

THE LAKEWOOD OBSERVER

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Volume 3, Issue 9, May 1, 2007

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Community Involvement Spurs Phase II of Schools Building Plan

On May 8th, Vote “Yes” On Issue 4!

by Jay Foran

The well-planned community effort to improve teaching and learning in the Lakewood City Schools has reached the exciting Phase II stage. On May 8th, Lakewood voters will decide Issue 4, the \$30 million second-phase bond issue for the 10-year rebuilding effort. The overall plan was conceived by the Lakewood Board of Education and has been shaped by the Lakewood community over the past several years. Voting “yes” will help maintain the current momentum of the plan and ensure a brighter future for our community, our children, and our property values.

While community discussion regarding the number of schools required by the district and the condition of existing facilities was first initiated in 2000, the comprehensive nature of the plan was first widely endorsed by the community with their approval of the Phase I plan in early

2004. Since that time, construction of new schools at four existing school sites has proceeded in earnest. The dust has flown while architecturally appropriate and operationally efficient buildings have been constructed. Notably, the four new schools (Harrison and Hayes Elementary Schools and Garfield and Harding Middle Schools) funded by Phase I will open on-time and on-budget in Fall 2007, and will serve the Lakewood community for generations to come.

Being on-time and on-budget is somewhat of a Herculean achievement given disruptions to the construction industry brought on by Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters. The supply of construction materials and labor has been constrained and prices have spiked as a result of these unforeseen events. Fortunately for taxpayers, due to effective oversight by the schools’ administration and the excellence of both the project managers and construction workers, the buildings

are being completed in a financially efficient manner while remaining consistent with their original design.

Issue 4, the Phase II bond issue, will fund a vital renovation to the eastern portion of Lakewood High School, providing badly needed science labs, technologically enriched classrooms, and updated vocational training facilities. It will also renovate and convert both Emerson and Horace Mann Middle Schools into state-of-the-art elementary schools on par with the new elementary schools set to open this fall. These much-needed renovations will create safer and more secure buildings for our students, as well as provide equal and fair access to neighborhood schools.

While the new Phase I schools opening this fall will create a new era of teaching and learning in Lakewood, only a little over one-third of the current Lakewood City Schools student population will get to benefit from these facilities. Approval of the Phase II

plan will extend updated and modernized facilities and improved teaching and learning opportunities to an even wider percentage of the Lakewood community.

For the taxpayer, approving the Phase II plan requires only a modest financial investment. Due to highly effective financial planning, the net effective increase will be only \$1.02 per month per \$100,000 of home valuation. Thus, an owner of a \$150,000 home will invest only \$18.36 annually to directly contribute to the building and improvement of three schools. Notably, approval of Issue 4 will move Lakewood significantly closer to the matching funds from the State of Ohio that will reduce overall construction costs for Lakewood by approximately 25%. These State of Ohio funds would be paid at the completion of Phase III and could total over \$42 million.

**Vote “Yes” On Issue 4
continued on page 7...**

Davis Celebration To Feature Renowned LHS Grad David Conte

by Jeff Endress



B. NEIL DAVIS has been a fixture in the Cleveland music community for over five decades. The West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church has been celebrating the career of B. Neil Davis in its 2006-07 artist series. The series will conclude on May 13, 2007 with a special guest appearance by Lakewood High School graduate David Conte at the 4 p.m. concert to be held at the church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River. It is fitting that Mr. Conte, currently professor of composition and conductor of the conservatory chorus at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music will be the guest artist at this

finale of the series celebrating B. Neil Davis’s career. While in high school, Mr. Conte not only sang in the A Cappella Choir directed by Mr. Davis; he also served as his accompanist. His appearance demonstrates the impact that Mr. Davis has had not only on the outstanding musical tradition at Lakewood High School but in the Cleveland community as a whole. B. Neil Davis’ enthusiasm and love of music is something that he fostered in all those who had the privilege of singing in choirs he directed during his tenure at Lakewood High School, his service as the choirmaster of the West Shore Unitarian Church for the past 22 years and his private voice instruction at Cleveland State University and the Beck Center for the Arts.

I am fortunate to be able to speak from experience having been a member of the Lakewood High School A Cappella Choir from 1969 to 1972. I remember with tremendous pride the professionalism of that choir and the musical perfection instilled by Mr. Davis as its Director. It has been said that those who can, do and those who can’t teach. The exception to that adage is Neil Davis, who not only is a gifted vocal performer himself but is one of those rare individuals who are able to extract from their students and

choirs their very best as witnessed by the countless superior ratings received by the Lakewood High School musical organizations under his tutelage during his tenure at LHS. It is small wonder that B. Neil is a member of the Lakewood Schools Teaching Hall of Fame and the 2006 recipient of the Ohio Choral Director’s Association Distinguished Service Award. His teaching days frequently began before 7:00 a.m. with rehearsals of special student vocal groups and often ended well after the dinner hour when rehearsals for the current high school musical were concluded. These long hours seemed to invigorate rather than exhaust, him as his joy and enthusiasm greeted a particularly well performed cantata or a David Conte composition for the folk group. The professionalism instilled by Davis in his students is reflected in the concert recordings made by his ensembles. Dusting off a decades old LP and listening to those performances there can be no reaction save, “Wow! They were really good”.

It is indeed appropriate that The West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church has seen fit to honor a man who has contributed so much to so many in the community. Seeing the director reunited with his former student in the May 13th concert promises to be a very fitting finale to the series. David

Conte, now a renowned composer in his own right credits his former high school choir director as being “the most important musical mentor” for much of his professional musicianship which “was first formed under Mr. Davis’s guidance at Lakewood High School”

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Lakewood Observer Editorial



Jay Foran stands in the natural light that will soon flood the new hallways of Harding Middle School

Lakewood Observer Advisory Board Encourages All To Vote FOR Issue 4

by Heidi Hilty, Editor

The Lakewood Observer has maintained a policy of neutrality on issues and candidates to encourage wide-spread participation in our open source volunteer civic journalism experiment. After nearly two years in print, we can call the trial a success. As such, this accomplishment comes with responsibility.

Issue 4 asks us to approve funding for Phase II of the School Building Plan. This bond issue will fund the conversion of Emerson and Horace Mann middle schools to state-of-the-art elementary schools as well as a partial renovation of Lakewood High School.

The school facilities were long overdue for an overhaul before a comprehensive committee was formed in 2000. This project was undertaken with careful planning, input,

and involvement of a cross-section of school, city, and community participants. Phase I was delivered on time and on budget. The committee has made every effort to apprise the community every step of the way. We have an duty to see the project through to completion.

Dr. Denise Reading spoke to a group of citizens last week about investing in education and the rewards it brings to communities. She spoke eloquently about responsibility and urgency. Jay Foran followed her speech with an impassioned personal narrative. Their words resonated with me and compel me to take a public stand. This is what I know for sure; every vote counts.

Please support our children and our community – **Vote FOR Issue 4.**

Letters To The Editor

Endorsement For Issue 4

Lakewood High School Senior

Having attended Lakewood City Schools since kindergarten, I have benefited much from the overwhelming support Lakewood residents provide their schools. On May 8th, residents have the opportunity to continue this encouraging tradition by voting “Yes” on Issue 4, and investing further in the future of their community.

Issue 4 is a critical Bond Issue that is necessary to modernize our schools and keep Lakewood competitive with surrounding districts. The Bond Issue will pay for the renovation of the western portion of Lakewood High School, and the conversion of Emerson and Horace Mann Middle Schools into elementary schools. The renovation and

construction financed by Issue 4 would bring science, vocational, and other facilities up to speed with 21st century learning. Improved security, ventilation and lighting will make schools safer and healthier for Lakewood’s children. Phase 1, almost completed, is on budget and on schedule. It included the building of two new elementary schools and two new middle schools. Phase 2 will continue the larger vision of making Lakewood schools accessible, competitive, and cost effective.

At an added cost of only \$1.02 dollars per month for every \$100,000 dollars of home valuation, Issue 4 is not only a bargain, but a wise investment. Our schools buoy property values,

encourage economic growth and make Lakewood a desirable place to live, work, or raise a family. I am proud and grateful to have spent my formative years in the Lakewood City Schools, and feel it is absolutely essential that all Lakewood residents recognize the importance of going to the polls on May 8th, and voting “Yes” on Issue 4.

Sam O’Leary

Vote Against Issue 11

I have served on two charter reviews. The charter is, basically, the constitution of our city. A charter review is a comprehensive study aimed at improving the mechanics of our city government.

The section of the charter that would be changed by Issue 11 was reviewed extensively by the Citizens Governance Task Force, and by the most recent Charter Commission. That section was amended in the Revised Charter but the Task Force did not recommend or include the type of changes that Issue 11 proposes, and the Charter Commission specifically recommended against those types of changes proposed in Issue 11.

A vote against Issue 11 is a vote for less politics in our schools. Do you really want the Lakewood school board and administration to have to decide whether to hire, or not to hire, a local politician/elected official? What are the implications of mixing these separate government bodies? How might it affect voter representation?

I invite you to read comments from all sides of this debate on the Observation Deck at lakewoodobserver.com.

Vote AGAINST Issue 11.

Steve Davis

League Of Women Voters

The Lakewood Schools are about to embark on the next phase of their building plan. With completion of new Harrison and Hayes Elementary schools and new middle schools on the Harding and Garfield sites, the project will renovate and modernize the western half of Lakewood High School and convert Emerson and Horace Mann Middle Schools into state-of-the-art elementary schools.


This dynamic project demonstrates the commitment of community leaders to providing the finest public facilities possible for our residents and leading that effort is the Lakewood School system. The Lakewood Bond Issue is a 1.9 mill bond issue that will raise approximately \$30,000,000 for Phase 2 of this project. Thanks to the

Lakewood Schools’ sound financial management, homeowners will receive a 1.5 mill reduction, so the effective added cost of this issue is about \$1.02 per month for every \$100,000 of home valuation.

The Lakewood Chapter of the League of Women Voters Cuyahoga Area enthusiastically endorses and supports Issue 4, which will appear on the May 8 ballot. All elections are vital to preserving our precious democratic process and this one is no exception. We urge all registered voters to support this effort and vote for Issue 4.

