

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 2, Issue 8, April 18, 2006

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National Volunteer Week

Lakewood Kiwanis Club Actively Helps Community

By Rita Ryland

“Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.”

“The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood was first chartered in 1921. During these past 85 years the club has been actively supporting Lakewood and its children.

During those years Lakewood Kiwanis has been an outstanding force in making a difference in people's lives. It has surpassed \$1,000,000 in grants to students from the Lakewood Kiwanis College Scholarship Foundation formed over 50 years ago. Lakewood Kiwanis was also a primary donor for the Kiwanis Picnic Shelter at Lakewood Park and created the monument, sign and flag pole at the Lakewood Board of Education building. It was the prime mover in establishing the Kwani-Track behind Lakewood High School. The Lakewood Kiwanis Club raised \$46,000 toward helping eliminate Iodine Deficiency Syndrome in third world countries and the list goes on.

Children are a priority for The Kiwanis Club of Lakewood, as it has worked with pre-school Growing Healthy Together for over 15 years. It has also supported Lakewood Hospi-



Photo by: Rhonda Loje

Some of the students shadowing their Kiwanian Mentors - Left to right; Adrienne Strong, Aurelia Rus, Denny Cristino, Eva Nemethy, Colleen Murrett, Andy Luehring, Pat Kearney. To date Kiwanis has awarded over \$1,000,000 in scholarships.

tal's Early Reading Kit program, the Lakewood Family Room Summer Program, and Elementary School Early Development Program.

Lakewood has supported Kiwanis fundraisers for many years. The club sells tasty Kiwanis hot dogs at the 4th of July Festival, the Lakewood Arts Festival, and the Madison Park Community Festival. It also sponsors pancake

breakfasts and spaghetti dinners. Most of Lakewood has at least heard of (if not indulged in) the famous Kiwanis donuts at Halloween time. Yes, those donuts are made by Kiwanians; 1,400 dozen were sold in 2005.

All proceeds from our fundraising activities MUST be returned to the community as we support Lakewood and its children.

If you have a desire to share your time and talent toward community service, and enjoy the fellowship of others with the same goals, Lakewood Kiwanis is the organization for you. Call 440-835-5646 for more information.

More stories of Lakewood's Volunteer Networks Inside and Next Issue!

Lakewood Hospital Foundation's 5th Annual Ambulance Chase

Donald Martens & Sons Presents Lakewood Hospital Foundation's 5th Annual Ambulance Chase on Sunday, May 7, 2006.

Dust off your shoes and step into Spring at the 5th Annual Ambulance Chase 5K Race/Walk and 1.5 Mile Walk at Lakewood Park. Pre-registra-

tion is \$15 before April 28th and \$20 thereafter and on race day. Teams of 10 or more are encouraged and registration is just \$12 per person.

As we celebrate the 5th Annual Race, we are anticipating an even bigger and better event with a goal of \$50,000! A portion of all proceeds will be earmarked for Lakewood Hospital's Teen Health Center, with the remainder to benefit a variety of programs and services supported by Lakewood Hospital Foundation.

All pre-registered participants will receive a special anniversary long sleeved t-shirt along with a goody bag. New this year- strollers and wagons are welcome in the Race as well as the Walk. Proceeds from the Ambulance Chase will benefit a variety of Lakewood Hospital programs and services. For more information, please call 216.529.7009 or visit www.lakewoodhospital.org/foundation or www.hermescleveland.com



Lakewood Hospital Foundation trustee Larry Faulhaber along with wife Rosemary join members of the Westerly Apartments/Barton Senior Center team at the event.

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Government

Early Childhood Education
a Priority for Kucinich



Congressman Dennis Kucinich addresses educators from all over Ohio District 10. The topic that had brought them together was a Universal Pre-Kindergarten Bill. In attendance from Lakewood were, Dr. David Estrop, Superintendent of Lakewood City Schools, Dottie Buckon, Director of Health and Human Services for Lakewood, Toni Gelsomino, Coordinator of Early Childhood Services, and Councilwoman Mary Louis Madigan.

By Amy Kloss

The Lakewood office of Representative Dennis Kucinich was packed with about 50 people on Monday, April 10 for an Early Childhood Summit designed to help craft a Universal Prekindergarten Bill. Representatives from area school districts and preschools, as well as early childhood specialists from area colleges and organizations, attended to hear Kucinich summarize his proposed legislation and offer suggestions. “There are very few issues that strike such a powerful chord as early childhood,” said Kucinich. The bill Kucinich is proposing would establish programs to ensure that all children ages 3-5 have access to full-day, full-calendar year, high-quality education that would be free and voluntary.



At one point during the discussion candidate Barbara Anne Ferris came in and demanded to know where Congressman Kucinich was earlier in the day. She had to leave to keep an appointment with the Veterans. Which is exactly where Congressman Kucinich had been that morning. Discussing the appalling way this administration has handled medical issues with current retired soldiers. (Below)

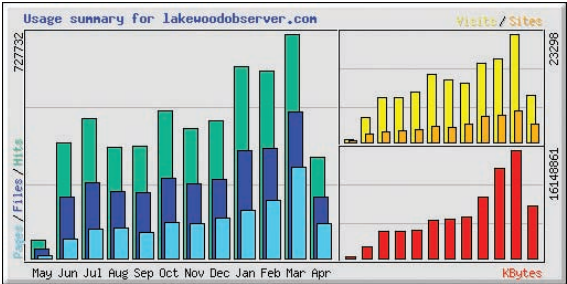


Observer International!
<http://lakewoodobserver.com/forum>
Lakewood Observers Recognized Worldwide

The Lakewood Observer was created to help get information out to Lakewoodites, and people around the world. Here are some numbers from just the month of March! I think we are succeeding!

Pages Viewed	Country/Org	Pages Viewed	Country/Org	Pages Viewed	Country/Org
623	Canada	54	Sweden	43	Spain
497	US Military	50	Seychelles	40	Hungary
441	Netherlands	46	Turkey	35	Portugal
383	Germany	43	Brazil	24	Belgium
360	Russian Federation			24	Mexico
344	United Kingdom				
173	Australia				
138	Poland				
93	Czech Republic				
91	Croatia (Hrvatska)				
91	Romania				
80	Italy				
77	France				
67	Japan				

727,332 Hits in March!



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

How Urgent Is This Emergency?

Council 04.03.06

Stan Austin
Lakewood Observer City Council Reporter

Council President Robert Seelie called the April 3, 2006 meeting to order at 7:32. A skater, scholars, and young advocates were in line for city accolades.

Council member Michael Dever (at large) introduced a resolution recognizing the achievements of Erin Bartlett who is the Junior National Speed Skating Champion. Proud parents Jeff and Theresa, and coach Peter Murray were on hand, too.

Council member Nickie Antonio (at large) and Mayor Thomas George then recognized a large group of Semi-finalists and Commended Scholars in the 2006 National Merit Program.

Council member Ryan Demro (ward two) presented the Youth for Justice Program members from Emerson Middle School. Four student advocates took turns presenting an argument to ban indoor smoking. One student indicated that the group was “trying to get an article in the Lakewood Observer.” Council member Mary Louise Madigan (ward four) directed the youth’s attention to the editor of that publication who was sitting in the audience.

Item one on the agenda was a report from the Committee of the Whole. Specifically, committee chairman Robert Seelie (ward 3) wanted to have the administration address the use of the word Emergency in proposed legislation. This is a topic that is raised periodically by charter review commissions and those who pay particular attention to the finer details of procedure. The use of the word “Emergency” to some people is synonymous

with “haste” or “skirting due consideration.”

For a refresher on legislative anatomy, the Lakewood Observer went to Law Director Brian Corrigan.

The first part of an ordinance is its date. The first numerals refer to the sequence in which it was introduced beginning with “01” as the first ordinance of a year. The second set of numerals refers to the year in which it was introduced. Hence, 01-06 was the budget ordinance and it was the first ordinance introduced this year.

The title follows. Typically it starts “AN ORDINANCE” or “AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE.” The preamble and body of the legislation then complete the package.

At issue is the difference between merely “an ordinance” and an “emergency ordinance.”

Corrigan states that an ordinance requires three readings at three different council meetings. To pass, four out of the seven council members have to vote in favor. It then takes effect according to the Lakewood Charter forty days after passage. An emergency ordinance also requires three readings, but requires five votes for passage. It then takes effect immediately. The rule requiring three readings can be suspended by a vote of five, and with five votes, an ordinance can be passed in one meeting.

