issues have already been ironed out. Shared-cars have high-tech electronics on board to provide security and they can be reserved on-line or by phone, with the customer accessing the car, self-serve, by using their CityWheels smart card.

In order to get started in Lakewood, Ryan is seeking citizens who would be interested in enrolling in the car-sharing program as well as an employee-oriented entity -- such as the city government, a school, a hospital, or local business -- to reduce their vehicle-related expenses by contracting for car-sharing services and providing an assigned parking space. These customers would generally use the car during the workday; the car would then be available for Lakewood residents to reserve by the hour on evenings and weekends.

If you'd like to express your interest in car-sharing for Lakewood, see www.CityWheelsCleveland.com and click on the "Sign up for our e-newsletter" link. To contact your Lakewood volunteer car-share organizer, email: jan.greenfield@mac.com, or to contact Ryan directly, email: ryan@CityWheelsCleveland.com or call (216) 961-5020 x 209.

"Green" Revolution Very Doable!

By Jan Greenfield

In the summer of 2006, Lakewood offered a 7-series renovation class through the Cleveland Green Building Coalition. Having just purchased a 1910 Arts & Crafts Colonial Foursquare on Hall Avenue, I eagerly learned the ins and outs of renovating for high-energy-efficiency and low-toxicity! Our teacher Jim LaRue, former Education Director of the Housing Resource Center in Cleveland, stressed the importance of focusing on simple, cost-effective strategies. Solar energy sounds fabulous, but it can be quite costly and requires the right mix of circumstances to pay off in the end.

A major rule of thumb of renovation is to try to utilize as many non-toxic materials as possible; the best defense against chemical pollution is to keep poisons -- such as vinyl, outgassing carpets and high-VOC paints -- out of your house to begin with. A fellow student in our Lakewood Green Building class recommended an outstanding book which I purchased locally & read completely: Green Remodeling: Changing the World One Room at a Time, a Mother Earth News Book for Wiser Living by David Johnston & Kim Master, LEED AP, 2004.

When local Lakewood HVAC (Heating, Ventilating & Air Condition-

ing) contractor Dave Slife suggested removing the fireplace & chimney from my house to streamline HVAC function, I was ready since my reading had suggested that chimney maintenance can be costly. As Dave explained, "With air conditioning, the cold air falls rather than

rises, so your current forced-air duct work is not designed to effectively utilize that fact. By removing the chimney, new duct work can be placed through the center of the house, providing separate heat and AC zoning to the two floors." Beautiful diamond-patterned oak wood floors

were relieved of their carpet and were finished with water-based polyurethane that does not outgas harmful volatile-organic-compounds (VOC's). We kept the old wooden kitchen cabinets, sprucing them up with new pulls and the lowest VOC-emitting paint available which is often chosen by hospitals due to its low toxicity.

All appliances were selected for Energy-Star efficiency and were electric to exclude gas fumes. The plumber installed a new low-water-use toilet and a tankless, on-demand water heater. As many of the original wood-framed windows were retained as possible and updated with new triple-track storms as required. Window draperies are 100% cotton denim. All exterior walls and attic floors were insulated with non-toxic cellulose. The gas bill was a remarkable \$160 for January 2006 and \$130 for February 2006!

These renovation choices were energy-efficient and cost-effective. They also were not high-tech or complex to implement. For any of you wishing to undertake such "green" remodeling, a good resource is the Cleveland Green Building Coalition at www.clevelandgbc.org. Also, to keep up with a variety of green issues in Lakewood, check out the Committee for a Greener Lakewood at www.ci.lakewood.oh.us/citygovern_council_greenteam.html.



Chef Geoff

Silence of the Lamb (cake)

With all due political correctness aside, and appropriate apologies to any readers who may take offense, the topic du jour is Easter. Not the religious significance of the holiday, but rather the culinary importance. As with any holiday, religious or secular, there are certain traditional culinary themes. Sometimes those themes are (almost) universal. While we may debate the type of stuffing to use (I prefer apple, onion and sage), turkey on Thanksgiving is an accepted norm. The same probably holds true for corned beef on St. Patrick’s Day and hot dogs and hamburgers at the Fourth of July picnic. Other Holidays offer more personal traditions, be it the Italian feast on Christmas Eve or roast pork and sauerkraut on New Year’s Day. Easter falls, I think, into the later category with traditional family feasts which stem from habits handed down from generations past. Many times those memories run deep, evoking joyous images of family and friends surrounding a holiday table, festooned in the appropriate trappings for the celebration day. As I harken back to days of my childhood, the Easter table was ALWAYS graced with a centerpiece lamb.

As I promised, I’ll not get into the religious significance of a lamb on Easter. Indeed, in my memory, the true

by Jeff Endress

Grilled Leg of Lamb, Marinated and Butterflied (allow 1/3 pound per person)

- One boneless leg of lamb (available at Heinens or have your butcher remove the bone)
- 2 three inch sprigs fresh rosemary, leaves removed and roughly chopped (you may substitute 1 tbsp. dried).
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp. soy
- 1/4 cup dry white wine
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil

Procedure:

Butterfly the meat. (Butterflying means to slice the meat in partially in half, retaining a connected edge so that the meat can be “opened” against the connected hinge, with the thickness reduced by half).

Place the meat (opened) in a shallow roasting dish. Spread half of the Marinade ingredients on the exposed side, turn the meat and repeat. Cover and refrigerate 2-4 hours

importance of our Easter lamb was dessert, perhaps my most beloved dessert of all. All white and fluffy, clothed in coconut shavings, fresh out of a Hough Bakery box, that centerpiece lamb cake was a treat for which you would be willing to trade your Malley’s chocolate rabbit. As the family enjoyed our Easter dinner (actually dressed in our Sunday best...with no baseball caps)

I would contemplate that sacrificial lamb. If I hadn’t already snatched the licorice jelly bean eyes, the cake would stare back, sitting peacefully in his field of green icing, surrounded by marshmallow peeps and other confectionary creatures. But the lamb was, in my mind, the star of the show and he knew how anxiously I awaited that moist yellow cake and the smooth butter cream frosting. The interesting paradox from my memory is, as I was pining for that lamb cake, I was usually being told to eat my Easter dinner, which was real lamb. My dislike of that particular dish was almost as great as my love for the dessert to follow. Even the mint jelly didn’t help the taste much.

Sadly, my love of that lamb cake has gone the way of the bakery that created them. While I’m sure that there are a good many very fine lamb cakes that will grace many Easter tables, both homemade and from some fine bakeries, somehow, if it didn’t travel

to the kitchen in that white bakery box with the blue trim, something terribly important is missing. Despite the closing of Hough’s and my initial dislike for actual lamb, my Easter table will still feature lamb, though not one clothed in coconut. As I grew older, and my tastes became more adventurous, I actually began to enjoy lamb. I think the revelation came when I first had a rack of lamb, juicy and pink, flavorful of rosemary and lemon, that I realized that my dislike was not of the meat itself, but rather the preparation. To this day I will still shy away from a roasted leg of lamb, but the same cut of meat, prepared in different fashion, is a favorite. So, rather than a dried roast, with a bone making for difficult carving, I remove bone, butterfly and marinate the meat and opt for the grill. The higher direct heat sears the meat, keeping it far juicier, and because butterflying greatly increases the surface area, the marinade is able to penetrate, adding tenderness and flavor difficult to duplicate in the bone in roast. Carving is a breeze, as you are able to slice the meat as you would a London broil. You may also be surprised that to a butterflied, grilled leg of lamb, mint jelly is an unwanted accompaniment.

