

# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 2, Issue 17, August 22, 2006

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*Magic In The Wood By Lakewood United*

## 2000+ Wizard Rockers Feel the Love

**Kenneth Warren**

A caped and costumed crowd of two thousand plus Wizard Rockers and tots poured into beautiful Lakewood Park on the evening of August 16th for Magic in the Wood, a community celebration of reading and rocking that featured Harry and the Potters and Draco and the Malfoys.

For about three hours, the two bands, inspired by the J.K. Rowling book series Harry Potter, supplied a brainy and upbeat 21st century ABC bubblegum sound, which ripped with light and dark role-playing hooks needed to capture the imaginations of the MySpace generation.

The powerful psycho-geography of Lakewood Park inspired the Wizard Rockers to heat up the rival chops that burst forth when two band members dressed and claimed to be Harry Potter.



photo by: Bill Davis

*A young Harry Potter walks away from a life size dragon.*

"Tonight we're going to evaporate the Lake," shouted Joe DeGeorge, who plays Harry of Year Four. His message to the Wizard Rockers - consistent with

the title of their latest album, Power of Love - boiled down to the Golden Rule rising from the steam of the watery heart.

"This was the first time I ever played before a Great Lake, and it was awesome," said Brad Mehlenbacher, the guitarist for Draco and the Malfoys, who also pounded the skins for Harry and the Potters.

"The way the blues of the sky and the lake came together was truly incredible," said Kim Senft-Paras, deputy director of Lakewood Public Library, satisfied that Magic in the Wood had revealed, as she hoped, Lakewood at its best.

Knowing connectivity between institutions and people would be essential to the evening's success, Paras enlisted Shannon Strachen early on to help deliver a new kind of partnership event for children and young people to savor at summer's end. Given the involvement of the library and city in the Youth Master Planning process, they wanted to demonstrate a fresh capacity and intention for public institutions to create quality of life experiences for a new generation building lives in Lakewood.

Mayor Tom George, though on vacation and in the midst of painting his basement, put on his Harry Potter tie and came to the park before the show to confer with organizers on facility arrangements, parking logistics and deployment of staff.

In the Harry Potter spirit of cos-

**continued on pages 8-9**

## Next Up! Car Show August 26!

Next up in this summer's lineup of Lakewood Observer promotions and events that the LO staff and members have been providing in an effort to provide some fun for everyone in Lakewood is the Fourth Annual Lakewood Car Culture Show, August 26, on Madison Ave.

"This year should be really special," said Jerry Koenigsmark, the head of the Car Show. "When I was working with Chris Andrews, it was interesting and fun." Last year we had a great turn-

out, but I knew we could do better, and I think we have."

This year's show will feature recording artist and one of Lakewood's finest bands, Uncle Scratch's Gospel Revival who has just released their second CD "Gates of Hell." If you have not seen Uncle Scratch, this is one act you cannot miss. Also appearing will be The Masked Marauders, Ace Brown and the Helldivers. At the Lakewood Observer booth we will have Cats on Holiday (Lite), and possibly even

St. Andrew. Whose new CD was just reviewed by the Lakewood Observer.

Last year's show had 150 cars for 7,500 people to see and enjoy. This year the show starts at Noon, between Clarence and Madison Park on Madison.

Lakewood's City Hall, Tony, Beno, Melissa Garrett, Mayor Tom George and Madison shop owners have stepped up to make this a fun event.

Show starts at high noon, rain or shine, and continues until 8:00pm. People will be encouraged to move the party into Mahall's Bowling Alley, Bela Dubby, Trio, Manja, Sullivan's, and other Madison Ave. bars and eateries. Bela Dubby is featuring a Car Culture art and photography show.

The show is a great event to visit with friends and families.

Next event will be the Lakewood Motoring Society's Rally of Lakewood.



### September is Ovarian Cancer Month

National Ovarian Cancer Coalition wants to remind all women to familiarize themselves with the symptoms of Ovarian Cancer, and to speak with their doctors about symptoms and risk factors.

Please take the time and check out their website.

<http://ovarian.org>

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# Lakewood Events

## The 39th Annual Virginia Avenue Block Party

By Stan Austin

Defying sudden downpours and showers, Virginia Avenue continued their long running block party tradition. Did you ever think a neighborhood summertime block party could encompass elements of the past, present, and future?

Regarding the past, on July 4, 1969 Gary Rice and his band Skie played at the Virginia Avenue block party. Observer readers will recall Gary's article recounting the infamous 4th of July tornado that blew through Lakewood that night. Gary said, "I had just graduated from Lakewood High. Our band played pop tunes. Needless to say, we cut our set short that night!"

As for today, there are the usual games that are theoretically for the kids, although the adults always seem



photo by Rhonda Loje

Virginia Avenue Block Party after the rain

to have an equally good time. Included in the festivities was a bakeoff with kids and men's brackets.

The most important activity of the

block party is a hope for the future. All the residents of Virginia are collecting gifts for a CARE package. Three packages are to be sent to the three Virginia

Avenue residents who are in our armed forces.

Roland Miranda, US Army Reserves is being deployed to Iraq this fall. He is a critical care RN and he will be part of a Black Hawk helicopter medical transport team.

Tony Marti is in the middle of 14 weeks of boot camp at Fort Benning, Georgia. The Marti family is waiting to learn of his assignment.

Michael Flynn is a West Point graduate and is currently in Baghdad. He served in Kosovo for that peace-keeping mission. His tank company led the western charge to the Saddam International Airport.

Everyone on Virginia will be signing a card to the three. That's for the future, when Miranda, Marti, and Flynn can celebrate next year's 40th Annual Virginia Avenue Block Party.

### Mental Health Information Sessions Start Sept. 6

Mental health issues are common in our world. An estimated 22 percent of adults and 9 percent of children and teens ages 5 to 17 have diagnosable mental disorders. Mental illness affects people of all ages, but the good news is that early identification and newer treatments are changing the course of the disease. Lakewood Hospital is proud to present a Mental Health Series to bring you the latest information on treatment for children, teens, adult women and anyone suffering from depression. Come to any or all of the FREE sessions offered on Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at Rocky River United Methodist Church, 19414 Detroit Rd, Rocky River. Reservations: 1-877-234-FITT (3488)

#### September 6

"Pros and Cons of Medicating Children with Emotional Problems" Kathleen Quinn, MD, child psychiatrist, Cleveland Clinic

#### September 13

"Teen Behaviors and Emotions: What's Normal, What's Trouble?" Renee Altof, RN,MSN and Cindy Walsh, LISW, Lakewood Hospital Teen Health Center

#### September 20

"Female Hormones and Moods: New Treatment Strategies" Kristin Ekman, M.D., Lakewood Hospital OB/GYN

#### September 27

"Treatment Options for Healing Depression" Abu N. Syed, MD, Lakewood Hospital psychiatrist

### Beck Center Children's Choir Auditions

The Beck Center Children's Choir announce auditions for their Performing and Chamber choirs. Singers age 9 and up with unchanged voices are welcome. Auditions are scheduled throughout August and September. Call 216.228.2800 for more information or to schedule a placement audition.

### Grace Lutheran Kid's Church To Host Hot Dog Roast

The Kid's Church ministry of Grace Lutheran Church will be hosting a hot dog and hamburger roast on Saturday, September 2nd, beginning at 12 noon for the entire community. Kid's Church is a ministry for children 4 years old and up. The program meets the first three Saturdays of every month of the year from 10:30 until 12 noon. Lunch is served to the children at 12 noon. Parents are also welcome each Saturday to participate in the events and to have lunch. The Kid's Church program involves games, singing, prayer, Bible Stories, puppet shows, role playing, and arts and crafts. Offerings help support both the Kid's Church ministry and a monthly mission outreach.

For more information, contact Pastor George Hansell at the church office at 216-221-4959. Grace Lutheran Church is located at 13030 Madison Avenue across from Madison Park.

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

The Lakewood Observer is proud to announce a new addition to its website. We recently added the "Pet Talk and More" section to our Observation Deck online forum. Stop by online anytime to share information regarding local pets. You can browse adoptable animals available from the Lakewood Animal Shelter, report a lost or found pet, ask advice on pet matters or find information about local pet groups like CCLAS, Loving Paws and Friends of the Lakewood Dog Park.

## Become an Observer!

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Lakewood Events



Marie Andrews stops at Brennan's for her roses last year from Steve of Lakewood Christian Center while Dany Brennan looks on.

## Brennan's Floral Gift Shop Plans To Give Away 1,200 Free Roses For FTD Good Neighbor Day

Residents of Lakewood will have the unique opportunity to meet each other and develop new friendships when Brennan's Floral Gift Shop hosts the annual FTD®Good Neighbor Day® event on Wednesday September 6, 2006. Beginning at 9:00am, Brennan's Floral Gift Shop at 13396 Madison Avenue, corner of Lewis and Madison will give away 1,200 roses in bunches of a dozen, absolutely FREE to anyone who visits the shop, while supplies last.

There is two catches, however. Daniel Brennan, the owner of Brennan's Floral Gift Shop hopes the goodwill is exactly that – "catching". Anyone who picks up a dozen free roses will be asked to make a donation to Lakewood Christian Service and sign a promise to keep one of the flowers for themselves and give the others away to 11 different people – spreading goodwill and friendship in the community.

"We hope that the people of Lakewood will be able to get acquainted with new people or will renew an old friendship during FTD Good Neighbor Day," states Daniel Brennan. "We hope to help create a friendlier, more caring and compassionate world, starting right here in Lakewood."

