

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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

Volume 2, Issue 22, October 31, 2006

Important Election Day Information - Vote!

by Barbara Sones, President League of Women Voters, Cleveland Area

The Leagues of Women Voters of the Cleveland Area, Cuyahoga Area and Shaker Heights would like to commend the Lakewood Observer for its many efforts in support of voter education.

Because of recent changes in the election process, registered voters now need to know how to protect their votes. Here are a few simple steps each of you can take:

1. Go to the right place. Poll locations can change. If you did not receive your "Official Voter Information Guide" from the Board of Elections giving your voting location, check the League of Women Voters election information web site at www.VOTE411.org and make use of the polling place-locator to retrieve yours.

2. Bring I.D. to the polls. For the first time, Ohio voters voting a regular ballot must provide identification, such as a current driver's license or state I.D., a military I.D., or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document. If you don't have or bring identification on Election Day, you may still vote by requesting a provisional ballot.

3. Get a ballot. If you're in the right precinct but your name is not on the list, you may vote by provisional ballot.

4. Get help from the poll workers with how to use the voting machine or how to vote a provisional ballot. Read the signs listing your voting rights and explaining how to file a complaint.

5. Vote. Even if the line is long, please don't leave without voting. Isn't



a healthy democracy worth a few extra minutes of your time? The outcome of this election affects every area of your life. You will be electing your U.S. senator and representative, state and county officials, and Ohio Supreme Court justices and judges. You may also be voting for municipal and school tax levies. In addition, your ballot will have four

state issues--Issue 2 (minimum wage), Issue 3 (slot machines), Issue 4 (Smoke Less Ohio) and Issue 5 (Smoke Free Ohio), and two county issues--Issue 18 (a cigarette tax to support the arts) and Issue 19 (a Health and Human Services levy). As of this writing, State Issue 1 (workman's compensation) is not a valid ballot issue, though it may

have been included on some absentee ballots. If all of this seems just a bit daunting, remember that for the first time, any Ohio voter may vote absentee, no excuses necessary. That way you can vote in your home, at your convenience, and with all the notes you might want to assist you. You still have time. Deadline for requesting an absentee ballot from the Board of Elections is noon on November 4.

And remember, the League of Women Voters is here to help. Visit our web sites at www.lwvcef.org for current, nonpartisan election information. Or contact the Voter Information Center Hotline at 216-781-8376 if you have questions or need information.

Thank you for taking the time to become an informed voter, and thank you for voting.

In Giant Eagle's Claws: Food and Fuel

by Kenneth Warren

While Tops is on the way out of Lakewood and Congressman Dennis Kucinich is waving red flags over labor and antitrust implications of Giant Eagle's acquisition plan, shoppers can expect a gas and grocery combination to be an element in any food retailer's effort to capture customer loyalty and market share along Detroit Avenue.

The asset purchase agreement between Tops Markets LLC and Giant Eagle, Inc., which includes the Detroit Avenue store among the eighteen of forty six targeted for acquisition, portends a fuel perks program, offered through GetGo convenience stores.

Should Giant Eagle prevail and acquire Tops, a GetGo convenience store is certain to set up shop somewhere in the vicinity.

Fuel perks programs put the squeeze on independent gas station owners, and Manor Park Sunoco, with a GetGo manual recently observed inside, is evidently in Giant Eagle's claws. However, a deal could not be confirmed at this time.

Congressman Kucinich expressed concern about possible market domination by Giant Eagle in Northeast Ohio at a press conference with union leaders and Tops management on October 20. While not focusing attention on the gas and grocery combination, Kucinich distributed an October 18, 2006 letter

addressed to him from Jerry Hoffman, Senior Partner, Retail Group Partners Inc. a private equity fund, located in Kennesaw, Georgia. Hoffman's letter, expressed the interest of Retail Group Partners Inc. in buying all forty six Tops stores and honoring "existing employment without interruption."

Even if the sale of Tops store to Giant Eagle is to be stopped and Retail Group Partners is deemed a viable buyer for the properties, Lakewood shoppers would likely have a food and fuel connection at "Boxcar," the palletized supermarket concept that hopes one day to compete with Sam's, Costco, and Price Club.

Senior Of The Year: Margaret Cingel

Margaret Cingel has been a Lakewood resident for 40 years. Some of you may recognize her from her days as a streetcar operator or her debut as one of the feature story writers in "The Way We Shopped".

Margaret has been very active at the Lakewood Division of Aging for over 13 years. The Senior Center is a very busy place with many activities and interests, and relies heavily on seniors like Margaret.

She organizes both the bingo and the walking group that strides through Great Northern Mall every Friday.

The Social Concerns Committee was formed to support community organizations through small fundraising efforts. Margaret provides home-made baked goods for sale every



Wednesday morning; something to which everyone at the center looks forward.

The most important work that Margaret does is telephone reassur-

ance. Lakewood Division of Aging's telephone reassurance program provides regular phone calls to isolated and homebound elderly so that they may live independently.

It is wonderful to come to work on Monday morning and hear Margaret's report about everyone to whom she has talked, and how they are doing.

Estelle Ware, 101 years old, a active participant at the Senior Center until recently, said that she looks forward to hearing from Margaret every Saturday.

Margaret is active in her church, Gethsemane Lutheran.

She brightens the lives of many people. We should be proud to have a neighbor like Margaret Cingel.

Margaret is an excellent choice for 2006 Senior Of The Year.

In This Issue

Events	2
City Council	4
Lakewood Library	5
Lakewood Hospital News ...	7
Pulse Of The City	8
Sports & Schools	10-11
The Buck Stops Here	13
Lakewood Theatre	14
Chef Geoff	15
Minding The Issues	16-17
Arts & Music	18-19
Advertisements	20

Lakewood Events



Congressman Dennis Kucinich talks with Lakewood residents before introducing the film, “Iraq For Sale.” This event was sponsored by Lakewood resident and U.N.I.T.E. H.E.R.E. member Dallas Sells.

UNITE (formerly the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees) and HERE (Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union) merged forming UNITE HERE. The union represents more than 450,000 active members and more than 400,000 retirees through-

out North America. The majority of UNITE HERE members are women.

The film “Iraq for Sale” from acclaimed director Robert Greenwald (Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price, Outfoxed and Uncovered) takes you inside the lives of soldiers, truck drivers, widows and children who have been changed forever as a result of profiteering in the reconstruction of Iraq. Iraq for Sale uncovers the connections between private corporations making a killing in Iraq and the decision makers who allow them to do so.

Nicholson House Perfect for Holiday Events!

Looking for a great place to host your family’s or group’s party, political event or business function? The Nicholson House, the oldest house in Lakewood, can bring classic elegance to your special event.

James and Betsey Nicholson, Lakewood’s first permanent settlers, built their home in 1835. Four generations of Nicholsons lived in the house, which was saved from demolition in 1985 by the Lakewood Historical Society and the City of Lakewood.

Restored to its Victorian splendor, the Nicholson House accommodates

up to 70 people in its four lovely parlors. The beauty and tasteful elegance of a time gone by make it a wonderful setting for your event.

Reasonable rental rates put the Nicholson House within the reach of most individuals or groups. The Lakewood Historical Society staff works to customize arrangements and ensure that the rental experience will be truly memorable.

For photographs and rate info, contact the Nicholson House rental manager at 221-7343 ext 3 or go to www.lakewoodhistory.org/nicholson.htm

Lakewood Announces Fall Leaf Collection Schedule

The City of Lakewood will begin collecting loose leaves on Monday, October 30 and will continue until approximately December 8, weather permitting. Prior to October 30 and after December 8, leaves will be collected only when they are placed in paper yard/leaf bags and set out along with your regular refuse and recycling.

Due to the excessive amount of leaves on Clifton Boulevard and Lake Avenue, these streets will be collected separately. Collection crews will start working at the east end of Clifton Boulevard and Lake Avenue and work west until completed. Collection pick-up for these streets is scheduled to begin on October 30 with additional pick-ups beginning November 13 and November 27.

After crews have completed Clif-

ton and Lake, they will collect leaves citywide starting from the west end and working east. Pick-up dates are weather and equipment dependent.

In order to make the leaf collection process as effective as possible, the City asks residents to please rake leaves onto tree lawns as close to the curb as possible. Raking leaves into the street will slow the collection process and may cause basement flooding.

There will be no leaf collection on November 23 and 24 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. If you have any questions, please call (216) 529-6810 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For further information, contact the Division of Streets & Forestry, at (216) 529-6810.

Lakewood Early Childhood PTA Poinsettia and Wreath Sale

“Jingle bells, jingle bells... poinsettias are on their way!”

The holidays are not far off. Now is the time to start thinking about festivities, holiday cheer, giving (and receiving) and decorating. The Lakewood Early Childhood PTA makes the decorating easy for you. We are currently sponsoring our annual Poinsettia and Wreath Sale. We offer a wide range of poinsettias and fragrant evergreen wreaths from Dean’s Greenhouse.

The LECPTA is a community-oriented organization devoted to the families of Lakewood. As part of our community service for this year, we have decided to donate all proceeds from this sale to the Lakewood Public Library’s Children and Youth Services Department. As parents and caregivers, we all benefit from the wonderful family-oriented programming that the Lakewood Public Library provides. This is our opportunity to give

back to them for all of the crafts, stories, songs, homework help and computer time that we receive.

Deadline for orders is Friday, November 10. Delivery date will be Saturday, December 2 in the Lakewood High School East Cafeteria. Please contact Mona Ewing at 521-7276 for more information. You may also find order forms at our website: www.lkwdpl.org/ECPTA. Thank you for your support!

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.

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

iPod Contest!



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YMCA
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Arc Ancient
Heinen’s
Lakewood Library/
Madison & Detroit
School Board
Post Office
Rini Regos
Nature’s Bin
Winterhurst



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Lakewood News & Opinion

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



Good News
for the Community



Primary Stroke Center Receives Gold Seal of Approval

Lakewood Hospital has once again been certified as a Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Earning the Gold Seal of Approval™ for health care quality in recognition of exceptional efforts and superior stroke care is a distinction achieved by only 14 hospitals in Ohio and a few select hospitals in the nation.

It takes a team of highly skilled health care professionals supported with state-of-the-art technology to receive the distinction as a JCAHO-accredited Primary Stroke Center.

Congratulations and thank you to our employees, medical staff, volunteers and pre-hospital care providers for your dedication to putting Patients First.

For a free stroke information kit, call 1.877.234.3488 or go to www.lakewoodhospital.org/stroke

Your Life is Our Life's Work.

City Council

Bin Recognized, Construction Continues

Council 10.16.2006

Council and Mayor Thomas George joined in a resolution honoring Scott Dueness, Executive Director of Cornucopia, Inc. (Nature’s Bin), on receiving the Cliff Adler Heart in Business Award. The Bin has become a Lakewood institution. It began over thirty years ago at the east end of Madison Avenue. It moved to its current location on Sloane Avenue where the natural foods store has just completed updates due to its popularity. It has served as a training center for special needs individuals as well offering a unique selection of foods. The Adler award is quite prestigious in the natural retail food industry.

Council member Ryan Demro (ward two) raised concerns about traffic tie ups on Elmwood Avenue at Grant School. Grant has received its share of temporary students due to the new school construction. This, in turn, has led to increased traffic congestion as parents pick up or drop off students. According to Demro, several residents have complained to him. He is suggesting some temporary no parking signs.

This complaint brought a questioning response from Public Works Director Tony Beno, who stated that he, Police Lieutenant Hassig, and the school principal are in constant con-

tact regarding traffic problems and that this most recent concern had not come to their attention. Beno indicated that he would investigate the residents’ concerns and put up the signs if necessary.

Demro was not satisfied with an offer of action and wanted council to pass an ordinance which would have forced the placement of signs. Beno pointed out that without a full examination of the situation any new signage could add to other residents’ problems and aggravate the situation.

The matter was referred to the safety committee.