Sincerely,

Mary Osburn & Mary Warren
Co-Chairs, Lakewood Chapter
League of Women Voters
Cuyahoga Area
Vot



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OBSERVER**
Your Independent Source for
Lakewood News & Opinion

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Community Open House
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As part of our continuing commitment to our patients, medical staff and the community, we've expanded our primary health care services to a new state-of-the-art facility on the eastern corridor of Lakewood.

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City Council

April Fools Over

Council reporting was diverted somewhat in the past month because of attention paid to internal council conflicts and the Observer's efforts to make up to the minute reports. Despite those detours there were regular agenda items that were temporarily overlooked but will now be revisited.

In stark contrast to the fissures in council was the brick and mortar stability represented by Charles Barrett, retiring Building Commissioner. After accepting the resolution honoring his service from Mayor Thomas George and council Barrett deservedly took a few moments to recollect on his tenure as Lakewood's Building Commissioner. He started out by mentioning that he, his father, and his grandfather were all plumbers. He deadpanned that this background made for "lively" conversation at family gatherings. He constantly tried to find solutions to building problems that would benefit the property owner as well as follow city guidelines. During his remarks of his pride in his job and devotion to the city, an observer could see the glint of recognition in other department heads eyes while they listened to a kindred spirit.

Continuing with the resolutions Kevin Butler (ward 1) and Ryan Demro (ward 2) presented a resolution honoring Cub Scouts Hayden Bish, Hugh Camp-

bell, Daniel Crompton, Luke DeBaltzo, George Harkenrider, Blue Keough, Kyle Masters, Cooper Strachan, and Christian Styles for being awarded Cub Scout's highest award, the Arrow of Light. Even though their picture appeared in the last Observer issue such an achievement is worth repeating.

Westlake Avenue is the dividing line between ward one and two. It is a narrow street and because of that speed limits have been of concern to council representatives for many years. This time Demro and Butler of those two wards teamed up to request a traffic study of that street. This is a necessary first step for determining a safe speed limit. Specifically, they would like the limit reduced to 15 miles per hour which is common for an alleyway.

Speaking of streets, this time of year always brings out orange barrels and cement barricades: it's repaving time. In a preliminary list of streets to be resurfaced this year was Woodford Avenue. The City Engineer's Department started design work for that job and determined that the water main needed replacement. Funds for street, sewer, and water main replacement come from several sources. In this case, the money for water main replacement for this year had already been budgeted. City Engineer Dennis Albrecht

Stan Austin

detailed the costs of the resurfacing, the water main replacement and the design work and therefore thought it prudent and economical to delay for one year the Woodford job so it could all be done at once.

Butler thought the residents of Woodford had been led to believe that the resurfacing would be done this year and that therefore, the water main replacement money should be found. He wanted his fellow council members know how the residents felt and several voiced their concerns. One resident, Thelma Mariani, had a detailed chart of her history of meetings and phone calls with the city about the resurfacing project. She pointed out that Woodford was going on forty years between repaving. As to finding the extra money needed for the water main to do the project this year she pointed out that Arliss Avenue scheduled for this year would cost about the same and in her opinion its condition warranted the delay, not Woodford.

This brought an immediate response from Mary Louise Madigan (ward 4). Arliss is in her ward. She said that the two streets were not comparable. Madigan pointed out that according to the rating system the water main was a number one, a worse rating than number four for

Woodford. "There is a real danger in pitting one group of citizens against another, and I don't want to do that," she said. Butler indicated that he just wanted to have the facts aired so that those residents now understood why the project was being delayed a year.

As a footnote to the street repaving issue it might be recalled by Observer readers that three years ago when choosing the streets to be resurfaced, Michael Dever (at large) and the then ward one councilmember Patrick Corrigan climbed into Corrigan's minivan and personally drove the streets for a final selection. Since then, Albrecht instituted an objective and engineering based evaluation method for scheduling street rebuilding. Using that method to schedule street repairs was agreed to by council so as to avoid the personal or non-objective selection of streets. That way the overall good of the city would be the end result if all council members agreed to adhere to the engineer's schedule. These were the procedures agreed on by council in order to avoid an attempt at favoritism at the expense of another council member or part of the city. Albrecht also pointed out that the city has to respond to state and county projects that might require redirection of money, such as are Detroit Avenue and Clifton Boulevard, which are state routes.

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Reward \$10,000.

Call Scott Wilson at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, at 216-522-1400 with any information pertaining to this incident.

Description:

Suspect 1, black male, 5'8" tall, medium build, green shirt & baggy pants.

Suspect 2, black male.

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Lakewood Public Library

Lakewood Public Library Seeks Lakewood Photographers for New Galleries

by Kenneth Warren

The new design of Lakewood Public Library by Robert A.M. Stern Architects connects through considerable artistic grandeur and quality building principles to Lakewood's rich tradition of civic buildings in the Classical architectural language. With a design effort that evokes grand civic space in order to place Lakewood Public Library at the center of the community's vision for the development of intellect and inspiration, Robert A.M. Stern Architects has identified several interior and exterior locations where distinctive art from national and local artists will be exhibited.

"Photography, posters and other art pertaining to the community could be located along these passageways for the enjoyment of patrons as they enter and leave the library," suggests Alex Lamis, a partner with Robert A.M. Stern Architects.

Lakewood is a distinctive community with a great architectural legacy, rich twentieth century history, robust civic ecology and many natural marvels. While acclaimed muralist Richard Haas is currently working on two murals for the Grand Reading Room that will capture the essence of Lakewood's many facets, the Lakewood Public Library Foundation is encouraging Lakewood residents to submit one to six photographic images of Lakewood, the life, icons and times.

Members of the Art Selection Committee have set their sights on acquiring an inspiring array of photographic images from Lakewood's present and past.

"I am hoping to capture more than images from 2007. It would be great for photographers to dig into their vaults and discover treasures from decades of Lakewood life," says Nancy Seibert, Vice President of the Board of Trustees who serves on the Art Selection Committee with Dan Cuffaro Marcia Hall, Phyllis Fannin, Tiffany Graham.

"The photography contest is an innovative means of engaging residents

of all ages, backgrounds and talent in celebrating Lakewood in the art galleries of our new library," says Lakewood Public Library Foundation trustee Mary Anne Crampton, who with Lucy Sinagra is co-chair of the fundraising effort.

At least 20 photographs will be selected and receive an honorarium of \$200 each. Selected works will be framed and hung in the community gallery in the north and south entry halls of the new Lakewood Public Library.

- Eligibility rules are as follows:
- All ages are eligible to submit photographs.
 - All artists must be residents of Lakewood.
 - All photographs must be taken by the artist.
 - All photographs need to be taken in the city of Lakewood.
 - Photographs may be color or black and white.
 - Actual prints must be presented in 12" x 18" format on quality archival photographic paper (professionally printed).

- Both vertical and horizontal formats will be accepted.
- Framed and matted work will not be accepted.
- Employees of the Lakewood Public Library, LPL Board of Trustees members, LPL Foundation members, and LPL Art Selection Committee members are not eligible to enter the contest.

Entries may be submitted from August 1, 2007 until November 1, 2007.

“Be The First To See The Best” Library Gala Raises Money To Support Public Art

by Jennifer Raynor

The Lakewood Public Library Foundation hosts the "Be the First to See the Best" Gala at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 23 to celebrate the 40,000 square foot expansion (the first of two phases) of the library. Gala guests have the first opportunity to preview the library designed by internationally renowned architect Robert A. M. Stern. Funds raised by the Gala will support public art both inside and outside the library.

"Gala attendees will be among the first to view this incredible new space," said Shannon Strachan, chairperson of the Gala committee. "We're expecting hundreds of supporters to attend the celebratory extravaganza, which includes live music, a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails."

Live music will feature the Ernie Krivda Jazz Quartet and Lakewood's Grupo Brasil; Vive L'Four, an a capella group from Lakewood High School, and a string quartet. In addition, guests will have the opportunity to participate in a silent auction and bid on items from a host of residents, businesses and organizations from Lakewood and beyond. Hors d'oeuvres will be presented by Sammy's Catering, which has provided delectable delights in Northeast Ohio for more than 25 years. Cocktails and

beverages will be provided by Lakewood's legendary Rozi's Wine, and gala supporter Novo Coffee.

"The Gala not only presents the opportunity to support public art at our award-winning library, but to recognize its contribution to Lakewood's community by providing life-long learning opportunities for all Lakewood residents," said Lynn Foran, president of the Lakewood Public Library Foundation.

The library, which has received the number one ranking among the nation's 530 libraries serving cities of a similar size by Hennen's American Public Library Rating for three of the past five years, is about to substantially increase its services for Lakewood's adults and children, according to Kenneth Warren, executive director of Lakewood Library.

"Funding of the improved library facility by Lakewood residents clearly showed they understand and value our impact on the community," said Warren. "We're thrilled about this opportunity to introduce our new space to our community and patrons."

Tickets for the Gala are \$100 per individual and sponsorships levels range from \$1,500-\$5,000. Tickets can be purchased at the library or by visiting www.bethefirsttoseethebest.com. Gala invitations, designed by Lakewood's Rosenberg Advertising, will be in the mail soon. Sponsors of the gala include Fifth Third Bank, First Federal of Lakewood, Library Design Associates, Panzica Construction, Robert A.M. Stern, Rosenberg Advertising, Tucker & Ellis, Brennan & Associates, Infinity Construction, and The McHugh Group.

Need A Computer Class?



by John Guscott

Need a Computer Class? Try Lakewood Public Library's On-line Lessons by Justin Adkins With the Lakewood Public Library about to begin renovation of the existing building, opportunities for computer instruction are limited to on-line lessons. In case you didn't know though, all of our previous Computer Lessons are available online! That's right, in case you couldn't make it in time for our last scheduled classes, or

if you'd been putting them off, you can still access eleven class guides on our Computer Instruction page!

If you're a World Wide Web rookie, then check our Internet Basics lesson. Already have your feet wet and looking for the next step? Check out Searching the Web for tips on search engines like Google and more. Want to

stay in contact with friends and family? Then Email Basics is for you. Did you recently purchase a digital camera and want to know a little more about your options? Digital Cameras and Graphics will help you learn to master your new equipment.

The fun doesn't just stop at our online lessons. Check out some of the best online resources we've gathered together for you from all over the web! If you need to brush up on your mouse skills, then Mousercise is for you. Need a little work on your typing skills? Do you have proper Netiquette? Perhaps you'd like to dive deeper in technology terminology at Webopedia. These are just a few free online resources available to you.