Corrigan said that when the administration prepares legislation, one of the first questions addressed is the timing, or critical need for the

legislation. One example might be the construction season, where timing of when contracts are let and work begun can affect the cost of a project and its completion date. Grant application deadlines also might force the schedule. Council can suspend the rules in unexpected situations, such as a large sewer repair that exceeds what was allocated at the beginning of the year. If need be, council can convene within six hours notice by council President or the Mayor if truly urgent action is required.

Because timing is such an important factor, Corrigan believes that the administration does not overuse the emergency route. Council still has the option of passing an ordinance without the emergency designation. A review of this meetings’ docket does show a mix of ordinances with and without the emergency designation.

As an alternative to the charged and potentially misleading word “emergency,” Corrigan has recommended the substitution of the phrase “immediately upon passage after the third reading.”

Ordinances 22-06 and related ordinance 25-06 are both receiving scrutiny by council and the public despite their emergency designations. These measures would establish a parking lot at Edwards and Detroit Avenue. The proposals, on their second reading, call for a city expenditure of \$150,000 to establish the lot, then lease it to a private entity. Paula Reed of the Lakewood Historical Society provided

an update on that group’s search for a lot to move the historical Hall House to. They would like to move it to an adjoining lot at the site. A search for any other available lots in Lakewood turned up locations many blocks away. Part of the cost of moving a house includes raising electrical wires at each pole the house passes. The Illuminating Company charges \$1,000 per pole to do this. Consequently, moving the house any great distance is cost prohibitive according to Reed.

Council member Kevin Butler (ward one) will hold a public meeting on Thursday April 13 to provide for more input into this proposal. (Check the Observation Deck for details)

The city has provided assistance to another business to allow it to expand and provide parking. This is the Donato’s Pizza at Detroit and West Clifton. While similar to the Edwards lot proposal it has not been controversial. Previously, this building was an English Tudor-styled Sohio gas station. Franchise owner Ken Tyson remodeled it to its present use. He bought the neighboring Detroit Auto Body building for expansion. Cuyahoga County has provided \$200,000 in brownfield remediation funds. The Lakewood Department of Community Development provided storefront renovation assistance. Tyson has requested an additional \$50,000 grant to complete the expansion. The new site will include an ATM drive through which will architecturally match the larger Tudor-styled building.

Council president Seelie adjourned the meeting at 8:47.

Ward 1 Councilman Kevin Butler Calls Meeting on Edwards Parking Lot



A group of residents from all parts of the city attended the meeting to discuss both the Hall House and if the city needed a parking lot at Detroit and Edwards.



Council Person-At-Large Nickie Antonio discusses her walk of the area, and mentions some of the things residents had told her.



Clockwise from top; Councilman Ryan Patrick Demro addresses the crowd declaring that he is against the plan. Patrick Ballasch compares the plan to a bad date, “Will we get any respect in the morning?” Michael Gill would seem to indicate the answer would be no, as he addresses the gathering.



Lakewood Public Library

One of Lakewood’s Best: The Friends of Lakewood Public Library Book Sale

By Kenneth Warren

Ask any book lover to construct a list of “Lakewood Bests” and you will inevitably hear the Friends of Lakewood Public Library Book Sale.

Over the past twenty five years the Friends of Lakewood Public Library has been perfecting the art of the book sale and seeding innovations with funds raised to make everything - from convenience bags to Saturday Night entertainment programs – possible for the increased enjoyment of the library.

“We started with boxes and a stack of paperbacks on the floor and our sales have really grown,” says Friends President Paul Dimmick.

The Friends of Lakewood Public Library Book Sales generate between \$30,000 and \$40,000 each year for the library.

Dimmick is gratified the Friends can supply 60,000 plastic bags each year as a convenience to the library’s customers. With the tag line “Donate and Buy Books at the Fall & Spring Friends of Lakewood Public Library Book Sale,” these iconic bags have been seen around the world.

“I’ve seen these bags in Europe,” declares Dimmick, proud to build the Lakewood brand though the work of his committed library volunteers.

Dimmick likes to tell the story about a woman from Lakewood, Oregon who spotted a Friends of Lakewood Public Library bag on the West Coast, mistakenly thinking it came from her own home town. After the Oregon woman learned the bag came instead from Lakewood, Ohio, she wrote the Friends to say how much she liked it. Upon hearing the Friends of Lakewood Public Library sell canvas bags for \$10, she decided to purchase one in order to say thank you to Lakewood, Ohio and to inspire library lovers in her home town.

Although Dimmick is a retired high school principal and military intelligence officer, he brings his carpentry and design skills to the ensemble of volunteers who seek to make creative adjustments and improvements to each and every book sale.

Looking over the splendid organization of science fiction books, Dimmick expresses gratitude and relief new volunteer Paul Tepley is stepping up to make order from a huge influx of recent donations, just in time for the upcoming Spring sale.

“Volunteers bond with certain collections and want a section to focus on,” admits Dimmick, reflecting on the challenges of deploying a team that now handles 100,000 plus donations each year.

“It’s nice for a volunteer to have something special but not at the expense of getting things done,” counsels Dimmick, confident the turf concerns that can challenge any organization will be overcome by the common sense and fellow feeling his leadership instills



Mary Boyer and Linda Worthington

among this group of Lakewood doers.

“I’ll be talking to volunteers handling the sports to let them know Paul will be pitching in to help with those books, too,” says Dimmick.

Husbands and wives volunteer and spend quality time together working hard for this good cause. While Karen Tepley joins Paul in shelving and stacking, Alice Mercredy brings her husband Jim to accept memberships on the first night of the preview sale.

Eileen Wilbourn, a nurse by profession, organizes materials and enlists volunteers, including husband Asa, a world-renowned Neurologist and Director of the EMG Laboratory at the Cleveland Clinic.

The range of interests, generations and professions makes the Friends of Lakewood Public Library a very unique volunteer group.

With more nearly fifty years of combined commitment to Lakewood Public Library, Virginia Adams and Alice Bader provide senior leadership and expertise in pricing donations.

“It’s just a well organized sale,” points out Gary Thompson, a volunteer for seven years who had once served as the President of the Friends of Lawrence Public Library in Kansas. “Some Friends book sales don’t have a dedicated space and have to set up at the last minute on tables.”

Often people buy books at the Friends Book Sale, read them and then return them as donations.

“The community is really behind us with their generosity and gifts. We have become a recycling entity, as Mayor Cain used to say,” says Dimmick with a smile.

Nobody feels the daily pressure that builds from the bags and boxes of books, CDs, records and videos that amass in the library’s receiving room as does Mary Boyer. Since 1984 Boyer has worked the first line as primary sorter, logging 15 to 25 hours each week. She organizes books by subject and places

them in boxes, which are then moved to the basement for shelving.

“I sometimes get overwhelmed,” admits Boyer. “I still love it. I have met people who have changed my life here.”

As a professional astrologer, Boyer stands ready to supply insight from the starry script about the best days to hold a book sale.

“Whenever we consider Mary’s astrological charting,” says Deputy Director Kim Senft-Paras, “we always have the best sale.”

Linda Worthington, a recent graduate of the Weatherhead School of Management, has joined Boyer to learn the ropes of sorting from the master of book sale materials handling.

“We never know what we come across,” remarks Worthington, who appreciates the serendipitous discovery of unusual books.

With a newly minted Master’s degree in non-profit management, Worthington brings to the Friends the latest in thinking about the successful organization and recruitment of volunteers.

Worthington believes volunteering for the Friends feeds her two passions – non-profits and books. Reflecting on five years experience as a volunteer, she realizes the Friends are a close knit, hardworking, self-selecting group. Admittance depends upon showing up regularly, working together and maintaining a high standard of dependability. There’s no room for slackers.

“It’s really like a little family. We work together for the common goal of fundraising for the library. It’s a place of respite, friendship and solidarity where people find relief from the daily grind,” says Worthington.

“The fun part of the sale is you get to see your friends and neighbors.”

The Friends Spring Book Sale at Main Library will take place on Friday, April 21, 10:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 22, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Members presale begins on Thursday April 20 at 6:00 p.m. Memberships are available at the door.