Dottie Buckon, Director of Human Services, presented a unique and welcome resolution to council. Evelyn

Stan Austin
City Council Reporter

Burri was a long time Lakewood resident who passed away just prior to her 90th birthday. For several years before her death, she received various support services from the Division of Aging including medical transportation, home health services, and case management. In her trust she directed that \$122,000 be sent to the Department of Aging. It is presumed by the administration that this donation is in recognition for the excellent services she received. Buckon indicated that the money would be used on needed capital improvement projects at the Robert and Kathy Lawther center on Madison and Lakeland.

New construction is continuing

despite the onset of winter. At Madison and Warren demolition has begun on the whole strip of store fronts to make way for a new Walgreens. According to Thomas Jordan, Planning Director, “it’s a rush against the snow to get a building weathered in.”

Assistant Planning Director Dryk Bennett said the property valuation of the old strip which included the popular Warren Road Tavern was \$856,000. Bennett said the valuation of the new Walgreens is expected to be approximately \$3,000,000.

Mayor George in corridor comments exclusive to the Lakewood Observer said, “Other businesses surrounding the new construction are making plans for storefront improvements.”

Council President Seelie adjourned the meeting at an early 9:30.

Number One Again, Director Of Library Says Thanks

I am delighted to report Lakewood Public Library ranks Number 1 among public libraries serving populations of 50,000 to 99,999 in the newly released 2006 Hennen’s American Public Library Ratings.

Lakewood Public Library scored 956 on the HAPLR index, which includes such factors as circulation, hours open, materials, staffing, operat-

ing efficiencies, reference services and funding levels.

With 956 score Lakewood Public Library shares with Columbiana Public Library, which classifies in the 5,000 to 9,999 population category, the best HAPLR index score among all 9,076 public libraries evaluated in the 2006 Hennen’s American Public Library Ratings.

I am very grateful to the commu-

nity, board, staff and members of the Lakewood Observer for their commitment and support to excellence in civic life and public institutions. Together we have made Lakewood Public Library number one again.

Thank you so much.

Kenneth Warren

Director

Lakewood Public Library

Library to Host Mystery Author Katherine Hall Page

by Vincent O’Keefe

In an Author’s Note on her website, Katherine Hall Page makes a chilling observation: “We’ve all experienced the knife-in-the-back false friend, particularly when we were kids. A murderer is that duplicity taken to the nth degree.”

This sentiment might serve as an introduction to her newest mystery novel, *The Body in the Ivy*. Fittingly, the book will be published on October 31 by William Morrow Press. Page will appear at the Beck Center for the Arts on Friday, November 17 at 7 p.m. to discuss her work in a program supporting the Lakewood Public Library Foundation.

Page grew up in New Jersey and earned her B.A. from Wellesley College in Massachusetts, majoring in English. She also earned an M.A. in Secondary Education from Tufts and a Ph.D. in Administration, Public Planning, and Social Policy from Harvard. Her husband is an experimental psychologist at MIT, and the couple has one son.

The Body in the Ivy is the sixteenth in Page’s Faith Fairchild series of mysteries. Fairchild is the amateur sleuth and caterer who solves the mysteries before her own life is at risk. Page is the only writer to have won Agatha Awards in three categories: Best First Novel (in 1990 for *The Body in the Belfry*), Best Short Story (in 2001 for *The Would-Be-Widower*) at the Malice Domestic convention, and Best Novel (in 2006 for

The Body in the Snowdrift). The Body in the Ivy pays tribute to Agatha Christie by reinventing the plot of Christie’s famous mystery, And Then There Were None.

In our recent interview, Page explained that *The Body in the Ivy* is the first book where she has a roving third-person narrator inhabit the consciousness of many characters, which mirrors the narrator of Christie’s And Then There Were None. “The experience gave me a new appreciation for Agatha Christie,” she explains. “Writing the chapters set in the past without giving away the mystery was especially hard.”

The novel involves the unlikely reunion of a group of friends who attended Pelham College together in the late 1960’s. Pelham College is a prestigious women’s college, but the campus is shocked when Helene Prince, the most beautiful and charismatic one in the group, falls to her death from a

campus tower just a day before graduation. Police rule the death an “apparent suicide,” but Helene’s twin sister Elaine believes Helene was murdered by one

of the group of “friends.” Each one’s potential motive for murder is gradually revealed in flashback chapters.

Thirty years after graduation, Elaine becomes a successful suspense novelist and decides to try to solve the murder. She organizes a reunion of the eight women on her private island, which is now called Bishop’s Island

but was originally named Indian Island (as in Christie’s famous novel). Each woman is invited to the island under false pretenses to avoid suspicion. Elaine hires Faith Fairchild to cater the event and play detective. As the plot unfolds, one by one the women begin to die or disappear, and Faith realizes she needs to solve the original murder before she becomes the next victim.



Lakewood Public Library

Thelonious Monk Documentary Reveals Rarely-Seen Side of Jazz Genius

by Matthew Charboneau

On Friday, November 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Lakewood Public Library will present a rare glimpse into the life and music of legendary jazz composer and pianist Thelonious Monk with the 1989 documentary Thelonious Monk: Straight No Chaser. The film, directed by Charlotte Zwerin, combines archival concert footage, interviews with musicians from Monk’s bands and reminiscing by friends and family. The memories are not always entirely pleasant, as in the scenes where Monk’s son T.S. recalls his father’s bizarre mental behavior and severe mood swings. While possible mental problems were never publicly disclosed during his life, today Monk would most likely be characterized as having bipolar dis-

ease or a pathological introversion. As seen throughout the film, Monk would often stop playing the piano and get up to walk around the stage in small circles, stare off into space during interviews and even have difficulty conversing with his closest band mates and family. After becoming a favorite of both jazz critics and fans alike and hailed as a genius in the late 1950s and 1960s, Monk abruptly stopped making records in 1971 and disappeared from the jazz world until his death in 1982.

While this view of the musician is intriguing, it would be a great injustice to Monk’s contribution to the development of bebop and modern jazz to focus on his eccentric personality. His compositions and solo improvisations stretched the already angular sounds

of mid-century jazz and highlighted the use of nontraditional chord progressions and hair-raising clustered harmonies. Rhythmically, Monk was one of the most groundbreaking artists of his era. His playing possessed a tense, off-kilter sense of timing that became instantly recognizable and a perfect compliment to bebop’s rebellion from the traditional steady, even rhythms of jazz music in the 1930s and 40s.

Monk’s idiosyncratic approach to rhythm and timing not only influenced all future generations of jazz musicians, but even performers in different areas of the arts. Mid-way through comedian David Chappelle’s 2005 Block Party, a documentary film of an outdoor hip-hop concert and block party he threw in Brooklyn, New York, Chappelle is seen

sitting at a piano performing the Monk song “Ruby My Dear” and espousing on the musical timing of its composer. Chappelle relates to the viewer that the quest of every professional comedian is a balance between delivery, timing and originality. Monk, according to Chappelle, had a way of placing notes and rhythms so that they sounded off-kilter, strange and unnerving but was always perfectly in time and swinging. He goes on to express that Thelonious Monk’s playing possessed such an original feel that it influenced Chappelle’s timing and delivery as a professional comedian. Come experience this idiosyncratic feel for jazz music for yourself when Lakewood Public Library screens Thelonious Monk: Straight No Chaser, free of charge, on November 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Auditorium.

Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar

Thursday, November 2

• Lakewood’s Sacred Landmarks - Marvel at the architectural grace of Lakewood’s thirty-six places of worship with Richard Sicha, Chair of the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Friday, November 3

• Films on Friday - Thelonious Monk: Straight No Chaser, Directed by Charlotte Zwerin (1988) The offbeat, piano-playing genius stars with family and friends in this jazz documentary. PG-13. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, November 4

• SATURDAY NIGHT VARIETY - JAZZ IT UP
Members of the Tri-Tones put on a special concert with their friends - the coolest Jazz musicians in the area. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, November 5

• Sunday With The Friends - Roots of American Music. Guitarist Bob Frank plays through his encyclopedic knowledge of American music and will fill you in about the nonprofit organization that promotes it. 2:00 p.m. Main Library Auditorium

Monday, November 6

• Authors in the Area: Cleveland Food Memories by Gail Ghetia Bellamy
Lakewood native Gail Ghetia Bellamy will survey Cleveland food history from the 1940s to the 1970s, indulge in some food nostalgia, reminisce about her favorite restaurants of yesteryear and quiz you on fun food facts and local lore. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

• Ubuntu Basics: Are you ready to move beyond Microsoft and Apple computers? Ubuntu is a complete Linux-based operating system, freely available with both community and professional support. It is developed by a large community and you are invited to participate. The best part is - everybody goes home with free software that’s ready to use. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center

Tuesday, November 7

• A CHILD OF YOUR OWN: Domestic Adoption, International Adoption and Surrogacy If you’ve ever considered adopting a child, join attorney Mary Catherine Barrett for an overview of adoption law, tax credits and your other reproductive options. Your questions are welcome at this informative lecture. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Thursday, November 9

• Authors in the Area: Shadow Travels by William Price
Upon leaving the Russian tank corps, Wasilly spies for the West while acting as a courier, bodyguard and chauffeur for Chinese warlords. Drawing upon his martial arts skills and ability to speak many languages, he continues to beat the odds, meeting friends who constantly change sides in an era of upheaval before the Second World War. Listen to the well-traveled author read from his novel and answer your questions. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, November 11

• SECOND SATURDAY FOLK -
AN EVENING WITH ANNE E. DECHANT
Cleveland’s most popular singer-songwriter takes a break from conquering the world for an intimate solo-acoustic performance 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, November 12

• Sunday With The Friends - Jim Gill Live in Concert With warmth and wit, Jim Gill pours out his hard-hitting original songs. 2:00 p.m., Main Library Auditorium

Monday, November 13

• NATURAL FOOD BUYING CLUBS
You don’t need a large number of people to enjoy the benefits of collective buying. Natural food club coordinator Marian Palmateer will show you how even a small group can bypass the corporate chain stores and purchase the healthy, natural foods they desire. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Tuesday, November 14

• INTRODUCTION TO FENG SHUI
Feng Shui teaches that with harmony and balance come the corresponding changes in health, wealth and overall sense of well-being. Learn simple guidelines to adjust your internal and external environment from Anne Stevens of the Graced Space School of Feng Shui. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

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Lakewood Hospital News

Dr. Charles Garven Appointed Medical Director of Lakewood Medical Associates, Rockport

October 16, 2006 – Lakewood Hospital today announced the appointment of Charles J. Garven, M.D., as medical director of Lakewood Medical Associates, Rockport. Dr. Garven joins Nidhi Aggarwal, M.D., and Janelle L. Henning, M.D., in the newly established primary care group.

With chronic diseases on the rise, such as obesity, diabetes and hypertension, Lakewood Hospital recognizes that primary care services are in great need. “We want to provide the best care possible and to make that care accessible to the entire community,” says Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital. “As we continue to invest in our community and recruit additional physicians to our hospital, we are able to provide more people with the high-quality health care they need and deserve.”

Dr. Garven, medical director of Lakewood Medical Associates, Rockport, earned his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and completed his residency training in family practice at the Medical University of South Carolina. He is board-certified in family medicine and has a special interest in preventive care, disease prevention and health promotion. Dr. Garven treats patients of all ages with chronic and acute medical problems, including infants and older adults. Dr. Gar-

ven is a life-long Cleveland resident, a graduate of Padua Franciscan High School and Cleveland State University, and a 2006 recipient of Lakewood, Fairview and Lutheran Hospital’s Community Service Award, among other honors.

Drs. Aggarwal and Henning were recently appointed to the Lakewood Hospital medical staff. Dr. Aggarwal earned her medical degree from Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Medical College, India and completed her residency training at St. Vincent Charity Hospital/Saint Lukes Medical Center in Cleveland. She specializes in internal medicine and has had special study and training centered on the prevention and treatment of adult diseases. She is highly skilled to provide primary medical care to patients 18 years and older with special interests in rheumatology, geriatrics and preventive medicine.