Prepare the grill. You will want a moderately high heat. When the grill is ready, place flattened meat over fire and drizzle with marinade. Cover the grill (if one is able). Lamb tends to have some fat, so be careful to keep from flare-ups. For a butterflied roast 2 inches thick, (for medium) allow to cook for 15 minutes, flip and drizzle with marinade. Cook another 15 minutes. Carve on the bias, and serve with roasted new potatoes, steamed spring asparagus with hollandaise, a fruity Pinot Grigio...and a Hough Bakery Lamb Cake from which you’ve snatched the licorice jelly bean eyes.



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

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Lakewood Observer

A Local Leader Reflects on His Peace Corps Years

By Carla Kowalski and
Charlotte Still Noble

"And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country." These oft quoted words from John F. Kennedy's inaugural address summarize a key theme from the young senator's presidential campaign. Within a few months of taking the oath of office, President Kennedy worked with the Congress to establish a large corps of American volunteers to provide assistance throughout the world. The Peace Corps Act of 1961 established this new initiative and set forth three primary goals: promote world peace and friendship; help countries meet their needs for manpower, particularly in meeting the basic needs of those living in the poorest areas; and promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the peoples served and a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

This month commemorates the 45th anniversary of the Peace Corps' founding. The Peace Corps' presence around the world, especially in developing countries, has brought education, medical care, agricultural advancement, and human understanding to millions of people in dozens of countries. Since its inception, the Peace Corps has sent over 182,000 volunteers and trainees to serve in 138 countries.

The Peace Corps also has had a tremendous impact on those who have served in its ranks. Many well-known Ohioans have served in the Peace Corps, including former governor Richard Celeste (9th Director) and current Governor Robert Taft (Tanzania 1963-1965). Another such person is Lakewood resident Kevin O'Donnell. O'Donnell served as Peace Corps Country Director in Korea from 1966-1970 before going on to be the fourth Director of the Peace Corps in the early 1970s. O'Donnell agreed to be interviewed for this article.

O'Donnell grew up on the west side of Cleveland and the eastern part of Lakewood, and was educated at St. Rose's Grammar School and West High School before receiving degrees from Kenyon College and Harvard Business School. After serving in World War II, O'Donnell married and quickly became established in his business career. When the Peace Corps was founded in 1961, O'Donnell was happily settled into suburban life with his wife and their children. Five years later, however, O'Donnell and his family--by then ten in all--were living in Korea, serving in the Peace Corps. To what can such a marked change be attributed?

O'Donnell describes three pivotal factors, that when taken together, changed the direction of his life. First, O'Donnell and his wife, Peg, became active in a spiritual renewal movement in the Catholic Church, the Cursillo, which got O'Donnell thinking about life

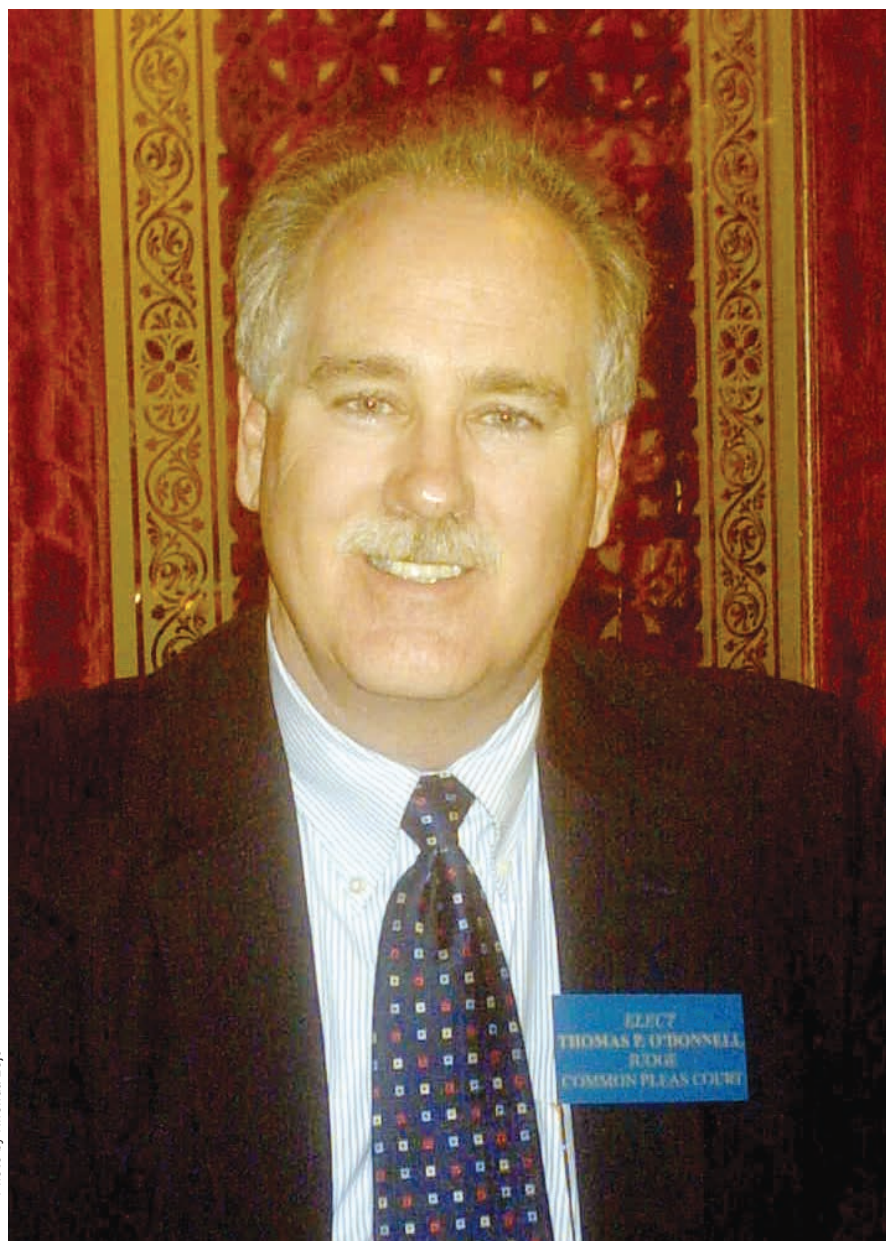


Photo by Rhonda Loe

Kevin O'Donnell

from a mission-oriented perspective. Second, O'Donnell became acquainted with 12-step recovery programs, which further underscored the importance and rewards of serving others. Finally, tragically, Peg O'Donnell died shortly after giving birth to the O'Donnells' sixth child. Then a widower with six children, O'Donnell knew the life he had been living was past, the future as yet undetermined.

O'Donnell later married Ellen Blydenberg, the widow of a college classmate. Their combined family included eight children, ages 1-16. Ellen was familiar with service-oriented living as her father had been a medical missionary in China. She was supportive of Kevin's desire to dedicate the next phase of life to mission rather than profit alone.

In 1966, all ten O'Donnells moved to Korea when Kevin was appointed the first Country Director for the Peace Corps in Korea. His responsibilities were to shape the Peace Corps' initial presence in that country. All Peace Corps volunteers were encouraged to further their involvement with Korea and its people through their personal as well as their Peace Corps interests. In this vein, O'Donnell pursued his own personal involvement and was instrumental in bringing the Cursillo to Korea. O'Donnell's professional and personal leadership of Peace Corps/Korea was recognized by President Park Chong Hee, who awarded O'Donnell

the Order of Civil Merit. Following four years of service in Korea, the O'Donnells returned to the United States where, after some months, Kevin was appointed the fourth Director of the Peace Corps.