Sue Monk Kidd Event A Success For Lakewood Public Library Foundation

By Anne Palomaki

The Lakewood Public Library Foundation presented a most successful fund raiser on April 4, 2006 at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium. About 1200 people came to hear Sue Monk Kidd, a national best-seller author, speak and read from her novels, “The Secret Life of Bees” and “The Mermaid Chair”. The book lovers who came to the program purchased 160 of her books. The event was sponsored by First Federal of Lakewood and Borders. The West End Tavern, Niko’s, and Swingos had “library” specials on that evening for attendees. It was a great night for Lakewood residents and supporters of the Lakewood Public Library.

Sponsors that helped to make it a great night for the Lakewood Public Library and Lakewood were: North Coast Litho, Vera Bradley, A. Graphic Solution, Inc., Erie deSign, H2O, Friends of Lakewood Public Library, Local Girl Gallery, Lakewood City Schools, The Beck Center for the Arts, The Plain Dealer, Borders Bookstore, First Federal of Lakewood. Special thanks to; Shannon Strachan, Julie Warren, Lynn Foran, Jenny Baker, Suzanne Metelko, Kim Senft-Paras for all their help in making this a success!

Lakewood Public Library Calendar

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

April 18-May 4 Schedule of Programs and Events

FRIENDS SPRING BOOK SALE AT MAIN LIBRARY
Preview for Friends of the Library. Memberships may be purchased at the door.
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Book Sale Room in the basement at Main Library

Friday April 21, 2006
FRIENDS SPRING BOOK SALE AT MAIN LIBRARY
Support the library and indulge your interest in book, audio, video bargains.
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Book Sale Room in the basement at Main Library

Saturday April 22, 2006
FRIENDS SPRING BOOK SALE AT MAIN LIBRARY
Support the library by coming to the the book sale today!
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Book Sale Room in the basement at Main Library

Sunday April 23, 2006
ANIME CLUB
We're back for a new season of Anime theatre and fun with classic and new-release Japanese animation like Irresponsible Captain Tylor, Black Heaven, El-Hazard, Magic Users Club, Bubblegum Crisis, Generator Gawl and more. We'll have trivia and music competitions, too!
6:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Monday April 24, 2006
YOUR LAKEWOOD HOME
LOCAL PRESERVATION LEGISLATION
How can local governments promote historic preservation and move forward with economic development? Preservation consultant Jane Busch and FutureHeights Director Julie Langan will discuss examples of successful local ordinances that help to preserve the historic integrity of older communities. Topics include demolition ordinances, landmarks programs, state tax credits for preservation projects, easements and more.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Thursday April 27, 2006
BOOKED FOR MURDER: The World Tour
Our international agent, Kathy Kline, travels the world looking for murder, mystery and mayhem! Dressed for Death by Donna Leon
7:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium

Sunday April 30, 2006
SUNDAY WITH THE FRIENDS – LAURA VARCHO
This gossamer-voiced Jazz singer reinvents the standards with bassist Dallas Coffey.
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday May 2, 2006
ARMCHAIR TRAVELER
MEMORIES OF NEW ORLEANS
Former resident Ginger Tracy reflects on the majesty of New Orleans before Hurricane Katrina and contemplates its difficult future.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Thursday May 4, 2006
MY LIFE ON MARS: Meet Author Alicia Metcalf Miller
Meet Alicia Metcalf Miller, Lakewood High School alumnus and author of My Life on Mars, "a novel of family entanglements and a second chance at love." Celebrate her publication with refreshments provided by the Junior Women's Club of Lakewood and Phoenix Coffee. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing.
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

WEEKEND CHILDRENS PROGRAMS
FAMILY WEEKEND WONDERS
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

April 21-22-23 Leaping Lizards
April 28-29-30 Down On The Farm

Free Presentation on Community Wind Power

Lynn Farris

Fletcher Miller, Ph.D., NASA scientist, and Green Energy Board Member will speak Saturday morning, April 29, 2006 from 10:00 – 11:00 at the Lakewood Public Library Auditorium (Detroit branch) on the topic of Community Wind Power and Manufacturing Potential in Ohio. Dr. Miller earned his Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley while working

on high-temperature solar thermal energy at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and solar energy research at the German Aerospace Research Establishment at Stuttgart as well.
Dr. Miller is a Board Member of Green Energy Ohio (GEO), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting environmentally and economically sustainable energy policies and practices in Ohio. GEO promotes renewable energy (solar, wind, bio-

mass & low-impact hydro) statewide by acting as a clearinghouse to inform Ohioans on sustainable energy. See <http://www.greenenergyohio.org>
Dr. Miller has a remarkable ability to present this information to the lay person in an exciting and understandable format. Come and join him for coffee and muffins and learn more about this form of sustainable energy in Ohio and perhaps how Lakewood could play a part.



Fletcher Miller, Ph.D.

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Lakewood Public Library

Lakewood Native and Author

Library to Welcome Alicia Metcalf Miller

By Vincent O'Keefe

Wouldn't it be nice to read a novel written by someone raised right here in Lakewood? And wouldn't it be nice if that novel were set in a fictional town very similar to Lakewood? Fortunately, this scenario is now a reality in Alicia Metcalf Miller's new novel, *My Life on Mars*. Miller will be discussing her novel at Lakewood Public Library on Thursday, May 4, at 7 p.m. in the Main Auditorium.

Alicia Metcalf Miller grew up on Blossom Park and graduated from Lakewood High School. She attended Stanford University, Oberlin College, and Pomona College before marrying a high school classmate, Bill Miller. Married for over forty years, they have three children and were longtime residents of Chagrin Falls before migrating to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the 1990s. For many years Miller reviewed books for *The Plain Dealer*, and in 1988 she published a novel titled *Home Bodies*, with illustrations by Ann McCarthy. She also worked as a humor writer for *American Greetings*.

Despite her move to Santa Fe, Miller's family connections to Lakewood remain strong. Her sister lives on Arthur Avenue, while her ninety-eight-year-old mother lives on Estill Drive in a house her parents built in the 1950s. A family of hearty stock, Miller has a ninety-five-year-old uncle in Rocky River and a one-hundred-year-old aunt in Mexico.

Miller's mother's family history is especially intriguing, as she explained by phone from Santa Fe: "My mother grew up in southern Ohio, surrounded by veterans of the Civil War. I do not recall hearing of any of her relatives who were in that war, but her grandfather was very active in the Abolition movement, as were others in her family. And the house she grew up in had been a station on the underground railroad."

The keen awareness of history and memory that Miller grew up with is a major influence on her new novel, *My Life on Mars*. The book centers on Eliza White Naughton, a woman who lives in Santa Fe but is called back to her childhood hometown of Edgecliff, Ohio when her widowed mother says she wants to sell the old family home on Mars Avenue. Eliza travels back to Edgecliff (a town similar to Lakewood) to help her mother get ready to move, which triggers a



Alicia Metcalf Miller

thorough exploration of her childhood memories.

Eliza is a writer and illustrator of children's books, but she has been in a creative slump for two reasons: her youngest child has just left for college, creating the dreaded "empty nest," and her husband is having an affair. So the trip back to her childhood home coincides with a mid-life crisis of sorts.

Probably the most fascinating passages in the novel involve how the human mind processes childhood memories, especially after many decades have passed. Eliza, Miller's first-person narrator, is constantly beset by a doubling of her perception—i.e. she experiences split screens in which she sees an image from the past alongside a present image.

For example, upon entering Edgecliff and seeing an old friend, Eliza explains: "I was momentarily disconcerted because he seemed to possess two faces, the one I had known years ago and another belonging to a man in his late thirties whose dark hair

had flecks of gray in it" (48). In addition, she recalls another town that her mother had always talked about: "I have in my head two places, Edgecliff and, infinitely more vivid in my mother's telling and retelling, her town, a tenth of the size of Edgecliff" (53). The overall result of such disorientation via childhood memories is what might be called the Mars effect: "In the waning light, I walked back to Mars Avenue, feeling like a visitor from outer space on my own childhood streets" (51).

Miller complicates the subject of childhood memories further as the book progresses, for Eliza starts to realize that children do not always remember events accurately. Her enlightenment about the faultiness of children's memories occurs when she finds some documents in her mother's house that help explain her father's detachment and her mother's ailments as she and her brother, Bin, were growing up. A series of revelations change the way she perceives both herself and her family members.

In a reflective passage likely to startle readers who are parents, Eliza narrates that children "are given to grave misinterpretations: Their

memories turn the odd moment into long-standing tradition; the isolated swat into frequent spankings; the cry of a frightened adult into anger; the preoccupied parent into someone who doesn't care about them. Children are not reliable witnesses" (106). Such rumination leads Eliza to a question about her own children that reverberates for all parents: "What would [my children] remember?" (245).