You can find our lessons online @ www.lkwdpl.org/classes To find the previously mentioned Online Resources, scroll to the button of the classes page and click the More Information link. If you'd like to jump straight to the Online Resources, you'll find them @ www.lkwdpl.org/classes/resources.htm. All guides and resources are absolutely free.

Library Events Calendar

Thursday, May 3

SCIENCE VS. MAGIC

A book discussion program for students in fourth through eighth grade Explore new worlds in six amazing fantasy and science-fiction series. We'll read the first installment of each saga to determine whether aliens are smarter than fairies, or whether genies are more powerful than Greek gods. Each title must be read by its discussion date. To register, please stop in, call (216) 228-7428 or use the form provided on the last page of this booklet. The Akhenaten Adventure by Philip Kerr 7:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. in the Madison Branch

Saturday, May 12

WRITER'S WORKSHOP - NEW LOCATION - NEW TIME

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. 3:00 P.M. in the Madison Branch Meeting Room

Lakewood Food Security

Community Supported Agriculture: Thursday Nights With Leaf Community

*Do you value a healthy, locally sustainable food source?
If yes, it's not too late to purchase a share bag through the
Lakewood Earth & Food Community's CSA initiative.*

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is an alternative model of food production and distribution that promotes health and the local economy while reducing our dependence on fossil fuels and factory farms. This is accomplished by connecting local farmers and their local customers through a direct relationship. Participants pay the farmer directly, either through installments during the season or in lump sum in advance of the season. The LEAF Community is working with Covered Bridges Gardens and City Fresh to bring Community Supported Agriculture to Lakewood every Thursday evening beginning July 12 and running through October 25 (weather permitting). Don't worry, you still time to join. The registration deadline for Covered Bridges Gardens is May 15th.

City Fresh allows for flexible participation. You can participate at your pleasure throughout the season, or pay for the whole season upfront. However, in order to reduce the administrative burden for the LEAF Community volunteers who will be preparing your weekly share bag, we ask that you seri-

ously consider prepaying for the full summer share if you are choosing the City Fresh program. Each week during the program you will receive a bag of freshly picked vegetables, often still warm from the sun of the field. The bags will be delivered to the LEAF Community drop point for collection on Thursday evenings. The exact time and location have yet to be determined. Several locations are in the running, with pick-up times ranging between 4 and 8pm. One location will be selected by mid-June. As a participant in the LEAF Community's CSA initiative you will have the option of purchasing your share bag either from Covered Bridges Gardens in Ashtabula, or through the City Fresh program in Cleveland. Share bags from both Covered Bridges Gardens and City Fresh will be available for pickup at the same place and time, each Thursday evening in Lakewood throughout the growing season. Registrants will be informed of the exact pick-up time and location by mid-June. Registration forms and payments must be submitted by May 15th.

Covered Bridges Gardens is a 4th generation family farm in Jefferson, Ohio. Mick, Kay and Steve Prochko are entering their 5th season of vending through local farmer markets and CSA programs. The Prochko's work with Mike and Diane Hiener of Peters Creek Farm to provide their CSA customers with a plush variety of produce throughout the growing season. While Covered Bridges is a small scale conventional farm, they strive to avoid the use of pest control chemicals. At Covered Bridges Gardens, pest control chemicals are used only as a last resort, to save a crop that would otherwise perish. The LEAF Community will be working closely with Covered Bridges Gardens to keep members informed as to what, if any specific crops have been sprayed throughout the season.

Covered Bridges Gardens is also a supplier to the City Fresh program. City Fresh is a program administered by the New Agrarian Center of Oberlin, Ohio. The City Fresh program was started with a grant from the USDA to target and serve inner-city neighborhoods that are underserved by conventional grocery outlets. City Fresh pulls together produce from gardens and farms in and around the cities of Cleveland and Lorain for their share bag program. Through the gen-

erous support of governmental and foundation grant monies, City Fresh is able to offer both free and subsidized share bags to individuals who qualify based on their gross income. This program is dedicated to the redevelopment of inner-city communities through reconnecting impoverished, underserved citizens with fresh, locally grown food. City Fresh operates a youth outreach program which reconnects inner-city youth with healthy food though hard, rewarding working in the garden and community. City Fresh produce is distributed at Fresh Stops in and around the cities of Cleveland and Lorain. This year, Lakewood will host it very first Fresh Stop though the LEAF Community's CSA initiative each Thursday evening throughout the season.

For pricing, registration forms or more information email info@leafcommunity.org or contact Dan @ 216.227.8394. You can also check us out on the web www.leafcommunity.org

Mission: The Lakewood Food and Earth Community is dedicated to development of a more sustainable, healthful and economically viable community through actions producing broad access to the purchasing, growing and trading of fresh, local foods and culture.



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Lakewood Schools

Vote “Yes” On Issue 4
continued from page 1...

And while each of the aforementioned reasons justify the passage of Issue 4, it is the new, more efficient school configuration that will have the most significant positive impact on teaching and learning. Issue 4 helps keep front and center the community plan to improve our school district through fewer, newer facilities. Notable impacts on teaching and learning will be demonstrated through:

1) **School Populations** – School population imbalances at both the school and grade levels have made it challenging to provide consistent programming from school to school. Split classes (two grade levels blended together) have often resulted, while some class offerings had to be limited due to insufficient numbers of eligible students.

Getting school and grade level populations into balance will ensure a greater consistency of program offerings and a more efficient utilization of teaching resources. All students, no matter which school they attend, will

have an equal opportunity to develop their education.

2) **Teaching Tools and Technology** – Teaching approaches and tools have changed dramatically over time. New technologies have greatly enhanced this rate of change. New schools will be outfitted with the latest technology and will be physically configured in a way that allows teachers to promote the best teaching approaches for the overall class, as well as the individual student. This is vitally important, especially as we become more diverse as a community and, for example, the number of children who use English as a second language grows. While Lakewood is blessed to have a highly talented and committed corps of teachers, we must provide them and our students the tools and technology necessary for success in our changing world.

3) **Classroom Environment** – The infrastructure of our old buildings is growing more inefficient and obsolete. Unfortunately, outdated heating, ventilation, lighting, and electrical systems, the lack of central air conditioning, and the inflexible physical configuration of

classrooms have been roadblocks in the learning process.

New buildings with updated heating, ventilation, and security systems will provide more ideal temperature, air, and lighting quality, which will be matched with an enhanced physical design of the space. Together, these changes will augment learning capacity and increase student safety. Classrooms will be better aligned by grade level and age group and access for our physically and mentally handicapped children will be greatly improved. All of our children will have a better chance of retaining the lessons taught and thus be better able to carry the basic learning requirements forward.

4) **Cost efficiency** – Our older buildings, while having served Lakewood well over more than eight decades, require significant maintenance and are a sizeable drain on operational costs. As we all know, ten efficient buildings are preferable to fourteen highly inefficient buildings at any time, in any place. Likewise, as staffing reductions occur through attrition in the transition to the new

ten-school configuration, additional operational savings will be achieved.

Over time, the educational process only improves when you can choose to buy another ream of paper and a set of crayons for a creative student rather than using the money to patch an old boiler. Future dollars invested into education by our community will go more directly to the education of a child rather than to other backstage or support areas.

It is time to reaffirm our community plan to improve teaching and learning in our community through fewer, better facilities. The Phase I effort is nearly complete and is on-time and on-budget. With the passage of Issue 4, this efficiency will be carried through to the next wave of improvements. The cost for Phase II is minimal, at only \$1.02 per month per \$100,000 of home valuation. Through Phase II, an even larger percentage of our student population will come to benefit from the improved learning environment. The community momentum we enjoy will continue and our bright future will be better secured.

Vote “Yes” on Issue 4 on May 8th!

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Lakewood Community

On The Street Where You Live

by Julie Wang Warren

It is not necessarily a phenomenon in Lakewood to have people stay close to home. Folks choose to be near family or stay within the familiar neighborhood where they themselves once played. Two years ago, we relocated within Lakewood and ended up being significantly closer to where my mother grew up on Ethel Avenue. My mother's family left Lakewood when she was only fifteen years old so that her father could fulfill a lifelong dream of becoming a "gentleman farmer out in the country"—Westlake. To me, that's where my roots were. Mom and Dad raised five kids, four boys and a girl, held down jobs, and participated in PTA, music boosters, and their local church.

Mom was an only child so there was not a lot of banter about childhood memories like my father and his sisters had. We had many visits with aunts, uncles, and cousins on my dad's side and the stories of their family life and small town became familiar lore. Because Mom's mom died before I was born, she was never able to enlighten me about my mother's early years.

Over the years of traveling into Lakewood for sticky buns at Miller's, ice cream at Malley's and classes at Beck Center, Mom would sometimes say, "Oh so-and-so used to live there" as we would pass residences or "I used to walk this way to school". In my narcissistic teenage years, I rarely digested what she was referring to.

Years went by and much to my parents' dismay; I grew up. I went to college, made mistakes, had some successes, and in the mid-90's, my father passed away far sooner than any of us were ready. Admittedly, I was a Daddy's Girl. This factor definitely contributed to my ability to really listen to my father's stories, but my mother's stories were typically taken for granted.

My life moved on. I got married and settled down. What place better for a first-time homebuyer than Lakewood? Soon, my husband and I found ourselves charmed by this inner-ring town. We found little parks tucked away. We found restaurants with delicious foods.



Class on the steps of Lincoln School Mom (Gretchen) in front row, second from the right Photo #2 Classroom at Lincoln School Mom is 2nd row from the left, second seat back

We found a business opportunity. We found friends and I found a part of my roots I had never known.

Before I could truly appreciate these discoveries, two things happened: Mom had her 70th birthday and I read the book, *The Red Tent*. At the time of her birthday, I really wanted to do something special and I attempted writing a corny poem outlining significant points in her life. I began interviewing my four older brothers

and came to discover that their knowledge of my mother's personal life and childhood stories was even more limited than mine. How could we not know more about her—just HER, not just about life with Dad?

The *Red Tent* is a novel about Dinah, the only daughter of Jacob (you know the guy who had Joseph with the colorful coat and all those sons). The author, Anita Diamant, creates a story, which helps to fill in the blanks about this woman because as with so many Biblical accounts, the stories that were passed down were about the men. In the prologue, Dinah addresses you as if she has welcomed you to her story. She relates that, "my mothers were proud to give my father so many sons. Sons were a woman's pride and her measure. But the birth of one boy after another was not an unalloyed source of joy in the women's tents. My father boasted about his noisy tribe, and the women loved my brothers, but they longed for daughters too... Daughters eased their mother's burdens—helping with the spinning, the grinding of grain and the endless task of looking after baby boys, who were forever peeing in the corner of the tents, no matter what you told them. But the other reason women

wanted daughters was to keep their memories alive."