FTD Good Neighbor Day is being celebrated for the twelfth year throughout the United States and Canada at participating FTD floral shops as a day of celebrating goodwill toward all people. Joining the efforts at Brennan's Floral Gift Shop are local sponsors, Lakewood Christian Services who have pitched in to help make FTD Good Neighbor Day a truly successful and "neighborly" celebration. It is expected that thousands of FTD Florists in North America will participate in this year's FTD Good Neighbor Day event, giving away millions of free flowers.



photo by: Jan Henderson

### Kiwanis Summer Garden Program 2006

Forty-four third, fourth, and fifth graders participated in the 2006 Lakewood Kiwanis Summer Garden Program. A Garden Fair was held Tuesday, August 15th at the Kiwanis Pavilion at Lakewood Park. Seventeen young people brought their vegetables and flowers for display and to be judged. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention ribbons were awarded to the young gardeners. Juice and cookies were provided for everyone. Kim Paras and Jan Henderson would like to thank the Kiwanis members who took time to visit the gardeners. Kim and Jan are sending a follow-up letter, along with a personalized bookmark and photo, to each young person who attended the Garden Fair.

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# Lakewood Sports & Activities

## Ranger Football Looking to Bounce Back in 2006

By Mike Deneen

Head Coach Jim Slagle and the Lakewood Ranger football team are looking for a turnaround in 2006. Recent history has not been kind to the team, with losing seasons in three of the past four years. Slagle is confident that this year's edition will recover from its 1-9 record in 2005.

Slagle is very impressed with the team's work ethic. Over 50 of the players have been lifting weights regularly since Spring, looking to improve their size and strength. They also trained very hard during two-a-day practice sessions in August. The heat and humidity, as well as the physical contact, have toughened the players. "They have practiced so hard that even the roof of their mouths hurt," says Slagle. Unlike the Cleveland Browns, the Rangers have been fortunate to avoid any season-ending injuries during the preseason.

In addition to a strong work ethic, this year's team returns a lot of experience on both offense and defense. Slagle believes this will pay dividends in the win/loss column. "There will be a point in every game where you win it or you lose it," says the Coach. He believes that game experience will help his team to make the key plays at the right time.

Slagle is also pleased with the amount of depth on this year's squad. Players are fighting for playing time at virtually every position. The competition in practice pushing players to play their best. This should translate into improved play on Friday nights.

Despite the improvements, the team faces significant obstacles. The most daunting of these is the team's schedule. As always, the team faces one of the toughest slates in Ohio. The Rangers take to the road to face perennial playoff contenders Garfield Heights, Shaker Heights and Euclid. In addition, area powers Brunswick, Mentor, North Olmsted and Maple Heights will visit Lakewood this year.

The team's struggles in the past two seasons have created another problem: fragile confidence. "We need to expect to win, not hope to win," says Slagle, "our biggest opponent will be ourselves." For this reason, it is especially important that the team have some early success this year. The first game is on the road at Berea on August 25th.

Here is a quick look at the 2006 Rangers:

### OFFENSE

In order to improve on last year's record, the offensive unit must improve from 2005. The team scored seven points or less in six of their ten games last year. To make matters worse, there were too many "three-and-out" possessions that kept the defense on the field too long. There is strong reason for hope in 2006, with an experienced and talented back-field returning.

**Quarterback:** Last year's starting quarterback Jim Guzay, now a junior, returns this year. He now has a year of starting experience under his belt,



Junior Jim Guzay looks to move the ball down the field for a first down.



The Rangers break huddle after a pep talk from the coaches during halftime.

completing 52 percent of his passes in 2005. He has spent extensive time in the offseason studying film and learning defenses, which will help the coaches open up the offense this year. Sophomore Dan Shannon will be the backup, with Junior Mike Harrington and Senior Steve Bond also available for duty.

**Running Backs:** Senior Nicco Maddaluna returns after a very solid campaign in 2005. He is a very tough inside runner and among the best backs in the conference. Maddaluna's tough inside running style will be complemented by a pair of speedy backs: Senior Jacob Pizzo and Junior Rob Trivett. Multi-sport athlete Steve Harris, who also plays baseball and basketball for LHS, will spend some time at fullback.

**Receivers:** This group is loaded with new faces in 2006. The most experienced member is Senior J.P. Varzelle, who started all ten games last year and had 18 receptions. Senior Sleiman Masri, one of team's leaders, also returns from 2005. Among the new players is a quartet of seniors—James Coleman, Zach Mooney, Justin Jaboni and Fahad Syed – who are joining the sport this year. Coleman is a long jumper in track, while Jaboni has good size and strength for the position. Mooney, a member of the LHS basketball team, will also play safety this year. Juniors on the squad this year include Tony Oravetz, who also plays on the baseball team, and Jon Ross.

**Offensive Line:** This unit loses experience from 2005, but benefits

from an infusion of size. The team adds a large new pair of players in the form of seniors Adam Cutshall and Kevin Kinder. Kinder, who played last year at University School, is 290 pounds, while Cutshall is 265. The newbies join returning starter Billy Snyder, who started all ten games last year. James Boyle, Nick Porach, Dan Michaels and Aaron Donahue also started some games in 2005 and will back this year. Porach is expected to play the center position. The blocking corps is rounded out by Matt Gugar, Nick Stephen, Brandon Hays and Matt Milovanovic.

### DEFENSE

The Ranger's defense played well in stretches last year, but was susceptible to the big play. This year's unit offers more depth at key positions.

**Defensive Line:** This unit returns

starters Ali Sebeiha and John Warrell. Sebeiha, a senior, started three games in 2005 and provides much needed experience. Warrell, a junior, had 31 tackles and 10 assists in ten starts in 2005. Large two-way senior linemen Adam Cutshall and Kevin Kinder will be in the mix, as will senior Aaron Parker. Junior Kenny Kinder, who is also a member of the baseball team, will provide depth at the position along with Senior Matt Kile.

**Linebackers:** The linebacking corps returns experience and has added depth this year. It starts with Senior Dan Norton, who has been a starter for two years. Gahad Suleiman started all ten games at linebacker in 2005, registering 61 tackles and 22 assists. They are joined by Josh Sobe, a 2005 starter who is making the transition from the defensive line. Senior Joe Lucko is another new player to the position, moving from tight end. Rounding out the linebacking unit will be Junior Andy Porach and Sophomore Steve Harris.

**Defensive Backs:** This unit returns numerous starters from 2005, including Seniors Chris Ferrone, Dan Garvey and Dan Normile and Junior George Newbrough. Veteran Vinny Fox will be joining the secondary after lettering as a linebacker in 2005. These returners will be joined by Seniors Daren Ashley, Steve Bond and Tavian Palmer. Ashley and Palmer are new to the program, and Bond returns to the team after missing 2005 due to injury. Junior Bobby Packard and Sophomore Dan Shannon round out the secondary corps.

**Other Notes:** Senior Shayne Moravcik, a veteran of both the football and soccer team, will return as kicker in 2006.

This season marks the team's final year in the Lake Erie League, which LHS has belonged to since the league's formation in 1936. Next year the team will move to the new Northeast Ohio League.

The Rangers are scheduled for two television appearances on Cox Cable 45. These games are the September 22 home game against Lorain Southview and the October 6 game at Euclid.

The Lakewood Observer has launched an online forum for Ranger fans. Visit "Ranger Nation" at the Observer website, [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)

### A MAYORAL INVITATION TO "FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS"

Like many residents, one of the many things I love about Lakewood is our sense of community. Summertime provided us numerous examples of this spirit with the recent Arts Festival, Captains game outing and Fourth of July activities.

I invite all of you to join me this fall in another great Lakewood community tradition....Lakewood Ranger football at Lakewood Stadium. As a Lakewood High alum, I have attended Ranger games since the 1960s, experiencing countless wins and numerous championship seasons. Ranger games are a great opportunity to gather with your neighbors in a fun, family atmosphere. The kids at LHS — players, cheerleaders and marching band - always work hard and put on a great show.

Ranger athletics are the best sports value in the Cleveland area. Ohio high school football is regarded as the best in the nation. In addition, Lakewood Stadium is among the finest facilities in Ohio. So please join me at Lakewood Stadium for the Rangers home opener on Friday, September 8th.

# Lakewood Sports & Activities

## Ranger Volleyball Season Preview

By Todd Shapiro

Basketball players dream about the month of March, Indy Car drivers dream about the month of May, Lakewood High School volleyball players dream about the month of November.

The Rangers girl's volleyball team knows that November volleyball equals Regional tournament play. For the past two seasons the Rangers have been stopped one step short of the Regional Tournament. This year they feel their time has come.

Senior co-captain Kayla Kovach, a four-year starter for the Rangers, said the team has two goals going into the 2006 season: "Bring home another Lake Erie League title and finally get past district finals."

With eight returning players from last years 21-4 team the Rangers have both the experience and the senior leadership necessary to advance to the next level. Head Coach Brigid Arbezniak agrees that this year's unit possesses the ingredients needed for another successful season.

"I told the girls I was only keeping players who wanted to be here and wanted to win," Arbezniak said. "I think the girls we have now have the will to win."

The Rangers' non-league schedule features some of the toughest competition in the area: Division II runner-up Walsh Jesuit, Beaumont, 20-game winner Independence and the Rocky River Invitational featuring Rocky River and Magnificat. It is a tough line-up, but by tournament time, the Rangers will be battle-tested.

"We might take our lumps early this season, but we will be prepared for districts," Arbezniak said.

Two keys to success for the Rangers this Fall will be the play of sisters Katie and Clare Kmieck. The sisters, identical twins, are leaders for Lakewood both on and off the court.

Katie, the taller of the two at 5'8", is a four-year starter who already holds

the school record for assists with 697. Arbezniak said Katie is also a leader off the court and that her maturity

and dedication to improving her game serve as examples to the younger girls in the program.

Clare, the Rangers defensive captain, runs the Lakewood defense from the libero position.

Clare said that as a senior she is more comfortable with a leadership position on the team.