Dr. Henning earned her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and completed her residency training at Fairview Hospital/Cleveland Clinic Family Practice Residency Program. She is the recipient of the Marjorie M. And Henry F. Sanders, M.D., Award for demonstrating the greatest sensitivity to treatment of patients within the context of the family structure. As a family practice physician, Dr. Henning




From left, Drs. Garven, Henning and Aggarwal.

can treat patients of all ages and has a special interest in women’s health, pediatrics, preventive care and mental health.


“I am excited to take on this new opportunity with Lakewood Medical Associates, Rockport,” says Dr. Garven. “Together with Drs. Aggarwal and Henning, I know we can do great things. We are here to serve the community and are honored to provide patients with quality medical treatment and preventive care options for their entire family.”

The physicians at Lakewood Medical Associates, Rockport are now accepting new and current patients. To schedule an appointment, call 216-529-7125.

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Medical Director
Lakewood Medical Associates, Rockport



Accepting New and Current Patients
Lakewood Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of Charles J. Garven, M.D. as medical director of Lakewood Medical Associates, Rockport. Dr. Garven is board-certified in family medicine and has a special interest in preventive care, disease prevention and health promotion.

Dr. Garven provides expert care in the treatment of chronic and acute medical problems for all ages, including infants and older adults.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Garven, or any of the physicians at Lakewood Medical Associates, Rockport, call 216.529.7125.

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Pulse Of The City

Harry Anderson: The Magnificent Captain Of The Lakes

Gary Rice

Of all the human beings who walk the earth, the captain is one of those most respected, admired... and even feared. Whether running a ship, an aircraft, or some other conveyance, the captain is the man (or these days, woman!) whose very word is law.

In the old days, a ship's captain could put you in irons, throw you into the brig, or keelhaul you... or maybe even make you walk the plank. On the high seas, a captain could marry you, bury you, or carry you to the next port of call.

If you had to choose between keelhauling and the plank, by the way, you'd want to go with the plank! To "keelhaul" might mean tying your arms and legs to opposite sides of the ship: port-side (left) and starboard (right). Then, you were pushed off the bow, and your body dragged along under the keel (bottom brace) of the ship until it reached the ship's stern (back). Kind of like getting a backrub, huh?

Once at sea, or in the air, a captain has the ultimate responsibility for the safe passage of his conveyance. He, or she, may have to make hundreds of decisions daily, any one of which could cost the lives of passengers and crewpeople.

This week's story is about a magnificent Captain of the Lakes: Lakewood's own Harry Anderson. Captain Harry turned 97 years young on October 5th, 2006. By the time this column hits the street, he'll be well on his way to even more adventures. He still goes up to Detroit for the Edmund Fitzgerald's annual services held at the Mariners' Church in November to remember those lost on the lakes.

A former Cleveland Cliffs Captain, Harry has been Master of a number of their ore-carrying ships, including the Cliffs Victory, the Cadillac, the Frontenac, the LaSalle, the Pontiac, the Walter A. Sterling, the Edward B. Greene and the William G. Mather. He was forced to retire in 1974, when he reached the (then) mandatory retirement age of 65.

Captain Harry continues to volunteer his time on the Mather's decks, now that the ship is a dockside museum, berthed by the Science Center near East 9th Street downtown. Children love to visit with the distinguished sea captain with the white beard, and his impeccable Cleveland Cliffs uniform that he wore on the Cliffs Victory in 1969.

Known as "Heavy Weather Harry," a supervisor once discovered with amazement that Captain Harry had never "went to anchor" on a trip. This phrase meant to stop the ship for weather conditions. The Captain told me that by keeping a careful eye on conditions, he was always able to circumvent the worst of storms without stopping by making careful corrections as he sailed along.

Still, the seas could get rough at times. Although ships' hulls are generally welded these days, the Captain likes to tell about rivets coming loose around



Captain Anderson by his garage door mural of the Cliffs Victory, painted by his own hand. Photo by Gary Rice

the ship's hull during storms. For temporary waterbottom repairs while at sea, in the old days before World War II, crews might even put a slab of bacon (rind side up) over the hole, and wedge it with boards up against the leak!

As far as food went, the cuisine served on the Cleveland Cliffs ships was legendary. Several of the flagships, like the William G. Mather, even had their own "guests' dining rooms," finished in elegant wood with beautiful china. Lake crews enjoyed hearty food, available at virtually every meal, including lunches for sailors coming on duty at the midnight and 4 a.m. watch times.

Captain Harry started his love of sailing at the age of 10, when he came to America from his native Sweden. His family members were third class (steerage) passengers, normally confined to lower deckrooms at the rear of the ship and without portholes. As a talented singer, however, the future captain began to sing for his fellow passengers. Before long, the youngster had sung for the second class, and then the

first class passengers, before making his way to the bridge for an audience with the ship's captain! The youngster's pockets jingled with donations from passengers of many lands by the time the ship arrived in America!

As well, even then, the lad knew that he wanted to pilot a ship one day. Before leaving Sweden, he had visited a dockside ship where a kindly captain showed the lad around. The captain of Harry's Trans-Atlantic ship was amazed at the boy's knowledge by the time he met the young singing steerage passenger on the bridge.

Born in 1909, Harry came to this country in 1919, after the First World War. Not long afterwards, he was on the seas. Harry worked his way through the ranks, finally becoming a captain for the first time in 1963.

Over the course of his long career at sea, Captain Harry would sometimes work the warmer open seas during the winter months, and return to the lakes in the summertime. His favorite trip was on the "Round The

World" cruise on the Dollar Line's SS President Harrison. Some of his many ports-of-call over the years included Shanghai, Yokohama, Kobe, Manilla, Hong Kong, Calcutta, Singapore, and Antwerp, among others.

During World War II, Captain Harry served as a Second Mate with the United States Merchant Marine taking Liberty Ships (small freighters) across the Atlantic with supplies for the war effort. Danger from German aircraft and U-Boat submarines was always present, but his ships arrived safely every time to their destination.

As befits a man on daily terms with the elements, Captain Harry is a man of great faith. He reverently wears the Mariner Church's Cross and Anchor as a reminder of his Creator and his need to rely on the higher powers of divinity as much as he did on the many instruments of science on the ship's bridge.

He attributes his long life to a moderate lifestyle. He gave up smoking long ago. He seems to enjoy meeting new people, and learning new things each day. He is a regular user of the internet, as well.

Captain Harry lives with his lovely wife, Louise, and their beautiful cats. They enjoy several children and grandchildren, as well as their many friends around the world.

Perhaps ironically, it is on the bottom of the last page of his discharge book that the last entry of his professional career is made; this being the notation of his retirement. "A very sad day" are the words expressed.

Perhaps so, but Lakewood's Magnificent Captain of the Lakes has done so much since his retirement to brighten the smiles of generations of children and adults, teaching them about the thrills of loose rivets, bacon grease, and sublime bravery before the wind and over the waves of the rolling seas.

Sail on, Captain! Lakewood is honored by your presence!

Prestigious "Cliff Adler Heart in Business Award" Presented to Executive Director of Nature's Bin

by Mary Johnson

Scott Duennes, Executive Director of Cornucopia, Inc. and Nature's Bin, received the prestigious "Cliff



Scott Duennes of Nature's Bin.

Adler Heart in Business Award" Friday, October 6 at the Natural Products Expo East in Baltimore.

This national award recognizes the qualities embodied by the late Cliff Adler who was former vice president of Eden Foods. Winners must have a "big heart and be the glue in their organizations." Winners exhibit dedication to their community, integrity, hard work and humor. Scott was chosen over 30 other nominees in the natural foods industry.

Scott Duennes has been the Executive Director of Nature's Bin since 1986. Nature's Bin is a full service natural foods market located on Sloane Avenue in Lakewood. This natural foods market serves as a training site for a unique and successful program

that provides vocational training leading to employment for people with disabilities. Today, programs hosted at Nature's Bin serve people with a wide range of severe disabilities including mental retardation, developmental disabilities, mental illness, visual and hearing impairment, and injuries resulting from accident or illness. What distinguishes the programs at Nature's Bin from other training facilities is the real-work learning environment. Trainees work side-by-side with staff members in all aspects of retail service, facing the challenges and rewards of competitive employment in a caring, supportive atmosphere.

Cornucopia/Nature's Bin has been serving people with disabilities for over 30 years.

You Are Here

An Intimate Little Town

by Jason Weiner

Paul Beegan is a 35-year-old architect who has lived in Lakewood for eleven years. His favorite Place in Lakewood is Celeste Park.

“We walk up to the library, we walk up to get ice cream, we walk over to the video store where we’re at and it’s nice to be able to do that, not to jump in a car to go somewhere to do something. I think the other thing too is that our street is very diverse and I think that is something that we want our kids to grow up and experience. Next door to us we have an older woman whose husband passed away and she’s living in this house and next door to her is another older woman who has a two family house and she’s probably in her eighties. There’s a couple rentals, there are different races, different creeds, different political affiliations, a little bit of everything and everybody still watches out for each other, with all of the differences that everybody has. And that community around you, you know, I don’t think you’d notice it but every once in a while when it kind of hits you, it’s a neat thing. It’s a neat thing being able to go to church or go to the gro-



Paul Beegan at Celeste Park.

cery store or see at the ice cream store all the people, they’re teachers or the person who’s a teller at the bank or the librarian, all those different people are all involved around us all the time and it’s kind of a neat thing. I think that’s the biggest piece of it. Both of us kind of grew up in suburban areas where I

maybe knew the guy next door on both sides and that was about it because you get in your car and drive somewhere. And maybe you knew the people at your church but those aren’t the people that live near you.”

You Are Here is a photo-documentary project highlighting the individuals who live in Lakewood, Ohio. We feel that a project like this shares a great affinity with many of the community efforts going on in our city. We are witnessing the emergence of an engaged, pro-active and commit-

ted community dedicated to creating the kind of place that we want to live in. But the question remains: who are you? To that end, we would like to use this project as a forum to meet as many Lakewood residents as possible. We would like to photograph you in your favorite place in Lakewood and discuss with you what you feel makes Lakewood a special place. These biographical vignettes will regularly be published in the Lakewood Observer. Publishing them in the Observer means that you get to share, and other people get to learn about, who you are and what you feel makes Lakewood a special place. Ultimately, a quilt of individuals and experiences will be available to all who live here, and those who do not live here yet, strengthening the sense of community that is Lakewood, Ohio.

Are you interested in participating? Contact Jason Weiner and Kristine Williams at lakewoodandyou@yahoo.com.

Jason Weiner lives in Lakewood with his wife, Kristine Williams. He teaches Sociology and plays drums; she teaches third grade and paints and knits for local galleries. His favorite place in Lakewood is the Purple Martin house in Lakewood Park; her favorite spot in Lakewood is under the oak trees in her own backyard.

They enjoy gardening and watching the birds in their backyard with their two dogs (Max and Gracie), cat (Emily) and several fresh water fish.

Secret Shopper

Collector’s Warehouse

by Justine Cooper

When I was eighteen, I dated a guy that worked at a collector’s shop, appropriately named Collector’s Warehouse, in Parma. It housed an eclectic mix of novelty items from movie posters to comic books to action figures. The shop drew collectors of all ages and eventually expanded to other locations. Lakewood is fortunate enough to house one such store.

Reading comic books was hands down one of my favorite pastimes as a child. Without revealing my age, I will admit to missing the simpler days of sitting around reading the newest comic book, instead of my children’s world of video games and cable TV.

When I first entered Lakewood’s Collector’s Warehouse last December, I was pleasantly surprised at the wide assortment of items. I ended up buying several items, from Disney action figures to “The Nightmare Before Christmas” lamps for all three of my children for Christmas. The prices are reasonable and even the items that may cost a couple dollars more than a chain store are well worth it. At Collector’s Warehouse, you get a friendly, devoted owner, Susan or her son, not a sales clerk who knows nothing about the items in which you are interested. Truth be told, I would gladly spend a few extra dollars at a family owned, local business like this one any day.