During her journey of self-discovery, Eliza meets "a darkly handsome man with striking blue eyes" named Rabi (40). He is a thirty-five-year-old Palestinian originally from Israel working as a postdoctoral student at Case Western Reserve University. She is immediately attracted to him, for despite his troubled homeland he was "so at home in himself, he seemed to put everyone at ease" (122). They gradually commence a torrid love affair, during which he teaches her to have more respect for the past and to avoid taking for granted the safety and value of her childhood home.

Lakewood readers of *My Life on Mars* will have little trouble noting the similarities between Edgecliff and Lakewood. As Eliza explains, "Edgecliff is a suburb to the west of Cleveland, and its homes range from the large ones along the lake to small up-and-down duplexes on the south end. In between are streets full of well-maintained houses. Except for the tall apartment buildings on the lake, almost everything was built before World War II" (51). There is even a mention of a graveyard that was moved to Edgecliff Park "behind the historical society" (215).

It is important to note, however, that the book is not autobiographical. And though the setting is important, the main focus of the novel is the intergenerational relationships of Eliza's family. It seems fitting that Miller would write such a novel, given the extended generations in her own family. As she said in our interview, "Everyone's life is longer than it really is. Your memory extends to older and younger generations through storytelling." Indeed, this novel about a life on Mars closes with the beautiful image of stars that are "little more than remnants of light from ages before. . . . Ancient light, but enough to go by" (275). The analogy to the ongoing illumination of stories from the past is clear.

Readers interested in learning more about Alicia Metcalf Miller can consult her web site at aliciametcalf-miller.com. The site includes a reading group guide with discussion questions and a list of recommended books from her years as a reviewer. Miller will appear at Lakewood Public Library on May 4 at 7 p.m. in the Main Auditorium.

Lakewood Events

DONALD MARTENS + SONS

-- PRESENT --

5K
RACE
WALK

1.5
MILE
WALK

Lakewood Park

SUNDAY
MAY 7TH '06

FIFTH ANNUAL

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RACE SCHEDULE

Race starts and finishes at Lakewood Park

7:30 AM Race-Day Registration

8:30 AM 1.5 Mile Walk

9:00 AM 5K Race & Walk

TEAM DISCOUNT

10 or more runners \$12 per runner

Entries must be submitted together in one envelope and received by Friday, April 28, 2006

5-K AWARDS

Top female and male runners overall, and top three men and women in the following age groups:

14 & under, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60 and over

ENTRY FEES

\$15 Pre-Registration (if received by Friday, April 28, 2006)

\$20 Thereafter and day-of-race

DETAILS

Long-sleeved T-shirt and goody bag to all preregistered participants.

Day-of-race registrants will receive a T-shirt and goody bag, based on availability.

Post-race refreshments include fruit, bagels, power bars, yogurt, and much more.

Packet Pickup & Registration (\$20) Friday, May 5, 2006, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM Winking Lizard, Lakewood 14018 Detroit Avenue

Strollers and wagons welcome.

All proceeds benefit Lakewood Hospital.

For more information or to register on-line contact:

Lakewood Hospital Foundation: 216.529.7009 www.lakewoodhospital.org/foundation

Hermes Sports & Events: 216.623.9933 www.hermescleveland.com

ROAD RACE Series 2006

YMCA's New Time Capsule Filled

At the recent party at the Winking Lizard everyone was smiles and the YMCA prepared the new time capsule to be buried. Here Glenn Haley, John McMillan, Louise Fletcher, and Culeen Carey stand in front of the time capsule that was built by Slife Heating and Cooling.

Gordon Geiger of Geiger's Clothing and Sports and the Pendelton Shops adds a basketball net.

Steve Barry, of Steve Barry Buick adds the final piece to the Time Capsule.

Jeanne Knudtsen, CNM; Maureen Stein-Vavro, CNM; Susan Klein, CNM; and Kristen Ekman, MD

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www.lakewoodhospital.org

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Lakewood Misc.



New Era Begins For VFW Post #10646

On April 6, 2006, VFW Post #10646 met at the usual location and time. Why is this important you ask, and the answer is because new officers were elected with installation on May 4th at 7:30 p. m.

We wish outgoing Commander Paul Gavin the best of luck and thank him for his service to this country and for his leadership that he demonstrated while our commander. Commander Gavin will still be assisting us but in a different roll. He has been elected to a three year terms as Trustee of the post.

With this change, a new era begins. Richard Healy of Lakewood takes the top job with new hopes in building the

post membership, continuing helping veterans as he brings experience dealing in veteran's issues from his 30 years of employment. Richard worked better than 30 years of his adult life giving of himself to veterans and their dependants as an assistant supervisor of the Disabled American Veterans National Service Office in Cleveland. When he retired in 2003, he has remained active in the community and state.

Last year Lakewood's Mayor Thomas George appointed Richard Chairman of the Lakewood Veterans Advisory Committee which he serves presently. He is Commander of the Disabled American Veterans John N.

Nemeth Memorial #108 of Lakewood and Rocky River, member of the Lakewood and Rocky River Joint Veterans Council and will serve as Parade Marshall for this year Memorial Day Parade. Richard is a member of the Lakewood's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and remains a member of the Lakewood Police Auxiliary unite.

As we look forward to this next chapter in the history of our Lakewood VFW Post #10646, we can't forget those serving this great nation abroad. Take a moment and praise their efforts. Come to our Memorial Day activities ending on May 29th with our parade.

The parade forms at Rocky River High School and travels to Lakewood Cemetery where the actual veteran's ceremony will take place where this year's guest speaker Daniel Weist, President of the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission.

And finally here is another great day to remember and mark on your calendar. On November 11th, our Lakewood Veterans Day ceremony at Lakewood Park will feature singers, bandmen, speakers, dignitaries from our community and as attraction, a military aerial fly over by the U.S. Air Force Support Unite out of Youngstown.

Rep. Skindell Drafting Resolution Calling for Changes to “No Child Left Behind”

Rep. Michael Skindell announced that he will introduce a resolution in the Ohio House of Representatives next month calling for changes in the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Rep. Skindell told more than 20 members of the Lakewood PTA Council and other community members that he believes Sen. Dale Miller will be introducing a companion resolution in the Ohio Senate.

In his announcement Rep. Skindell noted that this action was prompted as a result of the many efforts in Northeast Ohio starting in Lakewood to promote changes to the federal law. Specifically, Rep. Skindell said his resolution would

be calling on the United States Congress and the President to improve No Child Left Behind as follows:

- Adopt more flexible requirements and assessments for special education students
- Adopt more common sense and more flexible assessment requirements for children for whom English is a second language
- Adopt more equitable requirements for schools and school districts
- Fully fund the No Child Left Behind Mandate, as well as the other federal mandates that remain unfunded or under funded. Unfunded and under

funded federal/state mandates increase local property taxes.

PTA Council President Barb Marquis said she was very pleased with Rep. Skindell's comments, "We sincerely appreciate the support and leadership of Representative Skindell to improve 'No Child Left Behind,'" said Mrs. Marquis. "Rep. Skindell is very dedicated to education and has taken the

time to learn about the issues and the impact they have on children, families, and communities like Lakewood."

For information, please contact Mrs. Susan Adams, Public Relations Coordinator of the Lakewood City School District at 216-529-4074 or Ms. Kathy Cortez, Legislative Aide, Rep. Skindell's Columbus Office at 614-466-5921.

Holy Family Learning Center Hosts A “Night At The Races”

On Friday, May 12, 2006, Holy Family Learning Center in Lakewood will host a “Night at the Races” from 7 PM to midnight at Brennan's Party Center, 13000 Triskett Road, Cleveland. All adults are welcome!

The school is hosting the event in order to raise money for new windows throughout the center and to help with tuition assistance for our families who are in need due to unemployment and medical expenses. There are more than 80 families in Lakewood whose children attend the school.

Tickets to the event are \$35 and included in the cost of food and two drinks (alcoholic or non-alcoholic). There will be tickets available for purchase for additional drinks. Also available are tickets for a Chinese raffle of several extraordinary theme baskets, including a spa basket and a gourmet food basket. They are not to miss!