To say that this struck home was an understatement.

After we relocated, my mother was thrilled to learn that our daughter would attend kindergarten at Lincoln School where she had gone so many years ago. I found that Mom kept a scrapbook with pictures of herself and fellow classmates standing on the very steps my first-born would ascend on her first day of school. I poured over the scrapbooks and I listened. I read through her autobiography book containing the names of beloved teachers and friends at Lincoln. I showed off her Horace Mann Hall Monitor pin!

At this point, I decided to take action. I am the daughter. I am the keeper of her memories. We set out on a Saturday afternoon with video camera in hand and we stood on the front steps or in the yard of every house she ever lived in during her childhood. I interviewed her and she spun stories of birthday parties, pets, family coming to visit, and boyfriends.

The home on Ethel Ave. was the end of our "This-Is-Your-Life" tour. The couple who lived there had agreed to let Mom and me inside to extend the trip down memory lane. Armed with photos of the Ethel house circa 1940's we were able to see, compare, and videotape the addition that my grandfather built on the back of the house and the place where a favorite old tree once grew. She walked into her old bedroom for the first time in over 50 years. It was smaller than she remembered. She descended into the basement where she regaled us with stories about the air raid drills during WWII and how the basement windows had to be painted black. I learned my grandfather was the air raid captain on their street and patrolled Ethel Ave. with a hardhat and shovel.

My favorite part and the culmination of events of such a happy day was to discover that somewhere beneath layers of kitchen floor renovations was the initial "R" for her maiden name, Rothfuss. My grandparents had laid their monogram in the linoleum. Rob and Ruth, the couple who now reside in the house were amazed at this tale. We all laughed more when they revealed they had purchased the home from another family named Reilly.

I'm sure that becoming a mother of two daughters of my own has contributed dramatically to my connection with my mother. I like to think that our living where she spent the beginning years of her life jump-started our communication. In hindsight, I wish that I would have listened more but I am so grateful that she is here now to tell me her story. As Dinah says in the prologue, "I wish I had more to tell of my grandmothers. It is terrible how much has been forgotten, which is why, I suppose, remembering seems a holy thing."

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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

Don't Miss The 2007 Hair Of The Dog Happy Hour & Silent Auction

by Catherine Butler & Mike Deneen



Charlie is just one of the former Lakewood Animal Shelter residents inviting you to attend the "Hair of the Dog" Happy Hour

It's that time of the year again! Kick off your Memorial Day weekend early by attending the third annual "Hair of the Dog" Happy Hour and Silent Auction on Thursday, May 24 at Swingos on the Lake from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. This event raises funds for the Citizens Committee for a Lakewood Animal Shelter (CCLAS), the local nonprofit organization that supports the Lakewood Animal Shelter via fundrais-

ing and volunteering. Since its opening in 1985, the shelter has helped thousands of Lakewood pets find loving homes.

Tickets are \$40 per individual ticket or \$35 each for two or more tickets. To RSVP, call Catherine Butler at (216) 225-4346. A limited number of tickets will also be available at the door. Tickets include drinks and appetizers from one of greater Cleveland's most popular and award-winning restaurants.

The event will feature a live musical performance by highly regarded local artist Kristine Jackson. Her blend of blues, country and soul has been popular with fans and critics alike for years. To learn more about Kristine or to download samples of her music, visit her website www.kjblues.com

As in past years, the event will feature an outstanding Silent Auction, featuring a wide range of outstanding items. Among the items at this year's event are:

- *Prime seats to Opening Night of "The Lion King" at Playhouse Square
- *Two tickets in the Cleveland Browns

- "Dawg Pound" for the Seahawks game
 - *A variety of outstanding artwork from Lakewood artists
 - *Two tickets to the Ohio State/Northwestern football game in Columbus
 - *Great pet packages from area businesses
 - *Spa and Salon gift packages
 - *Numerous items and gift certificates from Lakewood businesses
 - *A wide variety of event and sports tickets
 - *And of course, a selection of Lakewood Observer items, including the highly coveted "Chef Geoff" apron
- Donations are tax-deductible and

are still being accepted for the Silent Auction. All donors will be recognized at the event. If you would like to contribute an item, contact Mike Deneen at mdeneen@cox.net or at 216-226-5536.

This event is CCLAS's primary fundraiser for the entire year, so please come out and bring your family and friends to kick off the Memorial Day weekend in style and support Lakewood's homeless and abandoned pets. If you have any questions about the event, contact Catherine Butler at 216-225-4346. To learn more about CCLAS and its programs, visit their website www.cclas.org

Barton Center To Hold Wine & Cheese Fundraiser

The Barton Community Center will hold a Wine and Cheese fundraiser on Thursday, May 24 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. The event is entitled "In Bloom", as it will be held at Barton Center's beautifully landscaped outdoor Courtyard and Flower Garden, and the adjacent indoor Rotunda and Greenhouse. Entertainment will be provided by Lakewood High School's *Four Seasons String Quartet*. The event will also include a silent auction and a top-hat raffle.

Tickets are only \$25 per person, \$10 is tax deductible. Tickets can be reserved by calling Barton Center at 216-221-3400, or by mailing a check to Barton Community Center

at 14300 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107. Ample parking is available at the adjacent Congressman Kucinich office parking lot and across Detroit Avenue at the Lakewood Baptist Church.

Proceeds will be used to fund the many activities and classes Barton Center offers, including providing instructors for computer and exercise classes.

To find out more about Ohio's first senior center or to volunteer, call the Barton Center office at 216-221-3400. Barton Community Center is located on the Ground Floor of the Westerly Apartments at 14300 Detroit Ave. and is open M-F 9am-3pm.

Boy Scouts Conduct Mock Trial

by Steve Ott

On April 4, 2007, a jury in Judge Patrick Carroll's courtroom returned an interesting verdict. The jury found in favor of a youth who downloaded music from the internet. The jury found against the creator of the music who claimed a copyright violation because of the download. The thirteen-member jury deliberated for over ten minutes, discussing the testimony from the various witnesses as well as the instructions of law from Judge Carroll. Based on interviews with jury members after the trial, they agreed with the Defendant and believed that since the Plaintiff did not encrypt his music and allowed the music to be placed on a free website, he thus lost his copyright protections.

The Plaintiff and the Defendant in this case were represented by members of Boy Scout Troops 176 and 515. The thirteen-member jury was comprised of their peers - also Boy Scouts from Troop 176 and 515. In fact, the Defendant and Plaintiff were from Troop 176 and 515. Judge Carroll participated with these two troops in a mock trial conducted by the Boy Scouts to earn the law merit badge.

In order to obtain the merit badge the scouts learned about two famous trials in history, Brown v. Board of

Education of Topeka and United States v. Shepherd. They also met with a police officer who discussed with them his role in our society. The scouts discussed different laws and how they impact the society in general. However, the highlight of the merit badge is the mock trial.

The trial concerned a current issue faced by all the Scouts. That is, whether they are allowed to download music from the internet from free services, such as Limewire. The scouts learned about copyright laws, about fair use and about how a civil trial system works in general. There were three lawyers representing the Plaintiff and two lawyers representing the Defendant. The Plaintiff and the Defendant were each scouts who testified under questioning from their attorneys. After the jury returned its verdict, the Judge spent a considerable amount of time discussing with the scouts the role the municipal court plays in society. Judge Carroll reviewed the criminal side of the law as seen by the judge. He also discussed his role as a neutral in deciding cases beforehand.

The scouts went home with first-hand experience of how the civil justice system works. Paula Puchajda is the Scoutmaster of Troop 176 and Jim Frye is the Scoutmaster of Troop 515.

May Is Huntington's Awareness Month

The Huntington's Disease Society of America, Northeast Ohio Chapter, will hold its Annual Open Medical Forum and Meeting on Saturday, May 12, 2007. The event begins with a reception and luncheon at 11:30 a.m., followed by the program at 12:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, 6001 Rockside Road, Independence, OH.

The speaker for this forum is Melany Danehy, M.D., and her topic will be "Psychiatric Care in Huntington's Disease". Dr. Danehy is Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Rush University in Chicago and serves as the psychiatrist for the Huntington's Disease Center of Excellence at Rush. Dr. Danehy specializes in medications. She spoke at the 2006 HD National Convention about psychiatric medications and when an HD patient should see the psychiatrist and why. In addition, Dr. Danehy sees Parkinson's Disease, ataxia, and many other types

of movement disorder patients in her clinic at Rush University for medication management.

Dr. Danehy also maintains a private psychiatric practice in the western suburbs of Chicago, where she sees general psychiatric patients without movement disorders. This includes functioning as a hospital psychiatrist at Elmhurst Memorial Hospital and at the Elmhurst Partial Hospital.

The program is free and open to the public. All Huntington's Disease patients, their family members, caregivers and medical personnel are encouraged to attend.

Reservations can be made by contacting the Chapter office at 440-423-4372, or in Lakewood by calling 216-226-6633. The Huntington's Disease Society of America (HDSA) funds research provides HD family services as well as educates professionals and the general public about this brain disorder.

The Ohio Boychoir Offer Repeat Performance This Coming Friday, May 4th

The Ohio Boychoir presented a concert in Lakewood at the Church of the Ascension on Sunday, April 29th. The concert featured the glorious works of Johann Sebastian Bach and Antonio Vivaldi, as well as the more recent sounds of Bernstein and a surprising choral work by Hoagy Carmichael.

This program will be repeated at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4th at St. Christopher's Church, 20141 Detroit Road, in Rocky River.

