



THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 2, Issue 25, December 12, 2006

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Help Homeless Animals This Holiday Season:

It's Pets Turn For Photos With Santa "Claws"

by Donna Blakesmith

Here we are once again. The holiday season is upon us, and most of us are beginning our Christmas preparations. This is a special time of year - a time for family and friends, and a time for reflection as the year draws to a close. As I go about doing my own Christmas planning and tasks, I think about all the things I wanted to accomplish during the year, and compare that with what I actually succeeded in doing. Some years, of course, are better than others!

We at Citizens Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS) also reflect and plan. 2006 was a very good year! We had some wonderful times and raised a significant amount of money at our various events. We are hoping we can reinstate our "Spay/Neuter Program" again, and, there are projects we would like to help the Shelter with.

One of our goals is to reach into our community for people who want to help CCLAS and our mission. Do not misunderstand me! I so very much appreciate the many volunteers who are already a part of us - the bakers, the dog washers, the planners, the gatherers, the foster parents, and those who come down to the Shelter on Saturdays



to do housecleaning, kitten cuddling and dog walking. But the needs of our Shelter, and the animals of our community, are ongoing. We need many

people with new ideas, new energy, and a new perspective so CCLAS can remain vibrant and keep our mission fresh.

So, as you do your Christmas bustling this season, think of CCLAS. There are several ways you can donate and/or help us get the word out that Lakewood DOES have an animal shelter. We have four fund raisers, and I am excited about them all!

Our Angel Trees will be up again this year. Greg, the owner of Pet's General Store, 16821 Madison Avenue, and fellow CCLAS member, will once again display one of our trees in his store window. The Lakewood Public Library has not only agreed to again let us put our other tree up at their Main Library, but the tree will now be located in the front vestibule as you come into the building off Detroit Avenue. As in past years, for each \$5.00 donation, an angel will be placed on a tree for the entire Christmas season (the trees will be put up the Friday after Thanksgiving, and taken down immediately after New Year's Day). Each angel will have the name of the donor's pet being remembered or honored. We are hoping that not only will you donate many angels to our trees, but also ask your friends, family, and neighbors to decorate the trees too. Ask them if they would like to become involved.

continued on page 6...

Lakewood Lights It Up For Holiday Season



Lakewood Park dressed up for the lighting ceremonies.

Lakewood, Thanks for your support for another year, Have a Great Holiday Season, See you in 2007, we some special surprises for Lakewood!

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Lakewood Observer

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Now you or your loved ones can wear the same apron as the Lakewood Observer's Master Chef - Chef Geoff, aka Jeff Endress.

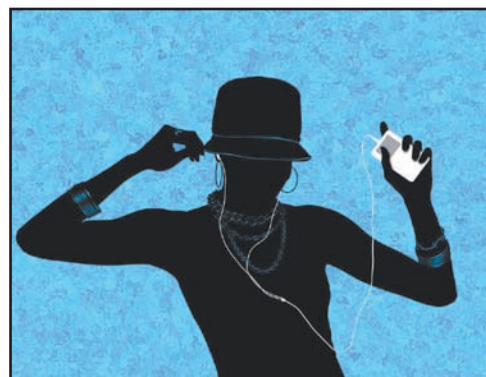
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The same shirts we wear in the news room at the paper! This shirt features the logo for the Lakewood Observer. The front features the LO face. On the back the shirt it reads, No One Covers It Better. S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL Still only \$12.00

Lakewood Car Ovals
Let everyone know that you live in Lakewood, have vacationed in Lakewood, or just have Lakewood in you heart. Handmade in Lakewood these vinyl ovals are only available at the Library. All proceeds go to the Library!



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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.

YOU COULD WIN AN IPOD!News releases—If you have information for a story, news, events email city.editor@lakewoodobserver.com
Calendar of Events—Free listings for lakewood events
online at - <http://lakewoodobserver.com>

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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.

City Council

Killer Carts Corralled

Lakewood City Council got a grip on the stray shopping cart issue at the December 4th meeting. Council member Ryan Demro (ward two) had brought the problem to the attention of council several months ago. Council had referred the matter to the housing committee which member Nickie Antonio (at large) chairs. Before she read the committee’s final report she said “I’ve learned more about shopping carts than I ever wanted to.”

The central conundrum the committee faced was how a cart goes off a store’s premises. Does the store turn a blind eye when a customer takes a cart? Who are these customers who take the carts? Who is responsible for retrieving the errant carts and how much of a fee should be levied if the city refuse crews have to return a cart?

The centralized location of most of the stores to downtown and their proximity to Barton Senior Center presented an answer as to who was taking the carts. It was the older women living in the Barton Center – everybody’s Mom and Grandma! Public Works Director Tony Beno exclaimed at one meeting “Do you want us to issue a citation to some 85 year old woman

who lives in the senior center?” The political and human answer to that question was obvious.

The committee recommended stronger language in the ordinance that deals with removing shopping carts in order to make removing the carts unlawful. Attention was then directed to the stores. Currently the city charges a retrieval fee that could be raised to \$30.00. There was concern that raising it too high would send a message of an anti business attitude to merchants.

Ultimately, this shopping cart issue will probably have to go in front of the newly created Community Relations Board according to member Mary Louise Madigan (ward four).

Council accepted the recommendation of the more strongly worded ordinance.

While errant shopping carts might be a cosmetic or quality of life issue a much more serious matter caught the eye of Demro. This was the state and city laws regarding residency of convicted sexual predators and child-victim offenders. A year ago, Demro

Stan Austin
City Council Reporter

thought that the state law which prohibits such individuals from living within 1000 feet of a school did not provide sufficient protection to residents of Lakewood, particularly children.

The matter was referred to the rules and ordinances committee which is chaired by member Kevin Butler (ward one). Extensive work was done by the two attorney members of the committee (Edward Fitzgerald, at large along with Butler), the city’s law department and the police department.

Currently, an offender has to register with the county sheriff when he or she takes up residence in a county. The sheriff then notifies the local police. In Lakewood, police follow up with a visit from an officer or detective as part of an ongoing program to keep tabs on the offender.

However, there was little provision in the state law to force an offender to move if he was within the 1000 foot “bubble” of a school.

The committee recommended enforcement procedures which according to Law Director Brian Corrigan “lets Lakewood start eviction proceed-

ings right in our own court.” Also, the new law expands the types of prohibited areas of residency to include libraries and public parks. Mayor Thomas George said “we wanted to craft legislation that was good and enforceable. This does it.”

These tougher prohibitions and enforcement mechanisms are on the path to become law in Lakewood.

Since it is the end of the year there were “maintenance” items on the docket which were largely budget related. Due to the fast and efficient reading of the items into the record by Council Clerk Mary Hagan these items were disposed of quickly.

In comments at the end of the agenda Human Services Director Dottie Buckon reminded everyone that Thursday would be the start of the no smoking ban which resulted from the passage of state issue five this past November. She indicated that Lakewood’s health department along with the departments of other cities, the county, and the state have been meeting to clarify implementation procedures for the ban. This will be an ongoing effort.

President Robert Seelie adjourned the meeting at 8:27.

Events & Notices

The Lakewood Observer is pleased to publish Notices on a first-come first-serve basis. Please be patient with us as we have a limited amount of free space available for these items. All notices must be submitted through the Member Center at www.lakewoodobserver.com

Lakewood’s Wendy Rice-Isaacs Named 2007-2008 President-Elect of National Association

Wendy Rice-Isaacs, office administrator for the Cleveland and Akron offices of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, was named president-elect of the Association of Legal Administrators (ALA). ALA is an international organization with more than 10,000 members that provides support, high-quality education and services to professionals involved in the management of law firms, corporate legal departments and government legal agencies.

As president-elect, Rice-Isaacs will

serve on the ALA’s Board of Directors for 2007-2008 before becoming president in May 2008 at the ALA’s annual conference in Seattle. As president, Rice-Isaacs will guide the Association’s strategic planning and will oversee all Board, inter-association, and media spokesperson activities through May 2009.

Rice-Isaacs has been a legal administrator for 14 years and joined ALA in 1992. A graduate of Purdue University, Rice-Isaacs resides in Lakewood with her family.

West Shore Corridor Regional Rail Stakeholders Meeting



Drawing: Nicole Muscatello and Kristen Vassel. Worked on the Station Model: Brandon Mencke, Daniel Michaels, Samuel Norris, Morgen Schroeder & William Snyder.

9:30 - 11 a.m., Wed., Dec. 13, 2006
Lakewood Hospital’s Wasmer Auditorium
14519 Detroit Avenue (Belle and Detroit Avenues)

West Shore law directors report - Gary Ebert, Bay Village Law Director; Community stations subcommittee report - Bob Parry, Westlake Planning & Economic Development Director; Presentation of Lakewood station concept - Ed Favre, Lakewood High School students; Resolution of support for federal \$\$ for Alternatives Analysis - Ken Prendergast, All Aboard Ohio.

Thanks to Lakewood Mayor Tom George and Lakewood Hospital’s Chief Administrative Officer Jack Gustin for hosting this meeting. Download map of meeting location at: <http://members.cox.net/kjprendergast/lakewoodhospitalmaps.jpg>

Gerres-Lay Engagement



Jennifer Gerres and David Lay have announced their engagement, and plan to marry in June 2008.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of John and Susanne Gerres of North Ridgeville. She graduated from St. Augustine Academy in 1999 with the distinction of Valedictorian. In 2003, she graduated magna cum laude with

a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Salem International University in Salem, West Virginia. In 2006, she graduated with honors from Lorain County Community College in Elyria, with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Surgical Technology. She is currently studying Podiatric Medicine at Des Moines University College of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines, Iowa.

The groom-to-be is the son of the late Basil and Rita Lay of Wooster. He is a 1997 graduate of Elyria High School. In 2003 he received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography from the School of The Art Institute of Chicago. David is the Classified Coordinator at Scene Magazine in Cleveland, and a freelance music writer and photographer.