"Coach tells me to correct the new players in practice. I try to give them as much input as possible," she said.

According to Clare, as long as the defensive unit learns to trust each other and brings a lot of energy to the floor, the Rangers have the ability

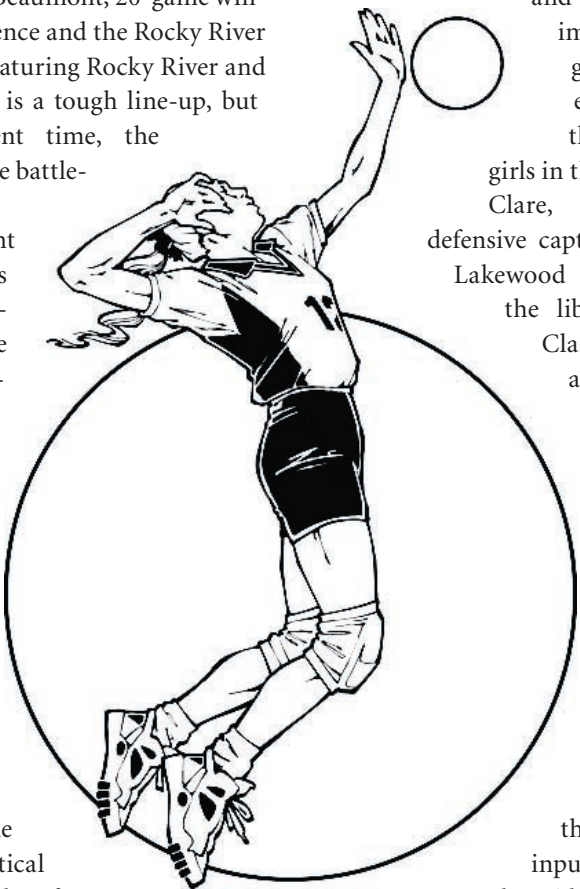
to defeat anyone on their schedule.

The Rangers are also counting on big seasons from outside hitters Kali Koz and Chelsea Mason. Middle hitter Katharine Sroka, a 5-9 senior, should also make an important contribution to the team.

With the LEL realigning the volleyball divisions in its final season, Lakewood will face a stiff challenge in defending its league crown. In addition to perennial rival Mentor, Lorain Southview and Garfield Heights have been added to the Rangers' division, while Cleveland Heights and Lorain Admiral King moved down to the LEL's lower division.

The Rangers open their season Saturday with a tri-meet against Beaumont and Lorain Clearview at 10 am. The league portion of the schedule won't begin until after Labor Day when the Panthers of Euclid come to Lakewood on Thursday, September 7. Other highlights of the home schedule include a September 21 showdown against Mentor and an October 7 tri-meet with North Olmsted and Brookside.

Even before the Rangers find out what November has in store, this year's team has left a positive impression on coach Arbezniak. "This is a good group to be around. They make it fun to come to practice," she said.



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# Lakewood Public Library

## Open Source Culture Thrives at Lakewood Library

Recent visitors to the Lakewood Public Library’s Technology Center may have noticed a host of unfamiliar icons populating the desktops of our public access computers. While some patrons arrive in the lab already familiar with applications such as Mozilla Firefox and OpenOffice, many others never take the leap into exploring them, which is unfortunate, as it means that they’re missing out on a world of useful and exciting software with a unique and vital relationship to the mission of the Library itself.

“Open source” is among the more common terms used in reference to a family of software development strategies sharing an emphasis on the free exchange of information, the underlying philosophy being that when any interested party can view the source code of a program and make whatever changes seem necessary to them, bug fixes and new features arise faster and more naturally than they would otherwise. Moreover, these changes tend to reflect the actual needs of the community that uses the software more thoroughly than those motivated by decisions made by parties with more

interest in making money than in good programming as an end in itself. Rather than treating this as a new and innovative approach, many stalwarts of open source culture argue that their activities are a means to reconnect with the spirit of passionate experimentalism that motivated the early days of software wizardry, prior to the colonization of the field by big business.

In light of the above, it’s easy to see the library world, with its own emphasis on empowerment and community-building through free access to information, as a site ripe for the emergence of a thorough and powerful relationship with open source culture. Indeed, this affinity is as old as the presence of information technology in libraries, and in recent years, as new generations of open source projects have become increasingly valuable to users outside a dedicated cadre of programming enthusiasts, the use of open source software in libraries has spread from web and database infrastructure to back offices to public access computers.

The Lakewood Public Library is no exception to this trend, using Linux, an open source operating system that offers

a potent alternative to Windows and OS X, on our servers and catalog stations and applications such as FileZilla and Mozilla Thunderbird (clients for FTP and email, respectively) in our technology center office. Additionally, as one might expect, several members of our staff are active in the open source world, including Dave Popeck, a member of the Northeast Ohio Open Source Society, and Chris Madak, a performance artist who often works with open source software such as Pure Data, cSound, and Supercollider. Their interests have shaped patron service initiatives at the Library, including workshops such as Introduction to Linux, Introduction to Open Source, Making Music on the PC (a hands-on audio production class employing exclusively free and open source tools), and our new Introduction

to Ubuntu (a particularly user-friendly species of Linux), scheduled to debut this coming fall.

Even those Library patrons that do not participate in the above-listed workshops are free to reap the benefits of open source software at our public access computer stations, most of which feature the aforementioned Mozilla Firefox and OpenOffice (powerful and elegant alternatives to Internet Explorer and Microsoft Word) as well as Audacity, an audio editing and mixing application, and The GIMP, an image editing application more than capable of going toe-to-toe with pricey graphic design software like Adobe Photoshop. Should they choose to do so, they will more than likely be surprised by the sudden improvements in their Technology Center experience.

### Some suggestions for further reading:

The Northeast Ohio Open Source Society site, at <http://nooss.org/>  
The Free Software Foundation site, at <http://www.fsf.org/>  
Information on the Linux operating system, at <http://www.linux.org/>  
The Ubuntu project site, at <http://www.ubuntu.com/>  
The OpenOffice project site, at <http://www.openoffice.org/>  
The Mozilla Firefox web browser site, at <http://www.mozilla.com/firefox/>  
The GIMP project site, at <http://www.gimp.org/>  
Information on Audacity, an open source sound editing application used in the Making Music on the PC workshop at the LPL, at <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

## Lakewood Public Library Calendar

### Wednesday, August 23 Every Child Ready To Read @ Your Library

Learn to help your child get ready to read.  
This series of workshops discusses the importance of developing the early literacy skills children need to become successful readers and steps you can take to help them along.  
Tonight’s program is for parents and caregivers of children ages 4 to 5  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium\*

### Thursday, August 24 Booked For Murder <<http://www.lkwdpl.org/calendar/murderclub/>>:

The World Tour\*  
Our international agent, Kathy Kline, travels the world looking for murder, mystery and mayhem!  
Tonight’s destination is Seville and the book is /Vanished Hands/ by Robert Wilson.  
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium\*

### Saturday, August 26 E-Mail Basics\*

It’s not too late to join the e-mail revolution. Keep in touch with friends and family. Reservations for computer instruction classes begin the first of each month. To register, please stop in or call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127.  
3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center\*



*Cats On Holiday (lite) played the Lakewood Library Concert series last week. A good turn out showed up to see the band rock and roll it with their unique country, rock-a-billy flavor. This version featured Rick Christyson, Dillion DeVito, and Dennis DeVito. Playing along was Charlie Koenigsmark and his friend from Germany.*

### Sunday, August 27 Sunday With The Friends <<http://www.lkwdpl.org/friends/>>\*

What Would They Sing?  
Famous historical figures finally get their chance to shine.  
2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium\*

### Monday, August 28 Films On Friday--rescheduled Event!

King Solomon’s Mines (1937) Directed by Robert Stevenson NOT RATED  
Paul Robeson steals the show in this epic adventure yarn based on the H. Rider Haggard novel.  
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium\*

### Friday, September 1 Films on Friday

Bananas, Directed by Woody Allen (1971)\*  
Counter-revolutionary Woody Allen falls in love, tests consumer products and topples banana republics. The film is rated PG-13.  
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium\*  
Saturday, September 2

### Saturday Night Variety

Sparx In The City\*  
From the streets of downtown Cleveland to our auditorium-street theater, public art, musicians and more! Visit [www.cleveland.com/sparx](http://www.cleveland.com/sparx) <<http://www.cleveland.com/sparx>> for a sneak peek.  
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium\*

### Word Processing Basics\*

Find out for yourself why everybody is getting rid of their typewriters.  
For more information about our class schedule, visit <http://www.lkwdpl.org/classes/>.  
3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center\*

### Sunday, September 3 Closed for the Labor Day Holiday

### Monday, September 4 Closed for the Labor Day Holiday

### Tuesday, September 5 Obliterate Fat Forever

Marty Velasco, a certified personal trainer from Fitness Edge, believes he can help you transform your body and take control of your metabolism.  
7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium\*

Lakewood People

# Charles Edward Gist's Cold Play Groove

Don't mistake Charles Edward Gist for a street dancer. Born August 3rd, 1967, with his natal sun in Leo, Gist moves with the leonine majesty of a professional dancer.

"I've been dancing all my life," declared Gist who was recently evicted from West 101st

Street digs.  
"Everybody knows Lakewood is a safe city," Gist professed between dances.

Gist's stage is the space surrounding the Detroit Avenue bus stop outside the Westerly Apartments where he dances with amazing grace for hours on end. He won't allow rap music to coarsen the lilting and uplifting vibe that fuels the feel-good chi powering up his professional mode of dance revolutions.

On the red hot evening of August 1st a strolling posse of Lakewood Observer "Wood Walkers" caught up with Gist who was dancing in his Cold Play groove.