Holy Family Learning Center is a non-profit organization that serves children with a broad spectrum of needs: infants, toddlers, and preschool children until they enter kindergarten. The Learning Center provides high quality care to over 100 children annually, ages 6 weeks through 5 years old (approximately 85 families). Our mission at Holy Family Learning Center is to have a strong commitment to the ministry of families. Holy family Learning Center is a home away from home!

Please contact the school at (216) 521-4352 to inquire about the event or send your donation to the school at 14808 Lake Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107 and your tickets will be mailed to you.

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LIQUID INTELLIGENCE

Chef Geoff

Vegetables Of Spring

By Jeff Endress

Spring brings with it some special opportunities for fresh foods that we have all missed during the (extremely) long cold winter. Sure, there’s the first opportunity to fire up the grill, but what I speak of here are two vegetables that make their appearance with the spring, fat juicy asparagus and sweet Vidalia onions. While anymore, asparagus can be obtained year round, during April and May, it is always fresher, and certainly much less expensive. Likewise with Vidalias, an onion that is so sweet and mild that there are some that use it as a base for pies. Something about the climate and soil in the area of Georgia where they are grown makes them different then any other onion.

Most people may think of onion as an addition to soups and sauces, and not as a vegetable that can stand on its own. While certainly a thick slice of raw onion is a welcome addition to a juicy burger, as a pizza topping or a taco addition, onions, and particularly Vidalias, lend themselves to use as a solitary vegetable. Look for solid, medium sized onions, and keeping the root end intact, remove the skin, trim the top half inch and halve (or quarter depending on size). Toss the halves in olive oil, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and place on a moderately hot grill. Do not allow to burn. After 10 minutes, turn and allow to cook another 5-7 minutes. The undisturbed

Vinaigrette For Vegetables

- 1/2 cup Balsamic Vinegar
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1/3 cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Tblsp. Dijon mustard
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Tsp. sugar
- Tsp. bouquet garni (or tarragon if you prefer)
- Salt and pepper to taste.

root will hold the half together during grilling. The final result should be an onion that is browned on the outside, soft throughout (but not mushy). Serve as a vegetable with grilled marinated chicken breasts .

Asparagus is more accepted as a stand alone vegetable. (Although I have to confess to a certain fondness for a Hollandaise accompaniment!) When selecting asparagus, look for stalks with firm unopened tips, and no wrinkles on the stalk (showing that it is drying out). While in other vegetables, smaller, baby sized means a more tender product, my experience with asparagus holds the opposite to be true. The first stalks that the deeply buried

roots send up tend to be the largest and thickest, and as nutrients the plant stored over the past growing season are used up producing new growth, the stalks get thinner, smaller and tend to be tougher. So, I look for the thickest stalks I can find and inevitably, they are sweeter, and more tender.

Because the skin can add some toughness, I generally peel the stalk about 2 inches from the tip after trimming the bottom inch off. A good sharp potato peeler does the job, although it is certainly acceptable to leave the stalk unpeeled. Ideally, asparagus should be steamed upright, tip side up. Tips and stalks cook at different rates and this helps to equalize the process. There are

special asparagus steamers available, essentially a narrow, tall mini stock pot with a basket insert. They work wonderfully well, but are really a single purpose cooking vessel. If you don’t have a special steamer, any standard vegetable steamer (or better yet a bamboo steamer) is certainly acceptable. Don’t overcook! Steamed asparagus should be firm, and tender, but never mushy. 5 minutes or less over steam, until the stalks turn a bright green (like in blanching) is all that is needed. Serve piping hot. Of course the classic topping is hollandaise, but if you’re watching fat, lemon and fresh pepper are very nice.

For a different method, try grilling. So that the stalks hold up better, I don’t peel if you’re going to grill. Also, using some vinaigrette not only adds flavor, but also helps sticking. Use a medium hot fire, and place the spears on the grill, after 2-3 minutes, roll a half a turn , cook two more minutes and you’re done. If you plan on grilling asparagus, plan on preparing extra. The “leftovers” can be refrigerated, covered in vinaigrette, for 24 hours. Grilled then chilled asparagus makes a wonderful salad. Any vinaigrette will work well, either a favorite commercial preparation or homemade as in the recipe.

“It’s Lakewood’s Time!”

By Jacob Palomaki

Recently, The Center for Community Solutions held its 64th annual Human Services Institute in the beautiful downtown Cleveland Convention Center. Among the fourteen workshops available to the more than 1000 participants, two held special relevance to Lakewood’s future.

Speakers at “Strategies for Rejuvenating Northeast Ohio’s Economy” noted that the recent economic downturn has affected area families more severely than most regions in the country. As a result, a fundamental economic restructuring is occurring in the region.

Cleveland State University Professor of Urban Affairs Larry Ledebur suggested that regionalization is vital for local community survival. One example is The Northeast Ohio Sourcing Office (NEOSO). A council of governments that offers pooled purchasing and shared administrative services, it helps contain spending and increases existing operating capacity without being impeded by local politics.

Washington College (Chester-town, MD) Professor of Economics Robert Lynch reported that the use of tax incentives to attract businesses

generally does not work. His research indicates that businesses decide upon location based upon the quality of city services, infrastructure, schools, housing, and work force. Then tax incentives are sought to enhance their bottom line. He cautioned against sacrificing public services to attract new business. He suggested that tax dollars might be better used to support Preschool and Early Childhood Development programs which provide long term benefits to society.

Policy Matters Ohio Executive Director Amy Hanauer concurred, noting that a college education is the key to economic success.

Speakers at “Impact of Regional Sprawl on Cuyahoga County’s Transitional Suburbs” addressed the effects that demographic and socioeconomic shifts in the region, along with aging housing, have on the health and social services needs in the inner ring suburbs.

CSU Executive-in-Residence Thomas Bier outlined the downward spiral in home maintenance and market value that occurs in suburbs with high density, multifamily dwellings where rental units attract lower income tenants who may also require more social services. This, combined with the use of tax dollars to expand inter-

state highways with additional lanes and interchanges, promotes out migration to the detriment of the inner ring suburbs and their citizens.

United Way 211/First Call for Help Director Stephen Wertheim reinforced Mr. Bier’s presentation with data documenting the major increase in requests for services from his agency between the years 2000 and 2006. Included were assistance requests for food, shelter, utilities, foreclosure, employment, child support/custody, and parenting skills. CSU Northern Ohio Data and Information Service Director Mark Salling provided additional data.

Former Lakewood Administrative Assistant and current City of South Euclid Community Services/Community Development Director Keith Ari Benjamin enthusiastically concluded the workshop as he outlined how aggressive and innovative planning can produce major benefits and give the term “Transitional Suburbs” a positive connotation.

What can Lakewood learn from these presentations? First, we must continue to support our excellent public services including police, fire, human services, public works, and refuse/recycling departments/ divisions. Second, we must ensure that all phases of the public schools’ construction programs and staffing are achieved. Finally,

infrastructure and housing stock must be aggressively addressed. Properties receiving citations for code violations must be quickly brought into compliance to protect and enhance the value of adjacent properties that are compliant.

New construction of the schools, the YMCA, the Library, Rockport Square, and Rosewood Place documents a strong commitment to Lakewood’s future and should encourage others to invest in this community. Clearly, “It’s Lakewood’s Time!”

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Lakewood Sports

EARLY BIRD TOURNAMENT PHOTOS

Mike Deneen

Lakewood High’s 2006 baseball season started on March 31st with the fourth annual Al Gruss/Tony DiBiasio Early Bird Baseball Tournament. There was no shortage of pomp and circumstance, as Congressman Dennis Kucinich threw out the first pitch and a color guard presented the flag. The Rangers defeated Valley Forge 9-2 in the game behind a strong six-inning pitching performance by Chris Kenney.

Tony DiBiasio was the father of Indians vice president of public relations Bob DiBiasio. Widely known as “Mr. Lakewood”, he served as a coach and teacher in Lakewood for many years. Al Gruss was the father of current head baseball coach Jerry Gruss. He served many years as a volunteer scorekeeper for the baseball program.

All photos by Ivor Karabatkovic



Annual Pinewood Derby Thrills All

By Chris Morit

Though March 25th turned out to be a cloudy, snowy day, Dover Rockport Pack 383 gathered for its annual Pinewood Derby at St. Clement’s Church Hall. 28 Tiger Cub, Cub, and Webelos scouts--the pack’s biggest derby biggest field ever-- put their car making skills to the test against each other and gravity; with family members cheering them on.