Although serving the Peace Corps in Korea and then in Washington, DC were radically different experiences, each was profoundly challenging. By the early 1970s when O'Donnell was Peace Corps Director, moves were afoot in Congress to cast a potentially fatal blow to the Peace Corps' funding. One congressman from Louisiana, Otto Passman, unrelentingly attacked the entire concept of a Peace Corps and rallied as much support as possible for its demise.

During the interview in his Lakewood office, O'Donnell pulled out documents from the detailed case he made to Congress to save the Peace

Corps. His charisma, passion and commitment are very much in evidence as he reflects on that time. "It was a pivotal time. Had Congressman Passman's efforts succeeded, the Peace Corps would have had to recall thousands of volunteers, breaking contracts and commitments with communities and countries around the world."

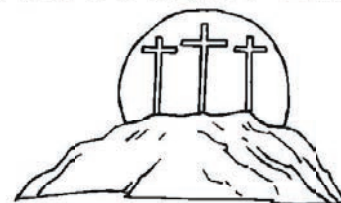
A piece of history rarely noted is that the Nixon administration was responsible for saving the Peace Corps at this crucial juncture. "Had the Nixon White House not intervened, transferring funds from other overseas programs to the Peace Corps, the Peace Corps could not have continued without serious repercussions. The effects would have been devastating. Thankfully, our case prevailed," O'Donnell says with a satisfied smile.

O'Donnell returned to Cleveland and re-entered the business world. He retired as CEO of SIFCO Industries after having led the company in its global expansion. O'Donnell continues to credit his Peace Corps service as among the most meaningful and challenging days of his life, a time that enriched all subsequent endeavors. "Peace Corps service is not for everyone – but those who do serve are changed forever for the better." He is rightfully proud that his daughter Megan O'Donnell Patton (84-86, Nepal), and his granddaughter, Allison O'Donnell (to be assigned upon graduation from Oberlin, spring, 2006), are among the younger generations who have joined the ranks of Peace Corps volunteers.

The Peace Corps continues to welcome adult applicants of all ages and backgrounds. Service as a PC Volunteer still offers the opportunity for individuals to satisfy some of their idealism, learn about a foreign culture and return home and share these experiences with their fellow Americans. Today over one-third of all volunteers work in education, another third in business development and environmental work, and a fifth in health and HIV/AIDS-related work. With programs in over 60 countries, a Volunteer has a wide selection of languages and cultures from which to choose.

Additional information about the Peace Corps and its 45th anniversary can be found on its website, www.peacecorps.gov.

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Lakewood Music

An Interview With Mike Weldon

Lakewood's Favorite - Psycho-tronic!

Born/in Lakewood?
I was born in 1952, and I probably lived in Cleveland when I was a baby. Mostly I lived in Lakewood and went through the whole Lakewood school system. I lived in or near Lakewood until 1979.

Influences?
Television wise, the two big ones were Ernie Anderson as Goulardi and The Upbeat show. Those were both major shows for me, and both had national impact that some people don't realize. Upbeat by being syndicated, and Goulardi by being copied by other horror hosts in other cities. I was greatly influenced by Saturday matinees in the many movie theatres that used to be in and around Lakewood. Double bills of really cheap horror and science fiction movies. Toho movies, Hammer films, things like that. Old movies on television. Incredible top 40 radio and later on great late sixties, early seventies, FM underground radio.

Play music?
Like a lot of other people it came along with the British invasion Right after the British invasion started I got an acoustic guitar and learned to play that. By junior high school I got in my first band, I went to Harding. I was in a band around 1966, 67 which never recorded. But it was a true garage band where we actually did garage rock covers. We practiced in garages and basements. We only played out a couple times, but it was a big deal to me. And it was a lot of fun. I was playing rhythm guitar at the time.

Places to play in Lakewood?
Absolutely not. I didn't see many bands until the late sixties. Most of the bands I saw were in Downtown Cleveland. In the early seventies there were bands that played at some of the Playhouse Square theaters before they got renovated. The first major rock show I saw was The Jimi Hendrix Experience with The Soft Machine in 1968. That was downtown at the Music Hall, I think. But there were no places to see

bands in Lakewood in the sixties that I know of.

Mirrors start year?
I would think that Craig would remember when he was still in Lakewood and when he got drafted. It seems like around 1972 to me.

Switch to drums?
It was just one of those things. The band was started by Jamie Klymek and Jim Krook, who had been friends from

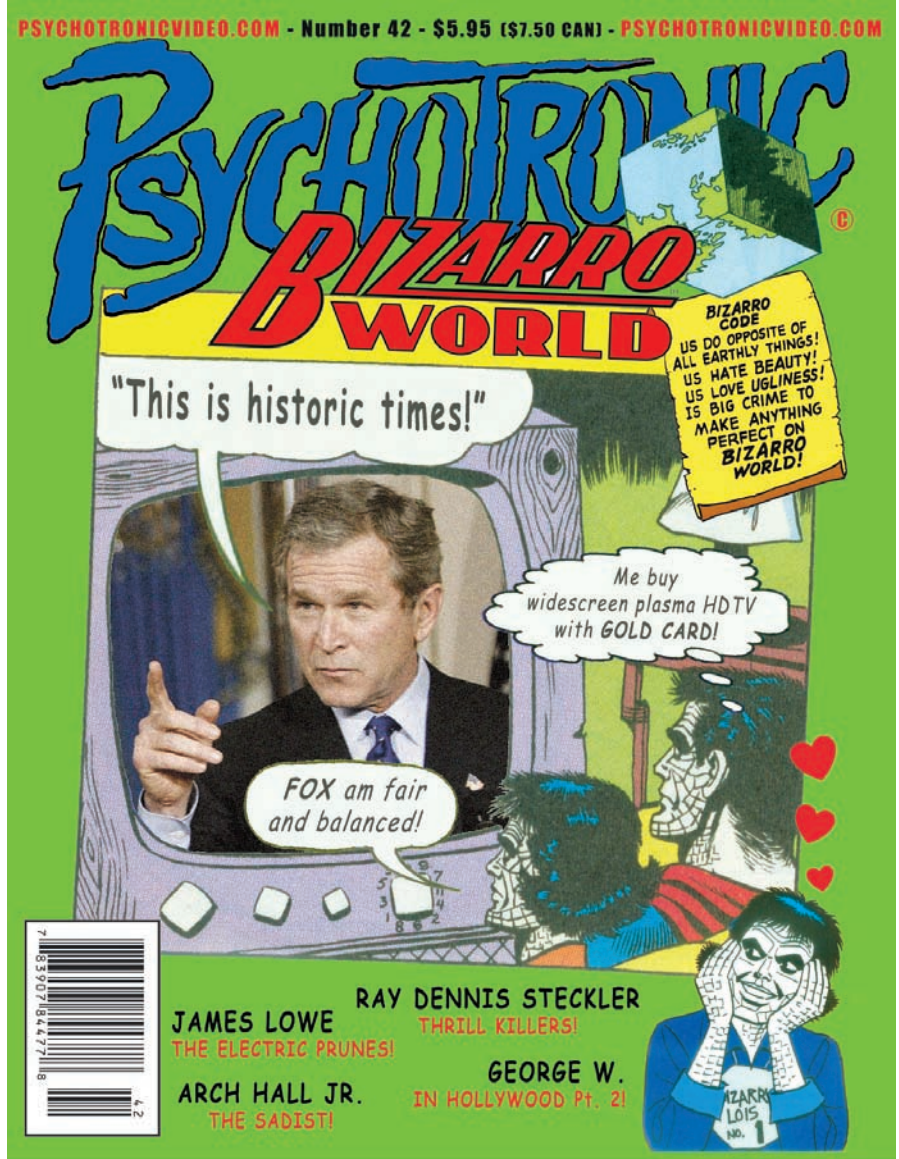
Jamie and Jim. Craig Bell wrote a few songs, and there were other people in and out of the band later, but I never wrote anything?