Since my first desire to write about this fun little shop, I have noticed a “For

Rent” sign in the window of Collector’s Warehouse. The owner acknowledged that she has been discouraged that it is more difficult to get a business off the ground here than other similarly busy areas, partly due to location and parking.

We Lakewood residents watch new businesses open and watch many great shops, both food and retail, close their doors before we even get a chance to set foot inside. If we all made a commitment to try one or two new shops a month, it could make all the difference.

Small business owners put everything into their businesses, their heart and soul, because they want to do something they love and share it with the community. One of the attractions that brought me to Lakewood was the very fact that it was filled with small, unique, family-owned shops and restaurants: the true heart and soul of a community. I doubt any real Lakewoodite wants to see the town turned into other similar towns, packed with big corporation-owned retail.

I urge you to pledge to keep some of our money in Lakewood by supporting Lakewood businesses. After writing this article, I sadly learned that Collector’s Warehouse will close their doors as early as the first week of November. Let’s not let other great businesses slip through the cracks and let Lakewood become a cookie-cutter suburb dominated by big corporations.

Collector’s Warehouse is located at 14033 Madison Avenue in Lakewood, Ohio.

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Lakewood Sports

LHS Boys' Soccer Earns Place at Regional Semifinals

by Todd Shaipro

A year ago the Lakewood Rangers boys' soccer team hosted the Westlake Demons in the District Final. With a new coach and just one returning starter few gave the Rangers much of a chance of making a return engagement. Under the tutelage of first-year head coach Bill Rabel, the Rangers silenced their doubters by not only advancing to the district finals but defeating the Demons to earn their second consecutive trip to the "sweet sixteen" of Division I boys' soccer.

In front of their largest home crowd of the season, the Rangers defeated Westlake 2-1 Thursday night at Lakewood Stadium. Lakewood scored first when senior Shayne Moravcik took a pass from Zerihun Abebe and shot it into the upper right hand corner of the goal to give the Rangers a 1-0 lead. Moravcik, the only returning starter from last season's squad, also



Congratulations to the Lakewood Rangers on becoming the 2006 District Champions. A well played game between Westlake and Lakewood, with both team displaying class and skill.

scored two goals in Lakewood's 4-2 district semifinal victory against North Olmsted.

After the Demons tied the score at 1-1 the Rangers took the lead for good when junior tri-captain Ardjan Bako placed a free kick over a wall of five Westlake defenders and into the goal in the game's 22nd minute. According to Westlake coach Mike Besu, Bako's shot was a "perfect shot" that was impossible for the Demons to defend.

"To make it this far is unreal," Coach Rabel said. "This is what these kids deserve. Nobody believed in us but this group came together like a family this season."

One of the leaders of the Rangers soccer family is senior tri-captain Veton Esati. Esati has been a leader of the field for Lakewood all season and added a goal in the Rangers win against North Olmsted. Lakewood, the third-seed in the Rocky River sectional, also defeated the Demons in the regular season by a score of 1-0.

Against North Olmsted the Rangers fell behind early 1-0 but tied it up in the 15th minute when Abebe, a midfielder, scored off an assist from Moravcik. Moravcik put Lakewood ahead to stay four minutes later when he took a crossing pass from freshman Michael Derezic and shot it into the back of the net.

"Our boys are all heart," Rabel said. "We have faced a lot of adversity all season and they have fought through it together." The Rangers, co-champions of the LEL, will face the winner of the Toledo St. John-Whitehouse Anthony Wayne game in a regional semifinal on Tuesday October 31st at Huron's McCormick Middle School stadium.

Senior goalkeeper Helge Rustenberg had four saves for Lakewood in Thursday's win.

Lakewood improved their record to 14-5 while Westlake, who entered the tournament as the fourth seed, ended the season with a 10-6-3 record.



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Lakewood Voting

The Real Face of Issue 3

by Bret Callentine

"For the purpose of inspiring students to aspire to college at an early age..." yup, nothing drives a ten-year-old toward higher education like watching someone stuff nickels into a spinning fruit machine. However, the above quote is truly the first line of a proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution: "Ohio Learn and Earn," Issue 3 in November's General Election. This seemingly noble amendment was proposed in order to create a fund from which the state will help pay tuition for Ohio's college bound students.

Forget the flowery language and fancy promises; Issue 3 has as much to do with our children's future as Cocoa Puffs does with a "balanced breakfast." No matter how many sad looking children they put in their television ads, I believe that the people behind Issue 3 have only one goal: the legalization of slot machines in Ohio.

My position is supported by the fact that over 75% of the language in the amendment pertains to the location of the slot machines and how to divvy up the profits, while saying nothing about how to actually get the money to the students.

Don't get me wrong - although slots aren't really of interest to me, I would love to see a full-fledged casino in the Flats. While I don't personally have a problem with gambling, I do have more than a few problems with Issue 3.

Before I get into my argument, I just want to emphasize to everyone that this issue will not "introduce" gambling into Ohio. If you're unable to recognize this fact, you need to have your lottery-ticket-buying, office-pool-picking, church-bingo-playing, tv-poker-watching eyes checked.

First of all, I don't understand why the creators feel that they have to hide the issue's actual purpose. Do they honestly think that the anti-gambling set is daft enough to not notice the method through which "Learn and Earn" is funded?

With that said, I'll sum up the language of the amendment (available at www.sos.state.oh.us) for those of you who have not yet had the time to read it. Forest City Enterprises, the Jacobs group, and a collection of Ohio horse racing tracks would like you to give them the opportunity to make billions of dollars in Ohio and, in exchange, they'll give a couple hundred million back in the form of tuition assistance for our kids.

So, why is everyone up in arms? We're just talking about a few slot machines in a few places that, for the most part, already have legalized gambling. The whole program pays for itself. We're practically getting something for nothing.

Problem One: Why limit the licensees? Forest City and the lot act like they're doing us a favor by opening up these slot parlors. In fact, they get a

virtual monopoly on the industry while we have to settle for whatever services they deign to provide. If we're looking to maximize revenue, why limit the locations? Why not let Columbus have one? Or Cincinnati? If we want to pull revenue from border states, why not put slots at our highway rest stops? Or, if we're looking to hit the disposable income crowd, why not throw a few in each strip club across the state? The amendment's locational limitations are equivalent to the Northeast Ohio Girl Scouts deciding only to sell their cookies at the Parmatown Mall.

Problem Two: We're leaving way too much money on the table. The cut of gross profits is essentially 60% to 40% with private industry keeping the lion's share. If you want us to pretend that this issue is about raising funds for education, the least you could do is make it look like that's your goal. It's not enough that we hand them a monopoly, but we practically assure their fortunes. Can you imagine the outrage if the United Way suddenly announced that only 40% of your donations went to charity? I don't know how much a company would need to retain to stay afloat, but if they had to bid for the opportunities that this amendment provides, I would expect they'd start a lot lower than 60%.

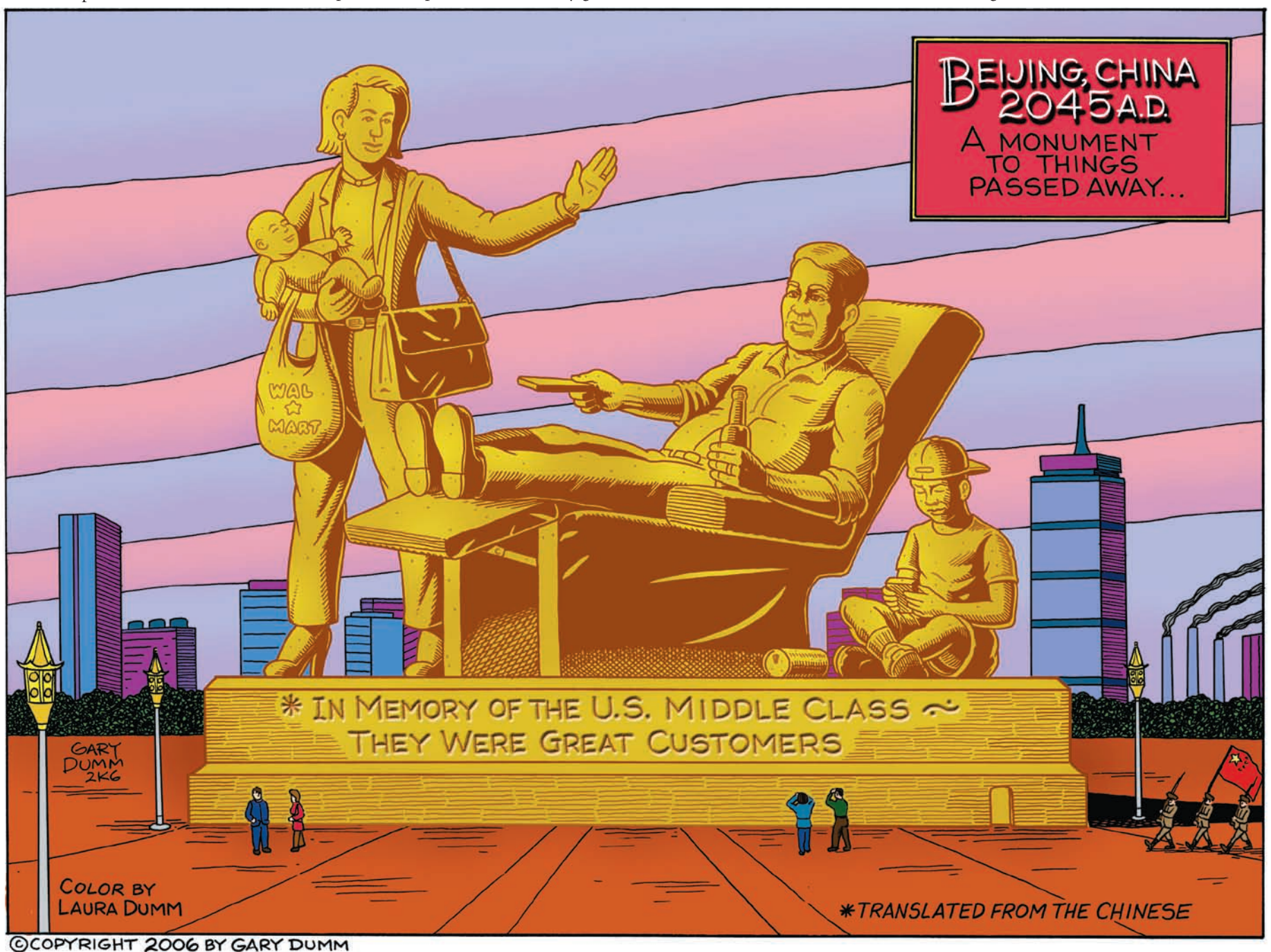
Problem Three: Why only slots? If you're going to let the gambling genie out of the bottle, why not take all three wishes? Am I to believe that

slot machines can be used for good, but blackjack, roulette, and poker are far too dangerous? Are we holding off on table games until we want to fund a new form of social security? Come to think of it, the odds of us having affordable prescription drugs in 2010 are about the same as hitting a hard eight in craps.

So, let's put it all into perspective: we want to raise a lot of money, but we're only willing to let a limited number of businesses sell a limited product line in a limited number of locations. Oh, and don't forget, we want the businesses to keep most of the profit. Sounds like a great plan.

And, if that wasn't enough, the biggest problem is that giving money away is not equal to making college affordable. Regardless of their tax status, Ohio's colleges and universities operate like any other for-profit business following the basic laws of supply and demand. If thousands of students suddenly had hundreds of dollars more to spend on education, the only result I'd expect to see is an increase in the price.

In case you haven't guessed it, I'll be voting NO on Issue 3. But, it's not because I'm against gambling and it's not because I don't think college is important. It's because I'm smart enough to see that this amendment has little to do with a lot of kids furthering their education and a lot to do with a little number of businessmen expanding their wealth.



The Buck Stops Here

The Run-down Cemetery

“Then the deep grave...Shall whisper: Ah, thou didst not comprehend.”
--Charles Baudelaire.