There is no admission, but a freewill offering will be received. For more information regarding this event, contact Thomas Shellhammer at 216-226-6974

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Lakewood Sports & Fitness

LHS Rangers vs Cleveland Heights Tigers



photo by Ivor Karabatkovic



photo by Ivor Karabatkovic

The Rangers finally won their first game on the road, beating the Cleveland Heights Tigers 12-1. Senior Adam Hrdlicka pitched a complete game, and everyone provided some offense. Senior Taylor Kraus had three doubles, and senior Tim LaBar scored two runs. The defense wasn't a let down today, even though the ball took plenty of funny hops on the Tigers Field. The Rangers are now 12-2

Lakewood Jazzercise Offers A Free Week Of Classes In May For National Fitness Month

In honor of National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, Lakewood/Rocky River Jazzercise instructor Karen Kilbane is offering all new customers a free trial week anytime from May 1 -15. National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, sponsored by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, is an observance held every May. It is designed to make the

public aware of the benefits of a lifelong program of regular moderate physical activity as prescribed by the Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health. Engaging in a moderate amount of physical activity, such as taking a brisk, 30-minute walk on most days of the week, is recommended to prevent the onset of health problems. "Jazzer-

cise offers a fun and effective workout including a warm-up, aerobic muscle-toning and cool-down segments that nurture a great mind-body connection," says Kilbane. "We are excited about celebrating fitness and health by offering a free trial week May 1-15 as well as an exciting registration offer of \$20 for the first month of classes."

About Jazzercise Judi Sheppard Missett, who turned her love of jazz dance into a worldwide dance exercise phenomenon, founded the Jazzercise dance fitness program in 1969. She has advanced the business opportunities of women and men in the fitness industry by growing her program into an international franchise business that today,

hosts a network of 6,800 instructors teaching more than 30,000 classes weekly in 30 countries. The workout program, which offers a fusion of jazz dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, and kickboxing movements, has positively affected millions of people worldwide. Benefits include increased cardiovascular endurance, strength, and flexibility, as well as an overall "feel good" factor.

Karen's classes are held at Lincoln School in Lakewood as well as the Wellness Center of Fairview Hospital at 3035 Wooster Rd. in Rocky River. Registration is continuous and classes are held 7 days a week. For more information on Jazzercise contact Karen at 440-356-0337 or kkjazzcize@yahoo.com.



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Issue 4 builds on Lakewood's momentum, improves education and strengthens our community.



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- Improve security, heating ventilation, and lighting to make our schools **safer and healthier** for Lakewood's children.
- Convert and completely renovate **Horace Mann and Emerson** into state-of-the-art elementary buildings with up-to-date classrooms and enhanced access and learning facilities for handicapped persons.
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On Tuesday, May 8 Vote FOR Issue 4

Secret Shopper

Coin Wash Laundry

Okay shoppers, you may be scratching your head at my choice for Secret Shopper this issue, but I have my reasons. Gone are the days for me of doing laundry at a laundromat. Having our own washer and dryer at the house means that I have not had to visit one in several years. That is, until this past month, when a stomach bug was going around town. My daughter crawled into bed with me, not feeling so well, and before I could get the bucket, well I won't go into details.

After taking care of her I rolled up my new king sized comforter, rinsed it out, and went back to bed wondering how I would ever clean it. While I was talking to my friend Kathy Curran she mentioned that her son opened a laundromat, **Coin Wash Laundry, 16212 Madison Ave.** (Northland Plaza) and that I could drop my comforter off to have it cleaned. Kathy is the owner of Goddess Blessed on Madison and her son, Dan Sinatra, a Lakewood native, proudly opened his business with his girlfriend, Jen-

Justine Cooper



nifer Giancaterino, right up the road from his mom.

I dropped off my comforter at her son's new laundromat and learned that it opened September 2006. I was surprised how clean and new it was. Before Dan and Jennifer opened Coin Wash Laundry they totally revamped the old laundromat, and put in all new energy efficient machines, including a sixty pound washer that handles up to five loads at once. Owner Dan greeted me and cheerfully accepted my comforter to clean. Next to it was a comforter

that had been a target for someone's canine accident. There are some things that are just worth the money, and having someone else clean the target of a stomach upset is one of them for me. For fifteen dollars, it was the bargain of the month.

What makes this laundry stand out is that they have Wi-fi available for customers to work while their laundry spins, offers hot coffee, and has café style seating. It is also an asset to be situated in a shopping plaza with a well-lit and safe parking lot. Their services include laundry by the pound

which means they will wash, dry and fold your laundry. While this may not be an option for many, I thought it could be a great gift certificate to give to a new mother or a sick friend or relative. When I asked Dan what motivated him to open his business, he replied "I just love Lakewood and want to provide something nice for the community".

I know this subject isn't as exciting as antiques and art, but I still believe it is well worth mentioning, in case one of life's little unplanned emergencies hits, or if you need a nice place to do laundry. Those emergencies usually hit right after you buy a brand new comforter. Laundry may not top the list of our favorite things to do, but we might as well pick a place that is clean, safe, friendly, and owned by a Lakewood resident. I hope that all your accidents end up in a bucket or far away outside, but if they don't, keep this site on your list. It may be the first time you actually enjoy doing laundry.


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Chef Geoff

Counter-Intuitive Mathematics: A Redux

In my previous column (from the April 17th edition), I discussed the irony of addition through subtraction. Specifically, I explored the “micro” perspective of how we can experience an increase in flavor through the subtraction of volume in a specific recipe or culinary technique. This column, however, will analyze the “macro” side of that equation. Can we increase our overall gastronomic enjoyment by the removal of elements from our diet and, if so, how do we accomplish this bit of ironic math?

As you know, I recently undertook a culinary experiment whereby, for a period of several weeks, I completely removed meat from my family’s diet and pursued an ovo-lacto menu. The subtraction element from this experiment is obvious: with the exception of dairy and eggs, all other animal products were no longer a part of my cooking regimen. Having completed that experiment, I feel a need to draw some conclusions and discuss to what degree (if any) this subtraction resulted in addition.

At the outset, I should mention that there was a non-culinary addition which I experienced as the blog of my vegetarian exploits was posted and followed. Beyond the supportive and inquiring comments left on the Observation Deck, there were also any number of casual conversations with readers who had been following the thread. Many inquired as to whether this was a permanent change and what had actually fueled the undertaking.

I have previously addressed what I feel are the basic reasons why people choose not to eat animal products and, frankly, my opinion has not changed. There are those who consider vegetarianism a moral issue. One such reader, a fellow attorney, asked me, “How is it possible to look into the eyes of what is clearly a sentient being and reconcile that with a death merely for culinary satisfaction?” Secondly, there are those who choose to eliminate meat because of dietary concerns - limiting animal fat has clear health benefits in terms of cardiovascular health. Finally, of course, there is the economic stimulus, which expresses concern over the net

less of food experienced in the cultivation of animal products (as a result of the amount of feed, fuel, and fertilizer required to produce animal protein).

In my opinion, the first position - the accusation of gratuitous slaughtering of sentient beings for mere culinary satisfaction - holds little merit. I, personally, choose not to subscribe to the rationalization that, by ordering a steak, I have signed a death warrant to be executed miles away at some slaughterhouse. The health issues, as well as the global economic issues, however, remain of concern to me. Furthermore, these positions support the idea of addition through subtraction.

Over the course of the experiment, I re-discovered many recipes and techniques which were infrequently used. Vegetable preparations, from roasting peppers to making mushroom duxelle spreads and olive tapenades, can not only be acceptable substitutes for meat products, but can also be quite satisfying. While certainly the family menu would include the occasional quiche or soufflé, those vegetable preparations have become a regular part of the repertoire.

I also rediscovered a fascination with the vast array of breads which are available either through artisan bakers or from my own oven. During my experimentation period, loaves of roasted garlic focaccia, ciabatta, and dense whole grain breads became a standard at the dinner table. These provided an ongoing source of satisfaction when combined with herbed and spiced olive oils, bruschetta spreads, or when dunked in a soup or sauce.

Overall, the experiment proved to be enjoyable and probably more healthful and environmentally conscious, with the ancillary benefit of perhaps saving one of those sentient beings from my grocery store death warrant. As I digest, both literally and figuratively, the results of the experiment, I have also experienced an interesting revelation. I have frequently pontificated on

Jeff Endress

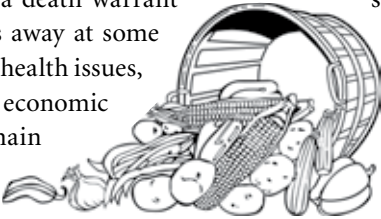
the issue of culinary mediocrity. Not a few times I have opined that it is far better to forego four franchise restaurant meals for one truly special meal - that a large quantity of cheap, mediocre food is not nearly as satisfying as a small quantity of more expensive, but, nevertheless, spectacular food.

My experiment taught me that the same holds true for my overall dietary sense. We tend to consume the burger from Mickey D’s just because it is a matter of habit. The plain, run-of-the-mill pork chop or chicken breast is on our plate because meat is always on our plate. When that meat has been absent for a period of weeks, as I determined when dining out and ordering beef, I don’t believe I have ever enjoyed a steak so much. Truly, I can’t determine whether it was a matter of an absence making the heart grow fonder or whether it was truly a superb piece of meat, but, in either case, the truism struck home. Even if I choose to be an omnivore and my enjoyment of my carnivorous side is enhanced by limiting it, how is that a bad thing?

The conclusion that I have reached is another example of addition through subtraction - this time on a more

macro scale. To the chagrin of some, I must report that my experiment has not caused me to abandon all of my carnivorous appetites. I still enjoy meat, but my attitude towards overall menu planning and the composition of my diet has, in fact, undergone a change - a change which I feel is consistent with my overall aversion to culinary mediocrity. By minimizing the animal protein consumed, the menus in which it is included are more thoughtfully considered and enjoyed. In short, because there is less animal product purchased, that which is purchased can be of much higher quality AND because it is no longer an everyday experience, when it is a part of the menu, it is far more enjoyable.

I do not yet know if my health benefited from my experiment and subsequent dietary modification, although I suspect checking my cholesterol levels would answer that question. I recognize that by eliminating a few pounds of meat from my family’s weekly grocery purchase, I have probably not had a significant impact on the overall global food supply. On an individual basis, however, this type of addition through subtraction represents a responsible decision - one which is further supported by the fact that, by decreasing my level of consumption, I have drastically increased my enjoyment of that which is consumed.



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Lakewood Perspective

Straight Shooting On Gun Control

Suffice it to say, for the United States of America, April 2007 was not exactly the bright, shiny, feel-good spring month that everyone needed and expected. However, like most periods of tragedy, there is a time for mourning and a time for healing, and, then, it's time to move on. For some, the period of sadness, loss, and even anger will continue for quite some time. For the rest of us, for those that can, it's time to reflect and, if needed, act.