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Lakewood Observations

Lakewood Christian Service Center

by Mike Scherer

Almost 25 years ago a group of Lakewood pastors and concerned laypersons joined together to address a growing community need by creating a local food pantry. At that time, because each church was individually addressing hunger and related issues, a collaborative effort made good sense. However, the men and women who founded the Lakewood Christian Service Center knew that providing food was just a start, as every family that came for food had underlying problems and needs.

From its inception, the Lakewood Christian Service Center has sought to address obstacles to family self-sufficiency by providing emergency food and basic needs assistance combined with >practical advice, referrals and help in accessing community services.

Today, in addition to a monthly supply of food items, the Center provides advocacy and referral services, job search assistance, a “handy helper” service, homelessness prevention services and a supportive housing program for formerly homeless families and individuals. The Center also coordinates a Community Meal program hosted by dozens of Lakewood churches.

The need for emergency food and related services in Lakewood continues to grow. In 2000, food was provided

for approximately 5,000 individuals. In 2005, the Center served twice that number and all indications point to well over 11,000 in 2006. The past several months have seen truly unprecedented numbers of clients served. As an example, in just the two days before Thanksgiving the Center provided food for over 250 individuals.

Due to layoffs and widespread economic problems in our region, these have been extremely trying times for many local families. At the same time, the Center’s traditional sources of support – local churches, individual and business donors and charitable foundations – have also been squeezed by the same economic forces. The result is diminished resources during times of overwhelming community need. Specifically, the Center is now facing an operating deficit of \$75,000 and may be forced to curtail services unless that gap is closed.

Executive Director Mike Scherer has announced a Holiday Gift program to benefit the Center. “This year, instead of rushing all over town to buy costly presents for loved ones that either don’t fit or aren’t needed, why not give a \$100 or \$50 gift to the Center to honor each of your loved ones? You will get a year end tax deduction, your loved ones will receive special recognition of your gift from us and everyone will feel good about providing impor-

tant services to help our neighbors right here in Lakewood. How can you lose?”

Jack Bauer, President of the Center’s Board of Trustees, will be sending out an urgent appeal to Friends of the Center asking for a special donation this holiday season. “This is an absolutely vital service for our community. Our hope is that those who can afford to may send us a donation of \$500 or even more. But we know that is not possible for many families and we will be equally appreciative of smaller contributions.

The important thing is to help in some way, as our community is stronger when we help our friends and neighbors during times of need. And helping LCSC is the best way to ensure that local dollars go directly to help our neighbors”.

The Center relies on a small crew of part-time staff supplemented by scores of dedicated volunteers who help with everything from office support and

pantry work to special projects. While most clients are Lakewood residents, the Center is also the designated hunger center for Westlake. Supportive housing services are available to residents of western Cuyahoga County while some information and referral services are available to any County resident. The Cleveland Tenants Organization has a representative on-site weekly while both the Cuyahoga County Ombudsman Office and the Cleveland Homeless Legal Assistance Program provide on-site services on a monthly basis.

For more information about services offered at the Lakewood Christian Service Center (or for information about making a donation to the Center) call (216) 226-6466. The Center is located at 1412 Marlowe Avenue, just off Detroit. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 AM to 1:45 PM and Wednesday evening from 5:30 to 7:30. The Center is closed on Monday.

You Are Here

Jason Weiner



“Now They Know”

Elizabeth Zander is a 78-year-old retired office worker and real estate broker. She has lived in Lakewood since 1959; her favorite places in town are The Oasis and the courtyard at The Barton Center.

“Number one on the list is Lake Erie. The smell of it, the feel of it, the wind of it, everything. I just love Lake Erie and I’m almost on the lake over there. Oh, the art studios and the antique shops that there are. Just so many things, just browse around. A lot of good eating areas. A lot of good friends here. Really, it’s so convenient. Everything is right here, grocery stores and pharmacies, malls, they’re all pretty close to Lakewood, so that’s an ideal situation. The parks, of course,

the Metroparks along the Rocky River. My church is here. Just an awful lot to do here if you want to do it. You can work at the Beck Center. You can volunteer out of anywhere. The hospital is so close, the Beck Center I go to. There’s just everything here. It’s just a big little town. It’s like going downtown, but a little town. I think they made it very comfortable, especially if you like to inhale the lake, the fishy smell, which I love.

Lakewood is on the up, it’s growing, not going down. To me that’s good. To put their money in a city, they must know something we don’t know, or we do know but now they know.”

Are you interested in participating? Contact Jason Weiner and Kristine Williams at lakewoodandyou@yahoo.com or by calling 216.221.5146.

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I, Bill Hixson, want to encourage every Christmas-loving Lakewood family to start the tradition of hiding the pickle on the Christmas tree on Christmas eve. The first person to find it on Christmas morn is assured of good luck for the following year. They re-hide it for the next person to find and share in the luck. If a child finds it, they are to receive a trinket or piece of candy, but once a day just. A pig promises PROSPERITY, a pickle LUCK, and a frog PROMISE



A Pig



A Pickle



A Frog

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Lakewood Public Library

Local Historian George Condon Presents *West of the Cuyahoga*

by Vincent O’Keefe

Cleveland began as a tale of two cities, as Lakewood author George Condon explains in his new book, *West of the Cuyahoga*. When Moses Cleaveland founded the city in 1796 for the Connecticut Land Company, it only included the area east of the Cuyahoga River. The territory west of the river involved Native American “title claims” until 1805, when a treaty enabled settlers to establish Brooklyn Township (later called the City of Ohio, or Ohio City) right next to Cleveland. The two did not become one until 1854, and there has been much water under the bridges ever since.

Condon is highly qualified to write such a localized history. He was a reporter and columnist for The Plain Dealer for 41 years, received the Cleveland Arts Prize in 1975, earned the Distinguished Service Award of the Society of Professional Journalists in 1980, and was inducted into the Cleveland Press Club’s Journalism Hall of Fame in 1990. Also, he has already written three books on Cleveland history.

Published by The Kent State University Press, *West of the Cuyahoga* is a combination of historical narra-

tion, personal anecdotes, and humor that makes for a lively read. Indeed, Condon’s tone is often poetic, as he describes his geographical subject as “the sunset side of the Cuyahoga Valley” and reminds readers that the city of Cleveland predates the state of Ohio, which “did not emerge from its wooded womb until 1803” (1). When asked about such rhetorical flair in a recent interview, Condon stated that “history should be presented in an attractive way.”

One way Condon presents history attractively is by exploring how names of places change over time. For example, before it became Ohio, the sizeable Western Reserve of Connecticut “led some Connecticut dreamers to suggest it should be considered for separate statehood under the name of New Connecticut” (6). Similarly, the land west of the Cuyahoga that became Brooklyn Township was almost named Egypt. The etymology of other names around the West Side is also explored, including the collegiate streets of Tremont and some of the city’s bridges.

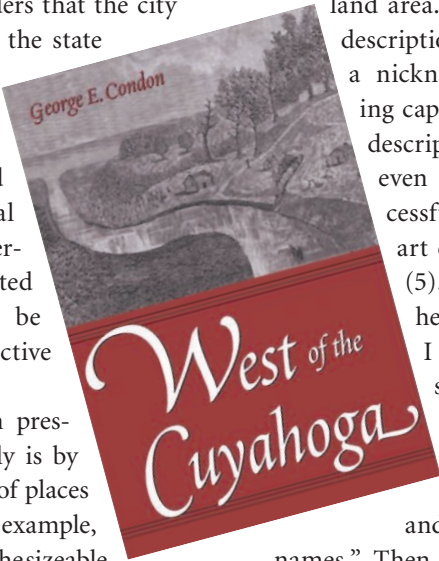
Condon’s love of names is also evident in a previous book called *Gaels of Laughter and Tears*, in which he lists and describes hundreds of Irish nicknames from his life in the Cleveland area. In another poetic description, he states that a nickname is “a revealing capsule, a compressed description” that “could even be the most successful example of the art of the short story” (5). In our interview, he explained: “When I moved from Massachusetts into the Ohio City area as a kid, there were so many amusing and creative nicknames.” Then he quickly rattled off examples like Goosey Stafford and Count-the-Nickels Murphy. Cleveland was even nicknamed by the Irish “Little Achill,” Condon says.

One of the most engaging chapters in *West of the Cuyahoga* tells the story of the near civil war that erupted between Cleveland and Ohio City in 1837. At issue was the new Columbus Street Bridge, the first “fixed” bridge over the Cuyahoga River. People on the west

side of the river were enraged because the bridge effectively diverted commerce from Ohio City. What happened next was a bizarre bridge attack: “The next day an estimated 1,000 men from the west bank community, brandishing clubs, rocks, and rifles, gathered for the big assault” (37). East Siders fought back, but fortunately no one was killed. The bridge, however, ended up needing a few bodyguards after the incident.

Other intriguing stories in the book involve West Side schools, churches, businesses, homes, parks, canals, and, of course, people (along with some helpful photographs). Throughout, Condon zooms and pans at an effective pace. His profiles range from Mark Hanna, the nationally-known political operative in the late 1800’s, to Needles McCafferty, a “West Side streetcar employee of the interwar years” (121).

When asked why he chose to write a book specifically about Cleveland’s West Side, Condon replied simply: “The West bank offered a very good story.” This seems quite an achievement, considering its early abundance of swamps, malaria, and (brace yourself) rattlesnakes. Regarding why he has lived in Lakewood for several decades, he was just as brief: “Lakewood has always been a good place to live.”



Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar
December 12th through 26th

Friday, December 15

- Films on Friday - Lifeboat, Directed by Alfred Hitchcock (1944) This thriller crams all the suspense of a regular Hitchcock film into a tiny lifeboat set adrift in the North Atlantic during WW II. This film is not rated. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Saturday, December 16

- Web Searching Basics
Find what you’re looking for on the Internet with strategies for speed and precision. For more information about our class schedule, visit <http://www.lkwdpl.org/classes/> or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center
- Writer’s Workshop
Renew your creative energy and get positive feedback from fellow writers. Whether you’re a seasoned pro or just have a hankering to write, everyone is welcome to join this workshop. 4:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium
- Family Music and More - Sword in the Stone
Spend a Saturday evening at the Library and enjoy programs featuring musicians and other talented performers. Performers are subject to change. Seating is limited. Doors open fifteen minutes prior to the performance. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Sunday, December 17

- Sunday With The Friends - Music Unlimited Christmas Show.
Vocalist Joan Hughart and Toy Poodle Chachi are home for the holidays. 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

Monday, December 18

- Introduction to Spreadsheets
Learn spreadsheet basics, including sorting data, automating calculations and creating neat charts. For more information about our class schedule, visit <http://www.lkwdpl.org/classes/> or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center

Saturday, December 23

- E-mail Basics
It’s not too late to join the e-mail revolution. Keep in touch with friends and family. For more information about our class schedule, visit <http://www.lkwdpl.org/classes/> or call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center

Sunday, December 24

The library is closed for Christmas Eve.

Monday, December 25

The library is closed for Christmas Day.

Free Seminars To Help Lakewood-ites Take Charge Of Their Finances

by Matt Charboneau

An upcoming series of programs at Lakewood Public Library’s two locations, Main Library and Madison Branch, aim to educate and empower community members on the subjects of personal finance, budgeting and tax preparation. Lectures and presentations in the Lakewood Initiative for Financial Education (LIFE) series will take place every Monday in January at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium and are free-of-charge with no pre-registration required.

The LIFE series is a collaboration between Lakewood Public Library, the City of Lakewood, the Internal Revenue Service, Lakewood Christian Service Center, Lakewood Hospital, Lakewood Volunteer Services and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. The first of the lecture programs, SMART DEBT: It’s Your Credit is scheduled for Monday, January 8. The remaining lecture topics will include BUDGETING: Waking Up to Your Dreams on Monday, January 15, WHAT EXACTLY IS THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT? on Monday, January 22 and finally SMART AUTO FINANCING on Monday, January 29. More information on all of these programs can be obtained by phoning the Library’s Electronic Services Department at (216) 226-8275 ext. 127.

Also part of the LIFE series will be weekly evening EITC Tax Assistance Programs to be held at the Madison Branch beginning January 29th at 7:00 p.m.

The EITC is designed to help

reduce the federal tax burden for low-wage workers. Depending on family size and total income, it can boost a worker’s annual income by as much as 40%. With the outreach efforts begun in 2003 to increase awareness of EITC combined with free tax preparation clinics for eligible income Lakewood residents, the LIFE program hopes to make the credit available to all taxpayers that are entitled to EITC. Last year this program saved participants \$195,237 in total EITC money.

EITC assistance will be available on a weekly basis up until Monday, April 9th. These tax assistance appointments will require registration; those interested in participating may call (216) 226-8275 ext. 127 after January 2nd to sign up for a time slot.

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Lakewood Business

Santa “Claws” continued from page 1...

Another of our favorite events is back this year: “Pet Photos With Santa Claws”. Held again at “Inn the Doghouse” located at 10237 Berea Road, Suite “H”, (just south of Detroit Avenue), Santa will set up shop on December 16th, from noon until 2 P.M. Pictures, in a holiday themed frame, will be available for \$10.00. This is always one of those really fun events, but you have to be a pet lover to understand this. My sister does. When I was telling her about Santa Claws, she said it is the same as when our parents took us to see Mr. Jinglaling and have our

pictures taken with Santa. As she sees it, her pets are her kids, just a bit furrier than most!

Our last two fund raisers may actually help you as much as they help CCLAS! We have partnered and linked up with Malley’s Chocolates and Giveline. We all know the delicious treats at Malley’s, and a good many of us buy something from them for our Christmas merry making each year. Giveline is like a store online. I have spent time browsing its site, and discovered that Giveline has quite a selection of goodies. Think “Borders”, but with electronics and a section for “home & garden” stuff too. I always give books for Christmas,

as well as DVD’s. Giveline has the titles I will need. The good part - for every item you buy on these sites, a percentage will come back to CCLAS! If you buy online anyway, consider buying from our partners, and help CCLAS at the same time.

When you shop at www.giveline.com, once you have made your selection and given your shipping information, you will be asked to choose a charity to benefit. In the search, choose the ‘Animals, Zoos, & Aquariums’ option. Put in Ohio as the state, and the zip code of the Shelter, 44107. You should get three choices at that point, the Animal Protective League, the MetroParks Zoo, and Citizens Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter - CCLAS. Please choose us!

The Malley’s site is not as easy to reach, and the lady I spoke with there apologized, saying that the problem is being worked on. To access the only Malley’s site that will benefit CCLAS, you have to put in a very long url: <http://www.malleys.com/default.aspx?id=e804ceea-132a-47ab-a141-af1ba3f88593>. What I can suggest, to make your life easier, is to go to the CCLAS website, where the url will already be entered, and all you will have to do is “Click Here” requesting the url. You cannot get to the Malley’s/CCLAS site any other way. But I am hoping you will still do your chocolate & treat shopping at Malley’s on line, so CCLAS will benefit too.

This promises to be a very busy season for us. I am hoping for a quiet, peaceful Christmas, spent with family and friends. This year has been quite trying, and I want the luxury of being able to have the time to enjoy being with those I love. I have felt blessed working with many of you this year. Thank you for your efforts and support. Please know you do make a difference, and that you are appreciated!

So, here’s to a very, very, Merry Christmas! I wish for you the wonder this season can bring.

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Secret Shopper Designer Consignor



Designer Consignor: 17118 Detroit Avenue
by Justine Cooper

Ever since I was a young child, I have patronized consignment and thrift shops. My mom probably got us started because the six children in our family were born within four years of each other, and the best way to make sure we all had a closet full of clothes was to buy second-hand. Since then, I have loved shopping at consignment and thrift shops, both as a young, single mother and as a career woman. I can easily buy several outfits for my child and myself at a fraction of the typical cost. Many items even contain designer names. An article in last month’s Plain Dealer also suggested that shopping at second-hand stores is a great way to save money.

One consignment shop that we are fortunate to have here in Lakewood is Designer Consignor, at 17118 Detroit Avenue. This shop was formerly Westgate Resale; however, Designer Consignor has a fresh look. It is less cluttered and displays a wide variety of clothing, shoes, jewelry, and household items. Upon entering the store, you will receive a warm wel-

come from owner Molly Beargie and her employees. It’s a great place to shop and you can even bring clothes there to sell, in order to make room for your new outfits! Molly graciously agreed to donate formal dresses to Cinderella’s Closet, where dresses are available to high school girls for free, if they do not sell at her store. She did this without knowing that I write the Secret Shopper.

If you have not explored resale shopping, you may want to reconsider after discovering that you can purchase a complete outfit for under \$30. And, if you have a teenager, you know that you can hardly buy a pair of jeans for that price at the mall. I literally put together an outfit containing a designer name sweater, a pair of brand name jeans, and a pair of leather boots for \$30!

By writing this column, I intend to introduce more shops to residents that have a nice inventory as well as a warm atmosphere. Customers need and deserve both, and small shops deserve your business. I hope you find some new outfits at Designer Consignor soon, but wait until I get back there first!

Lakewood Hospital

a Cleveland Clinic hospital

Welcome David M. Brill, D.O.

Welcoming All Patients

We are pleased to announce the appointment of David M. Brill, D.O., to the Lakewood Hospital Medical Staff and welcome him to his new office located in the Lakewood Hospital Professional Building, 14601 Detroit Ave., Suite 400.

Dr. Brill has provided expert care to the Westshore communities for 20 years. He is board-certified in family medicine and believes in treating the whole person of all ages, from birth to older adults. Special interests include preventive care and disease prevention.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Brill, call 440.356.3640.

For directions, visit www.lakewoodhospital.org/directions

Your Life is Our Life's Work.

Chef Geoff

Bah Humbug! The Proof is in the Pudding

With the coming of the Christmas season, we find ourselves revisiting our yearly traditions. Favorite Christmas songs fill the air and boxes of heirloom ornaments are unpacked, Charlie Brown discovers the true meaning of the season and Ralphie takes care of Black Bart with his 500 shot Red Ryder air rifle (with the compass in the stock). And along with all the other trappings of the season, we once again enjoy the immortal tale of Scrooge as told by Dickens in A Christmas Carol.

As we all know, through whatever incantation we gain familiarity with the story, Scrooge was a pretty nasty character. If it were not so, the story of his redemption would have less meaning. And, I think that when one considers the culinary aspects of the story, that redemption becomes even more meaningful.

Let's first set the stage as that is certainly an important part of the back-drop behind the discussion of the culinary aspects. In 1843 when A Christmas Carol was written, the population of London was burgeoning at approximately 2.2 million. At the time, the housing of London was closely packed together, heated with coal-fired stoves and hearths which contributed a significant amount of soot to the atmosphere as well as the ground.

It was not until 1875 that London had an adequate sewer system and, indeed, at the time that A Christmas Carol was written, portions of the city had raw sewage flowing in open ditches into the Thames, which, by the way, was also the source of drinking water for much of the population. The streets were a crowded mixture of rich and poor, drunkard, pick-pocket and prostitute, all against the backdrop of tens of thousands of horse drawn cabs and wagons with their resulting manure deposits. Against that back-drop were the street vendors selling all manner of wares including food products.