Were Mirrors first Clevo pre-punk band?
It's kind of a hard call. Mirrors wasn't just started by two guys who were Velvet Underground fans. They had gone to see the Velvet Underground every possible time. The Velvet Underground played in Cleveland more than

twice, and got local publicity. Peter Laughner had a lot to do with that. Jane Scott wrote a nice article in the Plain Dealer about the underground scene. That all happened in 1975, and then all the groups broke up. The guys in Mirrors and The Eels regrouped in different bands, it gets kind of complicated. I never played again after 1975 at all. There was this little scene that was kind of leading up to something, all the bands broke up and reformed, and before you know it it's time for punk rock. That's very connected, but it was different. By the time Pere Ubu was around I was working at the Drome record store. Just before I left town it was in Lakewood for a while. It was in 3 different locations starting in Cleveland Heights, and then it was in Lakewood right next to the Phantasy Nightclub and the Homestead Theater. Then it was in downtown Cleveland for a little while before it finally closed. But it was a real center for the sort of underground scene and the import scene and the punk rock scene. That's where the first Pere Ubu singles were sold, and what were then underground singles from New York like Patti Smith and Television and all that.

Zine?
That's another thing that came out of the Drome record store. David Thomas, who was in Pere Ubu at the time, John Thompson, who owned the store, and Jim Ellis, the three of the started Cle Magazine. It was a newspaper and then it became a magazine. IT came out on a very irregular basis for a couple years. That's the first place I got anything published, and where I wrote my first "movies on television" reviews. And then I continued and expanded that idea when I got to New York, and did my own publication in the eighties. That was Psychotronic. It was smaller but it was a lot more frequent. It was hand lettered, hand stapled, Xeroxed, hand delivered, hand everything. The lowest possible budget. It came out once a week, because my idea was this was an alternative TV Guide. And I'm going to say what's good about all these cult movies and B-movies and low budget movies that were on TV instead of just dismissing them like the other New York papers usually did. I did that for just over a year, the weekly original version. But luckily I was in the right place at the right time doing the right thing to get media attention, which led to me doing my first book. I couldn't really keep the weekly publication going and do the book at the same time, so I made the obvious choice.

The book came out in the early eighties, the original Psychotronic Encyclopedia. I didn't start the magazine that exists now until 1989. In between I did film festivals in America and Europe, and I did freelance writing for various magazines.



some years earlier. And they were both guitar players. They hadn't had any luck finding people to be in their band, and at some point Craig and I were hanging out where they were hanging out. And they asked us to be in this group. Neither one of us knew how to play the instruments we ended up playing. It truly was an amateur kind of thing for Craig and I. It was like, "you want to do it, you like music, we like a lot of the same things, we get along, let's try this." It was a very minimal group. We ended up doing a lot of original material, but to start off with the majority of the cover versions we did were by The Velvet Underground. I like that stuff a lot, and the drumming was not hard. I had a very simple stripped down drum kit and I never even owned it. I never owned a drum kit. It was one that had been left behind by some other guy that had auditioned for them or something.

Song writing?
The original material was mostly

any other city except New York and maybe Boston, from what I understand. So they saw them a lot and even kind of hung out with them. Peter Laughner also used to go see the Velvet Underground, and these guys all decided to start bands around the same time. From what I understand Peter had a hard time keeping bands together. Although I had a locker room partner in High School a few years before Mirrors who was in a band with Peter. I saw them play in 1970. So Laughner had a band that was playing out first.

Break up?
Nobody was making any money at the time. That whole little scene which included The Electric Eels, who were guys I all went to Lakewood High School with. And Mirrors and Rocket From the Tombs. It all ended in 1975. All three of those bands broke up about the same time after we played on the same bills together. All three of us played the same club together I think

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Lakewood Music

Resurrect mag?

I was just itching to write more and be my own boss again. Other magazines would either assign you what to review or censor what you wrote or not pay you, whatever. I just wanted to do it on my own again, and it was a good time to start a real magazine. The fanzine scene still exists, but it's been largely killed off by the internet. When I started, though, the internet wasn't as happening yet. There was a lot of media buzz about fanzines at the time. Newsprint wasn't as expensive, and postage wasn't as expensive, either.

Psychotronic?

My original idea with that word is that it's a two part word. "psycho" stands for the horror movies, and "tronic" stands for the science fiction movies. I very quickly expanded the meaning of the word to include any kind of exploitation or B-movie. At the same time I was writing about these movies, the movies that used to be the low budget movies the major newspapers didn't review turned into these multi-million dollar movies that were the top of the box office charts. So things really changed over the years.

Social significance?

It's a pretty complicated thing to go into. On the lighter side, on the surface side, things really changed in the seventies because of blockbuster movies like 'Jaws' and 'Star Wars'. Those were then modern big budget and popular versions of movies that used to be the B-movies, the bottom of the bill Saturday matinee movies that were only for kids. That was a real turning point. Another turning point was in the late sixties when the ratings system started. That made a big cultural difference that we're still dealing with. All of a sudden filmmakers were pretty free to put in whatever sex, drugs, politics, whatever they wanted to put in movies. And in the early seventies, when that freedom was still pretty new in America, there were more horror movies made around the world than at any other time. And they just got more and more outrageous. And at the time they were still being censored in America. They'd be heavily censored on television, and they'd be censored to get R ratings in drive-ins and movie theaters, too. And that kind of loosened up after a while, and then there were more conservative periods. But let me get back to the point here. I think in recent years, everything comes around and gets re-used and recycled. Like Quentin Tarantino is a good example of that. He's a passionate fanatic about the kind of movies he liked as a younger guy. He made some brilliant movies, but he also borrowed from some of the most outrageous movies from Italy and Japan, which are two countries that at one time were making the most outrageous and, to many people, offensive movies in the world. He's totally used that in what he does. And more than just about anybody else he helped that become mainstream. It's really hard to scare, shock, or disgust the general population anymore because it's now filtered into television. I'm old enough that I saw pretty much all the

changes come along and go down with that. There was a time I used to go to movies and if you saw a naked woman from the back it was like a big deal. Or if you saw a spear go through somebody in a war movie it was a big deal. People would write about it if you saw a decapitated head or a corpse in a movie. Now everybody and their mom or little sister sees it on television 24/7, especially with dead bodies. Television has really become a death culture box. It's really amazing to me. Some of the shows that kind of wallow in that are good shows - good acting, good writing, I like them. But it still surprises me to see that so commonly on television. Things change. For the better sometimes, and sometimes things go too far. I've always been totally against censorship, still am. Like to write about extreme movies in every way. But it's just like it's got to a point where how can you top what you've done.

Kept in drive-ins and grindhouses?