Unfortunately, the fact of the matter is - no matter how much we wish that things like this month's tragic events would not happen in our society, there is nothing we can do to stop them...without limiting the very freedoms and independence that make us the nation we are.

Immediately following the vicious, confusing, and cowardly acts perpetrated on the campus of Virginia Tech, the focus, as it usually does, centered mostly on the area of gun control. Before most of the dust had settled, and well before many of the facts were known, spokespeople from both sides stepped into the spotlight to debate the opposing points of view.

The arguments are well known. On one side stands the NRA waving the constitution like a banner. On the other side, there are a variety of concerned citizen groups touting peace and citing the relative prosperity of several countries which have banned guns. When face to face, the debate is

truly dizzying: "Guns don't kill people, people kill people." "Well people wouldn't be able to kill nearly as many people if it they didn't have guns." "If guns were outlawed, only outlaws would have guns." "England outlawed guns and their crime rate went down." "Crack cocaine is illegal, how's that helping get drugs off the street?" And on, and on...

Enough is enough. I'm here to tell you: they're both right and both wrong.

I believe in the reasoning behind our right to bear arms. When push comes to shove, the Second Amendment isn't about owning weapons as much as it is about this nation's desire to keep power in the hands of the individual. A population willing to both shelve their weapons and cooperate in supporting democratic rule makes for a much stronger country than one governed by force and controlled only by the public's lack of power to oppose it.

But, I also believe that the right to bear arms should never overshadow the responsibility that comes with that ownership. And, in the end, I don't see how our rights are infringed by putting in place a few more controls in order to assure that those choosing to own a gun at least have a basic understanding of the massive and possibly devastating consequences of misusing that right.

Bret Callentine

So, to that end, here's my proposal:

Step one: Qualification. Gun ownership is indeed a right. However, that doesn't mean that there should be no restrictions. I know I'll take a lot of heat for saying this, but I think this is one place I'm okay with scrapping the precedent of "innocent until proven guilty." As far as I'm concerned, I'd feel much better with you having to prove your own competence, rather than relying on the government to discover your unworthiness.

Step two: Licensing. We have to take a test to drive a car; the same should apply to owning a gun. Regardless of the fact that one is a right and the other is a privilege, I feel it's not too much to ask that anyone wishing to own a gun should have to take and pass a training course on firearm use, care, storage, and safety. And not just a quick written test and eye exam, I'm talking old school, a course complete with target practice, basic ballistics studies, and a police video showing the results of various gunshot wounds, just to get the point across.

Step three: Annual Renewal & Endorsement. A passport is good for ten years, a driver's license for four - the license for something for which the primary function is death and destruction should only be valid for one year. Further, like a pilot who has to be checked out on the type of plane they

fly, a gun owner should have to receive qualifying approval for each type of weapon he or she owns. Just because you can fly a Piper Cub doesn't mean I trust you to fly my family to Europe in a Boeing 777. Even if you already own a handgun, I would require you to pass another, separate qualifying exam before you're permitted to own a shotgun, a rifle, etc.

Step four: Enforcement. This step shouldn't require further explanation. This is a serious issue. The ramifications of insufficient control are literally life and death and, in my opinion, the penalties for noncompliance should be just as severe.

Look, this isn't a game, and I'm done listening to people who argue that even the most minimal amount of control represents too much of a burden. Show me a person who needs to buy a gun in a hurry and I'll show you someone who hasn't put nearly enough thought into the purchase. Likewise, I'm finished listening to those that pretend that eliminating guns would put an end to all violence. Show me a community where guns were made illegal and I'll show you a place that's no more or less safe than it was before.

Now, I'm not a lawyer, I'm not an expert in constitutional law, and I have no background in criminal justice. So, if it turns out that none of this is at all possible, I propose plan B: keep the guns legal, but charge a \$500 tax for every single bullet.

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Pulse Of The City

There But For The Grace Of God...

By the time you read this, the images of that troubled young man with those two black guns will finally have faded into the background.

Funerals for those victims of the Virginia Tech massacre will probably all have been held, and we will have moved forward; resolving to do better, to be more aware, to remember the fallen...

We will have discussed every moment of this tragedy; we will have second-guessed the authorities who were on-site, with any number of finger-wagging and "should have"-type messages.

There is no doubt in my mind, as well, that numerous lawsuits will have been developed, with recriminations to be shared, all around.

People will no doubt, point those wagging fingers anywhere and everywhere. The old poem "Who Killed Cock Robin?" comes to mind. Above all, many, if not most people, will look at the killers who do these terrible types of things as being anomalies. Certainly there are not many of those types of people around...are there?

Then, we will start to discuss who "those people" could be.

In the witch trial days, many of "those people" were thought to have been possessed. They were dutifully burned, in the name of God.

In 1930's Germany, the Nazis went to great lengths to determine exactly who "those people" were. Some of the first victims of extermination were those with mental problems. Many of the institutionalized suffered lethal injections, so as not to be a burden to the Reich.

Even today, mental health professionals struggle with treatment options for "those people". Sometimes, perhaps even usually, treatments can be effective, and will result in productive lives. And sometimes, not.

There's just one problem with the "those people" scenario.

It's a lie. We are those people.

The fact remains that at one time or another, virtually all of us come face to face with severe mental challenges. Whether with traumatic, life-changing experiences or circumstances, or in dealing with chronic illness, all of us are confronted at one point or another, with what Winston Churchill allegedly referred to as "the black dog" of depression--or perhaps, some other manifestation of mental illness. Ever feel that you absolutely HAD to step on every crack in the sidewalk? That's a mild type of obsessive/compulsive behavior. Ever get angry? Some feel even that to be a temporary insanity.

We are woefully unprepared for these moments, when they arrive. If there is one thing missing from our educations, it is a course on how to cope with life.

"Stop whining!" "Get it together!" "Be a man!" So many messages come to us, regarding the perception of mental weakness. Books and movies, time and again, refer to those with differences

among us as being liabilities to society, worthy only of scorn and neglect.

We have even politicized the argument, with some on the Left professing a "societal blame" and some on the Right claiming that people have a pure and simple "choice" to be bad, or good.

Both sides, in my opinion, are all wet. Both sides assume rational think-

As we move forward, let's look around in our own circles.

Who needs a helping hand?

ing processes are at work, when in reality emotional thoughts often overshadow reason.

However surprising, some people certainly feel that being different is a punishment from God.

The truth is, it can be a gift.

Like the young man with the guns supposedly did, I had a speech problem. Like that young man was reported to have experienced, I too, endured bullies, and was made to feel like an outcast. Because I was deaf in one ear, and partly so in the other, I had preferential seating in classes. Teachers had

to rearrange their alphabetical seating charts for me--and some of them resented making that adjustment. Having hearing, walking, and vision problems made me less than desirable as a sports participant as well. Before being excused from them, my gym classes represented the pits of Hell to my pre-teen psyche.

How easy it would have been, had

I not had good parental support and a firm grounding in faith and morals, for me to have permitted resentments and hurts to fester into a sociopathic rage.

Instead, through nothing less than the Grace of God, I became an over-achiever. Through music and the arts, I found creative outlets for whatever negativity had started to bubble up in the cauldron of my soul.

I learned to fight constructively, rather than destructively.

I became an advocate for the rights of people with serious differences (which sooner or later, includes every-

one). I began to fight for those who lacked the courage, the will, or the ability to fight for themselves. I fought for the rights of Native Americans, and for those missing in action in Vietnam. I became a vocal and aggressive advocate for peace as well--not just concerning battlefields overseas, but in our own minds and souls.

When I think of that troubled young man, I know that nothing can ever excuse what happened.

I also know that there, but for the Grace of God, could have stood any one of us.

As we move forward, let's look around in our own circles. Who needs a helping hand? A pat on the back? A word of encouragement? When we see bullying or hear put-downs, how will we resolve to handle these things in the future? Will we allow the problems to continue, or will we step in and be the difference in a person's life, that might just keep them from stepping off into the abyss?

As a final thought on this matter... those differences I had that were so significant in my youth...glasses, speech, hearing, leg problems? None of them matter at all in my writing...

The Buck Stops Here

He Wanted To Escape The Sixties

Robert Buckeye

"Meaning, ultimately, seemed a matter of adjacent data." – William Gibson.

Gibson, who gave us the term cyberspace ("a consensual hallucination" he calls it), was characterizing William S. Burroughs's cut-up, collage method in novels like Naked Lunch as an influence on his own fiction, but I would like to suggest that it applies more broadly -- how we become who (what) we are. We can't push away what bumps up against us. It leans in.

"I am a man of the thirties," the poet George Oppen writes. "No other taste shall change this." The same might be said of my parents. The Depression was hard on them and even in the flush years after World War II, they still found it difficult to spend money. I was raised in different circumstances and was a trial to them. From their thirties' hold-on-to-what-you-have philosophy, I was careless with money.

I regret my indifference to those years when I was a child and then a teenager and have, subsequently, found the thirties to be of crucial importance in my life, particularly for what it says about America today. I understood why my father refused to be relocated from Cleveland when his company moved shop to Birmingham, Alabama. It was a non-union shop, he said. He would not work for a non-union shop. It does not, finally, make me a man of the thirties. The meaning is in the adjacent data.

I heard Malcolm X in Detroit, just months before he was assassinated. Malcolm was electric and, yes, threatening. He presented an America I did not know from my life in Lakewood. It sent me down a path. I was in Detroit in 1967 when the riot hit. I got my last, full-time college teaching job from reverse discrimination. A black friend of mine I had taught with in Detroit had moved east. Hire Buckeye, he told the chair. They wanted to keep him.

In 1975, I saw Robert Altman's Nashville, which in its put-down of red-neck, country music America and criticism of the war in Vietnam, was also, at the same time, a celebration of America and of its country music, "like a river," Molly Haskell writes, "running through their life." I was struck by Ronee Blakley, a little-known actress whose part is based loosely on the country-singer, Loretta Lynn, "a white-clad Ophelia," Haskell says, who is assassinated at the end of the film.

I sought out albums of Blakley's songs (she was better-known as a singer) and came across a song on Fred Hampton, with lyrics, "I want to be part of Fred Hampton." I knew about Hampton. He was a Black Panther Martin Luther King had praised who had been gunned down by Chicago police at the age of 21 in 1969 in what amounted to a public execution. When police took reporters through Hampton's apartment to illustrate the danger of Hampton, Richard Stern

noticed instead the number of books Hampton had. "There were people here who wanted to know how the body and the body politic were put together," Stern writes. In one speech Hampton delivered less than a half year before his death, he says, "We have to educate the people."

