



# THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 3, Issue 1, January 9, 2007

## Lakewood 2007 Elections Kick Off Early:

### City Councilman Edward FitzGerald Announces Race for Mayor

by Tom Powell-Bullock

***“Lakewood Can’t Afford Status Quo, Needs Stronger Leadership” Says Challenger; Calls for In-Depth Debates on Key Issues***

Lakewood’s 2007 municipal elections got off to an early start with a December announcement by Lakewood City Councilman Edward FitzGerald (At-Large) that he is running for mayor to provide dynamic leadership and overcome difficult financial and public safety problems confronting the city. FitzGerald is challenging incumbent Mayor Tom George, elected to city hall in 2003.

“Lakewood is at a crossroads, and we are in desperate need of mayor who can provide dynamic, strong leadership,” said FitzGerald. He characterized the current mayor as “underperforming” and “sleepwalking through our greatest challenges of the last 50 years” and said credit for recent Lakewood construction belongs not to city hall but to Lakewood’s schools, library, YMCA and other institutions.



Councilman Edward FitzGerald with his family

“Lakewood deserves increased prosperity and safety; instead we’re at risk of increased taxes and crime. We need better leadership,” said FitzGerald. “Are our next four years going to be about status quo or innovation? Tough problems don’t solve themselves--you have to find innovative solutions, and the current Mayor is not doing so.”

FitzGerald said he will run a grassroots campaign focusing on four key issues: improving the city budget while avoiding unnecessary taxes, keeping Lakewood attractive by improving housing quality, holding the line on crime and improving public safety, and spurring economic development. FitzGerald said specific proposals will

come in the months ahead, such as a plan to stabilize city finances, which he termed “precarious.”

FitzGerald invited Mayor George on the Observer’s website to join him for an in-depth public debate series focusing on these issues. He said the campaign should be substantive, not a personality contest.

“Let’s not debate in sound bites. Debates restricted to one minute answers and thirty second responses become exercises in saying nothing. Instead let’s give Lakewood voters a substantive discussion, with a full debate focusing in-depth for each of the key issues facing the city,” said FitzGerald.

FitzGerald said he is qualified to make a “strong and dynamic mayor” because he has represented the entire city of Lakewood on city council since 1999 and has hands-on experience in law enforcement, having previously worked both as a Cuyahoga County Prosecutor and Special Agent with the FBI. FitzGerald said his work with law enforcement included prosecuting “everything from petty theft to homicide” and investigating “everything from drug dealing to organized crime.” He says his work with a local police task force gave him real experience with day-to-day police functions.

FitzGerald, a third generation Lakewood resident, received his education at Ohio State University and the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He and his wife Shannon have four children, ages 13, 10, 8 and 6.

## The First Tier Suburbs Council Of The National League Of Cities

### Name Mayor George Vice-Chair

Mayor Thomas J. George has been appointed Vice-Chair of the National League of Cities First Tier Suburbs Council for 2007. The First Tier Suburbs Council was established in 2002 to address the unique set of challenges faced by municipalities located outside of central cities and inside the ring of developing suburbs and rural areas. The purpose of the Council is to allow local elected officials from these cities to network with each other and discuss common needs, raise the visibility of first tier suburbs, articulate their unique challenges and opportunities, and encourage NLC to be a vehicle to advance these issues.

Many first tier suburbs benefit from similar opportunities, such as proximity to job centers and established neighborhoods. They also confront common concerns, such as those identified by the Council, including regional cooperation, housing and transportation needs, changing demographics, education, and revitalization. These issues are the focus of the Council’s agenda.

The National League of Cities is the oldest and largest national organization representing municipal governments throughout the United States. Its mission is to strengthen and

promote cities as centers of opportunity, leadership, and governance. Working in partnership with the 49 state municipal leagues, the National League of Cities serves as a resource to and an advocate for the more than 18,000 cities, villages, and towns it represents. More than 1,600 municipalities are member of the NLC and

actively participate as leaders and voting members in the organization.

“I am pleased to serve on this very important Council of the National League of Cities,” stated Mayor George. “I look forward to working with the other members of this council to address the unique issues facing first tier suburbs.”

### Mayor George Rolls Out Some Early Important Endorsements

When asked to comment on the recent announcement that Ed Fitzgerald was running, “To be honest I am too busy, and it is too early to even start talking about a November election.” When pushed he said, “I would be willing to share some early endorsements that have come in since the announcement was made.”

#### Endorsements For Tom George Running For Re-Election Cuyahoga County Commissioner Peter Lawson Jones

“As a county official, it has been my pleasure to work with Tom. Although he passionately advocates for the City of Lakewood and its residents, he understands that for his community to flourish, the entire region must prosper. Tom has earned reelection.”

#### County Democratic Chairman Jimmy Dimora

“Mayor Tom George is exceptionally hard working and effective” said the leader of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party who also serves as a County Commissioner.

#### Cuyahoga County Commissioner Tim Hagan

Commissioner Hagan was the Democratic nominee for Governor of Ohio in 2002 and has been a well respected and long time County Commissioner. He cited, among other reasons, Mayor Tom George’s ability to work well with the County Commissioners and with other officials as important assets to Lakewood.

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# 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](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com)

## Beauty Store Business Magazine Selects Lakewood Resident To Their Editorial Advisory Board

Bonnie Fencil owner of the Carabel Beauty Salon & Store has been included in the eight member Editorial Board of Beauty Store Business Magazine. “My education at a Lakewood beauty school, working at various salons and then becoming a salon owner laid the foundation for this new opportunity.” Beauty Store Business Magazine has over 16,000

subscribers nationwide. The periodical carries articles about beauty stores, distributors, and product companies. “I think the location of my store on the Northcoast, the diversity of Lakewood’s people, our weather, and economic range of the clients gives me a background that will allow meaningful input to the editor of the magazine.”

## Health & Fitness Seminar To Raise Funds For American Cancer Society

On January 16, 2007, at the Winking Lizard in Lakewood, four leading Lakewood area health, fitness and personal care professionals will deliver the seminar, ‘How to Make 2007 Your Best Year Ever,’ as a community awareness and fundraising event for the American Cancer Society.

“The purpose of this event is to kick-off 2007 by teaching Lakewood area residents a proven strategy for achieving their New Year’s Resolutions of health and fitness and raising money for a great charity for which I have a personal affinity,” explains

Fitness Edge owner Marty Velasco, a certified sports performance coach and fitness professional with nine years experience in the Greater Cleveland area.

The seminar and fundraising event for the American Cancer Society will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs banquet room. All Lakewood area residents over 15 years of age are invited. There cost to attend is a \$10 donation to the American Cancer Society at the door. Additional information about the event is available at [www.LakewoodChallenge2007.com](http://www.LakewoodChallenge2007.com).

## Lakewood High School Chamber Choir to Sing at Governor’s Inauguration

The Lakewood High School Chamber Choir and the men’s quartet, Vive L’Four, under the direction of Dr. Lisa Hanson will perform in the rotunda of the State Capitol Building for the swearing-in ceremony for Governor-Elect Ted Strickland on Saturday, January 13, 2007.

The choir’s director, Dr. Hanson, was notified in early December that the Lakewood group was one of 4 or 5 throughout the state to perform during the receiving line in the rotunda right before the ceremony on the Capitol steps.

As groups of about 200 dignitaries are brought into the receiving line, a different group will perform during the traditional handshakes and well wishes. One of the groups slated to perform was requested by the governor to be from his own hometown of Portsmouth, but the others were chosen on

their merit and level of excellence. “The students are so excited, not only to be able to sing for the governor, but to be a part of the democratic process on the state level,” said director Lisa Hanson. The Chamber Choir and quartet, Vive L’Four, will have about 15-20 minutes to perform several selections for the governor-elect and those greeting him.

This is just one of the special opportunities the Lakewood Choir has been extended this year. In May, the group will travel to New York City to sing on the stage of Carnegie Hall. Both students and teacher are eager to perform at both occasions. “I’m thrilled to be able to sing for the new governor’s inauguration,” said Marisa Perez, a member of the group. “It’s an honor to be able to participate in such prestigious ceremony!”

## Benefit Performance for LHS Choir Trip to Carnegie Hall

The Tower City Barbershop Chorus, with featured guests, 4-Way Stop, The Footnotes, and Lakewood High’s own Vive L’Four will perform an exciting benefit concert to support Lakewood High School Symphonic Mixed Choir and their upcoming trip to New York City.

The Lakewood High School Choir, under the direction of Dr. Lisa Hanson, will sing several selections for the concert as well. “We are so lucky the Tower City Barbershop Chorus has taken us under their wing, in this way,” said Dr. Hanson. “They are really interested in helping these young singers attain their goal of performing in New York City, and immediately volunteered to sponsor a concert for our benefit. Not only should is be a wonderful night of great music from all the groups singing, I

appreciate the work and effort they put in to ask the best groups in the area to perform so the audience is assured a terrific concert. I hope we have a tremendous turn-out!”

The performance is at 7:30 p.m. on January 27 at Lakewood Civic Auditorium. Admission is a \$10 donation.



### Become an Observer!

The Lakewood Observer is looking for people, ages 15–100, to get involved in the paper and the city. We are looking for volunteer writers, photographers, designers and illustrators to help with the production of the paper.

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Convenient Store	City Hall Lobby	Subway	Candy Boutique	Winterhurst
Goddess Blessed	Aristocrat	Domino's Pizza	Johny Malloy's/	



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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

# Still The Best Soapbox in Town

Just as the moon presents many faces to earth, city council can have different appearances meeting to meeting. Such was the case with the meetings at the end and the beginning of the year.

The December 18,2006 meeting was one that a resident/activist could appreciate and the January 2, 2007 was for government technicians.

Lakewood Council's longstanding tradition of maintaining an open public forum at its meetings came into play for the first meeting. Ward one member Kevin Butler had held a neighborhood meeting at the Clifton Club for Lake Avenue residents concerned about the poor condition of Lake Road between Webb and the Lakewood border. It is not scheduled for repaving for almost ten years based on the engineering criteria used to determine repaving priorities.

Resident Bill Todia wanted council to hear his reasoning for advancing Lake Road on the schedule for repaving. He stated that the roadway had last been repaved 47 years ago. Todia maintained that the Clifton Park portion of Lake received a large number of visitors because of its scenic value. In addition, he pointed out, Lake Road was the only street in Clifton Park that has not been repaved. Finally, he indicated that the

road condition was downright dangerous for bike riders which makes its inclusion in the bike path problematic. It is also no longer included in the route for marathons and local running events because its surface is considered hazardous.

Janet Felman of Clifton Boulevard wanted her say, too. The City Planning Commission delivered its report to council on the design of the Clifton Boulevard repaving. Parts of the changes include a median with planters in some portions of the street. Felman said, "It looks fine now except for the potholes, without a median." She thinks the road is very efficient and worries about emergency vehicles trying to negotiate a median as well as maintenance.

The last resident to bring an issue to councils' attention that evening was Marcia Graham, also of Clifton Boulevard. She is a proud resident of a very well maintained apartment building along with 14 other tenants. Apparently a new owner is devoting extra effort to the landscaping and there is a question of access to the trash cans by the refuse department. Graham thought it would be helpful to bring the issue which

she was discussing with Public Works Director Tony Beno to the attention of the full council.