That's right, and we don't have drive-ins or grindhouses anymore. That's a big change. And just as far as

an independent film. If you didn't have some kind of financial funding, you just didn't do it. Or if you did, it wouldn't get released. That's started to really loosen up with video and video cameras. I review a lot of the lowest budgeted locally made movies of just about any magazine I know of these days. And there's a lot of talent out there. Some of those people actually go on to better things. Some of them get their movies shown on cable TV channels. And I'd rather see more directors come out of that kind of scene than from the more prominent scene of making TV commercials. That's where, let's face it, most of our major younger directors come from. I'd rather see more of these back-yard guys make it. There's talent there and quality, and there's also sometimes a complete lack of imagination and just people doing what they think they can get away with selling. Which is usually stupid sex and violence. So there's a lot of that. It's easier to make a movie with sex and violence than make a good comedy or a good

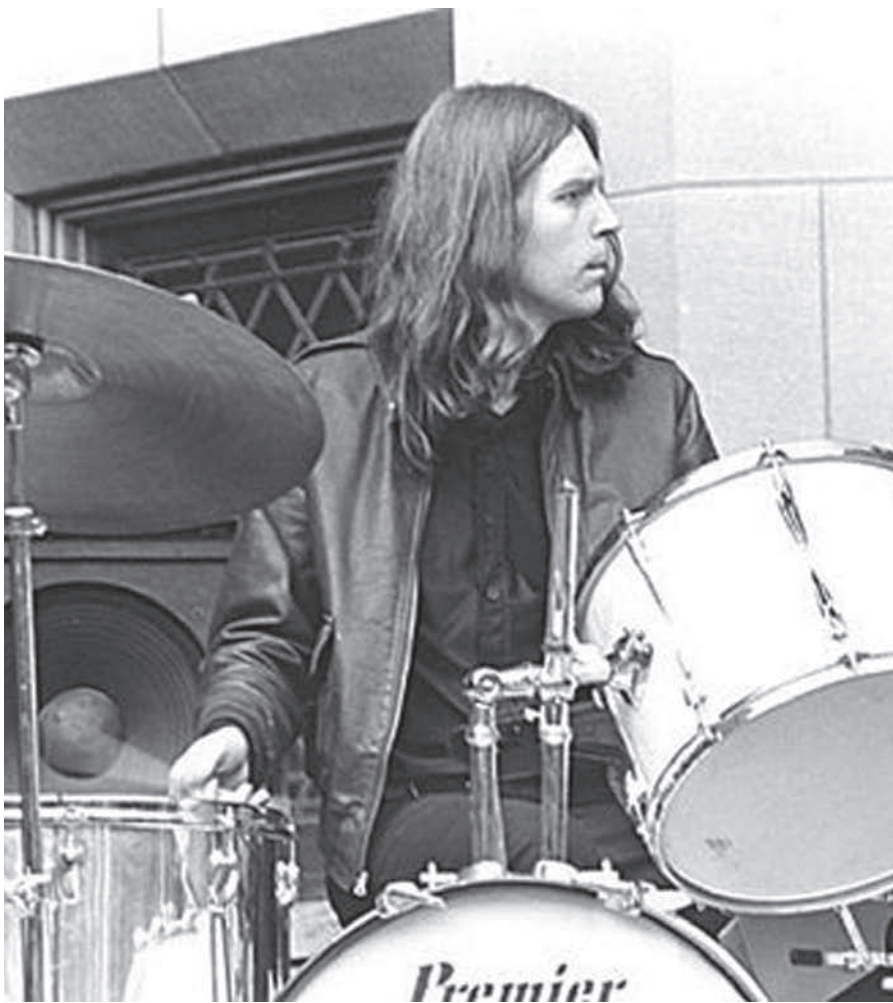
of what I did when I was in Cleveland. My favorite jobs I had were working at record stores, and I also always loved book stores. So we sell books and records and Hollywood collectibles and my wife makes jewelry. So we always have that going on along with the publishing.

New issue?

The fanzine scene in many ways has gotten more difficult. Things have gotten more expensive, distribution has gotten harder. So my magazine that at one time was quarterly is now once or twice a year. And some other zines have gone in that same direction. You still want to keep doing it, but putting them out more frequently has just gotten harder if you're not backed by a corporation or company. Some people misunderstand and think what I do is on the same level as even Fangoria, which is a horror magazine that's been around for years. But they're part of a company in New York that puts out a whole line of magazines, they're financially backed. Which I never have been. It's still totally self financed and self just about everything.

Anything to add?

I always loved living in Lakewood and think it's a great town. I've got lots of great memories and people and places. But I think more and more about how I-90 was really a turning point in Lakewood. The part of Lakewood I lived in was cut in half by I-90 when I was in junior high school. And the street that I lived on was literally cut in half. The houses in the middle of it, the people were forcibly vacated and the houses stood there empty. We used to play in vacant houses when we were kids. And then they burned them down. And then it was years until they finally built the highway. It was just kind of a traumatic thing for the town, and especially the people that lived near it. I don't know if anybody thinks about it now, but it's something that's on my mind when I think of Lakewood. On the other hand it was wonderful growing up near the valley and the lake. Here's another thing. I was considered part of the baby boomer generation. When I went to Lakewood High School there was a record number of kids there. But just last year was a High School reunion, which I didn't attend. But I was in touch with some people who were there. And I found out just this year that not only did the guy who got me into my first band pass away, but of my graduating class over 30 of them have died. I have no idea how, when, or where most of these people died. So that was kind of a sobering thing to hear. There were two other guys in that first band who grew up in Lakewood and I'd kind of like to know if they're still out there. If they're okay, if anybody knows where they're at. One of them is Mitch Sizemore, he was the lead singer of the first band I was ever in. The other is Craig Brush, he was the drummer.



Mike Weldon circa 1975, playing drums for Mirrors at Case Western Reserve.

the general quality of movies. There's still great movies being made, but in my lifetime I think the creative high point for movies in general was the seventies. On all levels, whether it was comedies or action movies, or even the last good westerns were made in the seventies. It's kind of been downhill since then for Hollywood, although I don't give up on it. There's still a lot of good stuff. I'm equally into music, and I'd probably go back a little farther than that for music. My favorite music and what I think is the best music that's ever been done is the sixties, and the seventies comes in second.

Shot on video?

It's kind of an exciting thing. It used to be really restrictive to make

drama. But I've always been a fan of non-Hollywood. And I don't mean in other countries. I love to find obscure old movies that were made in the Dallas area, or Miami or Atlanta. That's some of the most interesting stuff from the sixties and seventies.

Your own movie?

I'm one of the few people that writes about movies who never wrote a screenplay or tried to get into filmmaking, and I don't regret it.

Day job?

I'm self employed. My wife and I live on a tourist island just off the Virginia Coast. We bought an old bank building here which we live in and have a store front in. That's a continuation

Minding the Issues

Thoughts on the Teaching of Undergraduates

The two university presidents who have recently been jostled out of their jobs – Lawrence Summers of Harvard and Edward Hundert of CWRU – had at least one thing in common: namely, their desire to improve undergraduate education. In the case of Summers, at least, this seemed to cause friction between him and the faculty.

Accordingly, Summers’ ouster occasioned some media discussion of undergraduate education, in particular as it takes place at Harvard.

The strongest comment was that of Peter Beinart in *The New Republic* (March 6). According to Beinart, students at Harvard “meet their curricular requirements with a hodgepodge of arbitrary, esoteric classes that cohere into nothing at all.” Summers, he continued, wanted students to take “overview courses that gave them a general introduction to different disciplines” – otherwise known as survey courses. However, he said “these are exactly the kinds of courses Harvard professors don’t want to teach. Most professors are specialists” with all that implies.

In response, some past or future students came to the school’s defense in letters to the *New York Times*. A freshman-to-be said “I would never sacrifice some of the world’s brightest students for more attentive professors. What I most look forward to about college is learning from my peers, through study groups, extracurricular activities and late-night debates.” Well, if fellow students and not faculty are to provide this student’s education, he should demand that Harvard refund his tuition money. Brightest or not, the participants in undergraduate bull sessions, by definition, do not have the knowledge and understanding that a college education should impart (otherwise they wouldn’t be undergraduates); to a large extent they are the blind leading the blind. What is significant about this argument, in my experience, is that so many students and former students put it forth, thereby evading the need to think about the teaching they are exposed to.