I won't say I came to books, but rather they came to me, not as furnishing -- decor, dress or status -- but as they had come to Fred Hampton. Books had to answer for themselves, as I did too in reading them. When Vice-President Richard Cheney was asked about Vietnam in the sixties, he said that he had other priorities. I did too, though they were not his. He wanted to escape the sixties. I've never let them go.

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Minding The Issues

Three Scandals And What We Should Remember About Them

By the time this reaches print, the scandals involving the Duke lacrosse team, Don Imus's racist/sexist remarks, and the firing of U.S. attorneys may be out of mind, overshadowed by the tragic and senseless shootings at Virginia Tech. However, the scandals are worth keeping in mind for the deeper problems they exhibit.

The falsely accused Duke lacrosse players

As we all know, three Duke University students, members of the lacrosse team, were accused of rape and lesser crimes on the basis of flimsy evidence, which grew flimsier on investigation. They were railroaded by a prosecutor, Mike Nifong, who was far more interested in obtaining a conviction than in achieving justice; on the basis of his accusations, the greater part of the public (including me, I freely admit) were convinced that the three were guilty as accused.

Because of the nature of the accusations – involving inter-racial assault by jocks at an elite college – the case was spotlighted from the beginning, with the three being portrayed first as villains and then as possible victims. The notoriety drew the attention of the media including the New York Times, which reported not only on the accusations and information provided by the district attorney, but also on weaknesses of the evidence he presented.

The families stood by them and hired lawyers who conscientiously and tenaciously argued for their clients. The efforts of these lawyers, plus the inescapable publicity, forced legal authorities to examine the case thoroughly.

Finally, a year later, after laborious investigation in which the evidence was declared faulty to an almost ridiculous degree, the three were declared innocent by the state Attorney General.

This raises the question: How many other individuals have been accused on the basis of flimsy evidence and railroaded by a prosecutor far more interested in obtaining a conviction than in achieving justice?

How many languish in prison because they were nobodies and could

not attract the attention of the media; because they lacked families or friends who could support them financially or otherwise; because they were defended, after a fashion, by lawyers who were overworked and under-inspired?

The Innocence Project reports at least eight cases over the past few years in which convicted prisoners were proved innocent through DNA tests and other evidence. These cases must be the tip of the iceberg, in view of the small volunteer staff that deal with an enormous caseload at the Innocence Project and the need for absolute proof of innocence – not just a demonstration that the prosecution didn't make its case -- before the prisoners can be exonerated.

David Evans, one of the three accused lacrosse players, looked at such cases in the light of his own when he said, "Many people across this country, across this state, would not have the opportunity that we did, and this could simply have been brushed underneath the rug, and some innocent person could end up in jail for their entire life."

Are we as a society to show no more respect for justice than prosecutor Nifong? Our government, on various levels, must improve procedures intended to protect the innocent. Whether this is done by the legislatures, by the judiciaries (there seems to be due-process implications) or by Bar Associations, it must be done. This is the lesson of the case of the Duke lacrosse players.

As for the players themselves, I cannot agree that they necessarily will be scarred for life; but if that is the claim they wish to make in whatever legal proceedings may ensue (including, I hope, criminal proceedings against prosecutor Nifong), then more power to them! I hope and expect that they will receive a great deal of well-deserved money by way of lawsuits against the prosecutor and/or the state, and I wouldn't be surprised if a book deal or two is in the offing. Most important, they have acquired wisdom, as Mr. Evans's statement attests.

Don Imus's racist/sexist comments

Imus's incredibly outrageous comments have been attacked as "hate speech" and as injurious to the Rutgers women's basketball team they were directed against. He has defended himself by saying that blacks (most notoriously rappers) use the same sort of language among themselves, and anyway he was just joking.

I believe both the criticism and the defense are misdirected or false. To my mind, Imus's comments are just as obnoxious and harmful as his worst critics allege, but for different reasons.

I think we all implicitly recognize that the old adage "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me" does not apply to racist or sexist slurs. But why? Why is such

language so harmful that it is not considered to be protected free speech?

To call it "hate speech" is misleading, for it doesn't necessarily express hate. An example is the Old South, pre-Civil War or even pre-1960s. In those times, we are told, whites could have real affection for the black people they knew, despite the fact that they were firmly committed to keeping blacks under the thumb of whites in every way.

The kind of language we are talking about is more accurately called "domination speech." For it serves to perpetuate the norms of white and male domination.

A social norm is a way of acting or thinking that is widely held within a certain group. By saying that is it widely held, I mean that within a certain group a preponderance of persons act in accordance with it and enforce it by expressing their approval. For example, it is a norm among certain groups in the U.S. that blacks are inferior in important respects and should occupy an inferior position.

In order to be maintained, a norm requires solidarity. Those who participate in the norm, by acting in accordance with it and expressing their approval, must let others know that they continue to do so.

For if an individual participating in a norm begins to feel isolated, without social support, he will fail to speak out; and failure to speak out has a domino effect. The silence of a few chips away at the assurance of others. Those who had previously felt self-assured in expressing the norm feel more and more hesitant to do so, and so the norm shrivels away.

In maintaining solidarity, signals are important. By signaling his agreement with the norm, a participant provides the social support that others are looking for, and so the norm is maintained.

Here is where racial and sexual slurs – such as the infamous "N-word" or the words that Imus used -- come into play. They function as signals of participation in the norms of white and/or male domination, and thus they help to maintain those norms.

Thus, Imus's claim that he was joking is irrelevant. Any utterance of a slur, joking or not, functions as a signal and is thus as pernicious as if it were uttered with malicious intent.

It also makes no difference that blacks apply such terms to other blacks. To be sure, if the blacks in question adhered to the norm of white domination, their uttering slurs would be pernicious. But it is clear that they don't adhere to that norm. So their use of racial slurs among themselves is harmless in this regard.

It DOES make a difference that males, whether black or white, make sexist slurs. For these serve as signals of the male-domination norm, in the way I have just outlined.

So when we talk of "hate speech" (or of "hate crimes"), the relevant point is not hate; nor is it offense to individuals. It is not something done to individuals that merits our condemnation of such speech. Rather, it is the harm done to society at large, especially to the whole group of blacks and the whole group of females. It is the harm done by helping to re-awaken and maintain the norms of white and male domination.

The firing of the eight U.S. attorneys.

Eight U.S. attorneys were fired midway through this presidential term, with evidence leading many observers, including Republican and Democratic Senators, to believe that the firings were highly politicized. In at least some cases, the rationale that the attorneys were poor performers in their job could not have been true. However, Attorney General Gonzales and others in the administration give two arguments in defense: 1) No laws were broken. 2) U.S. attorneys serve at the pleasure of the president (i.e., are political appointees) and therefore can be fired at any time. Indeed, presidents have sometimes made a clean sweep at the beginnings of their administrations by firing the whole list.

1) To say that the firings broke no laws doesn't get to the heart of the criticism. After all, Hitler broke no laws in coming to power (though he broke plenty of laws after coming to power, in the process of twisting the laws to his own purposes). This is of course an extreme example, but it is relevant. Keep it in mind.

2) The office of U.S. attorney is partly political and partly professional. It is only to be expected that the political orientation of U.S. attorneys weighs heavily in the president's decision to appoint them. But once appointed, they are expected to do their job according to professional standards, with freedom to do so.

Senator Arlen Specter summed it up well when he said the president has a right to replace attorneys for no reason, but not to replace them for a bad reason.

Some defend the firings by comparing them to Hillary Clinton's firing of the White House travel office, more or less on personal whim. But the comparison is off base. The White House travel office has no effect on citizens' lives, while U.S. attorneys have a great deal of power to punish citizens who run afoul of the agenda that they, or the administration, wish to pursue.

In short, the Bush administration is in effect using the power of government, through the office of U.S. attorney, to accomplish its own political purposes. This (like recent wiretap measures, some would say) constitutes one small step away from the rule of law and toward a police state -- hence the Hitler example. Even one small step is one step too many.

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Lakewood Arts

Arts & Entertainments Calendar

Beck Center for the Arts 17801 Detroit Avenue 216.521.2540

8th Annual Razzle Dazzle Dance, Dance, Dance, A Dynamic Musical Celebration May 11-12, 2007 In cooperation with the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (CCMRDD) and the Rocky River Adult Activities Center (RRAAC), the Beck Center for the Arts presents Razzle Dazzle VIII – *Dance, Dance, Dance* in the Music-Armory Building on the Beck Center campus.

This year’s original production is based on “dance crazes!” You’ll see it all, from the Can-Can to the Cakewalk and everything in between. The inspiration for this show is Judson Laipply’s “Evolution of Dance” video. Opening night begins with a musical performance by local actor and musician, Douglas Collier, while Saturday evening’s performance will open with an inspiring musical performance by the Rocky River & Maple Heights Adult Activities Center Choirs.

In addition to this dynamic musical celebration, guests are invited to view a “Razzle Dazzle” display of artwork created by the distinguished and dedicated artists who participate in the Beck Center’s Creative Arts Therapies program. This exhibit will be on display May 4 – June 10 in the Music-Armory Building.

Razzle Dazzle VIII is sponsored by the Oatey Company. A special opening night benefit performance will be held on Friday evening, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. and includes a reception and raffle after the show, as well as an opportunity to mix and mingle with the talented cast and crew. Tickets are \$10 and all proceeds benefit the Creative Arts Therapies program at the Beck Center. To reserve tickets, call the Beck Center Box Office. Two additional performances are scheduled for Saturday, May 12 at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

beladubby 13221 Madison Avenue 216.221.4479

Stop by for some Art, Music and Fair Trade Coffee. Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10 am – 10 pm, Friday and Saturday 10am-midnight.

Cleveland Artist’s Foundation 17801 Detroit Avenue (inside the Beck Center) 216.227.9484 *Joseph B. O’Sickey, Menageries and Other Worlds: A Retrospective Exhibition 1941-2007* opened Friday, April 13 and is curated by William Busta. This significant exhibition surveys works of O’Sickey throughout seven decades – his sketches of India and Africa from his years in the Army during the 1940s; advertising and design work from the 1940s and 1950s; continuing series of landscape, still-life and garden paintings; and recent work based upon circus themes. The exhibit runs through June 9, 2007. A catalogue of the exhibition is being published. Gallery hours are Tue-Sat, 12-5pm.