Finally, at this meeting, Mayor Thomas George and council recognized the long and valuable service of Rita M. Lally who retired from the Community Development Department. Director Thomas Jordan said, "She was the institutional memory of the department. She computerized it and brought it into the 21st century.

The Mayor said, "We're going to miss Rita. She developed a prototype with this department.

Lally said, "I enjoyed it. I felt I made a contribution and have always felt that there has been good leadership in the city."

While that end of the year council meeting was the quintessential demonstration of government interaction with citizens, the first of the year meeting was textbook legislative efficiency.

Council president Robert Seelie called the meeting to order at 7:33. The beginning of the year brings with it a flurry of council and mayoral appointments to the various boards and

commissions which make Lakewood government work.

Council appointments included the following: Nathan Kelly and Thomas Kilbane to the Lakewood Hospital Association Board; Kevin Spellacy to the Civil Service Commission; Ruth Ann Gillett to the Planning Commission; James Dolce and Rich Sichra to the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board.

Mayoral appointments included Moira Dugan and Holly Whisman to the Community Relations Advisory Commission, Curt Brosky to the Lakewood Hospital Board, and Thomas Monahan to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

The agenda then continued with mostly second readings of ordinances which were carried over from last year.

In new business Human Resources Director Terry Novak sent to council an agreement between the city and Lakewood's firefighters. The committee of the whole will meet to review the details of this bargaining agreement.

Approaching the 8 o'clock mark, Seelie asked if there was any other business. The Mayor commented that this short meeting will save a few hundred dollars in "comp" time. Taking his cue, Seelie adjourned the meeting at 8:02.

## Why Don't They?

The Lakewood Observer invites our readers to send in suggestions for city government and civic organizations. All suggestions should be submitted through the Member Center at [www.lakewoodobserver.com](http://www.lakewoodobserver.com) – a one time registration is required. We intend to include your ideas as a regular feature in each edition. Selections will be made by the Editor and Publisher and we reserve the right to use submissions in part as space permits. Please let us hear from you.

## Let's Capitalize on the Dog Park

A Suggestion from Gordon Brumm

Lakewood's dog park is a popular success. Scores of dog owners bring their dogs to the park for a romp and some socialization. And its clientele is not confined to Lakewood. It draws people and pets from communities as far as Avon Lake and Strongsville.

The city of Lakewood has made a financial investment in the park. Why not get the full benefit from the investment by making it an attraction for Lakewood itself? The dog park is a destination; let's use it to make Lakewood a destination as well.

One way to do this - not necessarily the only way or the most creative way - would be to put a small billboard advertising Lakewood business

establishments. If there were more candidates than slots, occupants could be selected by lot. And the city would probably have to charge a nominal fee for space on the billboard, to make sure that candidates were serious.

And while we're on the subject of the dog park, let's not forget that it's an advertisement for Lakewood itself, showing Lakewood as a community that provides its citizens the opportunities to develop and enjoy their lives to the fullest. Why not spread the word to everyone in the area? The most obvious means being media advertising; and include similar attractions, such as Winterhurst, the Beck Center, Kid's Cove, and the Arts Fest. We have an attractive package. Let's sell it.

## Lakewood Historical Society Has Great Volunteers

by Mazie Adams, Executive Director of the Lakewood Historical Society

Governed by a board of volunteer trustees, The Lakewood Historical Society is a private, non-profit organization with a small annual budget. We are charged with collecting, preserving and sharing the history of our community. We preserve a wide variety of artifacts in the Oldest Stone House museum, including an extensive photo-file collection, archives, research library, Lakewood memorabilia and decorative arts. The Society shares the history of Lakewood with the community through guided tours, school programs, special events, slide shows, newsletter articles and lectures.

None of this could be done without the hard work and support of our

volunteers who help in many different ways. The Society had two fundraisers and an open house for Light Up Lakewood and, during that time, our volunteers served as wreath makers, museum decorators, cookie bakers, tour guides, sales people, merchandise displayers, transporters, bow tiers, order takers, set-up and tear-down crews, helpful and happy greeters, sweepers and cleaners, candle lighters, museum collection workers, security detail, heavy box lifters, cash box guarders, and tea party givers. And many of them wore more than one hat at more than one event.

The Society remains a vibrant, active and fun organization through the efforts of our wonderful volunteers who find working to maintain Lakewood's connection to the past rewarding and the camaraderie stimulating.



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# Lakewood Observer

## Hogsback Lane Repair Finally Under Consideration

by Gordon Brumm

Hogsback Lane, as many Lakewoodites are aware, is a roadway that runs into Rocky River Valley from Rocky River Drive, just south of the Lakewood-Cleveland border. It is one of the few entryways to the Metroparks convenient to Lakewood.

On your right, as you enter Hogsback, is a cliff, dropping down to the valley. Automobiles are protected from going over the cliff by a guardrail. But there is a gap in this protection for a length of approximately 10 to 12 feet at a point about 150 feet from the entrance. The guardrail is broken there, as the first photograph shows.

Either the guardrail was not installed adequately, or it was damaged in an accident, or it has been lowered by erosion. In any case, a car skidding over the side of the road at that point will almost surely tumble down the cliff.

This break has been there for at least six years. I can attest to that because I have a letter written in 2000 to the County Engineer (misdirected, as it turns out, since the County does not have jurisdiction), calling his attention to the break, and I have noticed the break every time I have

driven down Hogsback Lane since that time.

That portion of Hogsback Lane where the break is located is under the jurisdiction of Cleveland, not the Metroparks as the rest of the roadway is. According to Metroparks executive Richard Kerber, the reason is that the land at the junction of Hogsback and Rocky River Drive – at the top of the cliff and on the left of Hogsback as you enter – was incorporated into Cleveland as a subdivision. The subdivision includes two houses that front on Hogsback, which means that Hogsback is the only avenue that can service those two houses. Therefore Cleveland took jurisdiction over that part of the road that runs from Rocky River Drive to the second driveway. It is within that portion of the road that the guardrail break exists.

Shortly after inquiries from the Observer, the Cleveland government began to assess the problem, and according to Maureen Draper, Chief of Communications for Cleveland, it will work to make the roadway secure. The second photograph shows the warnings put up as an interior measure.

Please be careful as you drive down Hogsback Lane.



Seasons come and go, but for at least six years the guardrail on Hogsback Lane has been broken for about 10 feet of its length...



However, after inquiries from the Observer, the City of Cleveland is beginning to do something about the problem, as shown in the second picture, taken about two weeks ago.

# First Federal of Lakewood

# \$500 Reward\*

**\*First Federal of Lakewood is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of person(s) responsible for damaging the First Federal of Lakewood office located at 14806 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood Ohio. This damage occurred on December 23rd and December 26th.**

**Anyone with information should contact Matt Biscotti at First Federal of Lakewood, 216-529-2662.**



# Lakewood Public Library

## Lakewood Public Library Events Calendar January 9th through January 22nd

### Tuesday, January 9

#### \* Come Out of Your Shell

Part 1 of Stephanie Harbin’s dynamic four-week course will get you moving, motivated and on the road to achieving your goals. Learn seven simple yet effective strategies to get cracking. If you’re stuck in a rut or tired of the routine, this course is for you. Space is limited. Please call (216) 226-8275, ext. 127 to register. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

### Saturday, January 13

#### \*Internet Basics

Get familiar with online basics and find out what the Internet is all about. For more information about our class schedule, visit <http://www.lkwdpl.org/classes/>. 3:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center

### Sunday, January 14

#### \*Sunday With The Friends - Fish & Wildlife Ecology:

Scenes from Within the Tombs of the Pharaohs Egyptologist Dr. Kenneth J. Stein shares the knowledge of the ancient Egyptians. 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

### Monday, January 15

#### \* Budgeting: Waking Up to Your Dreams

Help enrich your community by saving money and enhancing your financial security. After all, you’re one of Lakewood’s most valuable resources and the good folks at L.I.F.E. (Lakewood Initiative for Financial Education) want to help you prosper with this series of lectures, filled with good sound financial advice. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

### Tuesday, January 16

#### \* A Healthy Family During the Cold and Flu Season

Dr. Allison K. Norris, D.C., offers advice on holistic treatments you can use to shepherd your family illness-free through the harsh cold and flu season ahead. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

### Wednesday, January 17

#### \* Job Hunting on the Internet

This class offers a guide to utilizing career-related sites will show you how to find a job using the Internet. For more information about our class schedule, visit <http://www.lkwdpl.org/classes/>. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Technology Center

### Friday, January 19

**\*Films on Friday - Shi Di Chu Ma (Young Master)**, Directed by Jackie Chan (1980) Worth it for the Lion Dance alone, this film features young Jackie Chan at his funniest and fighting best. This film is rated PG-13. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

### Saturday, January 20

#### \*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/>. 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** - Music to Go with Misty and Reading is Magic with Zap the Wonder Chap 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, January 21

#### \*Sunday With The Friends - Impressions of Mainland China

Photographer and artist Joe Polevoi takes you along on his journey through China. 2:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

### Monday, January 22

#### \* What Exactly Is The Earned Income Tax Credit?

Help enrich your community by saving money and enhancing your financial security. After all, you’re one of Lakewood’s most valuable resources and the good folks at L.I.F.E. (Lakewood Initiative for Financial Education) want to help you prosper with this series of lectures, filled with good sound financial advice. 7:00 p.m. in the Main Library Auditorium

## Lakewood Public Library to Host Free Tax Clinics

by John Guscott

Did you know that the government could owe you money?

If one of the following describes your situation, you may be eligible to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) on your 2006 tax return.

You have more than one qualifying child and you earn less than \$36,348 (single) or \$38,348 (married filing jointly)

You have one qualifying child and you earned less than \$32,001 (single) or \$34,001 (married filing jointly)

You do not have a qualifying child and you earned \$12,120 (single) or \$14,120 (married filing jointly)

The Lakewood Public Library will hosting free tax clinics to help families and individuals claim their available credit. Representative from Volunteers Income Tax Assistance (VITA) will help you, at no charge; apply for the money you earned.

Additionally, all returns are filed electronically to get you your money back, fast. All refunds are sent to you in as little as ten business days!

How do you attend a free tax clinic? It’s easy! Just choose one of the following dates and select either a 6:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. start time:

**Monday, January 29**

**Monday, February 5**

**Monday, February 12**

**Monday, February 19**

**Monday, February 26**

**Monday, March 5**

**Monday, March 12**

**Monday, March 19**

**Monday, March 26**

**Monday, April 2**

Call Lakewood Public Library at 216-226-8275, ext. 127 to register. All EITC tax Appointments are held at the Lakewood Public Library Madison Branch Meeting Room at 13229 Madison Avenue.

## Site of Student Swap Captured in New Novel

by Daniel Peart

Were you one of the 263 people taking part in a trip to Cleveland, England in 1979 and then hosting visitors from there in 1980? If so, you were probably members or supporters of the Lakewood High School band visiting England during that time. By now, many of you are parents or grandparents of students attending Lakewood High today.

The visit was a huge success and gave the young people of Cleveland, England (including my son) an opportunity to work with talented student musicians from Lakewood. It’s my understanding that several marriages even resulted from the visits. My role in this exchange was as a supporter, because my son was a member of the Redcar band. We as a family provided hospitality here in the U.K. for students, while my son enjoyed the same hospitality in Lakewood on his return trip. He fondly recalls being allowed to eat ice cream for breakfast, with six flavors to choose from, during his days in Ohio. At the time, he thought that was the pinnacle of his existence.