We did not care. We had other matters on our mind. The run-down cemetery on the south side of Detroit between St. Charles and Belle Avenues was our hang-out, a refuge close by, our teenage escape from the worlds of our parents, school and church. We were screened from view in the cemetery by a large billboard, a boxcar restaurant, a sand bank, and the Community Center Building. We paid little attention to the detritus that had collected in the century the graveyard had served as a dumping ground: broken bottles, tin cans, crates dismantled for firewood by the homeless, year after year of leaves, crumbling and broken headstones that had been pushed over or dug up. At last we were alone in a world our own. As we talked, drank, necked the forbidden drew closer under the huge elm at one end of the cemetery, the possible became imaginable, the future would happen. (“The young,” Jean Amery writes, “convince themselves they can catch up with the time that rolls over them.”)

“As you are now, so was I. As I am now, so you will be,” goes the traditional, Colonial gravestone verse in New England. Only the dead listened. That Sally Brewster, laid to rest in 1828 at the age of twenty-three, lay near us or that John Farrow had to bury his baby, Mabel, then his wife and five-year old before he himself was buried nearby did not catch our notice. (And why would it? We were alive.) Farrow had conducted services in the Church of the Redeemer, played its organ for years, taught music to children. Sally Brewster? Who knows? She was not much older than we were when she died. What had her dreams of life been? Did she meet at a private spot as we did?

In 1957, the cemetery begun as a burial ground for his family by Mars Wagar and expanded later to include friends and neighbors was bought by the City of Lakewood to provide off-street municipal parking for Lakewood Hospital. Workmen excavated parts of 54 human skeletons.

Robert Buckeye

They would not let my mother see her mother before she died. They said grandmother looked calm, really so good, she wrote me in Puerto Rico, where I was working, but she knew you needed to have a body to have a death, and she did not see one, even if everyone reminded her the casket had been open. What she saw was not her mother. She knew, as did the ancient Greeks, that you no more left the dead than they left you. There were places in

ancient Greece that led the way down into the underworld.

“History always constitutes a relationship between a present and its past,” John Berger writes, but we may not know how to establish that relationship. “Death,” Amery, who was a Holocaust survivor, writes, “cancels the sense of every reason.” Establish one we must. We cut ourselves off from our past at our peril.

Federico Garcia Lorca, who

writes of duende, that Spanish force that does battle with death before it can speak, says of it that it is “a stammer, a song without landscape, withdrawn into itself, and terrible in the dark.” We wrestle with death as we can, but cemeteries serve as the formal community recognition of those gone. They do for us what we may not, in our grief and loss, manage for ourselves. What does one say about the town without one? Where does community begin and where, we might add, does it end?

House Rich and Cash Poor

by Michael Bentley

People over 62 control a significant portion of the wealth in this country, but much of their wealth is concentrated in the equity in their homes. If Social Security benefits are excluded, just under half of all senior citizens would fall below the poverty line based on their income. Inflation continues to drive up the cost of food, energy, and, particularly, health care.

Federal budget cuts have pushed the cost of many programs down to state and local governments, driving up sales taxes and property taxes. These taxes, particularly the sales tax, tend to be regressive and really clobber retired people living on Social Security and limited resources.

The problem seems intractable. Seniors no longer work and if they went back to work they probably would not return to the work force in high paying positions; so an increase in income through additional labor is unlikely. Without additional earnings from labor, additional savings will be all but impossible.

Increasing the investment return on their savings may solve the problem for some seniors. However, many are unwilling to accept the risk associated with higher returns. Even if some are willing to accept the greater risk, their resources may be too meager for an increased return to make a difference. The only available asset may be their home, which most seniors own free and clear. Enter the “reverse mortgage.”

Reverse mortgages literally are mortgage loans that work backwards. They also seem to violate most of the traditional principals of good lending practice, but more on that later. Under a reverse mortgage, instead of sending a check to the lender every month to pay interest and reduce debt, the borrower receives a check every month from the lender and has his or her debt increase. Reverse mortgages vary from lender to lender but most have several characteristics in common.

First, they are only available to senior citizens (the definition of who is a senior may vary from 62 to 70 years of age) who own their own home with little or no debt. Next, the type of loan is usually either a term loan (with the term based on the life expectancy of the homeowner or a period certain) or a line of credit.

The amount of the monthly payment depends on the term of the loan, interest rates, the value of the home, and the percentage of current equity eligible to be loaned out. With a line of credit arrangement, there is no monthly check; the senior merely taps the line of credit for cash whenever necessary.

Generally the loan is not repaid until the house is sold or at death.

The risks to the lender are obvious. With a loan based on life expectancy, they could loan more than they will be able to recover on sale. There is no current cash inflow. Given these and other disadvantages, it’s no wonder that lenders have not been flocking to offer reverse mortgages. The Federal Housing Administration has a loan guarantee program for reverse mortgages that is available, however it is subject to limitations.

The risk to the homeowner is also clear. The loan will eat away, and could wipe out, the value of their home. If the senior wanted to pass the home on to the next generation, that generation may be saddled with a sizeable debt.

Of course, this brief article is no substitute for a careful consideration of all of the advantages and disadvantages of this matter in light of your unique personal circumstances. Before implementing any significant tax or financial planning strategy, contact your financial planner, attorney or tax advisor as appropriate.



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Lakewood Theatre

Balkan Voices:
The Kolevi Ensemble Performs November 11 at the Beck Center

by Fran Storch

INSIDE World Music and the Beck Center for the Arts, continue their 2006-2007 season of World Music events with the Kolevi Ensemble from Bulgaria live in a concert and dance party in the Beck Center's Music Armory Building on Saturday, November 11. A Bulgarian national treasure transported to the U.S, the Kolevi Ensemble is led by Bulgarian virtuoso gadulka (folk fiddle) player Nikolai Kolev, and features the stunning singing of Donka Koleva and her daughter Maria. The smoky-warm sound of Valeri Georgiev's kaval (folk flute) and Stoyan Kostov's glittering tambura (lute) playing round out the group. Hypnotic and powerful, their music is a unique blend of east and west -- dizzying meters and tempos, surprising harmonies, and songs alive with the pain and joy of life in Bulgaria. [More about the artists and instruments below.] A dance party with live music by the Kolevi Ensemble and Bulgarian-style refreshments follows the concert. Advance tickets are \$17 for adults and \$12 for students (tickets are \$20 at the door). To order tickets, call the Beck Center Box Office at 216-521-2540. The Beck Center for the Arts is located just 10 minutes west of downtown Cleveland at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood. Convenient on-site parking is available.

Workshops in Bulgarian Singing, Music and Dance:

Learn to sing and play like a Bulgarian! Donka Koleva will conduct a workshop in Bulgarian singing on Saturday, November 11 at 3:00 p.m. Instrumental workshops in playing the Bulgarian tambura, kaval and gadulka will also be offered. All members of the Kolevi are experienced teachers. Advanced registration is required.

Learn Bulgarian dances! Larry Weiner, one of this country's foremost experts in traditional Balkan dance will conduct a workshop in Bulgarian dance the night before the concert, on



Friday, November 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Beck Center Music-Armory Building. Bulgarian music is famous for its complex rhythms such as 5/16, 7/16 and 11/16; learn how to move to them!

The cost of the workshops are \$15 each. To register for the workshops, call the Beck Center at (216) 521-2540. For more information about the workshops email mahovich@core.com.

Hear the Kolevi Ensemble on the web: <http://www.geocities.com/paulbourbin/DilanoMo.ram> <http://www.geocities.com/paulbourbin/Djufarsk.ram> <http://www.geocities.com/paulbourbin/GadulkaM.ram>

About The Beck Center

The Beck Center for the Arts is a non-profit, comprehensive cultural and performing arts organization dedicated to enriching the quality of life for northeastern Ohioans. Their role is unique – creating an audience for tomorrow's art. The Beck Center combines professional theatrical productions with curriculum-based education in Creative Arts Therapies, dance, music, theater, and visual arts. In addition, the Beck Center for the Arts welcomes local and regional artists to showcase their work in the Galleria and theater lobby. And, in an effort to come full circle with arts programming, the Beck Center enthusiastically welcomes INSIDE World Music to its 2006-07 season.

THE KOLEVI ENSEMBLE: More about the artists

Donka and Nikolai Kolev, are graduates of the Shiroka Luka Music School as well as former members of the Bulgarian State Folk Ensemble "Sliven". In 1992, Nikolai Kolev founded the prize-winning ensemble "Balkanski Glasove". A collector and arranger of original songs from Bulgarian villages, Nikolai has accompanied many famous Bulgarian singers. Since coming to the United States, the Kolevi Ensemble has been enthusiastically received in workshops and concerts on the east and west coasts of the U.S. as they have presented the rich musical heritage of the homeland in the Rose Valley of central Bulgaria. The group received a flood of invitations to national festivals throughout the world following their first place award-winning performance at the Bulgarian national folk festival in Varna. Singer Donka Koleva, is

a native of the village of Tuzla in Stara Zagora in Bulgarian Thrace. She graduated from the musical folklore school in Shiroka Luka and performed for 3 years with the Sliven Folk Dance and Music Ensemble. She was the director of the Folk Song Chorus of Sopot and has participated in many singing competitions throughout Europe. In 1994, Donka started recording with the National Radio and Television in Bulgaria. In 1997, her recording of "Javore" was song of the year. As a teacher, she is sought after for her careful technique, gorgeous voice and iron fist. At just 22 years of age, Maria Koleva is a fine singer in her own right. She returned to Bulgaria in 2005 to record her own CD of Thracian folk songs, which has been received enthusiastically by fans of Balkan music in the United States and Europe.

Kaval player Valeri Georgiev is from the Bulgarian Danube town of Ruse. He studied kaval (Bulgarian flute) in Kotel and graduated from the Plovdiv Conservatory with a degree in folk-ensemble conducting. He performed in the Plovdiv-based ensemble Puldin, then later directed the folk-theatrical group Najden Kirov and performed with Orkestur "Horo" in Ruse. Valeri was the composer for the theater piece "Geracite" and has arranged many folk songs and instrumental melodies. He has accompanied many famous singers, including Kalinka Vulcheva, Yanka Rupkina, Vesela and Lyuben Bojkovi, and Kremena Stancheva.

Stoyan Kostov has been playing Bulgarian tambura for 35 years. He graduated from the folk music school in Kotel and the Plovdiv Academy of Music and Dance. He performed with the Ensemble "Trakiya" in Plovdiv. Stoyan played tambura with the Harmanliska Troika and guitar with the Ograzhden ensemble in Sandanski, where he also directed the "N. Vapt-sarov" Folk Ensemble.

About the instruments:

The gadulka, Nikolai's instrument, is a traditional Bulgarian fiddle with 3 melody strings that are bowed and 10 to 12 sympathetic strings underneath the main strings. The sympathetic strings are not fingered but vibrate on harmonics, giving a rich texture and shimmering quality to the sound. The gadulka is probably the most popu-

lar and most ancient folk instrument in Bulgaria today. Although loud and resonant, its distinctive Slavic voice is warm and soothing.

The kaval, a rim-blown wooden flute, is the most commonly used wind instrument in Bulgaria. It has a reputation as a soft and tender instrument and is often referred to in Bulgarian as meden kaval ("honeyed kaval"). Kaval players are able to sound two octaves simultaneously which the lower register a smoky, warm, almost growl-like quality. The instrument has seven holes at the front and one at the back and four extra little holes near the lower end. These small holes are very important for the intensity of the sound and the timbre. These extra holes are called dushnitsi or dyavolski dupli ("devil's holes"). A legends says the devil stole a sleeping shepherd's kaval. Intending to destroy the instrument the devil drilled four little holes in it. Instead of destroying it, the kaval sounded even better. The shepherd played the kaval and defeated the devil. In any case, the flexibility and wide range of timbres available on the instrument have made it a favorite instrument in folk-inspired jazz and fusion groups as well as traditional ensembles.

The Bulgarian tambura is a fretted, long-necked lute with four courses of wire strings, tuned to E, B, G and D. Similar to other stringed instruments found in the Balkans and Eastern Europe such as the Croatian and Serbian tamburica and the Greek bouzouki, it has its own distinctive sound and intricate technique. The Bulgarian tambura is used both for accompaniment and as a solo instrument.