In short, I would venture a guess that London of 1834 was not a particularly pleasant place to live. This is confirmed by the reality of numerous outbreaks of cholera and the legendary "Great Stink" of 1858, during which the stench from the Thames became so unbearable that Parliament was closed. As much as we have romanticized a Courier and Ives version of the Victorian era, in point of fact, living in London was a fairly miserable existence. It's no wonder Scrooge was such a miserable character. And even the Christmas feast might not be sufficient to provide redemption. The proof is, as they say, in the pudding. But before we get to the dessert of the Cratchits' feast let's review the main menu.

First of course, there was goose enjoyed by the Cratchit family. That goose was purchased from the poulterer where it had hung unrefrigerated in the window for any number of days. Speaking of that goose, while the romanticized versions and movies

Jeff Endress

Old English Christmas Pudding
(adapted from Godey's Lady's Book, 1860)

One pound currants
One pound well stoned raisins
One pound chopped suet
1/4 pound flour
3 oz. sugar
1 &1/2 oz. grated lemon peel
1 blade of mace
1/2 a small nutmeg
1 tsp. ginger
6 eggs

Combine the suet, raisins and currants. Beat the eggs and beat in the remaining ingredients. Add the suet mixture and mix together. Place mixture in a cloth, tie firmly allowing room to swell. Boil continuously for 5 hours.

generally have the goose roasting over the Cratchit family's open hearth, it is more likely that someone of the lower class would not have had a hearth sufficient in which to cook a goose and more than likely it would have been roasted in a nearby bakery's oven at a cost of a few pence and then taken home to be eaten. It would not have been basted, and might well have been as dry as the

Griswald family's turkey

Assuming that the family had the wherewithal to purchase a bird large enough to justify stuffing, it was probably as simple as chopped pork fat, crushed cracker crumbs, egg, flour, milk, some sage, salt and pepper. If the finances made it possible, the stuffing might have included roasted chestnuts. To whatever degree there were

side dishes, those would most likely have been turnips, parsnips or other root vegetables being stored from that fall's harvest. Dickens mentions only potatoes and sweetened apple sauce. But certainly, even if the fowl was foul, and the foods that served as accompaniments less than fresh, culinary redemption would be experienced as Mrs. Cratchit proudly brought forth the feature of the feast, that flaming ceremonial dessert presented to the family must, indeed, have been a culinary delight. Don't be too sure.

The ingredients which would typically have been found in a steamed pudding are not something that our present day palates would appreciate. From the authentic recipe included, you may well wonder why you would eat such a conglomeration.....much less profess to enjoy it. From my historical retrospective, clearly there was nothing for old Ebenezer in the food which could provide for his change of attitude. I can not only understand, but sympathize with his miserable attitude, especially considering the culinary aspects of the season. If someone were to offer me some of that Christmas pudding, I might well respond with a "Bah Humbug" myself!

formed – a successor, they trumpeted arrogantly, to Darwin, Marx and Freud – to give the ordinary man the power of his gaze back. They would study life as it was -- shouts and gestures of motorists, bathroom behavior, dirty jokes, female taboos about eating, beards, armpits, eyebrows – that would plot "weather-maps of feeling." In taking up the role of observer, Mass-Observation argued, "each person becomes like Courbet at his easel, Cuvier with his cadaver, and Humboldt with his continent." The facts unearthed would permit us to understand our lives and thus transform them.

More recently, the work of artist Nina Katchadourian in New York is an effort to undo the one-way gaze. Katchadourian has set up a telescope across the street from an office in Manhattan, its lens fixed on the 17th floor, which any passerby may stop and look through. The lawyer, whose office window is seen, chooses three objects from his office to place in the window at his whim – a potted plant, a photo of his son, a calculator, whatever. Katchadourian has mounted a pictorial key on the telescope that translates the lawyer's messages from what he places in the window. Has it been a hard day? Did he accomplish a lot? Is he looking forward to the weekend? In this way, the lawyer talks to the viewer, the object to the voyeur, the seen to the unseen. Contact is made.

The Buck Stops Here

The Seen to the Unseen

Robert Buckeye

If we want to see what happens in slaughterhouses, how fast food becomes fast food, Michael Pollan argues in The Omnivore's Dilemma, we would demand better food for our tables. "If there is any new right we need to establish," he suggests, "maybe this is the one: the right, I mean, to look."

That right, if it be a right, is both innocent and can never be innocent. Our look may record what a camera does, but what we see always establishes a relationship between ourselves and the world outside us. There are things we choose not to see, do not want to know, how cows become meat, what happens on the operating table, experiments on animals, even a loved one dying. There are things we want to see, are drawn to, even if we should not see them and may not want anyone to know we are looking. Voyeurism is always to some extent prurient. From the Bible, we know that if we look at a neighbor's wife, as David does, bad things happen.

We may see things we should not see, and our knowledge of them may put us at risk, even if, at the same they make us complicit. What responsibility do we assume for what we see? In Rear Window, Jimmy Stewart's mild prurient interest in his neighbors in the apartment across the way makes him an unwilling witness to a crime. We know further that there are places we should not be in, in part, because

we should not or do not want to see what is there.

We understand that others see us, often without our knowledge, and that may be either reassuring or threatening. To be seen is to be recognized. We are seen for who we are. To know that others see us – who, we may not always know – and not know what they see is to give them power over us. Today, it is part of the colonization of everyday life. In Michael Haneke's film, Cache (available on dvd), a middle-class family is destroyed when surveillance tapes of their apartment (both from the outside and inside) and of the husband's childhood reveal an incident from his childhood he has hidden.

To be able to look upon is power, a one-way street (the boss to his worker, the man to the woman, the white to the black). In Andrea Arnold's film, Red Road, a woman whose job is to scan surveillance cameras placed in Glasgow neighborhoods and notify police of anything unusual sees a man who had run down her husband and child and begins to stalk him to avenge their deaths. Those without power can neither see nor acknowledge what they see. "Expression is [their] enemy," T. J. Clark notes, "the mistake [they] concentrate on avoiding at all costs." The worker never lets his boss know how he feels.

In England in 1937, a group which called itself Mass-Observation was

Lakewood Schools

Pre-schoolers Experience Art At “My Masterpiece” Class

by Anne Schleicher

Four-year-old Henry Whisman carefully places small, circular stickers on his paper. He’s not sure why he’s applying the stickers, but knows he’s creating a masterpiece. That’s because he’s at the “My Masterpiece” class held on Saturday mornings at Bela Dubby Art Gallery and Beer Cafe, located at 13321 Madison Avenue.

Art teacher Traci “Miss Traci” Morrison tells Henry and his classmates to smudge watercolors across their pages. Each one looks different. After a snack, the pre-schoolers take their stickers off of the paper. The remaining round, white holes contrast with the muted colors.

This project was inspired by the Eric Carle book, “The Very Hungry Caterpillar,” in which a young larva nibbles holes through all kinds of foods before entering his cocoon stage. He later emerges as a beautiful, multi-colored butterfly.

“Our masterpieces are almost done, but they’re missing something,” Morrison says before handing out the snacks. “What does our painting need to become a masterpiece?”

“A kiss!” Henry and classmate Sofia Bianco exclaim, almost at the same time. The enthusiastic children blow kisses at their creations.

Each lesson contains three components: a literary reference in the form of a story; an art history reference, which is a masterpiece by a famous artist; and hands-on experience, which is the art project and related snack.

“I like to establish a strong routine so even the youngest children feel comfortable,” Morrison explains.

Morrison is no stranger to igniting kids’ interest in art. She taught Art Education full-time at The Children’s Museum for five years, before being laid-off due to budget cuts.

“My mission in teaching art is to start early with children when it comes to appreciating and looking at art,” explains Morrison. “Attaching meaning or stories to handmade things makes them something of value. Also, associating our work with the work of a famous artist makes creating art feel

grown-up.”

Jill Crino used to take her young daughter to “Art with Miss Traci” at The Children’s Museum. Crino owns Bela Dubby with her husband, John. The couple invited Morrison to offer her classes at the child-friendly art gallery and cafe.

The setting couldn’t be more appropriate for budding artists. It’s well-lit and features funky, 1950’s-era furniture. Works from local artists hang on the wall. Music ranging from Frank Sinatra to The Smiths plays lightly in the background. Some cus-

tomers sip cappuccino while paging through the paper. Others buy a beer and pizza bagel and check their e-mail on their laptops, thanks to Bela Dubby’s wireless service. Youngsters can play at the train table or watch a DVD.

Henry’s mom, Holly Cooper Whisman, thinks Miss Traci’s class is a fun introduction to well-known artists, and likes how it gets kids involved in making their own artwork. “So much mass-produced garbage is marketed to children,” she says. “It’s important for kids to have the capacity to form their own opinions, and to be able to express

themselves in creative ways.”

Henry agrees, happily biting into a round little cookie, the same size as the circular stickers he placed on his masterpiece.

The next five-week session of “My Masterpiece” will begin in late January at Bela Dubby, 13321 Madison Avenue. Two classes are available from 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. each Saturday. The \$40 class fee covers supplies and snacks. For more information, call Bela Dubby at (216) 221-4479, or check Bela Dubby’s MySpace.com page for updates.

Don’t Miss Traditional LHS Choral Concert

The LHS Choral Concert is tomorrow, December 13 at 7:30 pm in the Civic Auditorium. This traditional concert with processional and candlelight is always a highlight of Lakewood’s holiday season and this year will be no exception.

In addition to the wonderful music, this year the perfect holiday gift will be available at the concert. The Lakewood High School Symphonic Mixed Choir, along with other Lakewood High choral groups has issued a most beautiful Christmas CD. This fund-raiser for the upcoming trip to Carnegie Hall is a treat! The Lakewood High School Symphonic Mixed Choir has consistently received the highest rating possible in the most difficult entry class (AA) at the State Ohio Music Educators Association Large Group Adjudicated Event for over 30 years! And yes, our talented Lakewood kids are going to Carnegie Hall.