I’m sure Lakewoodites were left with lasting impressions of England’s landscape and local history. As you may have learned, England’s most famous son is explorer and master cartographer Captain James Cook, of whom our country is justifiably proud. Additionally, you probably saw the North Yorkshire Moors, offering breathtaking views. The national park is featured in many television shows, including the “Heartbeat” series. It’s likely that visitors remember Roseberry Topping, our local mountain, and Eston Hills, which stretch from

the sea at Redcar to Captain Cook’s memorial standing above the village of Great Ayton in the Vale of York. River Tees is also a major focal-point that supports huge industries involved in steel and chemical manufacturing. Interestingly, many individuals left this area between 1950-1960 to become steelworkers in Cleveland, Ohio.

If you participated in the culture exchange and would like to rekindle those fond memories, visit the website [www.dragonsinthesky.com](http://www.dragonsinthesky.com). There you will find information about the newly-released novel by David Jowsey, which takes place in the Cleveland, U.K. district. It’s my hope that some of the local lore within the book will stir up memories of your own about the trip. Perhaps you can solve the identity of the mysterious Mr. Lampard, whom is thought to have traveled with the group. Even if you weren’t a participant in the 1979-1980 exchange, you may be interested to learn about your Cleveland counterpart overseas.

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Lakewood People

# The New You

by Ronald Ciancutti

*“Y’know, we’re conditioned, weaned on, and addicted to ‘looking like’ rather than actually ‘being’ or ‘feeling.’ The fact that we prize beauty is the reason that we live in a perpetually disposable society. We worship something that is nothing but transitory. The standards for beauty have changed more over the ages than the names tattooed on Johnny Depp’s arm.” --Dennis Miller, Ranting Again, 1998*

So, another new year arrives. Did you make that always elusive resolution again this year? The one about making physical alterations to your body that will help your life resemble a light beer commercial? What’s it going to be this year? A \$750 gym membership that you prepay in January and stop using by Valentine’s Day? How about the newest miraculous piece of painted steel and plastic being hawked by the washed up sitcom star on the infomercial that will shave the pounds off daily (“but wait, there’s more...”)? Maybe you have a few more bucks saved and you are getting the surgical favors: liposuction, facelift, collagen injections. So many choices and only one body to rebuild.... tsk, tsk, tsk.

After you’ve hung all the “new-you” clothes you bought on the new and rarely used piece of exercise equipment (see also “clothes rack”), let me ask you something. Were you really going to wear that purple sash with that open pink shirt like that? I know it looked really good in the magazine but who are you, Ricardo Montalban? How’s that look going to go over at the office? What are you a bullfighter? I mean the best you could hope for might be, “Uh Ron, your shirt is unbuttoned...”

I am looking at a magazine ad right now and this tanned guy with sunglasses has his shirt and jacket fully unbuttoned and they are blowing in the wind along with his long hair. He has his pants rolled up as he is walking along the beach carrying his shoes. The best I can figure is the husband came home unexpectedly and this guy jumped out the beach house window and he’s looking to see if he’s being

followed. Now the association I am to make is I want those clothes so I can be like that guy, right? But you can’t wear that in the real world. Be honest, how is that outfit going to go over with your friends, family, co-workers? Truth is it’s not.

Honestly, almost every person I ever knew that lost a lot of weight usually gained some or all of it back. When you put together a program to redefine yourself and get that momentary addiction to health and nutrition and working out, you definitely can re-proportionalize your body but it takes a lot of maintenance to keep it in that condition. The momentum of life catches up to you eventually and it just doesn’t stick, my friends.

Remember Jane Fonda’s workout regimen of the 1980’s? Oh my how she scolded the world for not being in shape. A few years ago I caught her on a Barbara Walters Special after her divorce from Ted Turner. “Do you still workout, Jane,” Barbara inquired. “No,” Jane said flatly, “not at all.” Now this is a gal who turned this into a zillion dollar industry and gave the whole world the guilt trip for not getting into her addiction to living healthy and here she was, maybe 15 years later denying the importance of the very lifeblood that was her “career” for more than a decade. From Barbarella to playing the Quinella in a mere decade and a half. Go figure, literally.

Seen the Governorator lately? Still broad-shouldered to be sure and although Arnold is knocking on the White House door Stallone has certainly won the last round of that long running physical competition. Sly is still under the physical addiction that makes that possible. Arnold has other priorities. See, even the top of the physical food chain struggles.

In the end doesn’t all of this seem kind of pointless? Don’t get me wrong, good physical condition is very important but usually these addictions are not about that, they are about looking good as the primary driver. Doesn’t that ring empty for you? Think of how many beautiful people you know that give off a light that makes them that way. Not the looks as much as the inner beauty of a confident, caring, listening, giving person. One that is not carved in a gym but rather formed from witnessing the needs of one’s fellow man and tending to them with heart.

What if the thing you remodeled was inside you? What if the results you had to show were more important than those you prove to your Chubby Checker Counselor at the local weight loss clinic on your weekly scale trip. You know the one you blow off all week and then eat three boxes of Exlax for the night before? That thing.

What if this year’s resolution was about who you are and not about how you look? Or better yet who you might try to become in the next year? I knew a girl just after I got out of college that was dating a buddy of mine. She was

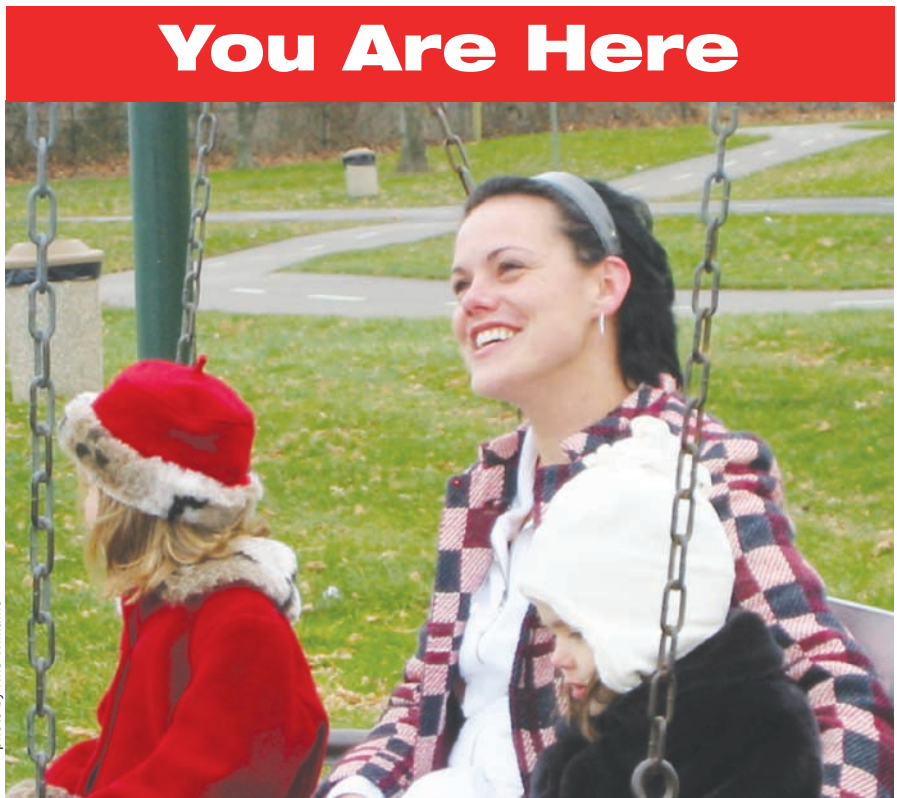
about 20 or 30 pounds heavier than she probably should have been according to all those medical associations but she had a spirit that was undeniable. She lived life to its fullest and in the end she was too much for my friend to handle. Her giving ways left him feeling ignored.

But she soon hooked up with another fellow who was a lot like her. He too was a bit heavy and wore thick glasses but what a power couple they became. I recall them coming to my apartment right before Christmas with a van full of people and they drove us all down to the local hunger center where we fixed sandwiches for the homeless. When friends got married she made them huge scrapbooks: chronologies of their lives then and now. When someone spoke to him he turned full face to them and looked in their eyes. They married and often their cars didn’t start and they lost their keys but they laughed and loved and lived and cried in a way that made me so envious. She was always finding the most unique restaurants and special places and as the years passed, they had kids who were such

well-adjusted and happy people.

In short, they were beautiful people that I always wanted to be around. They made the world a better place wherever they went and he fed off her energy like an addict. They could always “spin” the story to the good side. When I hear people complain about the crow’s feet near their eyes (laugh lines) or the belly fat they have to lose (wife is a good cook) or the cost of college (improving their children) I really value these friends of mine that always see life in a positive way. Their inner beauty outdoes the importance of physical attributes in a way that makes them “models” with whom the Sports Illustrated swimsuit girls could never compete.

Let’s look at 2007 as an opportunity to do something different instead of committing the same mistakes. Be firm with yourself and decide that you will give people more of your time. Find ways to be generous with your heart and soul. Let your inner light shine and start to feel good about the daily contribution you make. I bet your body will make physical adjustments based on how good you feel about yourself that would make Jack LaLane proud.



Tiffany Bryson with Daughters Isabella (left) and Una (right).

## It’s Kind Of Exciting...

by Jason Weiner

Tiffany Bryson is a 31 year old Realtor who lives in Lakewood. She has two daughters: Isabella and Una. Her favorite place is the bench swings in Lakewood Park that overlook Lake Erie. We met Tiffany at the swings on a chilly Sunday afternoon in December.

“I started working downtown and I wanted to get live somewhere close but somewhere that I really enjoyed and everyone told me to go to Lakewood, that I would really love it there. I got an apartment and from that point forward I haven’t left. The small businesses are what really keep me here, not big corporations all

across our little town. Just small little places that are trying to make it and I love that. I love the fact that we’ve got our water right here. And that’s one of the reasons we like this park so much is because we’re right by the water. I like the fact that they’re really building up closer to Cleveland, they’re really building up all that area, developing it and that sort of thing. But they’re still trying to keep it where it’s still Lakewood. And the Lakewood Library! It’s so exciting. It’s one of the top libraries and it’s wonderful. We enjoy that, the kids enjoy it. And I love the fact that they did the new YMCA too, so they’re doing a lot. It’s kind of exciting.”

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# Slife Of Life

### *Dollars and Trees:*

# Class and Retail in the 'Wood

## Dan Slife

From Marc's to Drugmart, Family Dollar to Dollar Tree, budget class shopping accounts for the largest share of mid-sized national retail in the 'Wood. As one laissez faire indicator of underlying economic conditions, the proliferation of these outlets within the 'Wood speaks to our natural market state.

While anxiety may be high among those yearning for more upscale shopping experiences in the ‘Wood, the arrival of Dollar Tree at the “West End” on Sloane may be interpreted as a sign of hope. Lakewood, the value capital of the United States, is now home to a 21st Century five and dime. Perhaps, just in time.

Lacking TIFs, tax abatement or the threat of eminent domain, the natural state of our city attracts these establishments on the basis of current demography. This is a sign of the times. The issue at hand is whether we can act with prudence and honesty as we prepare for the shaky economic times ahead.