About the Dance Teacher:

Larry Weiner is one of this country's foremost experts in traditional dance, music and customs of the Balkan Peninsula. He has made numerous field trips to the former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Italy, Hungary, and Greece to record and film folk music and dance as living social traditions. Both a superb teacher and an excellent dancer, he has a knack of making seemingly complex dances and rhythms accessible and fun for dancers at all experience levels. As he says, "It's not how you do the dance, but how you feel when you do the dance that counts." A dance teacher since 1964, he frequently teaches at metro Washington, DC area music and dance festivals, has conducted folk culture programs for the U.S. State Department, and has presented seminars at the North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance's annual conference. Larry has taught at dance camps throughout the United States including both East and West Coast Balkan Music camps, KlezKamp, Stockton Folk Dance Camp, and the Mendocino Folklore Camp. Larry also plays the tapan (the traditional big drum found in the Balkans) in several metro Washington DC area bands, and has served as co-director with Margaret Loomis for the Old World Music and Dance Camps.

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In A Culinary Rut

On October 16th, two important milestones occurred -- one of which was heralded in newspaper headlines; the other was significantly more personal. The more public announcement concerned the United States reaching the estimated population benchmark of 300,000,000. The less heralded event was reaching the personal benchmark of having prepared my 10,000th dinner.

Of course, you must understand that both of these benchmarks are merely estimates. They are based on known trends and statistics and may, in fact, be off by a percentage or two. Be that as it may, having reached this estimated milestone in dinner preparation gives me pause to consider whether this represents an achievement of sorts or merely evidence of an ever-deepening culinary rut.

Those of us who undertake the responsibility of preparing meals for our families (either with a certain excitement and adventurous spirit, or with a constant dread and overwhelming urge to call for takeout) have inevitably developed a certain repertoire of foods: dishes and menus which tend to repeat over time. One's culinary repertoire is somewhat like one's shoe rack. If you have a minimum of utilitarian recipes or footwear, they tend to be used far more often and worn out more quickly, unlike those whose recipe repertoire has a scope and breadth similar to Amelda Marcos' shoe collection. In exploring our culinary ruts, I am excluding the traditional holiday menus to which families tend to look forward all year long. But, even a Thanksgiving turkey, if served every Monday, would become tiresome.

Culinary ruts are not an overwhelming societal problem and, certainly, a family can function knowing that, for as long as that family endures, they should expect spaghetti and meatballs on Monday and meatloaf on Thursday. Indeed, there is sometimes a level of comfort that can be taken from such predictability. However, there are also the comments and carping from those for whom dinner has been prepared about "not spaghetti again" and the like. So, the question arises: how does one climb out of a culinary rut without facing the moans and groans which frequently accompany the statement "here's a new recipe I found"?

The key is to combine the familiar with a substitute or twist so that, while certain basic elements of the repertoire remain the same, there is a novel element that freshens the menu. Much like having the carpeting cleaned, this innovation doesn't represent a drastic change, but, nevertheless, one that is appreciated.

There are a number of ways that this introduction of new elements can be accomplished. Experimentation with totally new recipes can be both exciting and intimidating, but

Jeff Endress

Cheesy Au Gratin Potatoes

2 Large baking potatoes, scrubbed well, unpeeled

1/2 Cup grated cheese (your choice, although parmesan or other hard cheeses work particularly well)

2/3 Cup milk

2 Tablespoons butter


Salt

Coarsely ground pepper

Slice the potatoes into 1/3-inch rounds. Grease an 8x11 baking dish. Place a layer of Potatoes, covering the bottom. Sprinkle with a third of the cheese and a little salt and pepper. Repeat until all potatoes are used. Top with cheese, butter (sliced into thin slices), and pour milk over the top.

Bake 45 minutes, uncovered, in a 375-degree oven, or until golden brown.

Serves 4.



can also yield unexpected and unintended results. Obviously, new recipes require more time and effort and may even include specialized ingredients and preparation. The difficulty, of course, is that a new recipe gives one no frame of reference beyond a picture in the newspaper or cookbook. You really don't know if your ultimate product is what Bobby Flay had in mind.

There is, of course, an alternative to totally unfamiliar recipes: attempting to duplicate recipes of foods you have sampled at restaurants or friends' houses. However, while your friends and acquaintances may be happy to share a recipe with you, many times restaurants are much more hesitant to provide you with the recipes for their signature dishes. Indeed, it would be fair to say that most of them are jealously guarded. But, sometimes, with a bit of experimentation and a reasonably developed palate, it is possible to come close to a dish prepared at a favorite eatery or, at least, to take that dish as inspiration for your own variation.

The third, and perhaps best, option for extricating yourself from the culinary rut is a simple modification of those recipes with which you are already familiarly comfortable. There are a number of authors and cooking personalities who have made their fortune doing just that. For example, TV personality and author Rachael Ray published a cookbook, entitled, "365: No Repeats -- A Year of Deliciously Different Dinners." In reality, although there are 365 different recipes, the meals are built around a core group with certain substitutions and combinations which provide subtle (or more dramatic, when desired) distinction from the originals. It is quite remarkable how a small twist here and a different spice there can change a dish.

If a typical meal is one which includes meat, a starch, and a vegetable, simply step out of the box and try a substitute for one of your regulars. If you are accustomed to baked or mashed potatoes, those tubers can just as eas-

ily be roasted in herbs, mashed with a handful of sharp cheddar cheese, or cubed and sautéed with garlic and onions. The substitution of a modified side dish can give an old standard an entirely new appearance.

For that matter, substitution can be refreshing. Couscous (perhaps my wife's least favorite starch) makes for a quick and straightforward substitution for other starches. Other alternative starch options include polenta and the

plethora of flavored prepackaged rice preparations on the market. The same holds true with the vegetable portion of a standard meal. A teaspoon of balsamic, a tablespoon of honey, and a sprinkle of cinnamon completely change the character of butter-sautéed carrots; broccoli braised with white wine, lemon, and pepper has an entirely different impact than the tired, steamed preparation.

The same holds true for the meat portion of a meal as well. There are an infinite number of marinades, each bringing their own unique flavors. Your standard pork chop can be sautéed and the pan deglazed with different wines and broths. With the addition of mushrooms, capers, a little heavy cream, or shallots, a sauce is created that changes the usual fried pork chop into something entirely new. Your tired meat loaf can be altered with a simple change in its spices. Add garlic, basil, and oregano to create an Italian loaf, or cumin and dried chili powder for a Mexican feel.

Experimentation is the key to climbing out of a culinary rut. And, remember, the modifications don't have to be huge -- even a slight variation can give a lift to a tired old favorite and give you and your family a boost out of the culinary rut.

Lakewood Caterer to Prepare Faith Fairchild Recipes

By Jeff Endress

Katherine Hall Page, an Agatha Award Winner, is the author of the Faith Fairchild series. She will be appearing at the Lakewood Library Foundation Author's Event on November 17th at the Beck Center at 7:00 p.m. Page's heroine, Faith Fairchild, is a caterer who finds herself in situations which call upon her skills as an amateur sleuth. Unique in Page's Fairchild series is the use of various of her heroine's catering recipes. The reader gets a cross between a murder mystery and a cookbook.

The Lakewood Public Library Foundation Board organizers were fortunate in finding a new face in Lakewood to provide catering services which would utilize the recipes which appear in Ms. Page's books.

Two Peas in a Pod Pastry and Catering, LLC, located at 18103 Detroit Avenue, is a catering concern run by Chefs Raymond and Laura McDonald. The McDonalds are both graduates of the acclaimed Culinary Institute of America, located in Hyde Park, N.Y. Laura has worked as a line chef in a country French restaurant and her husband Ray as an artisan bread baker. Upon moving to Lakewood, they decided to open their own catering company which specializes in pastries, wedding cakes and full event catering services. Their website, <http://www.deuxpois.com/>, features photo gal-

eries of their creations which truly demonstrate that "one first eats with ones' eyes". Fortunately, the meticulous creations do, in fact, taste as good as they look.

The Foundation was fortunate in finding a Lakewood business that was willing to do something out of the ordinary. But clearly that is part of Two Peas recipe for success. Incorporating the recipes of the featured author's heroine in the catering services that they would provide for the event presented no problem for the McDonalds.

Lynn Foran, President of the Lakewood Public Library Foundation Board of Trustees, noted that "the Foundation is thrilled to have such an award-winning mystery novelist to feature at our Fall event in Katherine Hall Page, We feel that the willingness of Two Peas in a Pod, as a Lakewood business, to actually prepare the recipes that appear in Ms. Page's works will add a unique element to the event and we are excited to be able to partner with Two Peas in a Pod."

People wishing to attend the event may purchase tickets at the Beck Center, Borders at the Promenade at Crocker Park, as well as the Main or Madison Branches of the Lakewood Public Library. Ticket prices are \$35.00, which will include the recipes of Faith Fairchild as interpreted and prepared by Lakewood's own Two Peas in a Pod Catering. All proceeds will benefit the Lakewood Public Library Foundation.

Join the Discussion at: www.lakewoodobserver.com

Minding The Issues

Electoral Systems: Other Ways to Skin the Cat

Gordon Brumm

The nation will soon be voting, and voters will soon be wondering whether their votes have really been counted for the candidates they favor. This wake-up call reminds us that the election system is a tool for achieving a certain purpose and that it doesn't necessarily work as well as it might.

The election system doesn't include merely the mechanical tools we use (punch-ballots, voting machines, etc.). It includes also the arrangement of choices we make as voters. For example – to give just a superficial listing -- do we cast one vote for either of two candidates? One vote for either of several candidates? Several votes among a number of candidates? (I'm talking only about voting for office-holders, not about voting for or against ballot issues.)

We usually don't even notice the system of choices we engage in, much less the alternatives, because we take the present system for granted – just as we took the mechanical tools for granted until Florida in 2000.

But if we look more deeply, and more widely, we'll see that there are other ways, perhaps better ways, of achieving the purposes of voting.

These purposes are: 1) To register the wishes of the voters and translate their individual wishes into one overall decision; 2) In so doing, to give all voters an equal voice.

Let's review the obvious: The present system of voting allows a voter to cast one vote for one of a number of candidates (usually there are only two feasible candidates); or if there are a number of positions to be filled, to cast as many votes as there are positions.

This present system may seem obvious and natural – and perhaps it was when the nation was founded. But at that time the electorate was much more homogeneous than now: it was completely male, propertied, white, and almost entirely Western European (especially British) in origin. Things have changed.

The present system is subject to at least two basic flaws:

VOTER FUTILITY. In some cases, a number of voters really have no effect, because they are constantly and inevitably outvoted. In effect, they are disenfranchised. This is most obvious in the case of deep bias against identifiable minorities, such as blacks or Hispanics, but it is also true of districts in which one party is a permanent majority (gerrymandered districts furnishing the most prominent examples).

In some cases, of course, the minority group might gain power by negotiating with one part or another of the majority group – the minority's support in exchange for concessions from the majority. However, this won't hold true when there is an unchangeable conflict between the minority and majority, as in the case of racial animosity (or between Republicans and Democrats, nowadays).

DIVIDED COMMITMENT (too

many candidates). Suppose there are three candidates, A, B and C, trying for one seat, and suppose that A and B share the same viewpoint. Suppose that 60% of the voters favor that viewpoint, while only 40% of the voters favor C's viewpoint. But suppose further that those voters who favor A-and-B divide their votes equally between A and B. In that case (barring a runoff), C would win with 40% against 30% for each of the others.

Of course, primaries avoid this sort of situation, but primaries have their own deep faults; as we have seen so well, they most strongly attract the extremists from each party, while automatically excluding those who don't identify with either party. Runoffs also have their difficulties.

In general, the present system of voting runs up against a dilemma. Let's call an election arrangement "tight" when there is only one more candidate than office(s) to be filled (e.g., two candidates for one office). Let's call it "loose" when there are more than one extra candidate (e.g., three candidates for one office, or seven candidates for three). Then "tight" arrangements are subject to Voter Futility, and "loose" arrangements are subject to Divided Commitment.