"Talk" was spinning Gist's personal listening system on this particular Tuesday night Detroit Avenue Cold Play dance party.

As a reader of the Lakewood Observer, Gist was fully equipped to explain to the posse the relation between his intricate dance steps and the introspective pulse of Cold Play, an alternative rock band from London England.

"If this story gets published it will help a lot of people," said Gist.

When the posse's photographer misunderstood Gist to mean that a Lakewood Observer story about his situation would bring attention to the plight of the homeless, he clarified his meaning and intention with a spirit of complete selflessness.

"No, I mean Coldplay," countered Gist. "Not enough people are aware of their albums. Maybe this will expose them to new audiences."

On August 3 the posse returned to the bus stop and presented Gist with a birthday note from Andrew Jackson.

Gist and the posse savored the sleek Vans look of his new birthday shoes purchased earlier at Payless Shoes on Detroit Avenue near West 117th.

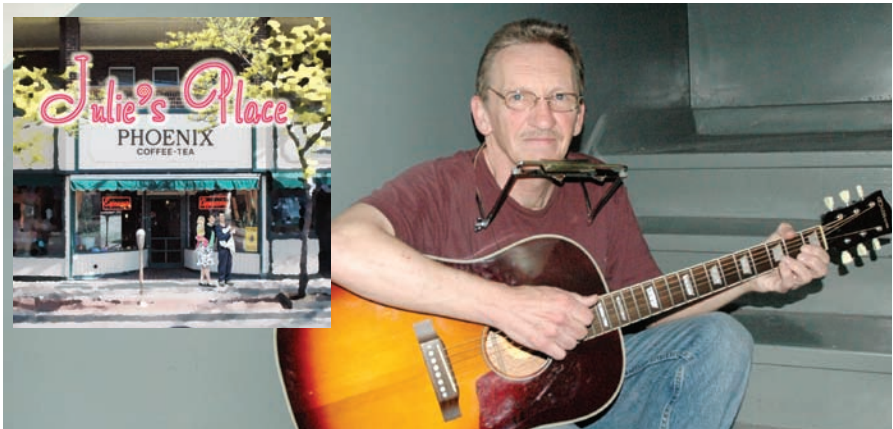
"They've got some good-looking shoes at Payless," pitched Gist.

With a birthday balloon rising from his knapsack, Gist proudly pulled out a massive birthday card signed by the staff at the National City Bank Detroit Avenue Branch located across the street from the bus stop.

"Before she died my mother told me my best friends would come from other races," said Gist, an African American, reflecting deeply with the posse on the dance of his life down Detroit Avenue over the past four years.



## CD Release Party at Julie's Phoenix Coffee



CD release party on Friday night August 25th at 7 pm. Gary Hoopengardner, a Phoenixer himself, has written a song and produced a CD called "Julie's Place". The song is touching, being that it is written in appreciation of the Phoenix. The CD is a compilation of people who have played at the Phoenix for the last few years, including mark and jack, Lindsay Sandine, Rebecca Wolever and Gregg Westlake! The party this evening will feature all the songs from the CD. There will be complimentary food and CD giveaways-so don't miss this exciting event.



A cool time at St. Lukes

By Shutha Khalil-DeJarnette

The 2nd annual St. Luke's Summer Festival was held on July 28th to the 30th. There were plenty of things for everyone to do at this yearly festival. Activities included the dunk tank which was great for hot weather, tons of games such as sack toss, putt-putt

golf, 3 of a kind (dice), a Chinese auction with lots of great prizes and a 50/50 raffle. There was plenty of great food from the Juniper Grill and other vendors, and brew from the garden for grown-ups. If you missed the festival this year, be sure to check it out next year and bring some friends.

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# A Night Of Magic In The Wood



photo by: Ivor Karabatkovic

Harry and the Potters and Brian from Draco and the Malfoys read and relax.



photo by: Ivor Karabatkovic

Harry pulls out the sax.



photo by: Ivor Karabatkovic

Harry and the Potters rocking out.



photo by: Ivor Karabatkovic

Within seconds of Harry and the Potters taking to the stage, the audience rushed it just to get close to the Harrys.



photo by: Ivor Karabatkovic

Harry ready to stick it to the man.



photo by: Ivor Karabatkovic

45 shows in 48 days and they were still willing to stay until the last autograph was signed.



Winners of the Trivia Contest line up for their rewards.

MAGIC IN THE WOOD WAS MADE FOR

THE LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY • THE LAKEWOOD COX COMMUNICATIONS • LAKEWOOD EARLY CHILDHOOD PTA • J AND A SPECIAL THANKS

## continued from page 1

tuned fun, the Lakewood Public Library Children's and Youth Services staff organized trivia and costume contests and dressed as a Quidditch team, "Lakewood United," complete with robes, pennant capes and brooms.

While the connectivity between institutions and community organizations ranged from Lakewood Public Library to the City of Lakewood, from Cox Communications to the Lakewood Jaycees, from the Lakewood Observer to H2O - Help 2 Others, from Lakewood Early Childhood PTA to Junior Women's Club Of Lakewood, it was the familiar totality of good people in a good place that rocked Lakewood's love train at Magic in the Wood in its unparalleled community register. Needless to say, the Wizard Rockers, nearing the end of their Summer 2006 tour across America, were totally impressed with Lakewood, the city where they enjoyed their biggest crowd.

"This is amazing. So many great kids dancing," remarked Paul DeGeorge of Harry and the Potters after the show.

"We haven't seen anything like this before. There's was more a sense of community at the Lakewood Show than any other show on the tour. In the large cities the libraries are not as tied into the community as here," said Brian Ross of Draco and Malfoys, whose day job is television video editor in Boston.

"This was much more than an event. There's a real community here," said Mehlenbacher.

"It's an event like this, with so many families and young people, that makes people say, yes, this why we live in Lakewood," remarked Toni Gelsomino, manager for Lakewood's Department of Human Services/Division Early Child Development.

# ood - Music, Dance And Fun!

THE WOOD  
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UNIOR WOMEN’S CLUB OF LAKEWOOD  
TO SHANNON STRACHAN

“This was a threshold event that proved we can do new things for young people in the city,” said Councilwoman Nickie Antonio, pleased to observe how a shift in musical genre could bring a new Lakewood audience to the park.

With Wizard Rock gripping the nation in the summer of 2006, travelers came from Michigan, New Jersey and Virginia to enjoy the free concert. Denise Brown, a student at Michigan State University, first saw Harry and the Potters in Ann Arbor and traveled to Lakewood with friend Leitra Jacham, a high school junior from Marlette, Michigan.

“It’s so beautiful here. What a gorgeous place for a concert. I’d die if there was something like this in Marlette,” said Jacham.

Young people from Lakewood realized Magic in the Wood was something

special in their lives, too.

“I loved it. This was the best concert of my life,” declared Laura Tobey about to enter the ninth grade at Lakewood High School.

“It was amazing that all the kids were coming up to me at the end of the event thanking me for doing this for Lakewood. I was not ever sure how they knew I was with the library,” said Paras.

On the morning after, public libraries from Pike’s Peak, Colorado to Geauga County Ohio started calling Lakewood Public Library.

“They wanted to know - how did you do it,” said Andrew Harant, manager of Children’s and Youth Services, with a smile.

“Lakewood United,” the insignia designed by Lakewood resident Michael Evans, is the obvious answer.



A great group came to see the show, and they were rewarded by good times in the wood. Even FOX News sent a helicopter by to check in on the magic.



Kate McGreagor of Lakewood United and the Library helps sign up some young Potters for the costume contest.



Ballons were everywhere thanks to the Lakewood Womens League of Voters.



Winners of the Costume Contest line up for their rewards.



Brad Mehlenbacher from Draco and the Malfoys, shows why he is so evil.



Draco and the Malfoys.



Tratiana Bucnevich came all the way from Belarus to Lakewood!



Tori Schaeffer and friend made the trip from Kentucky!



Briana Elberico, Lauren Roshetko and Becca Leden made the 1 1/2 hour trip to the Wood from Northfield

# The Pulse of the City

## The Lakewood Day Bicycle Races

Gary Rice

Recently, I was out in the shed, starting the clean-out process that we all face from time to time. Standing up, I bumped my head into an old racing bicycle gathering dust, hanging from the rafters. Gazing at the sleek blend of metal alloy and wires and at the complex gearbox brought me back to another time. . .when as a teenager I conceived, organized, and helped run the Lakewood Day Bicycle Races.

Bicycle racing used to be big in America many years before I was born. At the turn of the century, an American named “Major” Marshall Taylor won possibly the first world championship achieved by a black man by riding his bicycle in sprint races.

In addition to racing, cycling was well-known as a contributor to the women’s movement, as evidenced by this quote credited to Susan B. Anthony in 1896: “Let me tell you what I think of bicycling. I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel. It gives woman a feeling of freedom and self-reliance.”

Bikes, or at least two-wheeled, rolling, push-along vehicles, have been around since before the American Revolution. A Scottish blacksmith named Mcmillan came up with pedals for bikes in the 1830’s, and rubber tires came along about a decade or so later, after American inventor Charles Goodyear perfected a process to vulcanize rubber in 1844.

At first, cycles were very expensive.

Many had high wheels and were very dangerous to ride, but the young and daring (and rich) took to them, much like kids take to skateboards today. A safer alternative, the ride-in pedal tricycle, still had high wheels, but afforded a greater measure of protection on the road. In fact, a gentleman named Benz, in Germany in the 1880’s, designed one of these with an engine, and this is considered to have been one of the first automobiles.

Actually, many advances in cycling technology were applied to the new automobiles and motorcycles, as gasoline engine power improved in performance. And as we all learned in school, it was in Wilbur and Orville Wright’s bicycle shop in West Dayton where their gliders and the famous 1903 Wright Flyer were designed. Interestingly, the power transfer from the engine to the propellers of that original Flyer used a bicycle-type chain and sprocket assembly.