Local Girl Gallery 16106 Detroit Avenue 216.228.1802

Saturday, May 5th, meet the Burning River Roller Girls, from 7pm-10pm. **Who are the BRRG?** They are Cleveland’s first all-female, skater-owned, flat-track derby league. Saturday, May 12th, Emerson Middle School Student Art Show, 6pm-9pm.

This exhibit will feature works of over 20 student artists from Emerson Middle School. A variety of mediums will be represented including various painting styles and hand-made jewelry. This Show is curated by Victoria Gildner. Hours: Tuesday-Thursday 12pm-5pm and Friday-Saturday 12pm-6pm

Pop Shop Gallery and Studio 17020 Madison Avenue 216.227.8440

2 Year Anniversary Show - Pop, Drop, and Roll Saturday, May 19th from 6-9pm Cleveland’s most ultra-violet gallery will house the areas best local contemporary artists for its second birthday. The show will feature a vast mixture of graffiti art, mixed media, rock and roll photography, and many more unique pieces. Refreshments and appetizers will be served. An after party will be held immediately following at Mullens (located next to the gallery). Hours: Monday-Friday 4pm-8pm, Saturday 2pm-6pm.

Wobblefoot Gallery and Frame Studio 1662 Mars Avenue 216.226.2971

Wobblefoot’s featured artist this month is Jim Stracensky. Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-4pm.

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

Arts And Entertainment Watch

Think Spring!

Ruth A. Koenigsmark



Linda Goik(LGG)Mayor Thomas George, (Beck Center), Blythe Pazone and Katherine Johnson(Rocky River Adult Activities Center)

More than 100 partygoers flocked to the “Think Spring” benefit auction to support the Friends of the Mentally Retarded at Local Girl Gallery on Saturday, April 21. An elegant party including an art auction featuring the talents of local artists from among others, the Beck Center and Rocky River Adult Activity Center. There were over 80 pieces of Spring-Inspired art ripe for the bidding; at last tally the event raised upwards of \$2,000!

Dear Lakewood,

Thanks for liking us so much. We really like being here. Get ready for our spring menu this May. Fresh soft shell crabs on a soft roll, Shrimp Gazpacho, Roasted Corn Gazpacho and quite an array of amazing chilled soups! Just because it’s not cold outside doesn’t mean you have to stop liking us! We hope to see you soon.

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Lakewood Music

An Interview With Rick Ray Of The Rick Ray Band

Rick Ray has been a fixture on the NE Ohio music scene since he started performing at the age of 13 in 1972. Influenced heavily by musicians like Robin Trower and Frank Marino, Rick used his six-string abilities to play with the bands Riot Act and Neurotic, as well as the eponymous Rick Ray Band, in the years spanning 1973 to 1996. In 1999 Rick started Neurosis Records to release some of his old material as well as new solo recordings. Then in 2000 he put the Rick Ray Band back together, and has to date released 5 albums with the group.

Although Rick lives in Perry, Ohio, he frequently plays the Winchester here in Lakewood. He will be there again Friday, May 4th. The show will be a CD release party for The Rick Ray Band's newest album, 'Nothing To Lose'.

Lakewood Observer: You kind of straddle the line between rock, pop, and jazz. Do you feel the music you play belongs more to any one of those particular genres, or do you feel you defy easy categorization? What would you call your style of music?

Rick Ray: I guess when people ask, my description sounds like this: "psychedelic progressive hard rock fusion". I think it defies the easy categorizing, but that kind of makes the Rick Ray Band unique.

LO: You're nothing if not prolific.

In the past you've sometimes released 4 or 5 albums in a year. What keeps your creative juices fired, and do you ever worry about the well running dry?

RR: My creative juices just come from always playing my guitar. As for the well running dry, I don't know if that's possible. I'm not only coming up with new songs but there are songs that have been shelved just because they didn't fit on some of the past releases, good songs that just weren't used. There are hours and hours of these. I don't know if they'll ever see the light of day but they're there if I need them.

LO: Sadly, your previous vocalist Chuck Abraham passed away recently. Was it a natural choice to bring in Chuck's younger brother Alex to replace him?

RR: When Chuck, who was a childhood friend, died, the Rick Ray Band was going to take a break from "everything". But Chuck's younger brother Alex came up and asked if he could pick up where Chuck left off. We all agreed, and the result is the new release 'Nothing To Lose'.

Bob Ignizio

LO: Although you're from way out east in Perry, Ohio, you seem to play The Winchester a lot, and it's where you've decided to have the release show for your most recent album. Is there anything special about the club that makes it one of your favorites?



RR: The Winchester has a great atmosphere, great sound system and I like Jim Maleti, the owner, he's a good guy.

LO: You recently contributed a track to the Frank Marino tribute album which also featured such well known guitar slingers as George Lynch and Ronnie Montrose. Did that help get you more attention on a national level?

RR: I would say it has. The song I put on 'Second Hand Smoke' (A Tribute To Frank Marino) was "Poppy". I had played that song live for 10 years before Frank ever got around to releasing it. I had learned it off a bootleg album.

LO: Other than the aforementioned compilation, all your material has been released on your own label. Do you have any interest in trying to get signed, or do you prefer doing things on your own?

RR: I think I'm unsignable and always have been. To get signed you have to do what other people tell you to do. I can't and never have been able to do that. I don't have the desire to become a record company horror story like most artists that get signed become.

LO: In addition to the high level of musicianship and songcraft in your work, you also have something to say. What is the main thing you hope to get across to listeners through your lyrics?

RR: The truth, things like "war is a racket designed to make the elite richer than they already are and bring the population levels down. War does not exist for the lies they say it does!" Some of the lyrics are inspired from the Bible, the prophecies of the future from Books like Revelation, Daniel, Ezekiel, Amos, Joel and Isaiah. Some of the lyrics have to do with mind control which is a plague that's really taken root, especially here in the U.S.

LO: Anything else you want to add?

RR: The new album, 'Nothing To Lose', is probably the best thing any of us has ever done. I started to realize this about three-fourths of the way through the making of this album. Mixing this album down was a very pleasurable experience. Almost the whole CD will be performed live at the Winchester on May 4th.

Concert Calendar

The Hi Fi Concert Club (11729 Detroit Avenue. Lakewood, OH)

Friday May 4th it's the punky glam (or is it glammy punk?) of Cleveland's *Vanity Crash* and Pittsburgh's *Science Fiction Idols*. Also on the bill: Cleveland alt rockers *Mona V*, and the damaged pop of Youngstown's *The Zou*. For more info call the club at (216) 521-8878.

Friday May 11th it's ex-Misfits vocalist Michale Graves with *Creepshow 1977*, *Sappy Bell*, and *Rockabye Ransom*. For more info call the club at (216) 521-8878.

The Winchester Tavern (12112 Madison Avenue. Lakewood, OH)

Friday May 4th it's *The Rick Ray Band*. For more info on Rick, read my interview with him this issue. This is a CD release show for the new Rick Ray Band album 'Nothing to Lose'. All Ages. Show starts at 9:30. Admission is \$5.

Saturday May 12th it's *The Gary Hoey band*. Gary started out as a guitar shredder in the eighties metal mold, and scored a minor hit in this style with a cover of Focus' instrumental "Hocus Pocus" taken from his 1993 debut album. Hoey later moved in more of a surf guitar direction, and has even collaborated with the "king of the surf guitar" Dick Dale, who ranks Hoey as one of his favorite guitar players ever. All ages. Show starts at 9:00 pm. Admission is \$15.

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Lakewood Real Estate

Noting Our Neighborhood Lakewood's Value Transcends The Years

by Andy Tabor

One of the most attractive features of Lakewood for those who choose to make it their home is its diversity. The variety of housing styles and the many price ranges offer something to all of the various age groups that live here.

Many young professionals choose Lakewood because of the availability of reasonably priced housing (whether rentals or purchases for first time home-buyers). The proximity to downtown and the ease of the commute, whether driving or using public transportation, is appealing. After work, many young professionals relax in the city's coffee-houses, pubs, restaurants, art galleries, the parks or the Y.

Lakewood is also a great place to raise a family. Starting with its excellent school system, it also has one of the top libraries in the nation. The Department of Recreation has a large variety of classes and programs for every age group- from sports to the arts. There

are also many amazing public parks. One example, Lakewood Park, has a great playground, skateboard park, bike trail and access to the lake. There are also several swimming pools plus an ice rink. Best of all, it's a community where much is accessible by walking or biking.

Lakewood is also a great place to be for a "senior citizen". The Lakewood Department on Aging provides many services assisting seniors to live independently longer. There are several existing and 3 new-construction maintenance free condo developments from which to choose. Or seniors may choose to live at one of the 3 senior centers. Additionally, if healthcare issues become a concern, there's a choice of several nursing homes, not to mention the world class healthcare available at Lakewood Hospital.

Take a look and the faces all around the city show that whether one is 1 or 100, Lakewood really has a lot to offer!

Naming Lakewood's Streets: A Family Affair

by Val Mechenbier

James Nicholson, Rockport's first permanent settler, purchased 140 acres of land from Madison Avenue to Lake Erie in 1818. Two generations later, his grandsons, E. Louis and Clarence Nicholson named Nicholson Avenue after their well-

known grandfather. Other tributes included Waterbury Road, named for their grandmother's Connecticut birthplace; Grace Avenue, for their sister; Clarence Avenue, for himself; and Lewis Drive, either for E. Louis himself - or perhaps for their Uncle Lewis, another prominent Rockport landowner.

Realty Reality: Questions From Our Observer Readers

by Maggie Fraley

From the Observer Deck Online, Rick U. asks: "Can the number of rental units surrounding a home affect its resale?"

If the rental units aren't new since the home's previous purchase, any new resale price will reflect the same location again. Homes near rentals may be

priced less than a similar home in other locations, but the more affordable pricing attracts other buyers. Curb appeal, new kitchens/baths, and mechanical updates affect resale, too. So reviewing the current market (homes that sold, those that haven't, their location, amenities and condition), will identify the most likely list price for a successful resale.

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Lakewood Real Estate Information

(According to Multiple Listing Service)
by Kathy Lewis

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Interesting Fact....

* Single-Family Homes Closed With Sale Price Over \$500,000 Since January 1, 2006: 13

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