MidAmerica Productions in New York City announced that Dr. Lisa Hanson and her choir have been invited to participate in a performance of John Rutter’s “Requiem” on May 6, 2007 at Carnegie Hall. Members of the LHS choir will join with only a few other outstanding choruses selected from throughout North America to form a festival chorus, accompanied by the New England Symphonic Ensemble, conducted by Dr. Earl Rivers. Dr.

Jonathan Griffith, Principal Conductor-in-Residence for MidAmerica Productions states:

“This excellent Chorus received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers and the exceptional recommendation given by Dr. Hanson’s choral colleagues. It is quite an honor just to be invited to perform in Carnegie Hall. These wonderful musicians not only represent the quality of music and education within the school, but they also become ambassadors for the entire community. This is an event of extreme pride for everybody and deserving of the community’s recognition and support. I would encourage all business owners, civic leaders, and the general public to be generous in their financial support for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Anyone who would like to contribute to help send a student to Carnegie Hall may contact Dr. Hanson at 216.227.5981 or mail a contribution to Dr. Lisa Hanson at Lakewood High School, 14100 Franklin Blvd., Lakewood, OH 44107. Checks should

be made payable to Lakewood High School.

You will also have an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for 18 beautiful baskets, each with a different theme. They will be displayed in the lobby of the Civic Auditorium. There is a Longaberger basket filled with delectables from Sweet Designs and Lion & Blue, organic foods from The Bin, and an Italian food basket from Carabbas. One basket features Cleveland Indians memorabilia including an autographed picture of Grady Sizemore. Heinens, Borders, and several salons in Lakewood have contributed items for other baskets. The winning tickets will be drawn on the evening of the traditional high school choral concert on Wednesday, December 13. The winning baskets will be awarded to the names drawn regardless of their attendance that evening.

Alumni are invited on stage to close the program. Tickets for this evening concert are \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for seniors and \$1.00 for students.

This article was written with contribution from Anne Palomaki and Justine Cooper.



Students in grades four through eight spent seven weeks researching historic Americans and preparing dramatic recreations for All-American Heroes, a program run by Lakewood Public Library and Women In History. Angelo’s Pizza donated pizzas for the dress rehearsal.



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Lakewood Sports

LHS Wrestling Preview

by Todd Shapiro

Dedication! Perseverance! Commitment! These are not just the traits of a good wrestler but also what will be required of the Lakewood High School wrestling team as they embark on a 2006-2007 schedule that is one of the toughest in recent history.

While the Rangers will be without Matt Curley who ended his Ranger wrestling career with 42-6 senior season and a trip to Columbus, Lakewood has two returnees who are determined to be making a visit to Columbus in March.

Junior Pat Duffy, whose fifth place finish in the Toledo District earned him a spot as an alternate at the 2006 state tournament, will move up to the 125 pound weight class. Duffy who spent much of the summer in the weight to make the jump from the 119 pound weight he wrestled at last year is excited about this year's schedule. "We'll have to step it up early and work hard. Facing good competition just makes you want it more," Duffy said.

Tony Scimienti, who compiled an impressive 36-12 record at 112 pounds as a freshman, took his wrestling skills on the road this summer, competing for Team-Ohio at the NHSCA National Wrestling Duals in Salisbury, Maryland. As a sophomore, Scimienti will wrestle in the 119 pound weight class. Scimienti feels his experience will be an

asset at the higher weight, "I am more prepared this year. I know the things I need to do differently."

Head coach Vinnie Curiale believes the Rangers schedule, which features tournaments at Avon Lake, North Ridgeville and Southview in the opening month of the season, prepares the teams for the challenges they'll face later in the year. "We're going to be young this year and we're taking an attitude that we must get better and rise up to the level of our schedule," Curiale said.

Lakewood opens up the home portion of their schedule Saturday January 6 with a tri-meet against Eastlake North and Lake Erie League foe Maple Heights. Friday January 12 the Rangers are home again for a tri-meet with Lutheran West and a Westerville North team that returns two state-qualifiers from last season.

The key to success in dual meets is the ability to score points across all 14 weight classes. To do that the Rangers will need some of the younger members of the team to come through in a big way. A pair of freshman Dahoud Hamidah and Nick Scimienti, younger brother of Tony will both be in the varsity lineup.

Hamidah, who will wrestle at 160 pounds, went to the state middle school championships last season in just his second year of organized wrestling. According to Curiale, Nick who is currently listed as 112 pounds "is going to make a name for himself in this sport real soon."

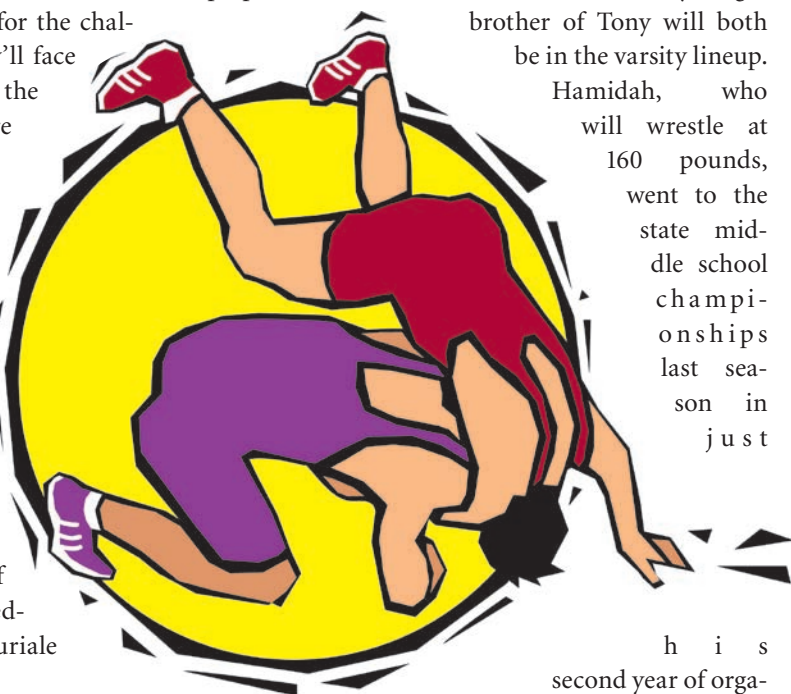
Justin Smith, who recorded pins in 14 of his 22 wins in the 05-06 season, will start in the 152 pound weight class as a senior.

Vinny Fox missed his sophomore season after tearing his ACL playing football. Fox, now a junior, will return to the Rangers lineup in the 145 pound weight class. Fox has impressed his teammates since he returned to the mat this fall. Duffy said Fox seems better than ever in practice and expects Fox to do big things this season.

In the upper weight classes junior Gahad Suleiman will wrestle at 215 pounds while heavyweights Mike Gugar and Kevin Kinder will battle for the starting spot. Gugar posted an 18-16 record last year but is currently sidelined by an injury. Kinder, a transfer from University School, wrestled in the heavyweight division for the Preppers in 05-06.

Lakewood will host the Lake Erie League dual meet tournament on February 3. Two weeks later the Rangers will travel to Southview for the OHSA sectional tournament.

Curiale usually places more importance on producing state qualifiers than LEL champions. However, with the Rangers hosting their final LEL tournament this year the meet takes on an added significance. Duffy, one of the Rangers captains, described the feeling of hosting the annual event. "We want to impress at home. We'll be wrestling in front of our family and friends."



LHS Basketball: Bouncing Balls and a Bouncing Baby Girl

by Mike Deneen

For the Lakewood High girls' basketball team, the 2006-07 season represents change both on and off the court. This is their final year in the Lake Erie League before the school joins the Northeast Ohio Conference next year. On the court, the team has four new starters. Off the court, the coach has a brand new baby girl.

The program is coming off a very good season, going 15-7 in 2005-06. The team made it to the district semifinals, where it lost to Solon High. Solon eventually went on to the state championship game. The program received good news earlier this fall when Kayla Kovach, the team's senior leader, signed a letter of intent to play Division I college basketball at Indiana-Purdue University at Fort Wayne. Also this offseason, head coach Nicole Anderson gave birth to Brooke Anderson on April 16, 2006.

This season has many challenges for the Rangers, who only return one starter from last year's squad. The schedule is full of ranked teams and traditional powers, including Mentor, Shaker Heights, Bedford and Avon Lake. In addition, there are a pair of games against nearby rival St. Joseph Academy.

Coach Anderson is excited about

her young team. "The girls have the right attitude and want to get better and better," say Anderson, "if they continue to give their personal best every day at practice and games then you will see a young team mature as the season progresses." Anderson is especially excited about senior Kayla Kovach, who is the program's first Division I college recruit in ten years. "The leadership of Kayla Kovach is very important to our success" says Anderson. Kovach averaged 15 points, 7 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 2.5 steal per game last year.

The team got off to tough start this season, with a 52-38 loss at St. Joe's. Anderson hopes that the young team will remain competitive in the early season, and gel together in time for success in the state tournament.

Off the court, Anderson is thrilled to balance the demands of motherhood, teaching and coaching. "I have a very supportive husband Kevin who is a business consultant and a former Division 1 college soccer player. Kevin understands the time and commitment that goes into coaching," Anderson is also thankful to her assistant coaches, Al Digregorio, Rick Wallenhorst, and Jim Stahlheber. "They go above and beyond their duties," says Anderson, "I can not say enough about them and the commitment they make to the girls and the program."



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

Special Skating Sessions

These sessions are in addition to our normal schedule:
Closed Christmas Eve and New Years Eve at 4:00 p.m.

2006

Monday	Dec.18	1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	All Ages
Tuesday	Dec.19	1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	All Ages
Wednesday	Dec.20	1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	All Ages
Thursday	Dec.21	1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	All Ages
Friday	Dec.22	1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	All Ages
Monday	Dec.25	8:30 - 10:00 P.M.	All Ages
Tuesday	Dec.26	1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	All Ages
Wednesday	Dec.27	1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	All Ages
Thursday	Dec.28	1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	All Ages
Friday	Dec.29	1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	All Ages
2007			
Monday	Jan.1	1:00 - 3:00 P.M.	All Ages
		7:00 - 9:00 P.M.	All Ages



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Around Town



President And First Lady Visit bela dubby!