Cyclists were an active part of the movement for safer American roads, even in the time before cars. When an Irish fellow named Dunlop came up with pneumatic (air-filled) tires, cycling improved even more. A new bike, called the “safety bike,” came along in the 1890’s. It looked similar to the bikes today with two matching wheels and chain-driven foot power. Then, the races began in earnest!

At the time of Major Taylor’s seven (!) world championships, bike racing

could be found all around America. In Europe as well, bicycle racing developed and continues to be a significant sport. Gradually, however, many Americans abandoned the bicycle as a competitive or even a serious adult vehicle. Between 1900 and the early ‘20’s, the bicycle went from widespread acceptance to mostly a child’s amusement in this country. The reasons are many and have been debated by cycle enthusiasts for years. The biggest reason, of course, was the availability of cars and cheap oil.

In the late ‘60’s, I developed an interest in bikes and their technology. Used, high quality racing bikes were dirt-cheap back then. I was also fascinated by the mechanical aspects of the machine. In the 1950’s, an Italian named Tullio Campagnolo had perfected the parallelogram shifting mechanism seen so often today, and 10-speeds were coming into the consumer market, eclipsing the 3-speeds and heavy bikes so common among American children.

In a burst of inspiration fueled by youthful naivete, I wrote to Lakewood’s mayor, asking that bicycle races be established in Lakewood during the Lakewood Day festivities. Permission was granted and the races were inaugurated. I was then asked to chair the events.

Two different courses were used around our city over several years. The scariest one was probably down at Lakewood Park, going around the

Lakewood Park Oval. There were some really tight turns and it’s a wonder everyone survived! Another course was on the finished but as-yet unopened I-90 stretch of the (at that time) freeway-to-nowhere between Lakewood and Rocky River. Cyclists raced on the short stretch between McKinley and the Rocky River side over the bridge spanning the Rocky River Valley.

There were a number of categories, and trophies were awarded for the best riders. As I had a few physical limitations, I could not participate, so I guess I made a good chairperson for the activities. Those of you interested in an article about the event (as well as a rather youthful picture of me) could consult the Lakewood Sun Post from July 17, 1969 on microfilm at the library. It was a lot of fun. Unfortunately, as time passed on, so did the fabulous Lakewood Day Bicycle Races.

These days, cycling seems to be on a comeback. With high gas and oil prices, and with all those fantastic new bikes, more people seem to be out there riding. Old bikes are going for a fortune on the net these days, and interest seems to be growing exponentially regarding this tremendously healthful activity. New safety equipment for cycling also seems to be getting better all the time.

So I would urge you to dust off that old bike and give it a whirl (with the caveat of finding a good helmet first and then having your bike looked over by a competent service professional). Hopefully, the bicycle will continue to excite interest around the streets of Lakewood for many years to come!



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- CREDIT CHALLENGES, A MINIMUM DOWN PAYMENT OR A NEW JOB CAN ALL LEAD TO HIGHER INTEREST RATES FOR THOSE SEEKING MORTGAGES.**  
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- I FILED FOR BANKRUPTCY IN THE PAST. I CAN’T GET A MORTGAGE TO BUY A HOME.**  
**Fact:** AMMC has helped many people realize their dreams of owning a home within just one year of their bankruptcy.
- ALL MORTGAGE LENDERS CHARGE A FEE FOR MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CONSULTATION.**  
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Lakewood Pets

Fostering Lily and Her Babies

By Don and Lynn Farris

I got a call from Catherine Butler on June 29 at 3:30 p.m. to let me know there was a mother cat and her six newborn babies that needed a foster family. We had volunteered to be foster parents and were waiting until a cat and her kittens became available.

I felt like a child again trying to contain my excitement until my husband came home and we could go meet our little family. The man at the animal shelter that helped us was great. He told us the mother was wonderful and when we went back to see her, the first thing that I noticed about the mother cat was her big beautiful eyes that took in everything. She was a gray tiger cat that looked like little more than a kitten herself and she was so very thin.

The animal shelter loaned us a litter box, food dish and carrier. The man put a towel in the bottom of the carrier, and gently talking to the mother started picking the kittens up one by one and putting them into the carrier. I noticed that he kissed most of the babies as he put them into the carrier and I thought how wonderful that we have such kind people working at the animal shelter. The mother cat was very watchful of what he was doing with her kittens, but seemed to trust him to take good care of them. After the last one was put into the carrier, he put the mother cat in with them. Then he gave us a few instructions and told us to feel free to call if we had any questions. The Animal Shelter will pay for food if you keep your receipts and they suggested that we purchase kitten food for the mother, since it has higher caloric values than cat food and she needed additional calories to keep up with her babies.

We brought the mother and babies home and put them into our bedroom, a place where our cats do not go--that is one of the instructions we had received. Since the mother cat had not been tested for feline leukemia, they did not want to expose our cats to the potential of disease. Feline leukemia cannot be transferred through



Lily feeding her kittens

the air, so it is safe to have them in the house. Additionally, the mother is very protective of her babies and doesn't necessarily want other cats or animals around them.

We decided to name the mother Lily while she was with us as it is the symbol of innocence, which she seemed to represent to us. We put the carrier down and opened the door and Lily was very curious about exploring her new surroundings. She allowed us to pet her and purred quite loudly at the attention. But she was never away from the carrier for very long.

Meanwhile the kittens held our attention. There were six babies, hardly more than a bit of fur that squirmed around and mewed or eeked and nursed. We asked Lily if we could hold one. She was watchful, but seemed to be okay with it. The babies wanted to be held close – against your body and petted. Whenever the babies were held off your body they would eek, which would cause Lily to double-check to make sure that we weren't doing anything wrong. At one point, I set the baby down in the middle of the bed to take a picture of it. Lily did not think that was a good idea, and before I could get a picture taken, she had jumped up and carried the kitten back to the nest as if to question my decision to leave the baby alone in the middle of the bed. Needless to say, that was the last time

we tried for the portrait of the little ones, until they were much older.

On July 3rd, the first baby, the all-black one, opened his eyes. Day by day more of them opened their eyes and they seemed to be growing constantly. By this time, Lily had grown tired of the carrier for her babies and was testing out new nests. Some of the nests were inappropriate and Don, my husband, tried to guide her to find the best one. Finally my husband emptied out the large bottom drawer of his dresser and put a blanket in it. This seemed to suit her fine. It was large enough that she could stretch out with her growing group of babies in comfort. One of the things that Lily seemed to enjoy was quiet time with my husband. He would sit at night beside the nest and pet her gently and tell her what a good mother she was while she nursed.

It was fascinating to watch the babies grow, taking their first wobbly steps. As they grew older, Lily would supervise as we had play periods with the babies in the evening, allowing them to get out of the nest and walk around a little when they were three weeks old.

By the time they reached four weeks, we started to introduce soft kitten food, water, a litter box and some small toys. The babies loved the food, diving into it feet first and all of them trying to eat at one time. Lily loved

the food too, but always let her babies eat first. On July 26th, the first baby climbed out of the box and Lily quickly put her back. However, by the end of the week, Lily gave this exercise up as futile effort and was kept busy trying to keep an eye on the babies. This was a great time for us as well. The babies recognized us and would come running to see us and they all wanted to be held often.

This was one of the most enjoyable adventures the family has ever had, fostering this family. I know the hard part is coming soon, giving them up. And with that in mind, I wanted to give you a brief synopsis of the family, hoping to find good homes for all of them.

Lily, the mother, is a gray tiger cat with big beautiful eyes. She is extremely intelligent and easily trained. She really enjoys being with people and likes to be petted. She would make an ideal cat for someone that wanted a sweet companion that was already trained.

There are six babies, all friendly and beautiful. There is an all black female who was the first to open her eyes. She is very sweet and not quite as aggressive as the rest. There is a tuxedo-colored female who is the most adventurous kitten. She was the first to master walking and explores every corner of the room. She is also one of the first to run to be held. The rest are all male. There is a very cuddly gray tiger with beautiful eyes. Each of his legs has a slightly different pattern. There is a beige one with lilac points on his ears, face, paws and tail, and he is beautiful and also very cuddly. He is almost always the second one to reach us begging to be petted. There is a beige-on-beige one with a faint tiger appearance. This one was the first to purr – he also loves to cuddle. There is another beige one that has lilac points as well, that right now aren't quite as pronounced as the other one. He loves to play and to cuddle as well.

These and many other cats and dogs are available at the animal shelter which is located in the Metro parks. See the web site at <http://cclas.tripod.com/>. You can contact them by calling (216) 529-5020.

Splish, Splash, Your Dog Needs a Bath

Dogs eager for a good scrubbing will be in luck this Saturday.

Returning in 2006 is the annual Nature's Bin Dog Days of Summer Dog Wash to raise funds for the Lakewood Animal Shelter. This year's event will be held on Aug. 26th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dog washing and nail trimming will be offered for dogs of all sizes. The prices are \$7 for small dogs, \$10 for medium dogs, \$15 for large dogs and \$5 for nail trimming. Volunteers from the Citizens' Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter will do all the washing and patrons are asked to dry their dogs with their own towels. (If you forget, towels will be on hand.)

Located at 18120 Sloane Ave. in

Lakewood, Nature's Bin will provide store coupons as well as inexpensive lunches of vegetarian and beef burgers, hot dogs, chips and beverages. There will also be a 50/50 raffle at noon and trophies will be awarded for the biggest dog, smallest dog, dog with the longest tail, dog that looks most like its owner and dog with the best trick. While you shop at Nature's Bin, petsitters will be available at no cost.

Free samples of dog-friendly items will be provided by PetGuard and Hound Dog Café.