With demand on hand, value laden retail options should factor into any intelligible city-wide plan for economic development. As a city of affordable homes, strong schools, public libraries and other community institutions, we must take into account the increasing pressures of globalization and determine how such heat will directly effect these institutions, and the families and homeowners who support them. As the outsourcing of America's good jobs and quality of life continues unabated, so too do the pressures necessitating value-oriented institutions, both public and private, which continue to build within the 'Wood.

Although the Tree is a publicly traded importer of Chinese goods, the outlet does provide some relief from the Walmartization process by offering staple household consumables at a price point at which even Walmart and Kmart cannot compete. For those concerned about the threat posed by the big box retailers, Dollar Tree operates on the offensive, attempting to steal market share from Walmart by delivering staple household goods at the one dollar, fixed price point. By focusing on necessity items along-side party supplies and seasonal goods, Dollar Tree makes a pre-emptive strike against Walmart.

Dollar Tree's strategy amounts to a 'lesser of two evils.' Their presence may act to deter Walmart from attempting to locate in the 'Wood. It's the plethora of discretionary goods found only in the shops of local merchants, if at all, that would most seriously be threatened with Walmart's arrival. Yet, there may be local casualties at the hand of penny wise shoppers in the 'Wood who choose Dollar Tree over Party Center and other local outlets offering similar goods? Only time will tell effects of the Dollar Tree on the Party Center and



*Ken Warren (left) And Dan Slife check out the price deals at Lakewood's Dollar Tree, the 'lesser of two evils'.*

other stores offering greeting cards and similar seasonal items.

Here, we stumble upon the essential catch 22 for many working families. As economic pressures build from wage stagnation to the rising cost of natural resources, many Americans are forced into consumption patterns not necessarily ideal, nor ethically consistent with their critique of our nation's rush to the bottom. Perhaps as the Dollar Tree grows, the Party Center sinks.

The contradictions of economic need and ethical purchase can be resolved through more collective, localized forms of creating, growing and trading the things we must consume. Corporate value propositions may not be the ideal strategy for dealing with the hunger pains of globalization, at least for some 'Woodies. Cooperatives may to offer the greatest return to the community as a whole. Cooperatives can provide greater returns economically and advance accumulations of social capital. Such a return is not to be found in the experience of individualized consumption through corporate channels.

The Lakewood Observer Gourmet Food Security Network was one such experiment in collective resource pooling, with the triune purpose of: group buying, building critical mass for future ventures and buying locally produced goods. However, the social overhead involved in cooperative ventures may turn many people off. That is, as long as the corporate consumer experience is still a feasible option. Of course, a market flooded with internationally produced consumer goods and produce is inextricably linked to the cost and availability of our dwindling fossil fuel resources.

Despite the contradictions over consumer values and ethical practices, the Dollar Tree has become a commu-

nity store. According to Jennifer Short, neighborhood resident, mother and Dollar Tree shopper, "This is a neighborhood store."


Short knows that a trip to the 'Tree will be met with friendly, familiar faces

from the 'Wood. Many of her neighbors shop there, as well as several community groups, from schools to churches that are engaging in group buying. Short's only regret is that she "misses the Medic Santa", who brought holiday joy to her family for many years. Rumor has it that Lakewood Observer publisher Jim O'Bryan may volunteer for that job sometime in the near future - the Emerald Canyon Santa Claus.


Dollar Tree employee Jonnah Beideman echoes Short's sentiments. "I've worked at the Rocky River and Kamm's (stores), and this is my favorite one... The customers are great!"

Beideman points to the friendly attitude of shoppers in the Wood compared to a more condescending tone he encountered in Rocky River and a less lively atmosphere at Kamm's. In fact, the Lakewood location is so alive, Dollar Tree is running out of room and may be looking to relocate or expand.

Current code in Lakewood prevents Dollar Tree from maximizing their space. According to Beideman, the Lakewood store must keep food no less than 3 inches off the floor. In Rocky River, where policies aren't so sophisticated, Dollar Tree shoppers can literally eat off the floor! So much for upscale!



*{Formerly Aristocrat Lakewood}*



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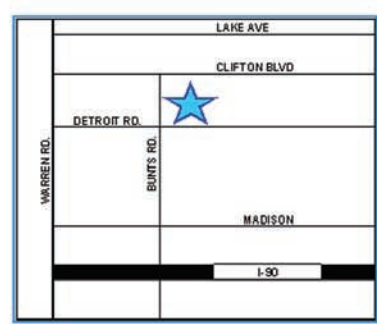
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# Lakewood Schools

## Julie Lyonn Lieberman Coming to Lakewood: Lakewood Project Performs!

by Emily Hilty

Next week will prove an exciting one for the Lakewood City Schools Orchestra Program. Julie Lyonn Lieberman, an acclaimed and innovative performer and clinician, will be offering a variety of workshops and classes to a range of string players in Lakewood.

Julie Lyonn Lieberman has an impressive resume which includes the titles of: violinist, composer, educator, and producer. She has served as a member of the elite faculties of Julliard, New York University, and the New School University's Jazz program. She now teaches privately at her own studio in New York City and travels extensively educating musicians about their craft. Ms. Lieberman has committed herself to "contemporizing string music pedagogy" to reflect the diversity of the student base and the importance of both American and world music, not just Western European sounds. She believes that, through music, students can "learn to respect the ideas of many cultures" and "develop their own 'voice' in music." More information about Ms. Lieberman can found at her website ([www.julielyonn.com](http://www.julielyonn.com)).

This amazing woman, who has presented clinics to the National String Workshop, the International String Workshop, and the American String Teacher Association, among others, will be teaching Lakewood's string players on a variety of topics next week.

Ms. Lieberman's experience in Lakewood will begin with a master

class with the LHS Chamber Orchestra. In a two-hour time span, she will instruct the elite group of high school string musicians on the topic of "playing healthy." During this class, she will observe each player and evaluate position, posture, and technique. Then, Ms. Lyonn-Lieberman will offer suggestions on how to get the most from their playing and avoid injuries.

Later that day, Ms. Lieberman will work with the middle school string players in an interactive master class, entitled "Planet Music." This multi-purpose clinic will teach the young musicians music history from around the world, show them new ways to make sounds on their instruments,



and offer them insight into composing. This clinic will also prepare these students to perform with The Lakewood Project the following evening.

While in town, she will also be presenting a clinic on teacher training for Ohio string teachers on incorporating alternative styles into the every day classroom and rehearsing her original compositions with The Lakewood Project. Furthermore, Ms. Lieberman will work with The Lakewood Project string players on improvisation and composition. This acclaimed composer is also supplying the LHS Orchestra Program with nine original pieces that can be arranged for its various ensembles.

All of these experiences will culminate in a concert in which The Lakewood Project and the middle school string players will perform with Ms. Lieberman as a guest soloist. Her performance will be based on music from around the world and introducing our students to new techniques and sounds on their instruments. Ms. Lieberman is excited to work with Beth Hankins, the director of The Lakewood Project, because she "understands that our students can and will benefit from a shift...to a string program without boundaries."

*The Lakewood Project concert, "Rock Your World," featuring both Julie Lyonn Lieberman and the middle school string program, will take place at the Lakewood Civic Auditorium on Friday, January 19th at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$10 in advance and can be obtained from the LHS Bookroom (216-529-4368). Tickets are \$12.50 at the door.*

## Home Alone Safety Training

by Celia Dorsch

Lakewood's younger residents have an opportunity to fine-tune their personal safety skills by attending one of H2O's HOME ALONE events. Sponsored by the City of Lakewood, high school members of H2O's "Help to Others" youth volunteer program are preparing six interactive learning stations designed to help their younger counterparts to be smarter, stronger, and safer in potentially dangerous situations.

HOME ALONE has won several awards for its innovative "teen teaching" approach. Even the squirmiest of kids tend to pay more attention and take more to heart when they hear advice from a "cool" high school student. While the young attendees are busy learning tips about handling fire hazards, phone and door dilemmas, first aid concerns, sibling conflicts, and internet dangers, their parents will receive critical up-to-date information from representatives of Lakewood's Divisions of Fire, Police, EMS, and Youth and Early Childhood Services.

This year's HOME ALONE workshops will be offered to Lakewood

students in grades 3-5 and their parents on Thursday, February 15th and Wednesday, March 14th from 6:30-9:00pm in the West Cafeteria of Lakewood High School. Because of its popularity, families interested in attending HOME ALONE must register in advance - admission is not available at the door. A fee of \$10.00 is requested in addition to the completed registration form.

Detailed information and registration forms for HOME ALONE are available on the City of Lakewood's website ([www.ci.lakewood.oh.us](http://www.ci.lakewood.oh.us)) at the Department of Human Services/Division of Youth link or by contacting H2O at (216)-529-6045.

## Congratulations Ivor!



Congratulations to the Lakewood Observer's very own photographer, Ivor Karabatkovic, on receiving two Gold Key awards in the prestigious Scholastic Arts & Writing contest. He was awarded the Gold Key for his Photography Portfolio and for this shot of their family rat terrier Daili. His work will be displayed at the Cleveland Institute of Art's Reinberger Gallery from

January 14th through February 3rd. Ivor's portfolio and picture will travel to New York City for national judging. A \$10,000 cash prize will be awarded to two photographers in the competition. Ivor's portfolio is the only one traveling to New York City from Lakewood High School, and we wish him luck as he represents Lakewood City Schools and our community in this competition.

## Artist In Residence



Artist in Residence, Ernie Krivda and his Jazz Quartet will be performing Tuesday, January 16 in the L Room at 7:30pm. Admission is \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students, and \$1.00 for seniors. Ticket sales benefit the Jazz Band program. Please call Mr. Brian Maskow at 227-5890 for information or tickets.

Your support of the Music Students at Lakewood City Schools is always appreciated.



# Lakewood Schools & Sports

## LHS Cheerleaders Sign Up For Action: Help Them Spread Cheer To Lakewood Residents Serving In Iraq

by Mike Deneen

For over a half-century, Lakewood High School cheerleaders have been spreading cheer on the sidelines of LHS sporting events. This fall, the troupe decided to expand their mission....by spreading cheer all the way to the Middle East. The Lakewood High Cheerleaders are sending care packages to Lakewood residents who are serving overseas in our military.

LHS cheerleading coach Joni Whitlock got the idea from her mother before the holidays. "One of my brother's best friends just recently left to go to Iraq. My mom was thinking about him and then all the other LHS graduates who are over there now and how it would be nice to let them know that we are thinking about them and appreciate them and because they can not be with there family for the holidays." Whitlock and her squad decided to take a collection at the Lakewood/Euclid basketball game in December. They set up a table at the gym entrance, and were thrilled to have a line of fans contributing to the cause.

Kevin Galvin, father of varsity cheerleader Kristen Galvin, was impressed with the public's reaction. "I

was pleasantly surprised that I had to actually wait my turn to toss in some money," says Galvin, "as an aside, I want to thank any and all who donated. This includes many Euclid fans!"

Now that the squad has done the collection and has made cards for the packages, they have a new problem.... getting the names of service people to send them to. Due to privacy policies that they sign upon enlistment, only family members and friends can give out addresses of military personnel. Therefore, the recruiting office and the USO were unable to help.