The Great Decisions group at Lakewood Library took up the subject of alternative voting systems at a September meeting. We found the subject a daunting one, requiring close examination, but well worth the effort. Three alternative systems (in addition to interest voting) came to our attention. The first was Balanced Voting (or Negative Voting), championed by Lakewoodite Calvin Wight.

Balanced (Negative) Voting

The Balanced Voting plan is quite simple: Each voter is given one positive vote (as now) plus one negative vote. Thus a voter may vote in any of three ways: for a candidate; against a candidate; or for one candidate and against another. The votes against a given candidate are subtracted from the votes for, and the candidate with the best net score wins.

This of course won't work in a two-candidate race. The results would be the same as under present arrangements because every voter would vote for one candidate and against the other.

But look at what would happen in a three-candidate race. Take the example given above, in which the A-B position commands the allegiance of 60% of the voters, while the C position has only 40%. Recall that under the present system, candidate C, representing a minority viewpoint, would probably win.

But with Balanced Voting, the A-B voters could all vote against C, giving him a net score of minus 20% (40% for and 60% against). Meanwhile, the C voters could all vote against A and B. If these votes were distributed evenly,

A and B would each get a negative score of 20% and would wind up with a net score of plus 10% (30% for and 20% against). So either A or B would win the election, and the majority A-B position would carry the day.

Thus Balanced Voting would solve the Divided Commitment problem while making primaries unnecessary and allowing all voters to vote for all the candidates. It would also spur voter examination of the candidates, since voters would often want to know not only whom to vote for, but also whom to vote against. It would obviously allow for a finer discrimination among candidates, as voters selected one candidate among several to vote against. Candidates in addition might try to be less divisive than otherwise, in order to avoid the negative votes from those with differing viewpoints. Finally, the plan is simple and therefore easy to understand.

Proportional Representation

As the name implies, proportional representation aims to give all the various groups in the electorate the number of representatives proportionate to their strength within the community, thus solving the Voter Futility problem. For example, a group with 40% of the voters should get 40% of the representation, instead of being completely locked out as could happen in the present system.

The first requirement for proportional representation is to be rid of single-seat districts. For example, if a legislature has 50 seats, these could be divided into 10 districts with five representatives apiece, instead of 50 districts with one representative apiece. Or all representatives would represent the community at large, as would be appropriate to the first of the proportional representation plans, called Party List Voting.

Party List Voting

Throughout the world, this is the most common type of proportional representation. Under this system, voters vote primarily for a party, not individuals. Each party is awarded a percentage of the representatives equal to the percentage of the vote it gets. For example, suppose party A gets 40% of the vote, party B gets 35%, and party C gets 25%. Then seats are awarded accordingly: 40% for A, 35% for B; 25% for C. The candidates on each list would have been ranked, and the top candidates, to a number equal to their allotted percentage, would be picked to serve. (E.g., in this example, if there are 100 total seats, the top 40 candidates from party A would be elected, and so on.)

How are the lists ranked? There are two ways: Closed list voting: The ranking of the candidates is done by the party (perhaps through a primary). The voters are simply presented with the ranked lists and know that the top people on the list will be first to be chosen.

Open list voting: The voters them-

selves do the ranking at the same time they vote for the party. In other words, the voters vote for a party (as described above) and at the same time they vote for a candidate within that party. The results of this second vote determine how the candidates are ranked.

Single Transferable Vote Method (Choice Voting)

This method of proportional representation is the most fun, though also the most complicated. It was employed in Cleveland, precariously, from 1923 to 1931, and it is used now in Cambridge, Massachusetts (where, I understand, it is computerized, a real help as you will see).

As the name implies, this method allows for transfer of votes, collecting all the votes for one point of view under one or a few candidates. Thus if the candidate you favor does not get elected, your vote is not wasted because it is counted for someone else who represents your viewpoint.

In this method, voters don't just vote for a person or persons. Rather, they write down a number in front of each candidate they care to vote for, expressing their preferences in rank order. The write "1" beside their first choice, "2" beside their second choice, and so on.

Then the votes are counted. The first step is to establish a number called the "Threshold" or "Quota." This is the number of votes a candidate needs to be elected. The formula is as follows:

Threshold = (number of votes/number of seats + 1) + 1

This is better grasped by example: Suppose there were 120 votes cast and 3 seats to fill. The number of votes (120) is divided by 4 (the number of seats plus one), equaling 30. Add one to that number and you get the threshold number, which is 31. If enough candidates to fill the seats (namely 3) got this number of votes, then no other candidate could get more than they. (If three candidates got 31 votes apiece, the total for the three would be 93, and only 27 votes would remain for any other candidate.)

After the Threshold number is established, the ballots are examined to see which candidates, if any, have reached the threshold on the strength of their first-place votes. These candidates are of course elected. Afterwards, the process consists of lopping off the winners and the losers (those in last place) and giving their votes to the candidates listed next on their ballots, proceeding in this way until enough candidates have been elected to fill the required number of seats. The process, in essence, goes like this:

For a WINNING candidate (if any), all votes in excess of the Threshold are transferred to the next choice (i.e., the candidate marked as #2.)

If this results in a sufficient number of candidates making the Threshold, the election is over. Otherwise, the candidate with the LEAST number of votes is eliminated, and his/her votes

Minding The Issues

are transferred to the next choices on his/her ballots.

If this results in a sufficient number of candidates making the Threshold, the election is over. Otherwise, the procedure is repeated until a sufficient number of candidates are elected.

Interest Voting

One consideration is neglected in all the methods I have touched on, namely, the intensity of voter interest. Some voters passionately desire their favorite to win, while others still favor the candidate but with only a moderate degree of interest. Yet both types of voter are accorded only one vote. The passionate voter could complain that he is not being accorded equal treatment when his passionate interest has no more effect than the feeble interest of someone else.

To be sure, under the present system a voter may express interest in a candidate in ways that go beyond merely voting, namely by working for a candidate or contributing money. But some voters are far more able to give their time than others, and the disparity is even greater when it comes to contributing money. So in effect we are authorizing inequality if we count on campaign work or financial contributions to express the voters' different degrees of interest.

It is possible, however, to incorporate expression of interest into the voting system itself, by allowing the vote to indicate level of interest. For example, a "3" stands for great interest, a "2" for moderate interest, and a "1" for slight interest. The numbers for each candidate would then be added up, of course, and the candidate with the largest number would win.

This runs the danger that voters will give the highest number to every candidate they favor, thus defeating the purpose of allowing for different levels of interest. This danger can be overcome by putting a cap on the total number a voter can register. For example, suppose the cap was 12, and suppose there were four candidates. Then votes of "4," "3," "3" and "2" would be legitimate, whereas "4," "4," "4," "4" would not be.

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☒ **Suzanne Bretz Blum** FTC 1-7-07

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Yes on **18** Cigarette Tax for the Arts & Culture

Yes on **19** for Health & Human Services

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Please consider getting involved in our local Lakewood Democratic Club. Fill out the attached membership form and send to the address listed below. Our monthly meetings are generally the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 at the Women's Pavilion in Lakewood Park. You can also get information at our website, www.LakewoodDemocrats.com.

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Enclosed are my dues for 2006-2007 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$5 for students and seniors

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Lakewood Arts & Music

Keyboard Crusader: An Interview with Amy Kasio

by Bob Ignizio

Lakewood's Amy Kasio writes and plays edgy synth pop that can be serious one minute and quirky and funny the next. She recently released her debut CD "Lick My Key" on her own Superhero Records, and has plans to tour the West Coast early in 2007. In fact, if all goes according to plan, we might just lose this rising talent to California. For the moment, however, she's still gigging around town. You can catch Amy live (along with Partyline and Love or Perish, both featuring ex-members of Bratmobile) on November 3rd at west side DIY venue The Tower 2012 located at 9521 Madison Avenue.

Lakewood Observer: What got you interested in making music in general, and specifically what about the old school Casio keyboard sound appealed to you?

Amy Kasio: Music has always been a huge part of my life, and I started out as a fan of music making mix tapes and going to shows when I was 15. There was something about all the energy and connection of band to audience and vice versa that drew me in. I also felt that in general I could relate to people there much better than my peers back home.

My dad plays guitar, and when I was 15 he randomly asked me if I wanted to learn. I said "sure" and ended up loving it and played for hours in my bedroom after school, teaching myself how to play songs off the radio by ear.

I started Amy Kasio in 2002 because I saw two all-girl bands that used a keyboard and I instantly felt that was what I wanted to do too. I had received my Casio CTK-495 as a birthday gift from three friends a year or two prior to that but it quickly gathered dust when I realized I was no match for teaching myself Tori Amos or Sarah McLachlan songs. After feeling inspired by those two keyboard girl bands I said "I don't need to know how to play traditional piano. I will just make it up as I go and do what sounds right to me." I had the idea to plug my Casio into my DOD VGS50 guitar effects pedal to make it sound less cheesy and more rocking and I loved how it turned out.

LO: Tell me a little about what inspires your lyrics.

AK: My lyrics are 100% inspired by my life experiences, events, and people in my life. What you hear are all little pieces from my life.

LO: You describe yourself as a "Queer friendly, equal rights advocate for people of all ethnicity, sexuality, and gender (which amounts to more than the traditional female/male roles of our society!)." How do you think Ohio in general, and Lakewood specifically, measures up on issues related to that?

AK: In general I think Ohio lacks a sense of community. I feel that there are a lot of people for equality, but everyone is spread out and not connected. I am originally from Warren, Ohio and that whole area is SO closed-minded to all of those issues. I had to grow up in an

environment of people where anything "different" (i.e. being queer, trans, not looking like the stereotypical magazine cover girl) was ridiculed and there was absolutely no space or groups for anybody to get together to discuss these issues. I unintentionally ended up having a small group of queer friends in high school and that helped.

LO: You certainly have songs that deal with some of the above issues, but you also have some songs that are just straight up fun (like "Blow Up the Ice Cream Truck"). What's more important--a catchy song that people can have fun with, or getting your message across?

AK: What's important to me is doing what makes me happy and the end result just happens to include both the fun and the serious sides. I think honesty is important, I've taken my life experiences and got creative with them.

LO: Tell us a little about your EP "Lick My Key."

AK: My EP actually includes re-recordings as well as new material. In 2002 I made a "Lick My Key" demo

with 16 songs and the sound quality was not very good. This was my first CD and I produced it 100% myself and created my own "label" called "Superhero Records" (a reflection of me wanting to swoop in and bring together an artistic and musical community in NE Ohio).

In December of 2005 I re-recorded

my favorite songs from the demo in better quality and added some new songs. This is what I am currently distributing. I am working on some new material which can be heard at live shows and I hope it will be released at some point in 2007.

LO: I see you're planning to do a West Coast tour in February. Will this be the first time you've done something like this?

AK: This will be my first tour and I am very excited because the idea of being on the road, seeing new places, meeting different people, and sharing my music is very appealing and sort of a dream of mine. I generally play around NE Ohio unless I get invited to a great event, like this past year's "Homo A Go

Go" in Olympia, WA. Because I live on my own and support myself, I have to think about my job and paying the bills so I can't go running off to all the places I wish I could to perform whenever a great event is happening.

LO: How do you feel about the Lakewood music scene?

AK: Is there a Lakewood music scene? I personally haven't heard much of anything out of Lakewood, but Cleveland is overpopulated with metal/screamo type bands and that all sounds pretty unoriginal and not very exciting to me. But I think Ohio in general is slowly building an electro scene and I am really excited to see how it turns out.

LO: What are your plans for the future and your goals as an artist?

AK: My future goals are to play as many shows as I can fit into my schedule until I move to California. My goals there are to get involved in the music and art community which will help me to grow and develop as an artist. I feel like there is a lot of support and encouragement and room for inspiration over on the West Coast. I feel like there is something slowly building here in NE Ohio, but I've been here my whole life so it's time for me to move to where there is a community already in place. I don't know how long I will be gone, but I do have family here in Ohio so I might be back at some point in my life.