After the initial round of 84 races narrowed the field to 12 with those running in a final runoff of 26 races, Michael Delany was declared the winner. Following Delaney in order of finish were Mitchell Gregg, Dillon Bodnar and Conner York with each of them receiving trophies for their efforts.

The Derby was open to all scouts of the pack. Each scout was given a car kit back in January that consisted



of a small pinewood block, nails for axles and wheels from which they were to create a race car. A preliminary weigh-in held the day before the Derby ensured that all entrants’ cars met size and weight requirements as set by the Boy Scouts of America.

As for the race course, think soap box derby on a miniature scale with gravity as the driver. Regardless of the scale, the excitement wasn’t miniature

judging by the reaction of the nearly 130 scouts and family members that attended the day long event.

The four trophies weren’t the only prizes awarded Saturday as racers and spectators were given the opportunity to vote on which entries they thought were the most creative, patriotic, fastest looking, realistic, dangerous looking, wackiest, colorful, futuristic and aerodynamic as well as selecting the car

with the best paint job and workmanship and their favorite. All entrants were each given a participation ribbon and a personalized Pinewood Derby racing license, and all in attendance were treated to a hot dog lunch.

New to this years event was a raffle of items donated by local stores/establishments, citizens and Cleveland area teams that raised \$230 to go toward future pack activities.

Items were donated by Lakewood Hospital, Target of Rocky River, Tuffy’s Auto Service Center, Wing’s Hobby Shop, the Cleveland Indians, Lake County Captains, Boston Scientific and National City Bank.

It was a day thoroughly enjoyed by all, with one boy not yet a scout inquiring afterwards about joining the pack. All agreed that it was the best pinewood derby ever for Pack 383.

Lakewood Music

It's a Long Way to the Top

An Interview with Chad Armstrong of View From Everest

Conventional wisdom says that Cleveland area bands don't make it big without leaving town, but View From Everest (Chad Armstrong –vocals, acoustic guitar, Jim Maler –guitar, Paul Lewis – bass, and Jim Tobias – drums) just might change that way of thinking. Although together for less than two years, View From Everest's brand of melodic modern rock has already been packing clubs in the Cleveland area. It has also brought them to the attention of high profile independent record label Rust Records, who released the band's debut EP Contagious to good response in February of this year.

View From Everest grew out of the ashes of two other area bands. Chad and Paul Lewis (also a Lakewood resident) were in the band Zachary Walker while Jim Maler was playing with Dizzy Park. Chad says, "About the same time Paul and I were going to split with the Zachary Walker thing and start moving on, we ran into Jim and saw him playing with his band. We said, 'Hey, I wish that guy was playing with us'. We met with him and went over some songs and concepts, and it went really well. We've been plugging away and moving forward ever since." The band's line-up was completed with the addition of Jim Tobias, who had played in other bands with guitarist Jim Maler in the past.

When it came time to write original material, Chad's more "adult contemporary" sensibilities blended with Maler's more rock oriented approach and, "met right in the middle," says Chad. "Jim just has a great knack of putting together chords, and he's real clever with the songwriting. The majority of it is Jim and myself. We've kind of hit a good stride as of late. I write the melody, and Jim does a great job putting together the chords

By Bob Ignizio
Lakewood Observer's Music Editor

that aren't just your standard "cowboy chords". He hears things a little different.

I write most of the lyrics and the melody, and Jim gets it all slick and interesting."

Chad's favorite View From Everest song, however, is one where the whole band contributed to the writing. He says, "I would have to say the song "Drive" is a band favorite. It's one of the few songs we pretty much wrote in a room together. We all put our stamp on it, and it came together really quickly. It's got a ton of energy in it, and it is the single that Rust is pushing from that EP right now." The song has been getting played to good response on college radio (including Berea sta-

tion WBWC 88.3 FM), and has also garnered a few spins on the local music programs on Cleveland's WMMS and WXRK.

While radio play is great, for a rock band it all comes down to the live show. Having paid their dues opening for national bands like Red Wanting Blue and Constantine, View From Everest has now earned a headlining slot at The House of Blues on Friday April 28th. Chad says, "We've played there four or five times in the direct support role and it went real well. Now they've given us the opportunity to have our own weekend. We're really looking forward to it. All-Cleveland band shows don't usually happen at the House of Blues on the main stage. We want to put on

a great show and prove that it can be done, and it can be done at a high level here in Cleveland." Joining View From Everest for this show will be Cactus 12 and The Hours.

So what's in the future for View From Everest? Chad says, "We absolutely want to take it to a national level. All of us are certainly at this to try and go full time. The last 3 months we've been recording our full length album with Rust. We just finished all the tracks, and it's awesome, man. We're going to get a good push through Rust Records, who do work with [major label] Universal. We're looking to have a single and push it to radio and see what happens. We will be releasing it this summer as a real full length album, and it'll be our real swing at it all."



Taxation Expenditure Limitation



Ken Warren Director of Lakewood Public Library at the Tabor meeting. Ken was the correct answer for the "Mystery Man" Contest last week. The second answer would have been "anywhere in Lakewood, especially the Library."



Carrol for Court of Appeals

Judge Patrick Carroll, candidate for Cuyahoga County Court of Appeals, and wife Bonny Carroll enjoy an evening with supporters at Swingos on the Lake.

Minding the Issues

College Tuition: For Your College and For My College

By Gordon Brumm

“What’s the deal here? Why do costs outstrip inflation? A college education is one of the most expensive and important things you’ll ever buy, and, yes, it’s still a good value, blah, blah, blah, but you can find out more about a lot of other products.”

So said Margaret Spellings, Secretary of Education, on a subject of great concern to many Americans -- college tuition.

College tuitions have drawn some attention because of their rapid rise, faster than the inflation rate. But the rate of increase of college tuitions only calls attention to the main problem, which is simply their great size. In the case of private colleges at least, tuition takes an impossibly large chunk out of middle-class family incomes. The average tuition for private colleges is reported to be \$21, 235. To take some random examples, tuition at Northwestern was \$29,940 for 2004-5, and at Cal Tech \$25,720. Locally, Case-Western Reserve will charge \$30,240 for the 2006-7 academic year, while Baldwin-Wallace will charge its liberal arts students \$20,518.

Of course there are scholarships, as well as student loans. But not every student can receive a scholarship, and student loans have become notorious for the enduring burden their recipients have to bear.

And of course there are state schools. Tuition at these institutions, for in-state enrollees, is much less, perhaps about a third of the tuition for private schools. But someone still pays, of course, and that someone is the taxpayer. To illustrate, consider Ohio State University (2005-6). In-state tuition is \$7,827, while out-of-state tuition is \$19,152. The difference is an indication of how much the state of Ohio subsidizes each of its students. (The subsidy is probably greater than that difference, since the state pays for facilities used by both in-state and out-of-state students.)

In short, college education is costing a whole lot of money, regardless of who pays for it. And as Ms. Spelling has pointed out, no one knows why. The cost of education is treated as a given, as a law of nature, or to get closer to the problem, as a sacred cow.

But are \$20,000-plus tuitions necessary? No one seems to be asking this question (except possibly for Ms. Spelling). No one asks where the money goes. Apparently college budgets, unlike business budgets, totally escape cost accounting.

My Model College

Of course I can’t do cost accounting for the colleges – I can’t match the needs to the money – but I can match the money to the needs, through a sort of cost accounting in reverse. I will calculate the expenses that a college would need by outlining an imaginary college and calculating its necessary expenses, all of which will be paid for

by tuition. (Room and board, both in my model and in real-life cases, is a separate expense.) In this way we can compare the tuition at my college with the tuitions at real-life colleges and ask: Why the difference?

My college will have 500 students. (A larger enrollment of course multiplies the numbers accordingly.) Each student will attend four classes, and each class, on average, will have 25 students (no immense lecture courses). With 2000 individual class slots (500 times four), divided by 25, this means 80 classes. Each instructor will teach three classes. Thus I will need 27 instructors.

Most instructors will be paid, on average, \$60,000 per year. With benefits and taxes, I assume the total cost

per instructor will be \$75,000. However, instructors in physics, chemistry or geology will have to be paid more to compete with industry, so eight such instructors will each receive overall an additional \$40,000. With 19 instructors at \$75,000 and eight at \$115,000, the total cost for instructors is \$2,345,000.