Nature's Bin, operated by the non-profit organization Cornucopia, Inc. (established in 1975), is a natural foods market serving as a training site for a unique and successful program that

provides vocational training leading to employment for people with disabilities.

Founded in 1985, the Citizens' Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter is a non-profit organization that supports the city-run Lakewood

Animal Shelter by fundraising and providing volunteers to help the wardens care for impounded animals and prepare them for adoption.

For more information on the dog wash, contact Lisa Ellis at (216) 536-9530.



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# Lakewood Observer

## Lakewood Historical Society House Tour Patron Party!

Enjoy tranquil lake views and support a wonderful cause at the Lakewood Historical Society's Patron Party on Saturday, September 9 from 6 – 9 p.m. The Patron Party is the kick-off for the biennial "Come Home to Lakewood" House Tour. The House Tour features nine historically or architecturally significant residences and buildings and will be on Sunday, September 10 from 1 – 6 p.m. Tickets for the house tour are \$15. This stunning private residence is not on Sunday's tour.

The Patron Party house, an elegant brick Tudor, was recognized by the Cleveland Clay League. During the 1920s and 1930s, the Cleveland Clay League promoted the use of locally-made brick and tile for home construction. According the league's architectural competition booklet, homes that received the Cleveland Clay League's plaque "have walls of fire-safe materials, a high factor of safety, are built in accordance with the pro-

visions of the building code, and are of permanent, Cleveland-made products." Owners of certified homes were "assured of a dwelling of fine character and enduring quality, at no higher cost."

Patrons will have the chance to bid on a array of silent auction items, including a beautiful silk scarf, a hand-painted chair, a sumptuous catered dinner for eight at Clifton Beach, a lovely portrait of your house, landscaping consultation for your yard, preservation consultation for your house, jewelry, a basket of Lakewood memorabilia and Ranger merchandise.

Patron Party tickets are \$100 for a Golden Sponsor or \$75 for a regular patron, both include a Sunday house tour ticket and are available by mail order only with check, Mastercard, or Visa to the Lakewood Historical Society at 14710 Lake Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107.



The Patron Party House: 1055 Nicholson

For more information or ticket order forms, contact 216 221-7343 or [www.lakewoodhistory.org](http://www.lakewoodhistory.org)

## Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department Receives \$244,000 TANF Grant

By Jessica Gruenke

The Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department is pleased to announce that it has received a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) grant from Cuyahoga County to provide families the literacy skills they need to be successful in life. The Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department, in collaboration with the City of Lakewood Department of Human Services, Lakewood Christian Services Center and the North Coast Health Ministry, will receive over \$244,000 to provide a wrap around Adult Basic and Literacy Education (ABLE) Plus program to residents.

The ABLE Plus program is designed to meet the basic literacy and workforce education needs of parents while teaching them the important role they have in their children's early

education.

The three main components of the ABLE Plus program are Coordination and Referral, Adult Education and Family

utilized in our community.

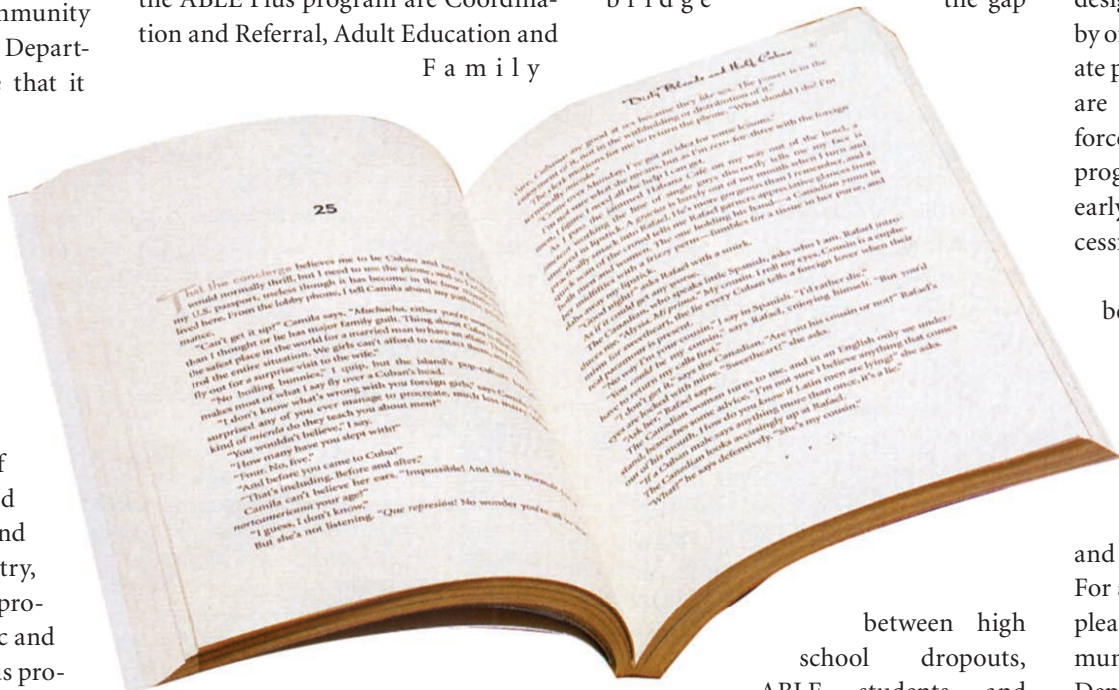
The Adult Education piece will bridge the gap

workforce training.

The Family Literacy component is designed to enhance school readiness by offering literacy based, age appropriate play for children while their parents are working on basic skills or workforce education. This research-based program will address literacy needs at early ages to help children become successful when they reach school age.

The ABLE Plus program will begin in mid-September and run from 9:00 am-3:00 pm Monday through Thursday. Eligible individuals must have income at or below 200% of the 2006 Federal Poverty Level, have at least one minor child or be pregnant and be US citizens or eligible aliens. For additional enrollment information please contact the Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department.

For additional information regarding the ABLE Plus program please contact Jessica Gruenke at (216) 529-4081 or [jessica.gruenke@lakewood.k12.oh.us](mailto:jessica.gruenke@lakewood.k12.oh.us)



Literacy. The goal of the Coordination and Referral component is early identification and intervention of at-risk families by integrating services already available, yet under-

utilized in our community.

The Adult Education piece will bridge the gap between high school dropouts, ABLE students and other TANF eligible recipients to higher paying jobs or secondary education by integrating basic skills education with life skills, employment-related values, career exploration and

## Baby Bargain Bonanza

The Lakewood Early Childhood PTA has been organizing the Baby Bargain Bonanza for the Lakewood community for over 20 years.

Baby Bargain Bonanza is a sale with a long tradition of quality and serving Lakewood families.

Baby Bargain Bonanza, a sale of gently used clothing, toys, furniture, and accessories for children, birth to size 16, and for moms-to-be. This annual fundraiser, and community event sponsored by the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA, features sellers who are dedicated to selling only the highest quality of children's clothing and furniture.

The Fall/Winter Baby Bargain Bonanza will be Saturday October 7, 2006 at the Lakewood High School East Cafeteria, 14100 Franklin Blvd. in Lakewood, from 9-1pm. Admission is \$5.00 from 9-10am and \$1.00 from 1pm. Parking is free.

Seller Registration Forms are now available until September 30th. To be a Seller, or for further information, contact 216-226-9001, or visit our website at, <<http://www.lkwdpl.org/ECPTA>>[www.lkwdpl.org/ECPTA](http://www.lkwdpl.org/ECPTA).



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Chef Geoff

# Gad Zukes! My Favorite Way To Get Rid Of Them

There are very few foods that I dislike. Pretty much, I'm willing to give anything a try. Even vegetables that are famously unpopular are okay by me. Brussel spouts, broccoli, rutabagas, I'm pretty much fine with all of them. But, I draw the line at zucchini. There, I've said it. I don't like zucchini. I'm biased against it and, undoubtedly, that bias will shade all that I have to say. Many people are fans of this green, cucumber-like squash, but what they really like are all the additional ingredients which are used to make this squash palatable. Ask any zucchini aficionado how they like the veggie and nine times out of ten they'll tell you how delicious it is when sautéed with garlic, olive oil and topped with parmesan. In point of fact, what they really love is the garlic, olive oil and parmesan, because the squash itself has no independent flavor. It takes on the flavors that are added to it; a squash sponge. To make matters worse, the plants are prodigious. One zucchini plant, when properly fertilized, provides enough fruit to feed a family of four with nothing but zucchini for at least 2 months during the summer.

Zucchini, or cucurbita pepo, is a summer squash. In fact, because the squash forms from the swollen end of the female blossom, it is technically a fruit, not a vegetable. Other summer squashes are native to the Americas with archeological evidence of an origin in Mexico some 9000 years ago. Summer squash was a part of the pre-Columbian "three sisters" food trio, a mainstay made up of maize (corn), beans and squashes. But unlike our native squash, the zucchini is thought to be a spontaneous mutation of an American squash which occurred when the plants were introduced to Europe, probably in Italy. Once mutated, the vegetable invaded the United States. Hapless and clueless Italian immigrants are believed to have fostered the cultivation of this European mutation (probably as an excuse for consuming garlic, olive oil and parmesan). Laugh if you will, but I think it is more than mere coincidence that the first records of zucchini in the United

States occur at precisely the same time that Prohibition was ratified.