However, you can do a great service to this project. They are seeking the names of Lakewood residents currently serving overseas. If you have a name, please contact Joni Whitlock ether by phone or email. Her work number is 216-741-9451 and her email is met1324@aol.com. Please contact the squad and let them send a care package to your loved one overseas.

Coach Whitlock expressed gratitude to the girls on the squad, who have put a lot of work into the project. These include Varsity Cheerleaders Megan Chokan, Ashley Faulisi, Kristin Galvin, Diandra Garcia, Stacey Hurst, Amy



LHS Cheeleaders collecting at the Euclid Game

Kujawinski, Sara Luehring, Allison Ochocki, Katie Ritchie, and Bethany Staley. The JV and Freshman cheerleaders also contributed, including Jenny Farkas, Morgan Kevesdy, Ashlee Webb, Alaina Williams, Kate Wingle, Bridgett Bartell, Aubrey Barto, Maddy Caldwell, Gabi Hirzer, Anna Howell, Bo Jenkins, Lisa Kunze, Ezrae Macri and Meri Young.

## Ranger Swimming Hopes To Make A Splash In The LEL

by Ivor Karabatkovic

The Lakewood High School girls swim team has high hopes this season, and those were tested as they squared off against seven other school's in the annual Ranger Relays on December 27th. Lead by Coach Bob Sedlak , Assistant Coach Tommy Stacy and Co-Captains Courtney Moran and Grace Diffenbacher, the girls are off to a 4-0 start.

The final results of the girls Ranger Relay are as following: Lakewood High School placed first with 108 pts. Padua H.S. placed second with 106 pts. Olmsted Falls placed third with 78 pts. Elyria H.S. placed fourth with 56 pts. Avon Lake H.S. placed fifth with 50 pts. Bay H.S. placed sixth with 46 pts. Valley Forge placed seventh with 38 pts, and Fairview H.S. placed eighth with 32 points.

Sister act, Kelsey and Courtney Moran, junior Maura Anderson and freshman Amanda Thurman won the 200 yard Medley Relay with a time of 1:56.09, finishing 9.03 seconds ahead of Elyria High School. Senior Toni Giuliano, junior Lauren Smigelski, sophomore Kelsey Moran and freshman Amanda Thurman drifted smoothly into victory lane in the 200 yard Backstroke Relay with a time of 2:06.9, finishing 13 seconds ahead of the competition. Way to Go Lady Rangers!

The girls have a very bright future ahead of them, with sophomore Kelsey

Moran aiming for this year's State competition. Maura Anderson is succeeding at filling the shoes of her brother Neil, who graduated last year and is now swimming for Wittenberg University. Junior Hilary Vigh is fit for the already fast roster, and seniors Barbara Summers, Courtney Moran, and Jenny Young add experience and leadership to the team. The Ranger lineup is solid, and the bar is set high for each individual.

The boys placed second in the Ranger Relays, and are undefeated in the LEL. Captains this year are Senior Endri Kerci and Rob Temple. Seniors Endri Kerci, Niklas Loftruthe, Lindsey Coley, and freshman Greg Culley won the 200 yard Medley Relay with a time of 1:53.84, beating Valley Forge's time by one second. Seniors Helge Rustenberg and Lindsey Coley, along with junior Casey Meeson and freshman Greg Culley came in a close second place in the 200 yard Butterfly Relay.

The boys diving team placed first as senior Rob Temple and Greg Bennett received a final score of 121.85. The diving team is making a splash this season; and is hoping to continue their success as the schedule gets tougher. All the Christmas cookies and holiday festivities this winter break haven't weighed down the Lakewood Ranger Swim team. The team has practiced twice a day over break, and continue to work hard to reach their goals. Good Luck Rangers!



Senior Lindsey Coley catches a quick breath during his relay event



Coach Sedlak



# Lakewood Hospital News

## Lakewood Hospital Newly Renovated Coronary Care Unit

Lakewood Hospital has completed its \$2.65 million Coronary Care Unit (CCU) renovation that includes technological and comfort upgrades to the 11-bed unit that serves more than 2,000 patients every year. Enhancements also include a new critical care waiting room, family consultation room, Intensivist office and Neuro Integrated Care Unit entrance.

The opening of the new, state-of-the-art Coronary Care Unit marks the completion of the first phase of a three-year critical care renovation project with plans to renovate the hospital's Neuro Integrated Care Unit in fall 2007 and Intensive Care Unit in 2008.

"This first phase of our critical care renovation project prepares Lakewood Hospital for a future of growth," says Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital. "I can't think of a better way to launch our 100th anniversary year than opening a beautiful new CCU that keeps our patient's heart at the heart of our investment."

"The ultimate goal of this renovation project is to improve the overall efficiency in patient care while allowing for smoother workflow processes for physicians and hospital staff," says Gustin. "We held numerous planning sessions with physician groups who utilize the CCU. They were instrumental in designing the new unit to best meet the needs of our patients and staff."



"Providing the best patient care in an advanced, state-of-the-art environment is our priority," says Fred DeGrandis, CEO and president of Cleveland Clinic regional hospitals. "With heart disease being so prevalent in our communities, it is vital that we are equipped to provide high-quality care to our most serious heart patients. By investing in our CCU, we've created a modern facility that allows our expert team of physicians and staff to provide specialized, one-on-one cardiac care in a comfortable, cutting-edge environment."

The newly renovated CCU features the most advanced technological upgrades available; enhanced, full-service patient rooms and an increased workspace for physicians

and staff to work more efficiently.

"Our patients need to be in a relaxed atmosphere where they are monitored round-the-clock and are exposed to as little stress as possible," says Anthony G. Vlastaris, M.D., board-certified in cardiovascular disease and internal medicine and medical director of the Coronary Care Unit. "The redesigned CCU enhances our ability to provide quality cardiac care in a state-of-the-art facility and healing environment. As a physician, I am excited about new features, including an open floor plan where doctors and nurses have greater visibility of patient rooms. The patient rooms themselves have been dramatically improved. Not only do each of the rooms offer new beds, but each

also features a desk area with data connectivity and computers to allow for electronic medical record charting."

Adult patients who are typically admitted to the CCU suffer from a variety of critical cardiac conditions, including heart failure, acute myocardial infarction, cardiomyopathy, severe dysrhythmias, cardiac arrest and cardiogenic shock requiring frequent hemodynamic monitoring, specialized diagnostic treatments, frequent observations and specialized intensive care nursing. Nurses who provide care on the unit have received special certification and training and are required to complete critical care competencies to maintain their level of expertise.

Lakewood Hospital has a long history of providing excellence in heart care to the Westshore communities. Recent renovations to the Heart Center also include a digital catheterization laboratory for clearer and faster diagnostic imaging, a procedure room specifically designed for implanting pacemakers and defibrillators, and new equipment in the surgical suite.

The renovation project accommodates the needs of family members. A new critical care waiting room provides families with a more comfortable environment to gather, and a newly expanded patient consultation room offers a private area where physicians and family members can meet.

 **Lakewood Hospital**  
a Cleveland Clinic hospital



Welcome  
**Roger A. Mansnerus, M.D.**

We are pleased to welcome Roger A. Mansnerus, M.D., to his new office located at the Westlake Medical Campus, 850 Columbia Road, Suite 105, Westlake. Dr. Mansnerus is board-certified in internal medicine and has provided expert care to Cleveland's west side communities for more than 25 years.

As a specialist in internal medicine, he has had extensive training in caring for a wide range of adult diseases and has a special interest in the treatment of hypertension, hypolipidemia, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and headaches.

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## Laura L. Dollison, D.O., FACEP, Appointed As Lakewood Hospital's New Emergency Services Medical Director



December 13, 2006 – Lakewood Hospital is pleased to announce the appointment of Laura L. Dollison, D.O., FACEP, as the new medical director of Emergency Services. Dr. Dollison oversees all clinical and administrative functions related to emergency medicine.

"As a Level II Trauma Center, Lakewood Hospital's emergency services are continually growing to meet the needs of the community and we are thrilled to have Dr. Dollison on our team", said Jack Gustin, president of Lakewood Hospital.

Lakewood Hospital has one of the busiest Emergency Departments

in western Cuyahoga County, treating approximately 38,000 patients annually. A recent expansion of the emergency department enables the medical staff to treat all patients in the most efficient and effective way possible, utilizing the latest technologies

In her new role, Dr. Dollison will play an important role in the WeShare (West Shore Area Rescue) Program, which is a collaborative effort among nine fire departments and three hospitals within the western suburbs. Dr. Dollison will provide medical direction and education to the participating rescue squads ensuring that the communities served receive the best emergency care.

Prior to joining Lakewood Hospital, Dr. Dollison was the director of Emergency Services for the Western Reserve Care System, Northside Medical Center and Tod Children's Hospital in Youngstown.

She earned her medical degree from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"I am very excited to take on this opportunity as Lakewood Hospital continues to provide the best emergency care possible for the community," said Dr. Dollison.

For more information about our ER, call toll-free at 1-877-234-3488 or visit [www.lakewoodhospital.org/ER](http://www.lakewoodhospital.org/ER)



Chef Geoff

# Late Night Kitchen Kapers

There was a time in my life, when I wouldn't have given so much as a shrug when contemplating food preparation in the wee hours. There were many late nights spent with friends during college making crepes at 2:00 am that seemed not only reasonable, but darn well appropriate. There were memorable Saturday nights during Law School, spent making a chocolate cake while watching SNL), or even the late night lesson in egg roll preparation. Like Dagwood Bumstead, there's just something appealing about a late night raid on the refrigerator. But, as age and waistline both increase, those late forays into culinary pursuits have decreased, in inverse proportion. Until, that is, the slumber parties begin.

We have always worked towards making our home one in which our children would feel comfortable entertaining their friends. In large part we have been successful in that effort. There have been any number of sleepovers, slumber parties, and occasional pre-homecoming dinners. There have been bonfires and birthday parties, sheet pizzas and Sunday morning waffles and blueberry pancakes. There have been any number of slumbering teenagers preventing me from accessing anything past the basement stairs. And it's been a largely positive experience. I actually like my kid's friends even as they have grown to be no longer kids. But nothing quite prepared me for my most recent foray into the late night kitchen.

Saturday was one of those laid back days, sort of the lull between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our youngest, Tessa, was planning on a few friends to sleepover, and I had planned a quiet evening. A nice seafood dinner with my wife, a decent bottle of wine, a DVD, and call it a night. It was to be the usual group of suspects, Tessa, Paige, Cec-



A Night of Beauty: Tess with her sleepover friends

### Egg and Avocado Facial Mask

Ingredients:  
juice of 1/2 lemon  
1 egg white, beaten into soft peaks  
one ripe avocado, mashed

Combine all the ingredients. Working in pairs, spread the goo all over the face of your partner. (Extensive giggling is important here, as it helps to smooth out the frown lines). Allow the mask to set for 1) ten minutes or 2) whenever it drips from your face, a la Mrs. Doubtfire, whichever comes first.

Wash off the remaining mask with warm water. It is not necessary to rinse the sink or wash the towel upon completion. Someone else will take care of that for you.

ily and Rachel. They were pretty much settled in; you could hear their chatter and giggles from downstairs. Tina had headed up to bed, and I was just closing up, turning off the lights, and letting Guinness out one more time. Then there was the noise and confusion from the kitchen. It was midnight, and I figured the girls were going to make a snack. So, I walked through the kitchen on my way to bed, just to make sure everything was under control, prior to turning in. What ensued was a unique and thoroughly inedible "cooking" lesson.