A Harvard graduate said that “Harvard College . . . is much more geared toward broad intellectual exploration and development [than the Business School].” Along the same line another graduate said, “We owe the advances in knowledge since Plato’s day to the fact that scholars have specialized, striving to advance one field rather than dabbling in dozens.”

These last two comments beg the question as to whether scholarly specialization is really appropriate to undergraduate education and what the appropriate kind of “broad intellectual exploration and development” consists of.

Undergraduate education has two major purposes: 1) to prepare the student for citizenship and humanity; 2) to give him/her a start in preparation for a profession. The former purpose

is the more important, in my view, but there has been a strong tendency in favor of the latter – a tendency attributable to the interests of the faculty.

To guard against overspecialization, many or most colleges maintain some sort of program or set of requirements to insure that every student samples a variety of fields.

CWRU’s leading program is called SAGES (Seminar Approach to General Education and Scholarship), pushed but not initiated by Pres. Hundert. As the name implies, the program consists of a series of seminars throughout the undergraduate years. Its manifesto states that the undergraduate “should be able to conduct scholarly research or pursue other creative endeavors, first under the mentorship of our faculty, then as independent scholars and ultimately as mentors . . .” This sounds good, except that the reference to research, here and elsewhere in the program description, suggests that the intent is to produce scholar-apprentices.

Harvard’s diversification program is currently called the Core Curriculum (successor to the General Education program and possibly to be succeeded by a new program developed by a process of “Curricular Review.”) Under this program, each student is required to take seven courses (out of a total of 32) from among 11 areas (e.g. Historical Study, Literature and the Arts, Moral Reasoning). The courses themselves make up a mixed bag, some broad in scope, some narrow.

The Core Curriculum philosophy is stated as follows: “. . . every Harvard graduate should be broadly educated, as well as trained in a particular academic specialty or concentration. . . . the Core seeks to introduce students to the major approaches to knowledge in areas that the faculty considers indispensable to undergraduate education. . . .”

This is ambiguous. In the abstract, teaching undergraduates how to think like historians, scientists, et al. is a worthy goal. More than anything else, that is what college is for. But there remains the question as to what the undergraduates are trained to think about. Will they use historical or scientific method to think about the issues they face as citizens and human beings? Or will they learn only how specialized scholars have pursued their scholarly objectives?

Furthermore, we can also ask whether the requirement to take a variety of courses entails that the student will acquire a complete knowledge of the field involved. (Complete knowledge is the purpose of survey courses, reportedly championed by Summers at Harvard.)

In the case of Harvard, the answers to these questions rests squarely on the fact that the same faculty (the Faculty of Arts and Sciences), is responsible for

both undergraduate and graduate education. This is often touted as a great virtue: Harvard undergraduates learn from the greatest minds in the field. But this claim, like that of the letter-writer quoted above, fallaciously assumes that the greatest minds in the field will produce the best education for citizenship and humanity.

It may well be that the fundamental problem at Harvard is not that senior faculty are not involved with undergraduates, but rather that they are too involved – or better, they are too involved in teaching what they are most used to dealing with and are most rewarded for, i.e., narrowly-focused, cutting-edge research in their specific fields. The result is overspecialization leading to a chaotic accumulation of knowledge, disconnected from the concerns of life as a citizen and as a human being. (Which is what Beinart was complaining about.)

Scholarly research, in other words, is not the kind of learning that most benefits undergraduates. This point is often missed because the same subject can be pursued either with a scholarly agenda or with a humane agenda, and a general description, such as might appear in the course catalogue, won’t tell which. The devil is in the details.

Here is an example. Admittedly it is extreme, all the better to accentuate the issue:

Plato, in the *Republic*, was a vehement enemy of democracy. Thus a course on the *Republic* might feature an extended and vigorous debate about democracy. Plato’s arguments would be presented and related to his basic metaphysical principles (thus the discussion would in no way trivialize Plato). Members of the class – those who disagreed with Plato, of course -- would be urged to present arguments in favor of democracy (hopefully resting on foundations as systematic as Plato’s) and to articulate the conditions required to make democracy work most effectively (e.g., committed and competent media).

In addition, the *Republic* contains Plato’s theory of the Forms, entities beyond the material sphere that furnish ideal models for everything in the material-sensible world. There is an argument against the theory of Forms that has occupied scholars, called the Third Man (no relationship to the movie of the same name). The argument goes somewhat like this: In order for a Form (e.g. the Form of Man) to serve as a model for men in this world, there has to be something to mediate between them, corresponding with

the Form on the one hand and with the men of the sensible world on the other. In other words, there must be a Third Man in between the First Man (the Form) and the Second Man (the sensible-world man). But in order for the Third Man to serve this function, there must be another Man between the Third Man and the sensible-world man, for the same reason – in other words, there must be a Fourth Man, and so on to an infinite regress.

Am I boring you? Do you see nothing in the Third Man argument that is relevant to your life? If so, you are probably right. My point is that an instructor teaching Plato’s *Republic* might go down either avenue – conducting a discussion of democracy with Plato as one of the protagonists, or taking the class through the latest scholarly advances in the Third Man argument. In both cases the instructor would be teaching the *Republic*, and in both cases he would be modeling philosophical thinking, but the former would be far more beneficial to the undergraduate. And it would probably be difficult to tell which road the instructor is going down simply from a course description.

So in trying to get a good picture of a course, three questions should be asked:

- 1) What, specifically, is the content of the course? What issues does it address? This has two parts: a) How broad an area does the course cover? How much does it contribute to the knowledge and understanding the student will need? b) How relevant is it to the problems and issues of citizenship and humanity?
- 2) Will the student routinely talk to the instructor during course meetings?
- 3) If so, what will the interaction between student and instructor consist of? The more the student is required to actively participate, the better. Where appropriate, it would be desirable for the instructor to devise exercises and provocative questions that lead the student to a deeper and more systematic understanding (as opposed to merely “throwing it open to discussion,” or asking general and vacuous questions.)

And ideally, the student would learn not only the course-specific content but also would become more experienced and more adept at structuring his thought by way of formulating arguments and sets of arguments, identifying issues (questions that arise in the course of argument), making distinctions, etc. But that may be too much to ask.

Arguments and Issues: a Reasoning Puzzle

Will Return Next Issue

Lakewood Gallery Watch

Gallery Watch

By Ruth A. Koenigsmark and Christine A. Kazimer

I had the opportunity to chat with John Carlson, the featured artist at the Local Girl Gallery Opening, on Saturday, March 25th. John is currently a resident of Bay Village, and had works recently acquired by the Lake Erie Art Museum. John has been painting off and on since age 13—taking breaks periodically to pursue rock music, a career, and raise a family—but has always managed to keep art very much a part of his life. John has taken and taught numerous art courses throughout the years—including the Beck Center. John told me that to remain creative it is helpful for him to be around other creatives to gain inspiration whether in a teaching or a learning capacity.

John’s current exhibit entitled “Fig-

urative works in oil by John Carlson” includes 18 pieces that he completed in eight short months. The exhibit has a dreamy, retro feel—and, as John will explain, his inspiration came through personal experience as well as something as simple as a photograph. Several of his paintings are portraits of his girlfriend, Erin’s, mother. Others are drawn from his own candid memories; some good, some bad.

Another interesting perspective to John’s paintings....his use of Alclad paint (house paint) gives his pieces that drippy look which adds yet another remarkable dimension to his already dramatic work.