In an effort to be evenhanded in discussing a vegetable which I dislike, I have to admit that there are some benefits to eating zucchini. As a dark green veggie, it is loaded with good healthy vitamins and nutrients. Like other squashes, the zucchini is an excellent source of potassium and vitamins A and C. Absent olive oil and cheese, it is also very low in calories at 13 per 1/2 cup, while at the same time being a good source of dietary fiber. All these nutritional benefits notwithstanding, I still haven't been able to shake my mental block against the fruit. On a positive note, the zucchinis that we eat are actually the immature fruit. Apparently, we have a certain innate knowledge that to allow these to reach their full size potential makes a bad situation worse. A fully grown zuke will typically reach 30" or longer in length and 5 or 6 pounds in weight. Even people who like to eat the garlic, er, zucchini, will acknowledge that at that size, the stringy toughness makes it virtually inedible. Some of the more foresighted cooks have even gotten to the plant before it has a chance to produce fruit. Stuffed, sautéed (with garlic) and deep fried zucchini blossoms are a popular way to eliminate the need to actually eat the fruit.

Cooking zucchini needs to be done in a fairly rapid fashion. Since the fruit is 95% water, anything more than a quick olive oil sauté (with garlic) reduces the vegetable to an even more unpalatable mush. And of course there are any number of ways that we can hide the squash, by secreting it in muffins and bread, or by disguising it by scooping out halves and stuffing these zucchini boats with flavorful ingredients. Some find that a grilled zucchini half, drizzled with olive oil is an excellent accompaniment to meats prepared on the grill.

My first recipe for zucchini was developed at an early age. Knowing that those boa constrictor sized gourds in

the garden were destined for my plate, I became fixated on making them disappear, if only to avoid the dinner instruction of cleaning them from my plate. It was at this moment, in a unique flight of 8 year old culinary experimentation that I developed my favorite zucchini "recipe." If this is something you wish to attempt, I must warn that speed is of the essence, especially given the water content of the squash. Any delay in executing the instructions can cause the recipe to be a real "dud".

First, choose the largest, most offensive zucchini on the vine. Although removal is not necessary, if left on the plant there is a certain hazard to the remaining blooms and fruit. With a

sharp tool, make a slice in the middle of the gourd, about halfway through. Now comes the tricky part. Take the firecrackers you saved from the Fourth of July, gently twist the fuses together to create one super cracker. Insert into the slit, light the fuse and get away. Voila: le zucchini bombe surprise! For those who object to the sacrifice of innocent veggies, and are now tired of garlic, olive oil and parmesan, I will offer a bit more useful recipe, one you can actually eat. Perhaps you will tap into the summer abundance of this squash, and maybe, just maybe, there won't be any left for me.



### Stuffed Zucchini Halves (serves 6)

3 6-8 inch zucchinis	1/3 cup bread crumbs
2 roma tomatoes, chopped	1/4 cup grated parmesan
1/4 cup finely diced onion	salt and pepper to taste
1 clove finely minced garlic	olive oil
1 tsp. fresh thyme or dill	

Split the zucchinis lengthwise, and with a melon baller or sharp spoon, hollow each half into a shell. Chop and reserve the scraped out zucchini.

Sauté the onion and garlic in a scant teaspoon of olive oil until just translucent. Add the tomatoes and sauté until they begin to soften (5-7 mins). Add the reserved zucchini, and continue sautéing until it is just heated through. Remove from heat and combine with the bread crumbs, herbs and cheese. Salt and pepper to taste. Spoon the mixture into the zucchini shells, packing firmly and smoothing the top. Brush with olive oil and broil for 5-7 minutes, on until the stuffing is a golden brown.

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## Minding The Issues

# Our Representatives – What Is Their Job?

By Gordon Brumm

As the time approaches for campaigns and campaign promises, multitudes of politicians are competing to be our representatives. So this might be a good time to consider what they are competing for: What does the job of a representative consist of? (By “representatives” I mean not only legislators but also executives such as presidents and governors.) What are the legitimate grounds for a representative’s decision? Conversely, when do a representative’s constituents have a right to feel betrayed?

One answer is that representatives should do what their constituents tell them to do on any particular issue. This kind of view is often called the DELEGATE VIEW – representatives are simply delegated to transmit the views of their constituents.

The weaknesses of the delegate view are evident. Taken seriously, it prescribes that representatives become little more than vote-recorders. So why have representatives at all – why not simply use a calculating machine? There is no use, on this view, for the representative’s expertise, or experience, or skill at effecting compromises. And obviously the constituents will not all have the same views. So which views does the representative record? The only justifiable answer, it would seem, is to follow the numbers. But this threatens to usher in the “tyranny of the majority.”

So let’s look at the other end of the spectrum, the so-called TRUSTEE VIEW, which prescribes that representatives follow their own judgment rather than listen to the voters. This view was most famously expressed by Edmund Burke, 18th century British author, orator (famous for his support of the American colonists and opposition to the French Revolution), and member of Parliament. Burke told his constituents, “Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays instead of serving you if he sacrifices it to your opinion.”

This trustee view also has its drawbacks. Taken consistently, it holds not only that representatives should achieve what their constituents want, but also that they, the representatives, are the best judges of what the constituents should want – in other words, that the representatives are the best judges of what is good for their constituents. This is paternalism, the antidemocratic presumption that those in authority should rule over their constituents like a father rules over his children. A follow-on presumption is that representatives are to be elected because of their personal character, which is often irrelevant to their political programs, or that they will be elected because they are of the “better sort” (in other words, of high social standing).

If we reject both of these extreme positions, what is the proper viewpoint? Here I can’t give a complete answer or one that is satisfactory to everyone. But I will suggest a logical framework for thinking about the subject, a frame-

work consisting mainly of distinctions and questions.

To begin, let’s distinguish between the constituents’ wishes and their interests. This distinction is significant because voters are not always aware of their true interests; after all, they are not experts. So their wishes might be misguided.

I take it as axiomatic that the representative’s job is to work for the best interests of their constituents.

With this in mind, let’s make another try – a commonsense view of the representatives’ role, beginning before election-time: Candidates will lay out their complete programs, and the principles they will follow, for the voters to consider. The voters will then decide among the competing sets of programs. Once in office, representatives will exercise their judgment, but they will explain how each of their votes serves to carry out the programs and principles they have run on. Those who fail to carry out their promised programs will be punished at the ballot box the next time around. (In this arrangement, roughly speaking, representatives are delegates with regard to the ends pursued, but trustees with regard to the means for achieving those ends.)

This may be the best overall suggestion I can offer, but its shortcomings are apparent as soon as it’s enunciated. For one thing, it has nothing to say about the situations that cannot be foreseen at election time. Nor does it cover changing conditions. Also, it does nothing to distinguish between legitimate and illegitimate interests of the voters (a point covered below).

And most of all, this commonsense view has no relationship to real life. Voters have little or no chance to become acquainted with candidates’ complete programs. Instead, voters are presented with the ever-present sound bites, purely emotive appeals, attack ads focused on a single vote, and other tactics that present a partial, simplified, and distorted picture of candidates’ overall positions.

If a satisfactory overall formula is beyond our grasp, we will have to look at a representative’s responsibilities case by case. To do this adequately, a logical framework is extremely useful. The framework I offer is built around distinctions, to which I now turn.

### Distinctions

Here are three distinctions. Their significance lies in the claim that the action or behavior on one side of each distinction is legitimate while that on the other side is not.

1) Between two types of actions: Private behavior (actions that affect only the person who does them or others who freely consent), vs. those actions that affect others without their consent.

This distinction appears in the Bill of Rights, of course, and beyond that – as I see the matter – it stems from the purpose of government itself. Simply

put, governments are formed to regulate the way in which citizens interact with one another. So private behavior is none of the government’s business and should not be subject to regulation.

However, we must recognize those types of behavior that affect others indirectly. For example, possession of illicit drugs is properly subject to government regulation if it is shown to encourage the drug trade and thus foster addictive drug use. That having been said, we should also make sure that when behavior is claimed to have an indirect effect, the claim is not bogus (as, for example, the bogus claim that gay marriage will harm heterosexual marriage).

2) Religious doctrine as a reason for governmental decisions, vs. principles based on the public good rather than religion. For example, it is generally considered illegitimate for the government to prohibit businesses from opening on Sundays if the only reason is that religious doctrine proclaims Sunday as a day of rest. But it would be legitimate to prohibit business on Sundays if it could be shown that this achieves some non-religious public good, such as giving shopkeepers a break from their daily routines. And of course there are innumerable other examples of regulatory measures that are based solely on the aim of promoting public safety or welfare.

3) Regarding religious conviction: Presenting religious or moral conviction (one’s own or others’) as sufficient reason for a policy, vs. being motivated by one’s religious convictions to carry out actions that are justified on non-religious grounds. As an example of the first alternative, it has been claimed that Christian school prayer should be mandatory on the grounds that the majority of citizens in our country are Christians – i.e., religious conviction is given as the sole and sufficient reason for school prayer.

By contrast, many of those who participated in the civil rights movement did so out of deep religious commitment, but the principles of equal justice that the movement strove to achieve were justified quite independently of religious doctrine; they followed from the letter and the spirit of the U.S. Constitution.

### Some particular issues

We can use these distinctions to guide our thinking about specific types of issues as they arise. Here is how I see a few of them:

1) Should a representative follow his own conscience? It depends on what his conscience is telling him. Here are the major possibilities:

a) To be faithful to his promises to voters: YES.

b) To follow principles of justice he believes in on non-religious grounds (when these do not conflict with his promises): YES.

c) To obey the Constitution: YES.

d) To follow the dictates of his per-

sonal morality (e.g. Bush’s decision to squelch federal funding of stem-cell research): NO. If a representative decides on this basis, he is representing only himself, not the people.

2) Should a representative comply with a moral consensus among most or all of her constituents? Again, it depends -- in this case, on the specific type of policy involved. If it concerns only private behavior, the answer is NO, simply because private behavior is not the business of government at all, as stated above.