In addition, I will need an administrative staff. There will be three administrative officers (a head officer, a registrar and a dean of students, perhaps). The head, who could be called the president (though that name doesn’t fit well because he won’t have to raise money) will be paid \$100,000 including extras; the other two will be paid \$75,000. There will be three secretaries, each paid \$40,000 including extras. Thus the total cost for administrators will be \$370,000.

This makes the total personnel cost \$2,715,000 per year, or \$5,430 per student.

In addition, I’ll need a building. For the sake of yearly calculation, let’s suppose I can lease the building I need. (Buying or building would be no more expensive.) This will cost \$410,000 per year, including utilities. For those who like to do the math, here is how it works out:

I’ll need eight classrooms to accommodate 500 students taking four classes apiece, with an average class size of 25. The 500 students times four classes equals 2000 individual class-spaces, and this divided by 25 students per class equals 80 classes, each meeting three times a week; thus 240 meeting-times per week. In each classroom, there will be 32 meeting-times per week (six one-hour meetings each weekday and two on Saturday). If we divide 240 by 32 the answer, rounded to a whole number, is eight, the number of classrooms needed.

Only 40 seats will be in each

classroom (to insure that classes are not too large), and so 750 square feet per classroom will be sufficient. That means 6,000 square feet of classrooms. Add 6,000 square feet for an auditorium plus 2,000 square feet for offices and miscellaneous, and the final figure is 14,000 square feet. I assume (safely) a per-square-foot cost of \$20 per year, making the cost of the building \$280,000. Assume \$30,000 per year for utilities, and another \$100,000 for janitorial services and maintenance, bringing the total cost for the building to \$410,000.

I’ll add another \$100,000 for publicity and miscellaneous expenses.

Finally, the college will not have a library per se, but I will spend \$100 per student on books relevant to the

courses being taught, adding \$50,000 to the budget. (This should be enough to purchase about 1,500 trade books per year, which after a few years will add up to a sizeable collection.)

Add up the costs: \$2,715,000 for personnel; \$410,000 for the building; \$100,000 for miscellaneous expenses, and \$50,000 for books. The total is \$3,275,000, and divided by 500, that amounts to a tuition of \$6,550 per student per year.

For that price the student will receive an education that is better than most, for two reasons:

1) The small class size will allow for direct interaction between students and instructors.

2) The instructors are dedicated to teaching, not to advancement of their scholarly careers. Teaching is what they are hired for, and good teaching -- including innovation in teaching methods and techniques -- is what they are rewarded for. Collegiality will be encouraged to the utmost.

Of course I expect the instructors to be well-versed in their fields. (They will all have a Ph.D. or be well on their way to a Ph.D.) I expect them to read the literature and to attend conferences on occasion. But their essential purpose in doing so will be to absorb the most advanced thinking in their field, not to participate in it. (If my instructors make cutting-edge contributions in their fields, so much the better, but that is not what they are being paid for, and they will feel no pressure to be king of the hill.)

To be sure, my college lacks many of the features of actual colleges. I’ve mentioned that it has no library. It has no sports program. It has no health services. It doesn’t give scholarships (but it hardly needs to, given the modest tuition). I have not factored in these expenses, but neither have I factored in

the additional sources of revenue that almost every college enjoys – endowments in the case of private colleges and state subsidy in the case of public institutions. I am assuming – and I believe it is a completely fair assumption – that if my college were transformed into an actual institution, these sources of revenue would more than pay for the amenities not included in my calculations.

In short, my college would provide an education that is as good as or better than most colleges, while charging tuition that is one-third the average for actual colleges, and less than one-fourth for some of them. Which strongly suggests that existing college tuitions are bloated and indefensible.

Am I wrong in this? If so, where? Why the difference between tuition in my model and tuitions in real life? Show me the cost accounting.

And if you say “But the colleges also provide this-and-this,” then I will say: Is this-and-this really necessary to a good education?

Diagnostic Suggestions

While I can’t analyze any real-life college, I can offer two suggestions:

1) Separate teaching from scholarship. One reason for exorbitant tuition rates is that so many schools are selling prestige, not good education. They pursue top-ranked scholars, but good scholarship does not equate to good teaching. The result is competition that drives up faculty salaries unnecessarily while undergraduate education suffers. (For more thoughts along this line, see my previous column.)

Of course we need institutions that support scholarship and award advanced degrees (this is where my college instructors will get their Ph.D.s), but these should be separate from the colleges, with separate administrations, separate faculties, and different cultures. Such graduate schools might exist as separate organizations within universities, or they might exist as free-standing institutions, more or less on the model of the Princeton Institute. Undergraduate colleges, of course, would not have to reorganize – they would only have to be certain that their organizational culture rewarded teaching over scholarship.

2) Organize teaching along more rational lines. At present, teaching is organized around courses in which one instructor is responsible for everything – for transmitting information to students (supplementing what is in the textbooks), for stimulating and nourishing students’ thinking, for grading and record-keeping.

Why should these functions all be performed by one person? And why should they take the form, as they often do, of the stupid and fatuous oral lecture method? The transmitting of

Continued on Next Page
SPILLED INK

The Buck Stops Here

Everything Is Dosage

By Robert Buckeye

“Every work of art is an uncommitted crime,” Theodore Adorno writes. Rather than murder people, Freud says of Dostoyevsky, he wrote novels of murders. “Any novel, poem, painting, or musical composition that does not destroy itself,” Jean Genet writes, “that is not constructed as a blood sport with its own head on the chopping block – is a fraud.”

“I swore to myself that if I ever wrote another book,” Richard Wright comments about *Native Son*, the novel that argues that Bigger Thomas had to kill to be alive, “no one would weep over it; that it would be so hard and deep that they would have to face it without the consolation of tears.”

In fact, governments and zealots of one kind or another do see works of art to be criminal. The list of banned books is long, and it is difficult to think of a well-known work that has not been censored. Fifteen years after its publi-

cation, J. D. Salinger’s *The Catcher in the Rye* was the most banned book in the country. During that period, there were three efforts to ban the song, “Dixie.”

Art may be what you like, but what you don’t like is rarely just bad art. Even trash may threaten the status quo. (Dirt, Christian Enzenberger notes, is merely matter out of place.) Janet Jackson’s wardrobe malfunction at the Super Bowl threatened morality. (I can’t kiss a woman’s breast on screen, Marlon Brando notes of an earlier time in film, but I can cut it off with a sword.)

What you don’t like may also be threatening enough to be considered criminal. *Homecoming*, a film strongly critical of the Bush administration and the Iraq war, which premiered on Showtime late last fall, has been unable

to get theater distribution. Boris Pasternak’s *Doctor Zhivago* was banned in the Soviet Union and the English reader may not have understood why. The Russian reader could not miss it. In the first scene of the book, a passerby sees a funeral procession and asks who are they burying. *Zhivago* is the answer. *Zhivago* – living in Russian.

In 2004, Steve Katz, an artist and co-founder of Critical Art Ensemble, was arrested under the Patriot Act for having scientific equipment, which he uses for his art, but which the FBI argues is for bombs. He is still under indictment. Gillo Pontecorvo’s *The Battle of Algiers*, a film about the Algerian Revolution, was banned by the FBI, which feared it might be an instruction manual for revolutionaries. It has only recently been re-released.

At the end of Kurt Vonnegut’s

Slaughterhouse-Five, Billy Pilgrim hears a panel discuss the purpose of art. Art, he is told, teaches us how to order in French restaurants; gives color to otherwise white walls; and describes blow-jobs artistically. We know this art well, and seek it out. We go to it for information, instruction, escape, pleasure, fantasy, catharsis (putative), wisdom, experience. If we are to live in the world, however, we need the art that were it not art would be a crime, even if there are those who say it is.

We can’t fool ourselves. The crime is not to see the world for what it is and what we are in it. (The Arabs invented the zero, Patti Smith sings, but they are nothing to us.) How much art may help us understand the world may be measured by Nietzsche’s comment about history. Everything is dosage, he writes. May not the same be said of a community paper?

PROSECUTOR AND LAKEWOOD NATIVE SEEKS JUDGESHIP

By Charles Dahill

Lakewood native and veteran assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor Thomas Cahill is running in the May 2nd Democratic primary for Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Judge. A victory in the primary will likely result in his election since political observers believe the Republican Party will not field a candidate in the November general election for the judgeship. The judgeship is important for Lakewood residents since the winner will preside over the trials of criminal defendants and will impose sentences in many cases.