That is if recent visitors to bela dubby have their way. Congressman Kucinich announced today he would once again run for President. One reason mentioned was that the Democrats are not moving fast enough to get out of Iraq.



Two Peas in a Pod Opens House

The best tasting event last week was open house at Two Peas in a Pod Catering, 118103 Detroit Ave. Laura and Raymond McDonald have built a nice little success story in Lakewood. To celebrate they opened the doors and offered up some tasty treats. Here Ken Warren finds out Linda's dad Joe is from New York. "Finally a guy that understands pizza." On the sofa Patricia Campbell from Ennis Court talks with friends.



Send in your favorite holiday or Lakewood Photo(s) and you could win one of three Apple iPods. Test out that new digital camera and start a Lakewood Observer photo blog today and maybe you will win! It could also appear in Around Town.

Christmas at Lakewood United Methodist Church

Sunday, Dec. 17 10:00 a.m. Worship Lighting of the Advent Wreath
11:00 a.m. Sunday School classes for all ages
5:00 p.m. Snack Supper and Christmas Caroling

Monday, Dec. 18 7:00 p.m. "The Miracle of Christmas" An Advent Study
Christmas Eve, Dec. 24
10:00 a.m. Worship Lighting of the Advent Wreath Children's Sunday School
7:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Worship Service
11:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Worship Service Choir and Strings

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Light Up Lakewood



Mainstreet’s Light Up Lakewood celebration was a night of holiday fun. Even the cold rain couldn’t keep people away. After the party broke up this photo was taken from the Lakewood Observer offices. The lights were donated by LakewoodAlive.



The finished art sits in front of the tree.



Santa stopped by to talk with the kids.



Ice carving was part of the entertainment at Sinagra Park on Saturday.



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Minding The Issues

Conservatism: When Can Liberals Work With It?

Gordon Brumm

Conservatives and liberals: Like cats and dogs? Or like yin and yang? As with so many questions in this world, the answer is "It depends." It depends on what we mean by conservatism.

After living through the catastrophe that is the Bush administration, liberals and conservatives of good will and sober intellect have every reason to appreciate what the other offers by contrast. They face both the opportunity and the desirability of finding common ground and cooperating with one another.

Whether cooperation is possible depends not only on the situation but also on the form of conservatism we are talking about. In the last issue I listed various forms of conservatism, defined by their basic goals or principles. These were:

ORGANIC (individuals are merely part of the societal whole).

TRADITIONALIST (tradition must be respected and followed).

PERSONAL-DIGNITY (individual dignity lies in being independent).

RELIGIOUS-MANDATE (the dominant religion should be incorporated into the laws).

LIBERTARIAN (safeguarding lives and property is the only proper function of government).

PESSIMISTIC-AUTHORITARIAN (strong authority must be maintained because human nature is malign).

MANICHEAN (the world is divided into the good and the evil camp).

PRAGMATIC (conservative policies are the most effective way to achieve goals shared by all or most).

As I tried to make clear, this list is not the final answer, but only a starting point. Still, it is sufficient background for asking what forms of conservatism are compatible with liberalism, and under what circumstances?

THE GREAT DIVIDE

The first step is to recognize a distinction at the deepest level. It concerns the bedrock conception of what government is for.

On one view, government is for determining public policy and then imposing it on the members of society. On the other view, government is for imposing public policy that has been determined prior to, and outside of, government.

Before looking at these two views, I must admit to a problem with terminology:

I would like to call the first view "liberalism-in-the-broadest-sense." But that term invites confusion with the political position we call liberalism. So for want of a better term, I will call the first view the "Open" view of government.

The second view I am inclined to call "Theocratic," but that would be inaccurate because the view is not necessarily based on religious dogma. So – again for want of a better term – I will call it the "Closed" view.

OPEN VIEW: The Open View begins with consideration of what an individual is, basically and apart from any

involvement with government (corresponding to what some authors have termed "state of nature.") It recognizes the individual as a conscious, choosing being, with needs and interests and possibilities for fulfillment that vary according to the individual and his or her circumstances. The purpose of government is to complete and perfect the lives of all individuals – to satisfy their needs and interests and to aid in the fulfillment of their lives in ways that cannot be done adequately by solitary individuals or voluntary associations.

Thus government acts as an agent for all citizens in formulating public policy and undertaking projects -- providing police, roads, and schools; collecting taxes; regulating industry; etc. Since these interests are potentially in conflict, the government acts to reconcile them in accordance with a certain principle.

And in recognition of the fact that each individual's fulfillment is peculiar to that individual, government on this view does not interfere with the actions of an individual unless those actions impinge, directly or indirectly, on the lives of others.

What is the principle on which the government reconciles individuals' interests? It may vary. The aristocratic principle prescribes that government policy favor those who are (allegedly) the best or the most blessed by God. The democratic principle, by contrast, prescribes that every person be accorded equal treatment.

Thus, on the Open view, public policy is created *within* the operations of government, with government acting as agent for the citizens in reconciling and furthering their interests.

The position we know as liberalism is firmly and clearly within this Open view of government. I think of liberalism as the Open view, following the democratic principle and augmented by the assumption that government can and should act in positive ways to help all citizens, giving the most to those who need the most.

(But note that liberalism is not the only political viewpoint within the Open view of government. That's why liberalism can work with other viewpoints, as will appear.)

CLOSED VIEW: On this view, the basic principles for society to follow are ready-made, at least for the most part, prior to and apart from the operations of government. This view does not see persons as choosing beings, but rather as beings cast in a certain mold with their basic goals set for them. Government exists to guarantee that individuals conform to this mold by imposing the proper principles of behavior on the citizenry.

The most obvious examples are those in which government imposes a certain religion – the Christian religion, or Islam, or Judaism or Hinduism – which is why I am tempted to call the

view "Theocratic." (But the set of principles to be imposed need not have a religious foundation.)

Thus, by contrast with the Open View, public policy is created outside of, and prior to, the operations of government; it is not an agent of the citizens but more like their overseer, enforcing values and principles it had no part in formulating.

Furthermore, the Closed View has no place for an individual sphere of privacy immune from government interference. As we saw, the Open View sees this private sphere as essential for each individual's full development. But on the Closed View, the government knows specifically, from the beginning, how each life should be lived; therefore there is neither need nor justification for allowing free choice in matters that have no effect on others. Everything is potentially subject to government regulation.

The Open View and the Closed View are antithetical. If we are consistent, we must choose one or the other. (To be sure, a measure expressing one view can be inserted into public policy fundamentally based on the other – a foreign substance inserted into the body politic, as in the case of Ohio's anti-gay marriage amendment. But legally sanctioned or not, such a measure is still contrary to the basic purposes of the government.)

Either view is possible. But clearly, our society has chosen the Open View. And we can be glad of that, for the Open View best recognizes and best expresses our human being.

DOING BUSINESS

With whom, then, can liberals do business? Which forms of conservatism are compatible with liberalism? Which share the same goals or assumptions, roughly speaking, and allow for the possibility of agreement on specific policies?

We'll find that compatibility varies sharply from one form of conservatism to another. I'll first consider forms that are definitely incompatible, then forms that are definitely compatible, and finally forms that are in the middle.

Incompatible:

RELIGIOUS-MANDATE FORM: In our time this is commonly known as fundamentalism or social/religious conservatism.

Liberalism clearly and definitely cannot work with this form of conservatism. Liberals (embedded in the Open View) and fundamentalists (embedded in the Closed View) are simply playing different games with different aims. If a given measure happens to satisfy both positions, that is purely accidental.

If we are to be true to the spirit of our government – and indeed, true to what we are as human beings – we must repulse the fundamentalist position, and those who adhere to it must be persuaded that their purposes are basi-

cally and irreconcilably at odds with the purposes of government embodied in our Constitution and the workings of our society.

LIBERTARIAN FORM: To a lesser degree, this form of conservatism is also ruled out. Libertarianism as applied to private life is clearly in accord with liberalism, but as applied to economic affairs – distribution of resources, taxation, regulation, welfare measures etc. – it is antithetical. Liberalism could never be true to itself if it had to abide by Libertarian strictures.

ORGANICIST FORM: Since liberalism is concerned with the distinct value and welfare of each individual, it is basically at odds with the organicist form of conservatism.

To be sure, the welfare of all individuals might require that we preserve the integrity of society – as in the case of illegal immigrants, mentioned in the last column – but liberals would do this for the good of individuals, not for society considered as one overall entity.

Definitely compatible:

Jumping to the other end of the spectrum, those forms of conservatism that liberalism can clearly work with, we find:

PRAGMATIC CONSERVATISM: This is the form most obviously compatible with liberalism, for pragmatic conservatives share the Open View of government and roughly speaking subscribe to the same goals or basic principles. Their disagreements concern the means for achieving those goals as well as some of the assumptions that guide their efforts. In debating these disagreements, liberals and conservatives can learn from one another if they do away with ideological clashes and entrenched positions in favor of openly and honestly investigating the issues. They will hopefully arrive at one of three possible outcomes:

a) The two camps reason to the same conclusion based on common principles.

b) They come to a common conclusion based on the resolution of factual issues. (With science, not religion or partisan dogma, being the arbiter of such issues.)

c) They arrive at a principled compromise.

As a quick example, consider religious celebrations and displays, e.g. the well-publicized display of the crèche in the public square. Agreement might be served by distinguishing between the use of such displays as a means of celebration (which conservatives champion) and as a means of imposition (which liberals object to).

PERSONAL-DIGNITY: This form of conservatism is also compatible with liberalism, though probably to a lesser degree than in the case of pragmatic conservatism. For individual fulfillment – the liberal goal -- might be best achieved by insuring that individuals stand on their own, as the personal-dignity form of conservatism maintains.

continued on page 15...