This is John’s first solo show in the Cleveland area and it runs through April at Local Girl Gallery. ---RAK

Gallery Events for April 4 to April 17

Art gallery news and event information should be forwarded to gallerywatchgals@yahoo.com.

Every effort will be made to include it in our next column.

bela dubby

13221 Madison Avenue / 216.221.4479

Hours: Tues-Thurs, 10am–10pm, Fri-Sat, 10am-12pm.

Cleveland Comicbook Artists Original Art Show

Come and see the original art from your favorite Cleveland area comics .including; Gary Dumm,Laura Dumm (American Splendor, Lakewood Observer),John Greiner,Matt Clement,Ken Picklesimer,Chris Yambar,and Derf from Derfcity. Original comic art will be for sale along with corresponding comicbooks. Be sure and tell your comic nerd friends!

The Beck Center

17801 Detroit Avenue / 216.521.2540

Hours: Mon-Sat, 9am-8pm, Sun 12pm-5pm.

Cuyahoga Community College’s Western Campus Garden Preschool and the Early Childhood Education Learning Center, in conjunction with the Beck Center for the Arts, presents a special children’s art exhibit titled, “What the Mind Imagines, the Body Creates” through April 14.

Local Girl Gallery

16106 Detroit Avenue / 216.228.1802

Hours: Tues-Thurs 12-5pm, Fri- Sat, 12-6pm.

Call for Artists to participate in
“Hats Off to the Women in Your Life!”

Saturday, May 6th 6-10pm contact Linda Goik at the Gallery for more info about creating a hat for this fund-raising event.

Pop Shop Gallery and Studio

17020 Madison Avenue / 216.227.8440

The Electric Lemonade Show

The Pop Shop Gallery and Studio will be housing its next opening reception on Saturday April 15th from 6p-9p entitled “The Electric Lemonade Show”. This will be a group show housing 20+ local contemporary artists. The title “electric lemonade” merely suggests that the work being housed is the new breed of artists with a new flare. The Show runs through May 27th.

Wobblefoot Gallery and Frame Studio

1662 Mars Avenue / 216.226.2971

Juried Art Show, May 6, 2006

Open to all Mediums

Interested Artists should contact the Gallery. Deadline for entries: April 15, 2006

As the sun colors flowers, so does art color life.

John Lubbock



Cleveland Comic Book Artists Original Art Show

Come & See the original art from your favorite

Cleveland Area Comics, including:

Gary Dumm, Laura Dumm (American Splendor, Lakewood Observer), John Grenier, Matt Clement, Ken Picklesimer, Chris Yambar, and Derf from Derf City.

Original Art will be for sale, along with corresponding comicbooks. Be sure to tell your comic nerd friends!

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Pet’s News

Friends of the Dog Park Spring Meeting and Clean-up Days Announced

The Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park will hold their Spring Meeting on Wednesday, April 5th at 7pm. The meeting will be held at Bela Dubby Beer and Coffee House, located at 13321 Madison Avenue. All are invited to share ideas and learn more about upcoming activities at the Dog Park.

In addition, there will be two Spring Clean-Up Work Parties on Thursday, April 6th and Friday, April 7th to get the Dog Park ready for the nice weather to come. The Work Parties will start at 3 pm and go on until dusk. We will need as many volunteers as are willing to work. Please bring rakes, shovels, brooms and large dust pans. For more information about Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park, visit their website www.lakewooddogpark.com

Hair of the Do Happy Hour

The Citizens’ Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS) will be holding its second annual “Hair of the Dog” Happy Hour and Silent Auction on Thursday, May 25th. The group is seeking donations for this year’s silent auction. If you have any items you would like to donate, call Mike Deneen at 216-226-5536. All donations are tax-deductible and donors will be recognized in the event program and at the CCLAS website.

Since the shelter’s opening in 1985, CCLAS has sponsored numerous programs such as a spay/neuter program to reduce the number of unwanted animals born in our community. CCLAS also provides adoption kits to new pet owners that purchase animals from the shelter, and has contributed to capital improvements at the shelter.

A Honey Of A Deal

by Heidi Hilty

Honey’s Gourmet will kick off its second year with new additions to the menu and an afternoon of free honey ice cream and gelatos.

Lakewood, OH: It’s the ultimate Sunday afternoon treat. To celebrate its second year, Honey’s Gourmet, the popular ice cream and hot dog store, will offer an afternoon of free honey ice cream and gelatos on March 26.

“Summer is around the corner, and it is already time for fresh ice cream and great-tasting hot dogs at Honey’s Gourmet,” says Gary Nedbalski of Honey’s Gourmet. “We’re incredibly excited to begin our second year of satisfying the hunger pangs of

the Lakewood community.”

Last March 26, between 1 and 4 pm, Honey’s Gourmet offered free honey ice cream and gelato to anybody who stoped in, as a mark of gratitude to the warm Lakewood community. Honey’s Gourmet has found immense popularity for its 26 specialty gourmet honey ice creams and Italian gelatos in just its first year.

“We’ve had such a great association with the people of Lakewood over the last year, and they’ve really relished our ice creams and hot dogs,” says Nedbalski. “Our free ice cream Sunday afternoon is our way of saying Thank You, and here’s hoping to many more years of Honey’s Gourmet ice cream in Lakewood.”

Scents and Accents Closes It’s Door

Scents and Accents Art Boutique at 14319 Madison is saddened to announce the closing of its doors after two years! We will continue for now with our website only, artscent sandaccents.com. We want to thank you for your patronage and friendship! Lakewood is the coolest city in the country and the experience of getting to know so many people here through the boutique is priceless! My family has purchased a new house in Lakewood and I will be looking for the perfect

place to re-open with a little more space.

Please continue to support your local businesses and artists! They are the heart of this city and a place you can get sincere welcomes and appreciation for your business (as well as a real person to answer the phone)! All items will be 20-50% until the last day, April 10th, including displays! 216-221-1450. Blessings, Peace and Prosperity, Justine Cooper, Owner.

Lakewood Observations

Review - Civic Auditorium

James Blunt Comes To Lakewood

By Ivor Karabatkovic

With the Oprah Winfrey show under his belt, England's new biggest rock star James Blunt took the stage at Lakewood's Civic Auditorium on March 23rd. Supporting him were singer Sierra Swan and an English band named The Boy Least Likely To.

Sierra Swan's set included songs from her 2006 album *Ladyland*. As the crowd struggled to stay awake, UK's The Boy Least Likely To took the stage and filled the auditorium with happy, giddy, pop-rock music that set the tone for the big show everyone came down to see.

Blunt's recognizable high-pitched voice filled the Civic as a very diverse crowd, both young and old, filled the seats. The set list included many of the hits off his debut album *Back to Bedlam*, and also a sneak peak at his new material.

James Blunt is one of the biggest new stars on the charts in 2006. His hit single "You're Beautiful" off his debut album *Back to Bedlam* debuted at #1 in the UK, the US, Canada, Argentina, Belgium, China, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Poland, Sweden, Taiwan and Australia. The song also peaked at #2 on the charts in Germany and Switzerland.



photo by Ivor Karabatkovic

Blunt played a total of 15 songs in his set, 3 of which he performed on the piano. He also played a fan favorite song *No Bravery*, which he wrote while serving as a NATO peacekeeper in Kosovo. As a Lieutenant in Kosovo he commanded 30,000 troops in the advancing of Pristin, which is the cap-

ital city of Kosovo.

"I'm sorry if the footage is a bit shaky. I'm not a camera man, I'm a musician," Blunt told the crowd as footage of his time in Kosovo started playing behind him during the song. The projection of burned down houses and mass graves served as a cold

reminder of the pain and suffering that exists around the globe.