What I had expected was some inquiry about chocolate chips, or perhaps some other cookie ingredient. But instead, I was asked for a confusing conglomerate of ingredients. I had difficulty in determining how they might be used. Certainly, it was not any recipe I knew. "Yes, we have plain gelatin." "I just bought some avocados, though they're not ripe yet" "I think there's some molasses in with the baking supplies.....What exactly is it you guys are going to make?"

Well, as it turns out, where I would have been thinking of whip-

ping up some cookies or a quesadilla these teenagers had different creations in mind. Their plans revolved around recipes for homemade beauty treatments. Facial masks with molasses and lemon. Hair conditioners with avocado or, for extra bounce, gelatin. Lemon and vinegar preparations for smooth shiny hair. And so, instead of hitting the hay, we had a cooking lesson. After demonstrating how to strip the zest off of a lemon, I showed the girls how the rocker on a chef's knife can finely chop the rind in no time. We learned how using a food processor by pulsing the motor could finely chop an avocado in preparation before adding the vinegar and gelatin. They learned the trick to removing the pit from that avocado and the most efficient way to peel it. There was a good deal of action in the kitchen, especially considering it was now well past 1:00 am. Having completed their preparations, they retired to the basement to undergo they're various beauty treatments, while I finally got to bed. Apparently all the efforts (and mess) in the kitchen paid off. I still heard the giggling as I drifted off to sleep.

I arose Sunday morning still tired. Guinness was pretty insistent that at 7 AM he needed to go out. I had my coffee, looked over the paper, made a few tentative stabs at the NY Times crossword. Realizing that soon Tessa and her guests would be rising, I turned my attention to breakfast. The kitchen still showed signs of our efforts a few hours earlier. Somehow, despite whatever else is learned in the kitchen, the cleaning up lesson is the last to take root. Before I could even consider breakfast preparation, it was necessary to clean up the aftermath of the beauty preparations. I cut up the pineapple, mixed some eggs and milk with a little vanilla and some cinnamon for French toast, and sliced the loaf of bread into thick slabs. I set the table, put out the juice, and put the bacon on a platter with the golden brown French toast. "Girls, Breakfast is on", I called down. And up they came, far more rested than I, faces aglow from beauty masks, hair shining and bouncing, smelling of lemon. Apparently, the late night culinary foray had been a success. I went back to bed.

Secret Shopper

## Revelations Hair Salon

by Justine Cooper

Since moving to Lakewood almost nine years ago, I have patronized Revelations Hair Salon off and on. I first visited the salon 8 years ago when the owner Mary was in the middle of renovations. I loved the feel of the place because it was an historic house turned into a salon, and it was filled with antique furniture instead of typical salon stations. My favorite hair stylist left to have a child, and I jumped around to other salons, cutting coupons, responding to specials, looking for the lowest price, to be honest, to highlight and cut my hair.

I recently came back to Revelations and decided I would not seek the best "deal" for my hair, but the best service for the price. Let's face it, as women get (ugh) older, our hair needs change and we need and deserve quality ser-

vice. You will get it at Revelations. The salon is always buzzing with people because they have fabulous stylists as well as many newer services including spa facials, spa manicures/pedicures, makeovers, and massages. I find their prices are very reasonable and competitive; their highlights also include a hair cut. I take my teenager there for hair cuts, because as we all know, teenagers' hair matters even more than moms!

Another strong attribute of Revelations is that they sell a wide variety of hair and body products, always adding new items. They also sell some home-made items which is a nice touch. It is like a little retail shop in the front and I purchased stocking stuffers and nice Christmas gifts on my last visit. Most importantly, the coffee is always on. If you are looking for a new salon, a new "do" for the New Year, or just want to

patronize a unique salon with historic beauty, try Revelations!

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## Minding The Issues

# Thoughts on Martin Luther King Day

Gordon Brumm

As Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday approaches, my thoughts turn not toward him but toward Bob Moses. No, not Robert Moses the highway megalomaniac, but Bob Moses the civil rights leader.

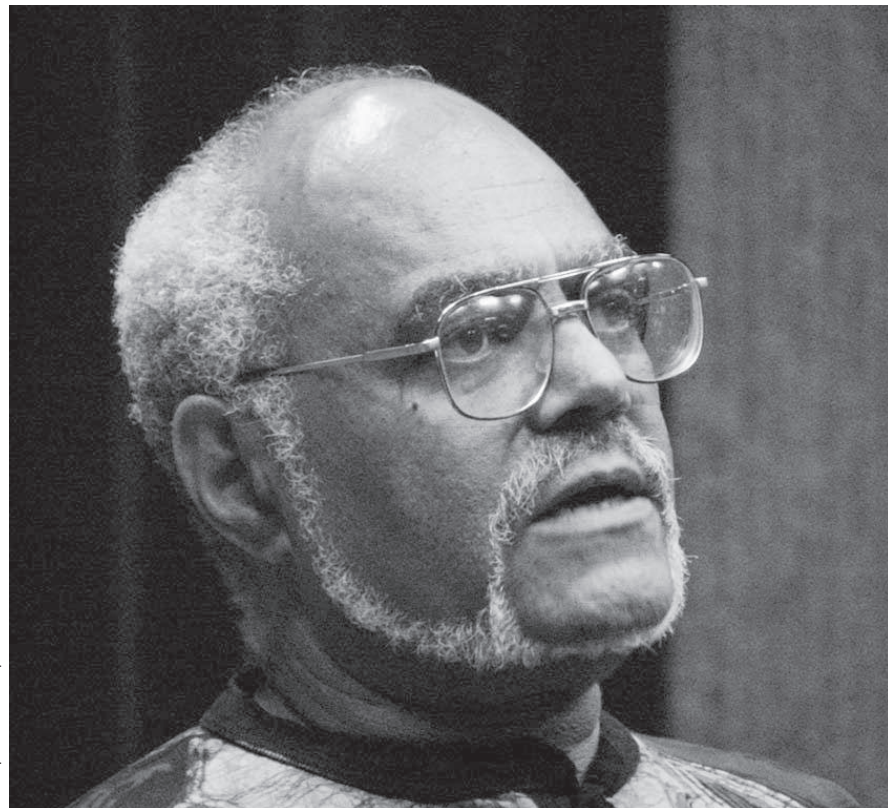
He is the one civil rights hero whose life touched against mine, though merely in the most casual way. I remember him only as a good short-stop on what passed for our Philosophy Department softball team. He could have lived a comfortable ordinary life, but instead he chose to become a civil rights activist, leading voter registration drives in Mississippi, most notably the Freedom Summer project of 1964. The work he did was often laborious and frustrating. Danger was everywhere. Jailings and beatings came with the territory.

I would read about his activities from time to time. I learned that he shunned public exposure, but within the civil rights movement he became a legend.

Remembering Bob Moses is hard. It makes me think of the dark and lonely back roads of the Deep South during the '60s, roads that led into a netherworld of lawlessness – or worse than lawlessness, for the law was on the side of injustice; roads on which three young civil-rights workers could be stopped and taken off to be murdered. It makes me think of communities brimming with hate and rage and riddled with dangers for anyone who would challenge the viciously racist status quo.

In this evil arena, hundreds upon hundreds of civil rights workers from ordinary walks of life put themselves on the line. Some (including Bob Moses) gave months and years and emerged better for the experience. Others gave their lives, such as Goodman, Chaney and Schwerner, students just mentioned who were murdered after being waylaid by a gang of racist thugs; or Viola Liuzzo, a Michigan housewife and mother who was shot after the Selma march. And too many others.

Remembering Bob Moses takes me to the dark recesses of my mind,



Civil rights leader Bob Moses

where deep truths lie, and makes me ask myself, "Could I have done that?" Hell no – I couldn't have done that; but there were better people than I who could, and did, and they delivered a social revolution.

Among them of course was Martin Luther King. But he was only the most prominent among the heroes and martyrs of the civil rights movement.

In fact, he was sometimes criticized, especially by local civil-rights leaders who mocked him as "de Lawd." They resented his sweeping through a city and leaving the local workers behind to shoulder the fearsome day-to-day burden of fighting the racist establishment without the media attention that MLK enjoyed.

Of course Martin Luther King was an outstanding leader and a world-class orator of historical dimensions. But to regard him as the be-all and end-all of the civil rights movement is a mistake.

Our mistaken emphasis on Martin Luther King is never so clear as when we refer to him as "Dr. King."

Why do we call a person "Doc-

tor?" Because we want to erect a wall of separation between that person and others. We imply that only the Doctor, and nobody outside the particular field in question, is qualified to judge and participate. When we're talking about medical doctors this separation is justified, to be sure. And it is justified in other fields as well, nuclear physics for example.

But in the case of Martin Luther King, calling him "Doctor" is an evasion of responsibility. Not only does his doctorate have virtually nothing to do with the reason we honor him but, more to the point, it has virtually nothing to do with the difference between him and the rest of us. He inspired us; he had great leadership skills; he displayed courage and perseverance. All this grew out of what he was as a person; his doctorate was a mere footnote to his life. (Similarly for Jane Goodall, who has come absurdly to be called "Dr. Goodall," though her doctorate is an afterthought to the courage and accomplishments of her life.) And these qualities that made him great are qualities that all of us can claim, at

least to some extent, if only we commit to achieving justice.

When we talk of "Doctor King" we are putting a distance between his accomplishments and our possibilities. We are saying that he strove and sacrificed and accomplished in a way that we never could – and therefore we are excused from trying.

Our recognition of Martin Luther King should be a challenge, not an excuse.

By focusing all our attention and adulation on Martin Luther King this holiday, we slight the sacrifice and the accomplishments of all the other individuals in the movement – all those others who left their everyday lives to work and sacrifice for racial justice.

By idolizing the "Great Man" we minimize the role and the responsibility of everyone else. We assume that change is made only by special people and that those in more ordinary walks of life and with more mundane talents cannot affect change and need not try. Thus we can experience heroism vicariously.

But people in ordinary walks of life can rise to extraordinary heights of achievement. Civil rights workers demonstrated that; Martin Luther King can be an emblem of their sacrifice and accomplishments – a challenge, not an excuse. His memory can challenge us to follow their example, as my remembering Bob Moses challenged me. If they were willing to risk their lives, we should be willing to work and sacrifice in order to inch our society toward the ideals of justice and humanity.

To show a proper regard for the civil rights movement and to enliven its meaning for us, we might enlarge Martin Luther King Day to make it Heroes and Martyrs Day, dedicated to all those who have worked and sacrificed in exceptional ways for the cause of justice and on behalf of their fellow human beings. (including subway saviors). This would move us toward the time when we might say, to paraphrase Pogo's friend, "We have met our heroes, and they are us."



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# The Buck Stops Here

## What Have I Done?

For my upcoming 50th reunion at Lakewood High School, I was asked to summarize my life. What have I done? Who was I? What I would say now would not be what I would have said ten years after graduation. At 28, there were goals, dreams, possibility. At 68, reflection, realization, assessment. Thing done, not done. Happiness, disappointment. What I could not anticipate, what I could. Dreams fulfilled or foreclosed. At 68, goals are necessarily different than they were at 18. We speak of last things, not first ones.