Lakewood Perspective

The Source of the Problem: the Problem of Sources

by Bret Callentine

I like to read. And, when I say, “I like to read,” I mean that I like to read to the extent that I prefer taking the Red Line Rapid to work for no other reason than that it gives me more time to delve into a good book. And, while I do read for entertainment, lately I prefer to read for the sake of knowledge and information.

As a result of having recently worked my way through a number of politically charged publications, I’m finding myself more and more consumed by the problem of differentiating supportable facts from fanatical opinions. With each author touting their own “truth,” where should I draw the line between qualified commentary and overly biased opinion? Do I trust Ann Coulter or Al Franken? Michael Moore or Bill O’Reilly?

Scanning the shelves at the bookstore, I’m haunted by an impish creature floating over each shoulder, except, instead of the miniature devil and angel seen in movies and on TV, my version is composed of a junior-sized Sean Hannity on one side and an Alan Colmes on the other: “Don’t buy THAT book! It’s just another Bush-bashing diatribe!” or “I wouldn’t read THAT if I were you. It has a foreword written by Rush Limbaugh.”

Given the choices at hand, I find it no surprise that a large portion of adults prefer the news reported by Comedy Central’s Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert.

Consequently, I began to search for some sort of standard by which to base my purchasing decisions. While processing several internal arguments, I thought back to my high school English class: how did Mr. Folkerth know if I had written a good paper? It occurred to me then that Folkerth had always checked my sources.

Like showing your work in math class, the easiest way to cut to the crux of an argument is to reveal the source of the information or opinion. With this as my initial premise, I decided to conduct an impromptu study of which authors presented more bang for my buck. Heading to the bookstore, I took a list of some of the more recent and popular liberal and conservative books to chart their use of reputable sources.

However, the first few texts led me to conclude that any trend, while individually a curiosity, had absolutely no bearing on ascertaining fact from fiction.

Is the conservative-leaning “Unhinged,” by Michelle Malkin, (containing roughly one page of notes for every four pages of text) more credible than “State of Denial,” by Bob Woodward (with a scarce one page of notes for every 17 pages of text)? And, if so, what do you do with books such as “The One Percent Doctrine” (Ron Suskind) or “Culture Warrior” (Bill O’Reilly), neither of which have any endnotes at all?

With so many differing opinions floating around in publications, just having a bibliography is essentially meaningless. Whatever your opinion, it won’t take you more than a few seconds with any internet search engine to find someone, somewhere that has put your argument in print.

With each author touting their own “truth,” where should I draw the line between qualified commentary and overly biased opinion?

While I won’t go so far as to call out any individual authors, here are the two major stumbling blocks I run into when trying to discern credible information from credited sources...

A) From where did the information come and in what context? Quoting from the New York Times means nothing on its own. Something said in a Times editorial has a different connotation from something appearing on the front page.

B)The age-old adage is “Figures Lie and Liars Figure”. How many times have you seen the phrase “studies show” or heard a person make the claim “research indicates”? Make sure you know who did the research and how it was done before lending any credibility to the prescribed results. How many of

you were swayed after hearing “Industry Leaders” state “I believe Nicotine is not addictive”?

The result is that it is next to impossible for the casual reader to check the background for each of these books, and thus, the choice usually is decided by personal preference. Like most elections, who you trust is major factor.

Unless you are willing to stretch yourself, reading the opinions of both writers you support and writers you

oppose, you’ll often miss vital points of the issue. And an uninformed opinion is never strong.

With all of this in mind, I came to two conclusions:

1)I will try to read as many differing opinions on each topic. I have already read ‘the Art of War’ by Sun Tzu and believe firmly in the strategy of knowing your enemy.

2)If possible, I will try to cut out the middleman. Why look at pictures of a painting, when you can look at the painting itself. Therefore, instead of reading authors offering opinion about an academic publication, I will seek out the academic publication and first try to formulate my own opinion.

If you’re wondering where this left me in my literary quest, I have two books in my current reading queue: “Darwin’s Black Box” by Michael J. Behe and “Truth and Tolerance” by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (who currently goes by the name Pope Benedict XVI).

The Dying Dream?

by Brett Callentine

As a general rule, I am of the belief that sequels are a bad idea (with Star Wars being the exception that proves the rule). However, having just submitted my article that points to the problems of quoting sources, I happened across several different news commentaries that I felt called for a quick case study.

Among other things, these stories quoted an independent report as the basis from which they made the claim that the American Dream was dead.

Now, I know I don’t speak for everyone, but even though I’ve yet to cash in on that elusive winning lottery ticket, and despite the fact that my son shouldn’t be expecting a PS3 under the Christmas tree, I’m skeptical of how they’re ready to declare “Dead” something as sacred to the American people as baseball and apple pie.

Sure, health care costs are skyrocketing and the blue book value of my car doubles with a full tank of gas. But does that mean the dream is dead? Or is it just dying? Should we try a little harder, or not bother trying at all?

Not wanting to give up hope quite yet, I decided to investigate. Hopping online, I traced the source back to a study done in August 2006 by Lake Research Partners. Following several links, I was directed to the website changetowin.org where I was able to look into the specific methods and resulting data of the questionnaire. And that’s when the whole story started to fall apart.

First and foremost, Change to Win’s website summarizes the results with the headline “American Dream Still Alive but Out of Reach for Most Working Americans”. So right off the bat, I want to know how you get from “out of reach” to “dead”? Furthermore, I was less than shocked to find

that Change to Win, the group that commissioned the survey, is nothing more than a collaboration of Unions whose mission statement is to “secure the American Dream for all working people.” So you be the judge of how impartial the researchers were. Like asking an umbrella salesman for a weather forecast, it’s tough to pitch a union if the American people are already living the dream.

With my skepticism quickly turning to contempt, I took a look at the survey itself. Not surprisingly, I found exactly what I expected. The poll “surveyed a random national sample of 800 non-supervisory American working adults”. As scientific as that may sound, literally translated it means to be counted you COULD NOT be: a full time student, retired, a stay-at-home parent, a part-time employee, an owner, executive, manager, independent professional or any salaried employee. And just for good measure, the survey also tossed out anyone who makes more than \$100,000 a year. This is like doing a study on the crime rate and only polling people found bloody, beaten and broke and lying in an ally behind a crack house.

However, as if this were not enough, I was particularly shocked when I came across the results of question #20. When specifically asked about the American Dream in respect to their family, 51% of the already hand-picked respondents said that it “is attainable”. Further, 14% said that they had “already obtained it”. In fact, only 9% suggested that they “will not be able to obtain it”, which came in last, with “may not be able to obtain it” getting 15% and “not sure” getting 12%.

Now, I may not be a math major, but even if you count the “unsure” votes, I don’t see how 36% equals “Most Americans”. It just doesn’t add up.

Simply put, a biased organization ordered a biased study of a specifically targeted portion of the population and despite results to the contrary, publicly announced the outcome they desperately wanted. Kind of reminds me of the Democrats after the 2000 election.

The American Dream is not dead. If it were, we wouldn’t still have hundreds of thousands of immigrants (both legal and illegal) pouring into the country. The American Dream isn’t about having wealth, it’s about having the opportunity to better your situation, a goal first established in the Declaration of Independence with mention of the inalienable right to “the pursuit of happiness”.

That said, I’m not writing this column to discuss the state of the American Dream or even unions. I’m just sick and tired of the mindless repetition of baseless allegations that propagate most political debates. Might doesn’t make right, and volume doesn’t equate to truth. And no matter how much you want something to be fact, reality remains unchanged.

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Pulse Of The City

Robert Lockwood Jr.: Bluesman, Mentor, Friend

Of all the famous and not-so-famous musicians that I've met or played with, Robert Lockwood Jr. has to be among the most remarkable people in the business.

I came to know Robert all too briefly, and all too late. I wish that I'd had twenty years to learn just a small part of his knowledge and practical wisdom in life. I suppose you could say that I became acquainted with him by being a cut-up.

In addition to the guitar, drums, banjo, and whatever else I play, perhaps the most unusual instrument that I own is the musical saw. My cousin, the late Dr. Kelse Hoffman, was one of the world's great proponents of the musical saw, and he taught me how to play it at an early age.

The saw is one of those instruments that comes right out of the soul of America. Originally played (I believe) in slave cabins and farms, the saw graduated to live Vaudeville theater, and was played and studied for its acoustic properties by no less a giant than Lloyd Loar (of Gibson guitar fame) who kept one in his instrument case. These days, a few saws continue to be made especially for musical work, but they can be difficult to find.

One day many years ago at a Berea restaurant, Robert Lockwood Jr. was playing with his band, and I offered to sit in with my musical saw. A big smile came over Robert's face, as he remembered saw-playing from the old days. After a few numbers, we sat down and talked about old styles of music that seemed to be fading away.

His wife at that time, Annie (now deceased), was also present. We had a great evening together. Robert and Annie both ended up signing a guitar for me that I treasure to this day.

Soon thereafter, the Cleveland City

Gary Rice



The Rice and Lockwood Families



Gary's Lockwood autographed guitar

Council was given an evening at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. I ended up spending the time there with Robert and Annie. Annie in particular was indignant that there was no mention of Robert anywhere. She related stories of fixing up her incredible fried chicken for a number of presently famous blues stars that Robert helped along the way, including the great B.B. King. Annie felt strongly that Robert's influence should

be better known and recognized.

Later, I connected with Bob Santelli, then part of Rock Hall management. Soon after I shared Annie's and Robert's concerns with Bob, the Rock Hall had a special Robert Lockwood night, as well as a display wall put up for Robert. It was my pleasure to be a small part of that evening's festivities, as you can see in the accompanying photo of my family and Robert's.