At the end of the night, fans ran up to the stage as the band played a new song and "You're Beautiful" as an encore. Cell phones, cameras and lighters filled the scene as James Blunt waved goodbye.

The Buck Stops Here

To Be Born In Lakewood

By Robert Buckeye

"The superficial inducement, the exotic, the picturesque has an effect only on the foreigner. To portray a city, a native must have other deeper motives – motives of one who travels into the past instead of into the distance. A native's book about his city will always be related to memoirs; the writer has not spent his childhood there in vain." --Walter Benjamin.

It is an old story, the American story. To be born in Lakewood is to leave. To be born anywhere in America. For whatever reason we put distance between the place we are born and the one we choose to live. "I got to light out for the Territory ahead," Huck Finn says. "Aunt Sally she's going to adopt and civilize me, and I can't stand it. I been there before." Just because we put the past behind us, however, does not mean it is gone. The past stays. It is not a question of what we do with it as much as what it does with us. In this sense, if the present calls into question the past, the past may also sit in judgment of the present. ("We witnesses can't escape ourselves," Iain Sinclair notes.)

This spring I stopped in Murdo, South Dakota, an exit on the interstate, on a trip cross country, and talked to

an owner of a restaurant (one of three in town, if you count Dunkin Donuts, but the only one to serve buffalo burgers). He had been born in Murdo, left it for the race car circuit, but returned home to raise his daughters (who were waitresses in the restaurant). He had been in the South, Midwest and East for races, but the only place to raise his daughters was Murdo.

Last month I was in Lakewood to walk through a past I left more than fifty years ago. I had, as guide, my friend, Ken Warren, who left New York to settle in Lakewood. I had the past. Ken the present. The first night I went to the Riverwood Cafe for their pierogies, which my mother always made. I went to the Madison branch of the Lakewood Public Library, where I realized only years later that books were to be my life. At that time, the Madison branch had a section of books in foreign languages for the Eastern European immigrant population, which lived in Birdtown just to the east. If in the historical romances I read as a boy I stood on the threshold of a larger world, the books in German, Polish and Slovak were confirmation that other worlds

exist. I met my wife in the Madison Branch.

One afternoon I stood on Madison and looked down on the high school stadium where I played football. Football had not been just important to me then. It was the only thing. I went to the corner of Belle and Detroit and imagined the run-down cemetery where we hung out as teenagers, to talk, meet girls, drink, smoke. I called up the girl, who lived across the street from me, and who I had not seen since we were ten.

One night I ate dinner at the Three Birds restaurant, across Detroit Road from the Riverwood Cafe. It was as good a meal as I've had in Montreal. The next night I went back to the Riverwood. And the following night. If my education and work had taken me way from Lakewood, into the Three Birds as it were, the Riverwood brought me home. The distance across Detroit from the Riverwood to Three Birds was huge.

The Lakewood Village, a bar on Elbur, the street I grew up on, reminded me of the one my uncle ran on the near West Side. We often had dinner

there on Sunday afternoons, and, at some point, I would sneak downstairs into the bar to see the men (and some women) drink. The Lakewood Village was the place I imagined my father to stop at for a drink on payday after he got off the Madison streetcar. When I walked by it as a boy, I saw it to be a place of mystery, intrigue, excitement. One night I met a neighbor two houses down from us there and talked to him for an hour. All the years we were neighbors we had not spoken to one another. The Lakewood Village may not have been Hemingway's well-lit place, but it was a neighborhood.

I did not go to The Lakewood Village. Perhaps I was afraid how much of the past I wanted to bring back. It was enough the Riverwood put me back there. How many roads must a man go down, Dylan asks, before a man knows he is a man. There is never any answer to his question, until we recognize we have answered it, and not even then sure. But I know this. As much as the larger world calls me away, Lakewood calls me back. The Lakewood Village may be only the name of a bar, but it is not just a name. The Lakewood Village is the Lakewood village. It's in every town. The question is where we sit.

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One of my greatest "cheap thrills" in life is finding the perfect garage sale! I love to sort through items, both new and old, that no longer have a home for the owner and fit perfectly in mine! One such garage sale I stopped at had everything from vintage to vintage-made new items that epitomized shabby chic and were priced affordable! That was two years ago and the owner, Cindy Moran was in the process of opening an entire shop with fabulous vintage with her partner, Colleen Mahon. Deja Vu is named accordingly, because you find yourself saying "wow I remember these!" Several times throughout the boutique! Upon first entering the shop, you are welcomed with the aromatherapy of the 70's that will never die, calming incense, and soulful music. To say that every corner is filled in this hidden treasure is an

understatement. Every corner of every crevice from the ceilings to the basement are filled with an eclectic mix of treasures! Stop in when you have time to look, because you are going to want to! Being in the process of buying a big old house in Lakewood, I could decorate many rooms from Deja Vu alone! From Buddhas, to vintage Asian, to windows and furniture and chandeliers to jewelry to clothing! Having sisters in California and Chicago, I am reminded on their visits how fortunate we are to have these types of boutiques in Lakewood Ohio! They are amazed! The prices here are unbeatable for the unique antiques that will live on forever! So if shabby chic is your mantra, you can't miss this boutique! The energy in the room and from the owners will transport you to a time when life was, well, groovy!



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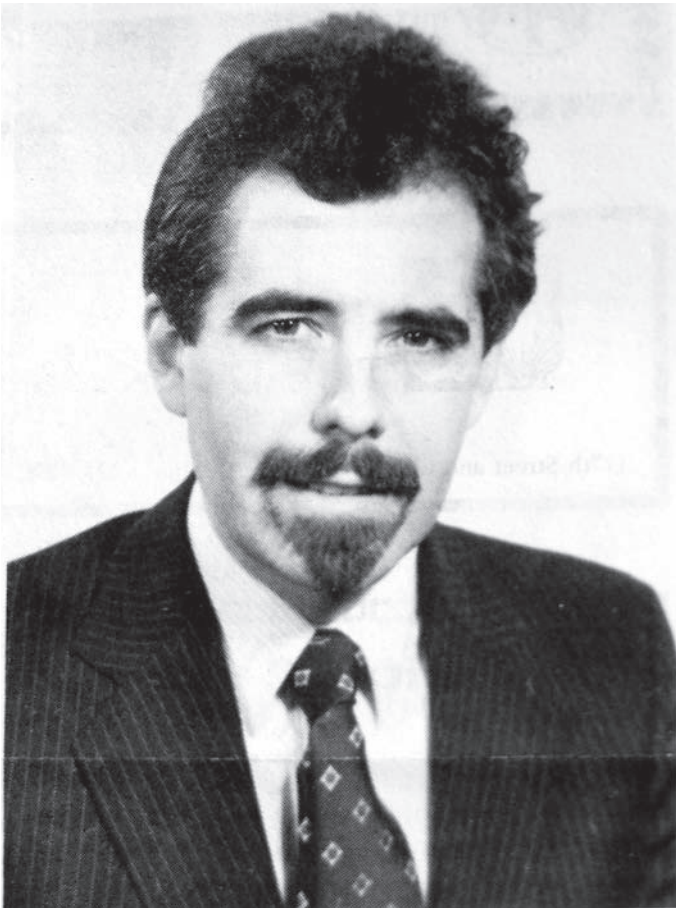
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Lakewood Observer



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Maurice is a neutered male approximately 3-5 years old. He is your typical house cat, fat and lazy, but loves affection. He would probably be a good candidate for Jenny Craig. When he came in his back was covered with mats so we shaved him and he is much happier!

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