As a prosecutor in the Major Trial Division of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office, Tom Cahill has always taken a hard line towards criminals. Over the years, he has successfully convicted murderers, rapists, drug traffickers, child sex offenders and carjackers and convinced judges and juries to impose tough prison sentences. In one particular case, he successfully prosecuted a day care provider that caused a young child’s death by administering an overdose of Bena-

dryl. In 2004 Tom Cahill successfully prosecuted the two young men from Benedictine who caused the death of the friend while they were committing an aggravated robbery. Sadly, the successful prosecution led to a sentence of probation for both by the judge. In summing up his philosophy towards violent criminals, Tom says: “If you hurt or cause the death of another while committing a violent offense, you are going to prison.”

Tom Cahill’s roots in Lakewood and the county run deep. His family has been in the area since the late 1800’s. His father was a Lakewood firefighter for 48 years and his family resided on Delaware Avenue. Tom graduated from St. Edward High School where he was a two year letterman in football and president of his homeroom class. Tom continued his scholastic and athletic endeavors at John Carroll University. Prior to law school, he served as a firefighter/paramedic and was promoted to the rank of Captain prior to retiring in 1991.

Upon graduation from Cleveland Marshall Law School, Tom began his career as a staff attorney for two Common Pleas Judges before joining the

Prosecutor’s Office in 1996. He has been the lead prosecutor in over 350 criminal cases and was recognized for his unusually high success rate in the cases he has prosecuted.

Tom is married to the former Kathleen Gettens of Rocky River who is the office manager of the Clifton Club in Lakewood. Tom and Kathleen have seven adult children and two granddaughters and live just across the border in Rocky River. During his spare time Tom is a certified high school football referee and has worked as a referee for the past 28 years, officiating at various high school games, including Lakewood High School, St.

Edward High School and St. Ignatius High School. Tom has officiated in five state championship games. He also works as a member of the “chain-crew” at Cleveland Browns’ home games.

His opponent in the May 2 primary is the incumbent, Shirley Strickland Saffold, who is an East Side resident. Many observers believe the primary race will depend on voter turnout. Tom’s supporters are hoping for a high turnout in Lakewood and throughout the West Side. Such a turnout on the West Side could swing the vote in favor of this career prosecutor who takes a tough stand on violent offenders.

Spilled Ink

information can be done much more effectively if the “lecturer” puts his or her lecture notes, in reader-friendly form, on paper (or on tape or CD, for those who insist they learn better aurally than visually) and pass these out to the students to read and re-read at their leisure. The information on a certain topic (e.g., the Civil War) could be provided for any number of classes (e.g. to all students studying American history) by the instructor who specializes in that topic.

With required information in the hands of the students, all the classroom

time would be available for interaction between students and instructors. (I say “interaction” because the interaction would hopefully consist not only of a general discussion, but largely of exercises devised by the instructor to promote deeper understanding.) Under this arrangement, an instructor would know his or her students better, leading to more accurate grading and fewer term papers acquired from the Internet. Teaching in all aspects would be done more efficiently, leading to better education at less cost.



Thomas Cahill

Lakewood Gallery Watch

Gallery Watch

By Ruth A. Koenigsmark and Christine A. Kazimer

After grabbing a hazelnut steamer and a seat, we were ready to fully experience the “Cleveland Comic Book Artists Original Comic Book Art Show” at bela dubby on April Fool’s Day evening. As we sipped our steamers, we made some observations and came up with these that we feel capture the vibe of the art and the evening... high energy, edgy, exciting, entertaining, provocative, playful, satirical, political, imaginative, mirthful and amusing. That is a long list of words, but there was also a long list of artists and works to savor in one evening.

Fifty to sixty people were there to enjoy original art from Cleveland area comic books and the energy at this gathering emanated from the viewers just as it did from the artwork. This eclectic group consisted of young and old, families and friends, all spending an evening drinking coffee or beer and

enjoying each other’s company along with the art they had come to see. Artists exhibiting at this show included John Greiner, Matt Clement, Ken Picklesimer, Chris Yambar, Derf, Brian Bendis, Becky Veverka, Laura Dumm and Gary Dumm. Gary Dumm is the comic artist who is known for illustrating the comics of Harvey Pekar, and who’s comics have graced the pages of our own Lakewood Observer .

The subject matter of the various artists covered the gamut of comic book topics –satirical, political, celebrity caricature, local history and superhero stories. There was truly something there for every taste.

The show will run throughout April and the art is available for sale along with the corresponding comic books.





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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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.

Gallery Events for April 11 through April 24

Beck Center For The Arts

17801 Detroit Avenue
216.521.2540

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

bela dubby

13221 Madison Avenue
216.221.4479

New Exhibit runs through April.
Hours: Tues-Thurs, 10am–10pm, Fri-Sat, 10am-12pm.

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

Local Girl Gallery

16106 Detroit Avenue
216.228.1802.

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

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.

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. If you have a question about art that you would like researched, please forward it to gallerywatchgals@yahoo.com and we’ll do our best to answer it and include it in our next column.

Lakewood Volunteers



All Photos by Rhonda Loje

- 1. Marie May-2nd Floor Information Desk
- 2. Ray Russell-Greeter
- 3. Jeane Reasoner-Surgery Area Courtesy Desk
- 4. Marguerite Gosewisch-Gift Shop
- 5. Judith Kremer-Main Lobby Information Desk
- 6. Ann Martha Joyce- Emergeny Room Discharge Callbacks
- 7. Bill Flynn & Virginia Marniella-Volunteer Transport
- 8. Audrey Bruggers-Human Resources

National Volunteer Week

Maureen Duffy

Each week over 250 volunteers generously give their time at Lakewood Hospital. Many are visible: pushing patients in wheelchairs, distributing communion, passing out magazines, giving directions – others help out in areas not so obvious: clerical work Human Resources and the Psychiatric Unit, discharge callbacks in the Emergency Room. No matter how or where they serve, all will be celebrated during National Volunteer Week (April 23-29).

This year’s theme “Inspire By Example” celebrates the power volunteers have to inspire the people they help, and in doing so, inspire others to serve. While the week gives patients and visitors a chance to show their appreciation, it is the staff who relish in

the opportunity to express their gratitude for the important and positive difference the volunteers make. Here are a few of the appreciative comments they made.

Maryjo Macejko who coordinates the 5 volunteers, who serve the Pharmacy Department, says: “We could not function as a department without them...they are all phenomenal! They are indispensable and we are so grateful that they take time out of their lives to help us.”

The volunteers who work in Human Resources handle everything from keeping employee files up to date and, checking employment references. Says Director Miriam Barton: “We not only appreciate them for their invaluable work, but we benefit from intangibles like their sense of humor and spirit of fun.”

Bob Gallagher, Director of Radiology where volunteers work in several areas commented that the volunteers’ inspiration could be seen in their “willingness and eagerness to learn, their concern in performing their assignments with accuracy, the many unselfish hours they offer and their personable and friendly dispositions. We are very fortunate at Lakewood Hospital to have such an outstanding group of volunteers. With them, the Radiology Department is able to operate and function much smoother.

Agi Horvath who spends time twice a week helping out in the Medical Staff office is praised by department Director Jennifer Ritchie: We absolutely love Agi. She is thorough, always willing to help out and has the most enthusiastic attitude. She is our “task-master.”

Reverend David Walker, Director of Pastoral Care at the hospital, poignantly sums up the teamwork concept when he says:” They are our partners in caring for our patients, their family members and each other. They are dedicated and compassionate and we honor their gifted service which is vital to all that we do here. I thank them for all that they do.”

Says Manager of Volunteer Services Maureen Duffy; “One week is hardly enough to truly reflect how grateful we are for the numerous acts of service being performed throughout the hospital at any given time on any given day. They are one of our most valuable assets.”

If you are inspired to try volunteering, call the Volunteer Services Office at (216) 529-7171)

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Cinderella's Closet
By Justine Cooper

If you know a girl in need of a dress
for a formal dance, including Prom, Cin-
derella's Closet was started last year to
collect "nearly new" dresses for girls who
may not be able to afford a dress. Dresses
are loaned for free. Formerly housed at
Scents and Accents, the closet is in the
process of finding a new home, but in the
meantime, please contact Justine Coo-
per at 521-8263 if you would like to try
on dresses in your size for an upcoming
dance, or to donate dresses. The closet is
fairly small now but growing with gener-
ous dress donations every day.

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year old. He is very playful and affectionate and gets along with other
cats as well as dogs.

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