My dad, Robert Rice, also played trumpet with Robert one night at the old Brother's Lounge. It was not long after my father had colon surgery. I'll never forget that in the middle of a blues tune, Dad turned to me and asked me to hold his stomach in so his stitches would not rupture when he played those high notes! I don't recall whether I finished my saw solo or not that night, but Dad and Robert finished theirs! They had a great respect for each other, as you can see from the picture.

The stories about Robert Lockwood's connection to pioneer Blues legend Robert Johnson are well-known. Guitarists from all over the world revered Robert Lockwood Jr.'s unique style and inimitable presentation. Robert was, however, unafraid to change songs to his liking over time. I seem to recall a story of how Robert rather caustically responded to critical comments by saying that if people wanted to hear a song done a certain way, they should have stayed home and listened to the record!

Robert was able to achieve a good measure of recognition towards the end of his life that eluded him in earlier years. It is an honor to have known him and have played with him. I have played the Blues at many times and in many places, but never did I have a better time doing so than with Robert.

I can truthfully say that I learned my blues from the man, who learned them from the great Robert Johnson many years ago. I also made that man smile with that old saw of mine. Smiles don't come easy to bluesmen (or women).

I know. I'm a bluesman now, thanks in part to Robert Lockwood Jr. He was the best there was. Robert Lockwood Jr. passed away on November 21st.



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Lakewood Arts & Music

Regional Music Reviews

Bob Ignizio

Colorforms – ‘Astralstorm’ (self released)

Colorforms has dropped down to a duo for their latest album while third member Jack Smiley takes a hiatus from the group. But J. Kyle Moyer and Everyman deliver an release that's just as strong, if not stronger, than their previous self titled effort. This release sees the band taking a more upfront approach to their music. The music here is more driving than the ambient background textures of the previous release, recalling Tangerine Dream, Brian Eno, and some of Hawkwind's late seventies/early eighties instrumental pieces. It's still hardly what I'd call accessible - no vocals and no drums unfortunately means no interest from the vast majority of people - but it does move in that direction. If you're the kind of listener who believes there's more to music than having a good beat you can dance to or a catchy chorus to sing along with, 'Astralstorm' is a journey well worth taking. For more info, visit www.colorforms.net. There will be a CD release show for this album at The Literary Café in Tremont located at 1031 Literary Rd. on Friday December 15th. The band will be playing 3 sets from 10pm til 1am.

Dead City – 'The Dead Sessions featuring Cheetah Chrome' (Incas Records)

Alright, let's start by being clear about how much of Cleveland guitar legend Cheetah Chrome you're really getting on this album. Cheetah lend his axe to five of the 16 songs on here, all drawn from a 1992 session. The rest of the songs on this disc are culled from two other sessions, with the only constant tying all this music together being vocalist Joe Dias and his desire to make some seventies style American punk rock. Of course if you're a Cle punk completist you're going to want to have this album regardless, and the tracks featuring Cheetah won't disappoint. As for the rest of the material, I have to be honest and say most of it doesn't really grab me. It's not bad, it's just nothing special. It's not just Cheetah's presence on guitar that makes

the difference; he also co-wrote all the songs he appears on (except the Roky Erickson cover), and the guy knows how to write a catchy song just as well, if not better, than he knows how to lay down a tasty lead guitar part.

The Guns – ‘Attack’ (SFE Records)

The Guns were just one of the many Cleveland punk and hardcore bands that guitarist Scott Eakin played with in the eighties. He's also been a member of The Dark, Knifedance, False Hope, and Stepsister. This band's original incarnation got started in 1982 when Scott was 12 (!) years old. The band had a few songs show up on compilation albums, and also recorded a full length in 1984 which has never officially been released. What we have here are new recordings of Guns songs by Scott on guitar and vocals, Sean Saley (originally the band's bass player, but laying down the drum tracks here), and Karen Gortner on bass. I have to say I've never heard this band's older recordings, but I mean it as a compliment when I say the production on this CD sounds totally eighties. Fans of Agnostic Front, Cro-Mags, Black Flag, and other eighties hardcore bands should love this. There's no website, but you can contact the band the old fashioned way at: SFE Records; P.O. Box 609250; Cleveland, OH 44109. I also know that Lakewood's finest record store, My Mind's Eye on Madison, stocks this release.

Lords of the Highway DVD (Rock N Roll Purgatory)

Lords of the Highway have been a staple of the NE Ohio music scene since 1992. Over the years, they've released several albums, played countless shows up and down the east coast, and changed drummers nearly as often as Spinal Tap. Now they've finally released their first ever home video, this self titled DVD. The disc contains promotional clips for six Lords songs. 'Freaky Tiki' is the most ambitious of these clips, featuring burlesque troupe The Pussygoot Girls as a group of partiers who get stranded on "Headhunter Island" and have to be rescued by The Lords, who shoot laser beams from their instruments at hostile natives.

Also on the DVD are videos from Kill The Hippies, The Marauders, and Lakewood's own Uncle Scratch's Gospel Revival. But wait, there's still more! In order to pack this DVD as full as they could, the Lords have included trailers for various independent films featuring their music, and also a handful of short films made by friends of theirs. The shorts and trailers aren't all winners, but most of them are fun. About the only complaint I could make is I would have liked at least a little bit of live concert footage, say 20 minutes worth or so. Still, this is well worth picking up.

Concert Calendar

The Hi Fi Concert Club

Thursday, December 14th it's The Hollywood Blondes with Giant Eagle and Nervous Reactions. Hollywood Blondes play classic pop punk in the vein of Screeching Weasel, The Queers, and The Riverdales. The band has just released its debut CD '15 Minutes of Fame'. Show starts at 9pm and admission is \$5 for 21 and over, \$8 for 18-20. 18 and over only.

December 21st it's Margin of Error with Process 42 and Bonebasket. Margin of Error are a Cleveland based band mixing electronica with metal. Think VNV Nation crossed with Rammstein. Show starts at 9pm and admission is \$5 for 21 and over, \$8 for 18-20. 18 and over only.

The Winchester Tavern

Wednesday, December 13th it's Pat Travers. Pat will be doing a special acoustic show. Pat is best know for his rockers like "Boom Boom, Out Go the Lights", but he'll be showing his bluesier side this evening. Show starts at 9pm and admission is \$12 in advance, \$15 day of show. All ages.

Friday, December 15th it's The JiMiller Band. This will be a CD release party for the band featuring ex-Oroboros guitarist/vocalist Jim Miller. The CD is half studio material, half live songs recorded at a previous Winchester gig. If you like jam rock, it doesn't get much better. Show starts at 9pm and admission is only \$7. All ages.

The Sachsenheim (Located at 7001 Denison in Cleveland, OH)

Saturday December 23rd it is Susan Weber & Monet's Orbit with Ray McNiece and Morticia's Chair. Prizewinning Cleveland songwriter Susan Weber and her band, Monet's Orbit, will headline a pre-holiday rockout at Cleveland's historic Sachsenheim. The concert begins at 9 p.m. with Weber preceded by Cleveland jazz poet Ray McNiece's Tongue in Groove and alternative rockers Morticia's Chair. Presented by Indigo Productions, admission is \$8 at the door for this 18 and over show.

Literary Cafe (Located at 1031 Literary Rd. in Tremont, OH)

Friday December 15th it's Colorforms. This will be the CD release show for the experimental band's second album, 'Astral Storm'. Colorforms will be playing 3 sets of music throughout the night, starting at 10pm.

Minding The Issues
continued from page 12...

Equality of opportunity could form the common ground between liberalism and personal-dignity conservatism. Equal opportunity means equality of the means by which individuals can act to increase their welfare; liberals might well conclude that government should provide no more. And equal opportunity is also in accord with the personal-dignity viewpoint, because availability of an opportunity does not lessen a person's independence or integrity.

Possibles:

These are forms of conservatism that might be compatible with liberalism, depending on the situation, for the same reasons that apply in the case of pragmatic conservatism.

TRADITIONALIST: In some cases, the goals of liberalism might best be achieved by taking account of the traditions of the society.

PESSIMISTIC-AUTHORITARIAN: Similarly, accomplishing good for all citizens might require recognizing the dark side of human being and the need for strong authority.

Doubtful:

I would not entirely rule out the remaining form of conservatism – the Manichean -- but I am dubious about

it. Manicheanism – the view that the world is divided inescapably between the good and the evil (which must be overcome by force of will) applies mainly to foreign policy. It leads all too easily to Conservatism of the Blindfolded Sledgehammer, by which I mean the attitude of striking out at one's supposed enemy with all force possible and doing so in an unrestrained fashion, turning to the most obvious and immediate target without reflection as to whether hitting that target will have good results or not. (Sound familiar?)

I hope you will see that the stupidity and moral crudeness of this attitude makes it incompatible with liberalism. Nevertheless, the Manichean view in general does not propose goals that are different from liberalism; it only claims to describe the arena in which these goals must be sought. And recognizing evils for what they are might be a necessary step in attaining liberalism's goals. (For example, consider the rise of Hitler; or the failure of the democracies to aid the Republican government against Franco in the Spanish Civil War.)

So -- Liberals and pragmatic conservatives (and kindred spirits): touch gloves and come out debating!

The Winchester
Tavern & Music Hall

12/15
JiMiller Band
CD Release Party

12/16
Mystery Train
featuring Jim McCarty of Cactus

12/22
*Jeff Powers
CD Release Party

12/27
*Paul Green's
"School of Rock" Allstars

* shows feature Angelo's Buffet

216-226-5681
12112 Madison Ave., Lakewood
www.thewinchester.net

The logo for Rozi's Wine House is located in the top left corner. It features a stylized wine glass icon with a red-to-white gradient, filled with red. To the right of the glass, the word 'Rozi's' is written in a large, elegant, dark blue script font. Below 'Rozi's', the words 'WINE HOUSE' are written in a smaller, dark blue, all-caps sans-serif font.

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