“When you grow to be twenty-eight,” Charlotte Pressler, vocalist for the Cleveland band, Pere Ubu, writes, “and realize that you have been living a certain way for ten years now, and that you are likely to go on living this way for the rest of your life, because you can no longer imagine what it is like to live any other way, you naturally begin to ask yourself how this happened.”

The seminal band for Pressler during those early years in Cleveland between 1968 and 1975, was The Velvet Underground – the La Cave house band Pressler recalls – and, in par-

ticular, Lou Reed. “Reed’s guitar had shown [us] what music could be.” The music went against the grain. When an early manifestation of Pere Ubu played at teen dances at the Lakewood YMCA, it insisted kids could dance to their

*If we have a dream, a goal or vision, we perfect it and take it to others. If others like it, we go home and continue to follow and perfect it. If they don’t, we have to decide whether to continue to follow our vision or find out what others like. How do we respond when we are silenced?*

music. “The Lakewood teens,” Pressler notes, “repl[ie]d with their feet they could play it all they liked; they didn’t have to listen.”

Such moments are decisive. If we have a dream, a goal or vision, we perfect it and take it to others. If others like it, we go home and continue to follow and perfect it. If they don’t, we have to decide whether to continue to follow our vision or find out what others like. How do we

respond when we are silenced? One of the albums Pressler may have heard in the time Lou Reed played at La Cave was “Berlin,” which was universally condemned as pretentious and overwrought when it came out in 1973.

This December, Reed resurrected it 33 years later at St. Ann’s Warehouse in Brooklyn. It now could be heard, and those present not only understood it in a way they could not have in 1973, but also saw how much of a piece his music has been from the beginning. Reed put his ear to the tracks and heard the train we finally saw. (Herman Melville’s Moby Dick, published in 1851, was not read and understood until after World War I.)

“Berlin represents,” Maurice Blanchot writes, “the problem of division – of fracture – as Berlin poses it not only to Berliners, not only to Germans, but, I believe, to every thinking human being.” Blanchot is writing of the time Berlin was a city divided by a wall between East and West, what that problem posed in particular, i.e., in Berlin, but also how the problem of division – fracture -- divides us. We live with division. Lakewood is a divided city. I always knew where the Wall was. We are also torn, live with fissures inside ourselves. I know where the cracks are. Ich Bin der Berliner Kennedy said at the Berlin Wall. We are all Berliners facing our walls

Fifty years on, we take our measure. Did we put our ear to the tracks – hear the sounds only we could hear, knowing we could make others hear – and keep it there? Did we say yes when we should have said no? Did we pound our head against the wall of our limitations, or give it up? I will only say I was not 20 until I was 30. Not that I’m still catching up. Just that the order of things got tilted.

## Lakewood Perspective

## Kucinich Running, But In The Wrong Direction?

Dennis Kucinich has decided to run for President once again. Big surprise. But, what might come as an even bigger surprise is that I welcome his desire for a bigger and broader stage. In fact, if someone will please stand by with smelling salts for Gordon Brumm, I’d like to make the following announcement: “I, Bret Callentine, do officially endorse the candidacy of Dennis J. Kucinich...just not for the office of President.”

President Kucinich? Probably not. However, try this one out: United Nations Ambassador Kucinich. You’ve got to admit that has a nice ring to it. With John Bolton conveniently out of the way, I can think of no better person to represent the United States at the United Nations than Dennis Kucinich. It’s a match made in heaven. He’s always been fighting for a U.S. Department of Peace. Why reinvent the wheel? Let’s just hand him the keys to the one system we’ve already got.

All kidding aside, it would be interesting to see what would happen when you mix someone with the unwavering moral conviction of Kucinich (a man who put a city into default rather than risk even the appearance of impropriety) with what has possibly become the world’s most corrupt organization.

My personal feeling is that the United States should withdraw from the United Nations and, further, that they should take their headquarters elsewhere. Among other things, I’m sick and tired of leaders such as Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Hugo Chavez using the Assembly to pontificate upon

the alleged oppression of the United States without even acknowledging the unique freedom our country provides which makes sacred their very right to spread such propaganda.

It’s not so much that I mind the criticism; it’s that I’m done apologizing. I refuse to feel guilt about our war in the Middle East when the people denouncing our “aggression” in Iraq are the same ones criticizing our “passivity” in Darfur. The condemnation also loses conviction when you take into account the nations that are complaining. Call me close-minded, but I’m not naturally inclined to endorse military opinions from France, Human Rights rulings from China, or Economic Development plans from Haiti.

I’ll admit that I don’t have all of the details of the working structure of the U.N. but I’m at a loss for trying to think of an area of global concern where we either need their assistance or even benefit from their affiliation. When someone in the world suffers a catastrophic natural disaster, they don’t look to the U.N. - they await aid from the U.S. Without U.S. backing, a U.N. peacekeeping force is as effective as a “Rent-a-Cop” in a race riot. And, any U.N. sanctions are a joke unless they carry the weight of the U.S. economy.

My patience and trust is all but spent when I see things like the Oil-for-Food scandal, when I see treaty after treaty broken with little more than a collective slap on the wrist, and when I hear accolades for cowardice masquer-

ading as diplomacy. The problem is that the nations are no longer united. If China, North Korea, or even the United States decides not to comply with a U.N. decision, there is little the boys in the light blue hats can do about it. The Secretary-General has as much real power as do the parent of a rebellious teen: “You better stop shooting missiles over Japan, or so help me I’ll take away your Xbox for a week, young man!”

In 2001, Kofi Annan was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. To this day, I’m still trying to figure out what he did to deserve it other than occupy a seat that has long since lost its dignity. As of January 1st, the United

Nations ushers in a new era. Annan has finally stepped down and with him, hopefully, the black cloud of suspicion will also fade away.

I wish Ban Ki-moon the best of luck in his new post as Secretary-General. What lies before him is perhaps the most daunting task I could possibly imagine - before he can bring peace to the world, he must bring peace to the organization created to seek it.

Given my healthy feeling of contempt for the U.N., it is with a complete lack of expectation, but a great deal of hope, that I nominate Dennis Kucinich for the post of U.N. Ambassador. While I may question some of his policies, I have no doubt in his character. And, who knows, if he’s able to get something good done in that den of thieves, then perhaps he truly is ready for the Oval Office.

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Pulse Of The City

Lakewood’s Treasure Trove of Churches

A leisurely drive along Lakewood’s streets will reveal an abundance of beautiful houses of worship erected to God by faithful men and women many years before you and I were born. These buildings range from the simple to the sublime and came to us at a time when faith was a powerful engine at the heart of America’s development as a nation.

These days, depending on who you talk to, religion is either getting along better than ever or is resting on the decaying ropes of the American Dream. Religion, like politics, is one of those topics that people tend either to avoid or get in your face about. Like any passionate topic, it tends to be something people embrace or oppose. A middle ground regarding religious thought is often difficult to find.

Like many of the old Cleveland neighborhoods, Lakewood has many types of domes, steeples, and bell towers announcing the presence of God and marking the pulse of this city.

While many people enjoy the tolling of the bells at various times during the days and years, there are also those who feel that these bells remind people of past repressions or sad divisions within the family of humankind. As well, there are those who for one reason or another may feel victimized either by some of these institutions or by those who worked within them.

Although a minister himself, the late Dr. Martin Luther King reminded us that 11 o’clock on Sunday morning was the “most segregated hour of America.” Our different faiths continue to struggle with human sexuality, personal rules of conduct, abortions, marriage issues, definitions of the faithful life, and relationships with other religious bodies. For some, toleration of others is a virtue, but for others, the very word “tolerance” can evoke disgust and unthinkable appeasement.

Some people have left churches altogether, or have formed unity movements, so that all types of people feel acceptance. In Great Barrington, Massachusetts, Arlo Guthrie (son of Woody) has turned an old church, made famous in his “Alice’s Restaurant” song, into a place where all people are welcome to seek their own truth. The former church, renamed The Guthrie Center, is supposed to bring people of all faiths together for spiritual service, as well as for cultural and educational exchange, according to the information on their website.

To some extent, at least in America, and particularly in Lakewood, it’s been my experience that people are made very welcome to attend any of the churches that we have. These days, even two members of the same church will seldom agree on every particular thing that comes along religiously anyway; and the churches of Lakewood are working hard to transcend those old barriers and walls while maintaining the strength of their individual heritages.

Lakewood churches have been very active in a number of cooperative activities, including the Interfaith

Hospitality Network, a mission dedicated to helping to feed and shelter the homeless in the various churches for a specified period of time. Until recently, the Chat Room was a teen drop-in center supported by various churches coming together. Community meals are also coordinated by the various Lakewood churches as a way of having people come together to break bread and receive warm fellowship. The interfaith Lakewood Christian Service Center has also helped Lakewood residents for years with foodstuffs in their hours of need.

Due to sometimes changing demographics, some Lakewood churches have elected to share their worship spaces with other congregations looking for a home. Some churches also have instituted traditional as well as modern worship forms at different times during Sunday mornings.

I have truly enjoyed several Lakewood churches. For example, St. James Catholic Church on Detroit Avenue is the most beautiful church I’ve ever been in. The people, as well, are a great social community of doers. Lakewood Methodist Church represents to me a beautiful example of blending tradition with a response to the needs of today. The congregation is more than welcoming and helps others every chance it gets. Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church, at Lakewood’s other end, combines ethnic flavor with a gorgeously appointed

sanctuary and a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon school. St Hedwig Catholic Church, across the street, is unique as well, having a beautiful church and wonderful people.

Lakewood Baptist Church is also a favorite of mine. The warm, intimate sanctuary matches the warmth of the people there. They’ve had both traditional and contemporary services as well. I had my Boy Scout experiences at Grace Presbyterian Church, and its architecture is truly a thing of wonder. Lakewood Christian Church and Lakewood Congregational Church are both beautiful churches also, with what I would describe as “New England” style sanctuaries. Both of these churches have many fine programs for people to participate in.

In addition, the family atmospheres of St. Clement and St. Luke Catholic churches help to make them very special places indeed. Their interiors are more simply done than St. James, but they are both quite beautiful in their own rights. Trinity and Faith Lutheran churches both offer liturgical services in beautiful sanctuaries, and by some of the most warm-hearted people you will ever meet. As well, there are many more Lakewood churches that I hope to visit and spend time with in the future. If your church is not included here, my apologies! It should be.

Many of our friends and neighbors also belong to faiths not represented by Lakewood houses of worship. Although

this column’s subject matter relates to Lakewood, we need to acknowledge all of the faiths within our community with respect and good will.

On a final note, Lakewood Masonic Temple, although neither a church nor a place of public worship, is dedicated to God as well, but in a unique way. Freemasonry is not a religion, but it is very religious in character. The two “Blue Lodges” that meet at Lakewood Temple insist that their membership believe in one God but that would be in the faiths of their own choosing. Therefore, Blue Lodge Freemasons might be Christian, Jewish, or members of any monotheistic faith. Some people feel that the Freemasons are too tolerant, but Freemasons would probably argue that toleration does not mean abandonment of one’s own faith. Most Freemasons would probably agree that sitting down together without conflict or acrimony would be among the highest of human virtues.