If the behavior in question affects others (as a random example, increased funding for cancer research), then the answer is more complicated. In principle, the representative should strive to achieve her constituents’ goals. However, there may be some question as to whether the policy in question really is in the voters’ best interests. (Remember: voters’ wishes may be misguided.) If this is the case, and if the representative has not promised the voters that she will pursue the policy that their moral consensus demands, then it’s up to her to use her own judgment, given that she explains her decision.

3) How should a representative respond to the conflicting interests of his constituents? How, for example, does a representative decide how much to tax the rich as against the poor? Or how to decide between those who favor and those who oppose the death penalty? Etc. (I’m assuming that all the interests here are legitimate, i.e. they are not based on religious doctrine and they don’t seek to regulate private behavior.)

The answer lies in the principles of justice the representative follows. But how are these adopted? The representative undoubtedly has a set of principles that he believes in, but to depend solely on these principles means that he fails to be a representative, as mentioned above.

However, on these issues the representative must fail to represent somebody. If A conflicts with B, he cannot satisfy both. Of course he can and should do his best to broker a compromise or find some synthesis that will satisfy all parties to the greatest degree possible; that is the representative’s art. But at the end of the day, there will still be conflict.

So the representative, taking all interests into account, must fashion for himself the principle of justice that will govern the conflict (in the case of taxes, for example, the principle of sharply progressive taxation). Perhaps he can persuade constituents that his principle derives from a basic principle they are all committed to, such as equality of opportunity. In any case, this principle will be part of the record that the representative submits to the voters, either in words or in practice, and the majority of voters will make the final decision.

My treatment of these questions is clearly incomplete; to give just one example, I have not addressed the question of how to respond to the polls. But I can hope that I’ve provided a helpful framework. Think about it.

Lakewood Arts

Bob Watches Some Movies

For something different this time, I thought I'd review some movies I've seen recently. "The Black Valise" was shot in and around Lakewood by Lakewood-based production company Milroy Pictures. "Brick" and "Inside Man" are two recent rentals.

**The Black Valise** (2006, Milroy Pictures), Directed by Paul Brest

A typewriter case containing plans for the atomic bomb gets stolen and eventually winds up in the hands of two Cleveland-area sisters working for the Nazis. But the sisters get careless, and a two-bit crook steals the case from under their noses. Realizing their bosses will not be happy about this, the sisters hire the Night and Day detective agency to get the case back, while being careful not to divulge its true contents. As the gumshoes investigate, bodies start to pile up. Will they get to the bottom of the mystery in time?

That about sums up the plot of "The Black Valise," a valiant attempt by Lakewood, Ohio-based Milroy Pictures to make a retro film noir. The story is loosely based on real events, and much of the story takes place in Lakewood and Cleveland's west side, notably Franklin Castle which functioned as a base of operations for Cleveland's Nazi party at one time.

Let's start with the positive. If nothing else, "The Black Valise" has ten times more ambition than most no-budget cinema I've seen. Rather than crank out yet another dumb horror movie or T&A fest, the folks at Milroy decided to make a period film noir, shot in black and white no less. While there is not a lot about the visual style that's noteworthy, the film is competently lensed and edited, and despite being shot mostly on the modern day streets of Lakewood, Ohio, the

By Bob Ignizio

specific locations picked manage to adequately convey the WWII era. And as an added bit of production value, somehow the filmmakers managed to get real army vehicles for one scene, including tanks.

On the downside, however, the story drags at several points. More screen time than necessary is taken on plot elements that are tangential to the main story. This has the effect of making characters who are supposed to be the leads seem almost like supporting players. Also, the movie goes for a serious tone most of the time, but it's hard to take a story seriously when the two detectives on the case are named Night and Day. There's also too much reliance on narration to move the plot along. Apparently this was done to give the movie a period feel, as if it were a news story being read by Edward Murrow, but it just didn't work for me. Film is a visual medium; show, don't tell. And if you are going to use narration in a film it better be compelling, which this isn't.

Finally, the movie just sputters out at the end. According to producer/writer Robert Swanson, there was originally another ending that went on too long and no one was happy with. To salvage the movie, a different ending was conceived, but due to budgetary problems not all of it could be filmed. The result is we're left with a title card telling us what happened. While I can sympathize, as a viewer this anticlimactic conclusion is far from satisfying.

I could point out other flaws, but considering the budget it would be unfair to hold "The Black Valise" to the same standards as a Hollywood

film. Movies like this are more about the passion of the filmmakers than technical perfection, and I can't help but admire their effort. The movie is not without some entertainment value, and given a tighter screenplay and a larger budget I think the Milroy crew could probably do much better. While I can't recommend this for everyone, if you're willing to overlook the film's shortcomings you can order a copy for \$13 from [www.milroypictures.com/](http://www.milroypictures.com/).

**Brick** (2005, Focus Films), Directed by Rian Johnson

The best way to describe "Brick" is "high school noir." Imagine if Philip Marlowe was a senior at a suburban high school trying to investigate the death of his ex-girlfriend, and you'll have a pretty good idea what this movie is like. Those of you who want movies to be "realistic" had best avoid "Brick," however, since the film is all artifice. Brilliant artifice, in my opinion, but artifice just the same. So if you want a true-to-life depiction of modern teenage life, look elsewhere. But if you want a great hard-boiled detective picture like the kind they used to make in the '40's complete with great dialogue and plenty of twists and turns, check this out.

This is an extremely well-directed movie full of good performances and snappy dialogue. Joseph Gordon-Levitt (best known for his role on "Third Rock From the Sun") is great in the lead role, and Lukas Haas does a fine job as "The Pin," a local crime lord who still lives with his mother. Also look for Richard Roundtree of "Shaft" fame as the assistant V.P. of

the high school. He and Levitt have a great scene that plays like the standard noir moment where the cops give the private eye a hard time, but because of the setting there's an (intentional) added element of humor.

"Brick" proves that movies can still be smart and fun at the same time. About my only gripe is that the MPAA decided to slap this with an 'R' rating for "violent and drug content." The violence is no harsher than you would find in "The Maltese Falcon," and the drug content in no way glorifies drug use. It's simply an important plot point. This really should be a PG-13.

**Inside Man** (2006, Universal Studios), Directed by Spike Lee

For some reason, this movie got very lukewarm reviews when it came out in theaters. I'm not saying it's mind-blowingly good, but it is a solid crime drama. Keith Frazier (Denzel Washington) is a detective whose career has been sidelined by accusations of stealing money from a drug bust. When Dalton Russel (Clive Owen) and his crew commit a daring daylight bank robbery that involves the taking of several hostages, Frazier gets called in to act as hostage negotiator. Bank owner Arthur Case (Christopher Plummer) has something in a safety deposit box at the bank he doesn't want to get out, and he calls in Madeline White (Jodie Foster) to make sure things go his way.

"Inside Man" doesn't delve into serious issues like many of director Spike Lee's movies do; it's just a well-made heist picture. There are some minor scenes that deal with race and violent video games, but overall "Inside Man" is intended as pure entertainment. And as pure entertainment, it works just fine. The performances are solid, and so is the script.

The Buck Stops Here

"Art in Itself is Political"

Robert Buckeye

I go down the same side of the street as Gordon Brumm, even if I write about culture broadly and Brumm politics. Of course, artists have political views as much as anyone else. Joan Jett campaigned for Howard Dean and was on stage with him when the press captured his scream. "It was a complete fabrication," she says of what the press did. "It was created to knock Dean out." This year she went to Afghanistan to play for our troops. "A lot of times people can't separate that when you play for the troops you're supporting them but not the policy that put them over there," she says.

It seems they should not have political views. In a concert, The Dixie Chicks commented between songs that they were ashamed the President is

from Texas. Thousands of their cds got buried in protest. Just sing your songs and shut up. Entertain us, help us sing along with you, hum your tunes, but stay buttoned-up. ("Not Ready to Make Nice," a song on their new cd, is their answer.)

Artists do create works that reflect their politics. The actor George Clooney, a liberal, directs a film on the legendary newscaster, Edward R. Murrow, "Good-Night, and Good Luck," to call attention to the responsibility of a press in a democracy. Clooney implicitly sees Murrow's fears of what might happen if the press compromises its integrity to have happened.

What I want to argue here, however, is that art in itself is political. It may help us escape. It may lie. It may resist what is. It may call for change. Its whisper may be a shout in the streets.

Its shout brings down the walls. Its expression, however it be expressed, is about how we should live. Politics is about how we should live. Each of us dream of a world to come, and art, as much as politics, helps us see it, even if it may seem hopelessly impossible or lost. "[Alban Berg] has undercut the negativity of the world with the hopelessness of his fantasy," Theodore Adorno notes of the composer.

Totalitarian governments understand this. Joseph Goebbels, propagandist for Hitler (and a failed novelist), once famously remarked that whenever he heard the word "culture," he reached for his gun. If his comment is, in part, a contemptuous dismissal of the pretensions and frivolity of art and those who support it, it is also, if only implicitly, a fear of its impact in our lives. All dictatorships only support art

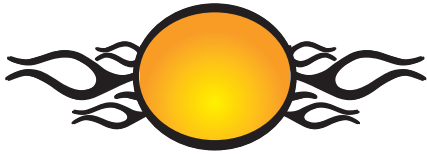
which delivers their message and ban (or worse) any art that does not. Pinochet's soldiers in Chile cut off Victor Jara's hands because they feared his songs.

This is not to say that the political expression in art does not call us to a higher standard of what life might or should be, what we might be, or what is right and good. With Charlie Sheen coming out of the Cleveland bullpen in the ninth inning to face the Yankees in "Major League," "Wild Thing" on the PA accompanying him is an anthem to Cleveland, a promise yet to come, but never foreclosed. The Indians are not lost. The Indians are not lost forever.

The thing is, if art is true to itself, it makes no concessions. It is why we go to it. The artist always knows when he compromises himself. He knows – as we do too – what concessions do, and what they cannot.

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