Girls' Night Out

by Justine Cooper

I was sitting around with my friend Evelyn this past Sunday evening, both with a sudden urge to do something fun. What in the world could two forty somethings do for fun on a Sunday evening in a Cleveland suburb? "The Indigo Girls are playing tonight in Lakewood" Evelyn screamed! So we jumped in the car and took the three minute drive to the Lakewood Civic Auditorium, and were thrilled to score two third row tickets for \$35 each. We were both instantly transformed back to excited school girls.

We walked in just as the opening band started, and I secretly hoped they would be short. I instantly changed my mind, however, when the all black rock band Three Five Human started belting out socially conscious songs about making change in the world, about homeless people resulting from White Collar Corporate Crime, and on and on. The lead singer Trina Meade stole the stage with her amazing vocals, but the whole band was just so real, you could not help but be captivated.

The band left us on our feet as the Indigo Girls followed, strolling casually onstage in AC/DC t-shirts and blue jeans. It was surreal at first, how casual and "normal" they seemed. I have been watching the music videos of my teenager for the past several years, where females are either sexually exploited by male singers, or they exploit themselves, with their videos being one sexy



pose after sexy pose. I am not a prude, but I do not want my daughter growing up to think that is the image of a female. And I don't want my sons growing up objectifying women.

So to see two lead female singers come out just as themselves and captivate the audience with real music, no fancy dance moves, no tricks - just soulful music about real life - left me emotional. I looked around the hall of mostly females with a handful of brave and enlightened males and was amazed the small hall was not full. The fans that were there, though, were diehard fans, yelling sentiments to the band in between songs.

The next hour and a half flew by as the lead singers changed guitars after every song and did what they do best, sing from the soul. At the end of their act, Trina from Three Five Human, came back on stage and belted out the most soulful rendition of Midnight

Train to Georgia I have ever heard! I truly was taken back to a simpler day and time, but really glad to be forty, and very grateful to be in Lakewood, Ohio.

To say I was still transported back to my youth would not be accurate. The hall was filled with a mix of ages, mostly in t-shirts and blue jeans, and I have never felt more "real" energy before, especially in my youth when most of my energy went wasted trying to figure out the purpose of life. At forty I get it. And I have to honestly say, being in Lakewood, after living all around the country, helps me get it.

I think Lakewood is the "realest" place I have ever lived. And one of the hidden jewels of Lakewood, is the Civic Auditorium, where you can see great concerts in a small and comfortable arena. How many other suburbs have that? And if you have not seen a high school play there, you are missing out on a lot.

Lakewood Arts & Music

Gallery Watch

by Ruth A. Koenigsmark

Lakewood’s art galleries were busy this spring and summer. There were dozens of openings, high-profile shows and a couple of anniversaries. Highlights included the first Anniversary for the Pop Shop, 2nd Anniversary for Local Girl Gallery, “Celebrating Life: The Juried Art Show at Wobblefoot and the realization that there is “no surf in Cleveland” at one of the bela dubby shows.

All of that activity, however, is just a precursor to the Lakewood gallery scene’s fall/winter line-up, which includes more openings, more parties and more provocative shows. What follows is a smattering of the exhibits currently up and coming soon to Lakewood art spaces.

A Virtual Artwalk

As we fade quickly into the chilly months, it seems only fitting to stroll from one gallery to the next. So a good place to begin our virtual artwalk is Local Girl Gallery at 16106 Detroit Avenue or <http://www.localgirlgallery.com/>. Currently, the gallery is home to an array of artists and hosts a wide array of community fundraisers in its quaint space. Linda Goik, owner, continues to do the community and art world a great service. Can’t wait to see what November and December holds for the Gallery.

As we are not slaves to physical distance in this virtual art walk, let’s jaunt over to the Beck Center at 13221 Madison Avenue to visit The Cleveland Artist’s Foundation Gallery. The space currently hosts the exhibit Revisiting Federal Art in Cleveland (1933-1943) through November 25, 2006. This exhibit showcases Northeast Ohio as a nationally important center for federally-funded art of the WPA era.

A short trip over to the Pop Shop at 17020 Madison opens the door to a very different experience. POP ART! Wrapping up in October is the Sugar Coated Show and next is the True Value Vintage Show.

A visit to bela dubby gallery <http://www.myspace.com/beladubbyor13221> Madison Avenue finds a cozy place this chilly season to experience their next two Openings and a great cup of fair trade coffee :). Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 4 at 6pm, Mark Yasenchack’s show opens called “Quickly” ceramics & mixed media paintings, and on Saturday, December 2nd is the Holiday Art Bazaar. Interested vendors for the Holiday Art Bazaar should contact Jill.

And last but not least, Wobblefoot Gallery at 1662 Mars or <http://www.wobblefoot.com> which is home to several nationally renowned artists is a great place to spend an afternoon enjoying their current exhibit entitled “Art has Many Forms” through November 17.

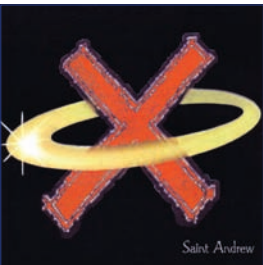
If you are inclined to make your walk a reality, take a stroll tonight in the west end of town on Detroit Avenue. The children of our community have done a wonderful job decorating merchant windows to celebrate Halloween. It’s Lakewood’s Gallery al fresco.

Don’t Forget to Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 11 at Mahall’s (13200 Madison Avenue) for Retro Rock a Bowl featuring KB & The Riptides and belly dancer, Haleema Chandani from Wind and Sand Dance Company,

Gallery, Dance and Music news and event information should be forwarded to gallerywatchgals@yahoo.com. Every effort will be made to include it in our next column.

New In Music & Film

by Bob Ignizio



Saint Andrew – ‘Live’ (Self Released)

Saint Andrew’s ‘Live’ is just a man, his guitar, and his songs... maybe a little harmonica here and there. Not everyone can do this kind of stripped down approach well, but Saint Andrew makes it seem effortless. I guess you’d call this roots music, but forget about labels. This is just a collection of good songs played well and with passion. Andrew does a pair of covers in this set (Dwight Yoakum’s “Route 23” and Nick Cave’s “Brother My Cup is Empty”) and handles them well, but it’s his original material that really shines on songs like “It’s Gonna’ Rain” and “Trails and Tribulations”. Andrew’s guitar playing is fine, his vocals raw and passionate, and his songwriting strong and true. For more info, write to Saint Andrew at 4220 Bridge Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113.



The Dixon Family – ‘The Dixon Family’ (Self Released)

Believe it or not, yours truly is a country fan. Not of that slick, watered down bad rock-n-roll that passes for country today, but the real stuff: Hank Sr., Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, etc. Apparently The Dixon Family like that kind of stuff, too, as that’s what you’ll find on this five song CD. I don’t know of any honky tonks in Cleveland, but maybe one should open up just to have these guys as the house band. I know I’d gladly buy a few beers while listening to this combo lay down the tunes. For more info, go to www.myspace.com/thedixonfamily.

‘Lady Justice’

This is an older film from MilRoy Pictures, the Lakewood-based movie producers responsible for ‘The Black Valise’ which I reviewed a few issues ago. In ‘Lady Justice’, a serial killer repeatedly beats the system. Upon his most recent release on a technicality, the killer convinces a woman (star Suzy Milano) to give him a lift. The killer figures he’s just found his next victim, but soon the tables get turned.

The movie was shot almost entirely improvised, with the actors given their characters and a basic plot to work with. The approach actually works fairly well, although it sometimes feels like the actors are trying too hard to keep the lines coming when a little silence for a moment might have worked better. The movie is also filmed in “mondo vision”, which essentially means that for most of the running time the viewer is seeing things as the killer would see them. It’s a gimmick that would have sold tons of tickets at New York City’s 42nd Street Grindhouses.

I can’t say I loved ‘Lady Justice’, but it wasn’t bad considering the budget (whatever it cost to buy video tape, gas up the car used in the film, and buy a couple sodas necessary to the plot at Burger King probably about covers it). My main gripe is that the movie starts off with a seventies exploitation/revenge movie vibe, and then doesn’t really go for the gusto. All the violence is off screen except for one brief, tame scene. And towards the end, the movie completely morphs from an exploitation movie into something like a Lifetime movie about our flawed justice system. It’s neither here nor there, and I think most exploitation film fans will be disappointed, while those who prefer more serious entertainment will be turned off by the budgetary flaws and exploitation movie gimmicks. For more info or to order a copy, visit www.milroypictures.com.

‘The Horror Convention Massacre’

Joe Ostrica, director of the short film ‘Guys’, has left behind his relatively mainstream leanings to give birth to a true old school, trashy horror film. Thankfully, Joe is a true fan and not just a dilettante, and ‘THCM’ delivers on all the levels a horror fan could want. There’s plenty of gore, nudity, and humorous dialogue to satisfy any fan of low-brow, low-budget cinema.

While delivering all the exploitation elements, Joe also gives the viewer a genuinely funny and well-conceived film. The jokes at the expense of the various stereotypes you’ll find at the average horror convention ring true, the acting is surprisingly solid, and the writing is witty. Bryan Jalovec is excellent as the lead, but he’s almost overshadowed by Lakewood’s own Uncle Scratch’s Gospel Revival playing themselves.

Shot over 3 days (!) at the 2005 Cinema Wasteland convention in Strongsville, it’s amazing that this movie works as well as it does. While not without flaws, notably the rather abrupt ending, ‘THCM’ is entertaining enough that I think most viewers will overlook the occasional rough edge. For more info, visit www.oldschool-cinema.com.

Concert Calendar

by Bob Ignizio

The Hi Fi Concert Club

On Saturday, November 11th, it’s Winterprog 2006, a festival of prog rock and jazz fusion music. The show features area artists The Byron Nemeth Group, Rick Metz, EGO, and Gravity. The Solar Fire Light Show provides visuals, and DJ Randy Allar (he does The Fusion Show on WCSB 89.3 FM Fridays from 1pm to 3pm) will MC. Be sure to get there early to see Gravity – these guys range in age from 15 to 17, and shred like they’ve been playing for decades. This is an all ages show and starts at 8pm. Admission is \$5 for 21 and over, \$8 for under 21.

The Phantasy Nite Club

On Saturday, October 28th, Zombie Apparel presents a night of music fashion. The theme for the evening is “on the big top”, a kind of circus/burlesque theme. The bands featured for the evening will be Ludwyg, Dead Letter Room, and more tba. There will be several fashion shows from Zombie Apparel throughout the evening. Doors open at 9:00, show starts at 9:30. Admission is \$5 for over 21 & \$8 for 18 to 20. This will include free admission to The Chamber for the evening as well.

The Winchester

Saturday, November 4th, it’s Stephen Percy. Percy was the founder and lead vocalist for Ratt, one of the first (and in my opinion best) of the eighties “glam metal” bands. Their debut album ‘Out of the Cellar’ went triple platinum and spawned the major radio and MTV hit “Round and Round”. Throughout the eighties, Ratt headlined huge arena tours and continued to score hit albums and singles, including hits like “Lay it Down”, “You’re in Love”, and “Body Talk”. Since the breakup of Ratt in the early nineties, Stephen released two albums with the band Arcade, and has more recently been doing solo work. His album ‘Fueler’ came out in 2005. According to his official website, you can expect to hear Stephen and his band play material from all phases of his career, with an emphasis on the Ratt hits. This is an all ages show and starts at 9pm. Admission is \$20.

The Winchester

Tavern & Music Hall

11/3

Jami Ross - Named “Most Like To Become A Star” by Scene Magazine. Jimmy Maguire opens.

11/4

Stephen Percy

Former Lead Singer of Ratt & Arcade

11/7

Lloyd Cole

Known for his career with The Commotions

11/10

Bruce Katz

Hammond B3 Virtuoso

11/11

Johnny A

Blues guitarist, toured with Peter Frampton

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