Whatever your beliefs or faith tradition might be, Lakewood has very beautiful and welcoming places of worship that try to be good neighbors with each other and with the world beyond. These beautiful communities can only add to the pulse of this city.

I remember giving Mom a hard time about going to church as a young man (as many children do today). My dear late mother then responded with these words, that have always remained in my heart: “Gary, it’s the best thing we have.”

Yeah Mom, you have a point there.

Holiday Benefit Spreads Cheer to All

by Heidi Denman

On Friday, December 22, Lakewood United Methodist Church hosted “Megan & Friends: A Flat Rock Holiday Benefit.” The first-time event was held in the beautiful sanctuary of the church and brought holiday cheer on many levels. Featured musical performers included Megan Denman, piano; Cheryl Bindel, vocals; and Debbie Woodhams, violin.

Denman, a junior majoring in Piano Performance at the Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music, wanted to do something to raise funds and awareness for Flat Rock Children’s Home, located near Seneca, Ohio. Flat Rock provides residential care for children ages 6-22 whose families are unable to care for them. Denman was unable to participate in the church’s work mission trips this past summer and decided to hold a musical benefit for Flat Rock instead. With strong support from her church community and help from friends, she planned the event from start to finish, selling tickets for \$10 and hoping to raise \$500 for the children’s home.

The evening’s performance included music ranging from Bindel’s soaring vocal renditions of “Jesu Bambino” and “The First Nowell,” to



Featured musical performers included Megan Denman on piano, Cheryl Bindel on vocals, and Debbie Woodhams on violin.

Woodhams’ expressive and technically challenging performance of J. S. Bach’s unaccompanied violin piece, “D minor Partita,” the Chaconne movement. The latter was written following the unexpected death of Bach’s young wife and was seldom played until recent years, because of the high level of virtuosity required. Denman also performed several pieces: three etudes by Fryderyk Chopin, two ragtime works by American composer Scott Joplin, and several contemporary Christmas ballads, including a stunning rendition of “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christ-

mas,” which drew a cheer from the audience. Following this piece, Denman invited members of the audience to choose their favorite Christmas carols for a sing along.

More than \$1000 was raised for the Flat Rock Children’s Home as a result of the benefit concert. Brian Sheetz, representing Flat Rock, said the proceeds may go toward providing a listening center and other special improvements for the children to enjoy. Helping a worthy organization by means of festive music was a true indication of the holiday spirit.

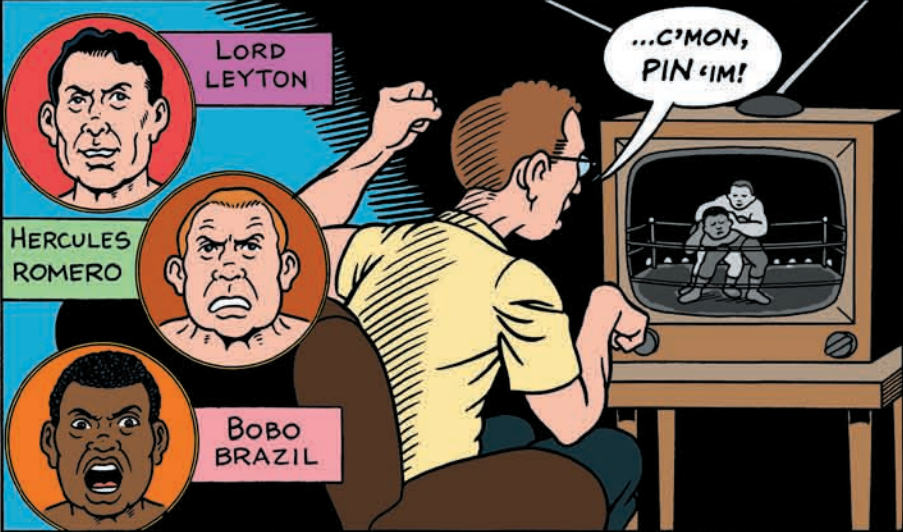







THE LEGEND OF CRAZY KENNY CONTINUES IN:  
**CRAZY KENNY AND THE WRESTLIN' FOOLS**  
STORY BY SCOTT MACGREGOR    ART BY GREG BUDGETT AND GARY DUMM    COLOR BY LAURA DUMM

I USED TO WATCH "BIG TIME WRESTLING" BACK IN THE DAY. THE LEGENDS OF THAT ERA INCLUDED NAMES LIKE LORD LEYTON, HERCULES ROMERO, AND MY FAVORITE, BOBO BRAZIL.



...C'MON, PIN 'IM!

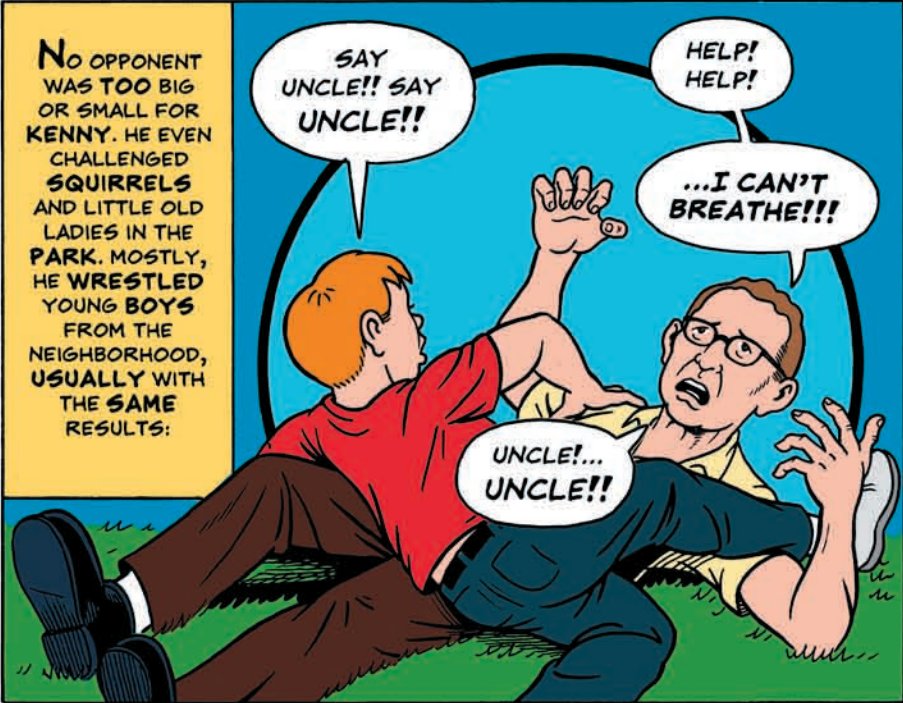
BUT THERE WAS ANOTHER GIANT OF WRESTLING THAT FEW KNEW ABOUT. HE WAS FEARSOME, HE WAS INVINCIBLE, HE WAS THE ALL-TIME LIMPING LEGEND OF LAKEWOOD, OHIO...HE WAS CRAZY KENNY!!



DO...DO YA...D-D'YA... D'YA...

...D'YA WANNA WRASSLE?!!

NO OPPONENT WAS TOO BIG OR SMALL FOR KENNY. HE EVEN CHALLENGED SQUIRRELS AND LITTLE OLD LADIES IN THE PARK. MOSTLY, HE WRESTLED YOUNG BOYS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD, USUALLY WITH THE SAME RESULTS:




SAY UNCLE!! SAY UNCLE!!

HELP! HELP!

...I CAN'T BREATHE!!!

UNCLE!... UNCLE!!




HAW! HAW!

HAW! HAW!

HEE! HEE!

TIME AFTER TIME KENNY WOULD ENGAGE AN OPPONENT ONLY TO BE BODY-SLAMMED IN SECONDS. AMIDST THE SOUNDS OF KID RIDICULE, HE WOULD STRUGGLE TO HIS FEET AND STAGGER OFF IN SEARCH OF NEW CHALLENGES.

NOWADAYS, AN OLD GUY WRESTLING KIDS WOULD BE WHISKED OFF THE STREET RIGHT QUICK. IN THOSE DAYS, THE ENTIRE TOWN KNEW HIM AND HOW TRULY HARMLESS HE WAS.



HELP! HELP!

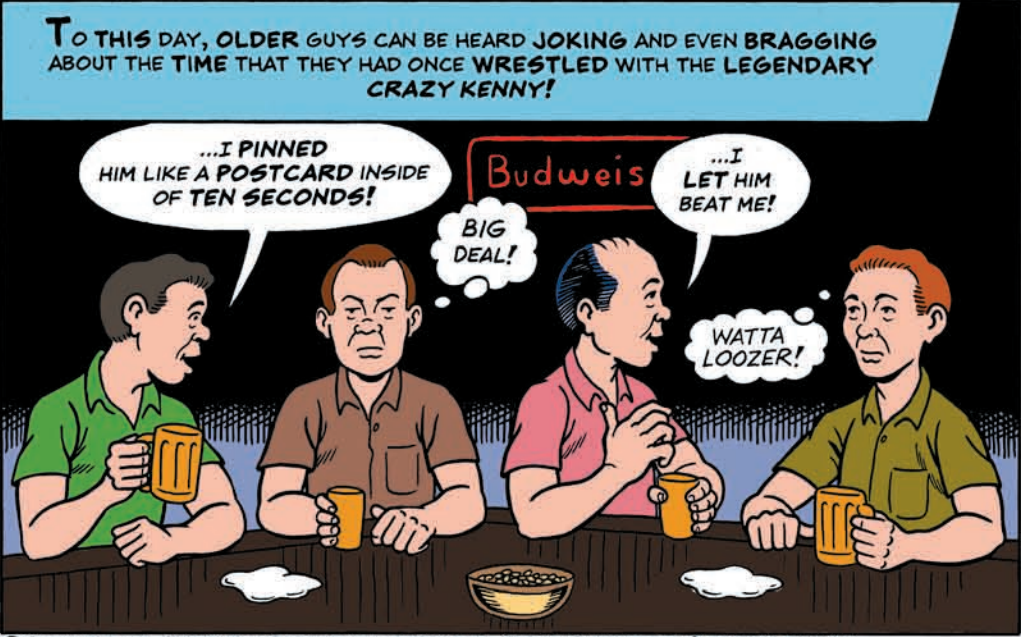
...YOW!...AND YOUNG BILLY HAS KENNY GLUED ON THE MAT!

UNCLE!!!...

...ONE - TWO - THREE! THIS MATCH IS OVER...!!

LAKESWOOD POLICE

TO THIS DAY, OLDER GUYS CAN BE HEARD JOKING AND EVEN BRAGGING ABOUT THE TIME THAT THEY HAD ONCE WRESTLED WITH THE LEGENDARY CRAZY KENNY!



...I PINNED HIM LIKE A POSTCARD INSIDE OF TEN SECONDS!


Budweis

...I LET HIM BEAT ME!

BIG DEAL!

WATTA LOOZER!

IN THE END I THINK IT WAS KENNY WHO HAD THE LAST LAUGH. YOU SEE, OUTCASTS LIKE KENNY ARE DEPRIVED OF SOMETHING THAT MOST OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED - HUMAN INTERACTION. WHO WOULD THINK THAT A BUNCHA WRESTLIN' FOOLS WOULD END UP GIVING HIM THE HUG THAT HE, LIKE ALL OF US, WAS IN CONSTANT SEARCH OF?!



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