

Cool Cleveland Commentary Are We Forced to Leave?



In just over twenty years, I've only had to make small, often insignificant decisions. I've lived in Ohio all my life, and while most people go to college out of state or at least out of town, I chose to go to school ten minutes down the road. Now I'm three months away from graduation and I'm faced with some of the biggest decisions of my life.

Since I decided to stay close to home, I haven't been away from my family for more

than a month at a time. I've grown up Catholic, and religion has been a big part of my family for as long as I can remember. My parents married a few years out of high school, and they have been rooted in Lorain their whole lives. My father's parents have also lived in Lorain for over sixty-years. Beginning the day I was born, my grandparents have been there for me as much as my real parents have. Because my parents worked early hours, my sister and I spent weeknights at their house so we could get a ride to school every morning. In a sense I was raised with two families: my grandparents, who have consistently been there for me and my real parents, who have provided me with every opportunity I've needed to succeed. My sister and I became extremely close to our grandparents and were certainly close with our parents. The problem with the strong family ties is that I don't see myself staying in Ohio, let alone Lorain, after graduation. This is a problem many college age people face, but I feel that while they may go through this process in stages, I'm forced to make it in a matter of months.

In the first year of college there is separation anxiety that goes along with any parting. Parents realize their child will go on to make a name for themselves, but also assume that the child will return on breaks or even after graduation. The child realizes they are still dependent on their parents for several reasons, mostly mon-

etary, but a strong feeling of attachment remains. Over the next few years, the anxiety subsides as the parents get accustomed to the child being away, and the child relishes in the newfound independence. This independence encroaches on the feelings of attachment and provides a new motivation for their future. The student's goals become less altruistic and more geared towards personal success. Often, these goals cannot be satisfied by the status quo of their pre-college life because many hometowns across the nation are deeply rooted in a cycle of poverty or political inaction. This situation has caused thousands of talented students to leave home in order to pursue their new goals. In my case it's difficult to think about life without my family being only a few streets away. Of course I could stay in Ohio and avoid the separation, but over the past two years I've realized Ohio is not the bustling business center of the United States. Areas that were once lively neighborhoods active with steel industries have now been deemed the "rust belt". How can anyone expect people to stay in areas that are referred to as garbage? The idea of leaving my home town for personal gain seems like an insult to the community and also contributes to a problem affecting some of nation's other blue-collar towns. For decades people who were able to move out of Lorain got up and left, while the people who could not afford to get out were forced to remain. Since the steel mills shut down and many Ford assembly plants closed their doors, there has been a steady decrease in population and increase in poverty levels. Even at Oberlin College, a school full of out of state students, people are aware of the decreasing job market. Granted, there still are many blue-collar/low level jobs around the area, but the white-collar/high level jobs just aren't

available. The lack of high paying jobs forces many intelligent college graduates to get up and leave their hometowns for greener pastures. The cycle continues as graduates move on to big cities like New York, Los Angeles, or Chicago, leaving the greater Cleveland area with its suffering school districts and mostly unproductive politicians. The struggle has been going on for years and is highlighted by the city's determination to build a \$283 million football stadium instead of putting the money into education. The current system does not make sense and is forcing hundreds of talented individuals to move away every year. Despite knowing about this problem and having a close knit family and many friends, I still find it difficult to find quality reasons to stay close to home. The opportunities in different parts of the nation are superior in my mind; I don't think anything will develop to change my opinion. The city of Lorain and its sister city Cleveland are full of hardworking individuals who deserve better school systems and public facilities. But until changes are made and policies put in place, northeast Ohio will continue to lose their hometown sons and daughters to bigger and brighter futures outside the region. From Cool Cleveland reader Chad Kutting chad.kutting@Toberlin.edu



The Cleveland Museum of Art Announces CMA@ the Zoo

CLEVELAND (Mar. 9, 2006) The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) today announced CMA@ the Zoo, an exciting new partnership with Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and the Cleveland Zoological Society, featuring an exhibition coordinated by all three institutions. The exhibition Animals in Art: Clay Creatures by Viktor Schreckengost comprises ceramic animals from CMA's permanent collection and tiles created by Schreckengost for the former bird house at the Zoo.

CMA@ the Zoo exhibition Animals in Art: Clay Creatures by Viktor Schreckengost will be on view April 29, 2006, through August 13, 2006, in the Zoo Exhibit Hall (3900 Wildlife Way). The exhibition is free with regular Zoo admission. Admission to the Zoo and

The RainForest is \$9 for adults and children 12-years and older; \$4 for children ages two-through 11-years; Free admission for Zoo members and children under two-years.

Animals in Art: Clay Creatures by Viktor Schreckengost includes seven ceramic animal works loaned by CMA, including: Taurus (1937); Plaque: Son of India (1934); The Creatures God Forgot (1938); Beauty Nap (1948); Pachyderm (1951); Naama (1939); and Bovine (1955). Six ceramic tiles owned by Cleveland Metroparks Zoo originally sculpted to depict extinct birds in flight will be included in the exhibition. Each tile will undergo surface cleaning and conservation, provided by CMA, prior to the opening of the exhibition.

Nursing Program/FREE TUITION

If you know of anyone between 18-28 years old, interested in the nursing field, the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) is offering FREE tuition, FREE books, a \$250 monthly stipend, and guaranteed job placement as a nurse at Providence Hospital upon graduation (it's a 3 year program) with a

starting salary of \$40,000.

The program is recruiting new students now!! Please contact Ms. Beshon Smith (202) 266-5481 or email Bsmith@urbanalliance.org

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Cleveland isn't perfect.

Far, far from it. But at Cool Cleveland, we do tend to take the approach that the glass is half full. So we've filled this week's issue with a perfectly wild collection of goings on that would keep anyone's week overflowing with coolness.

Remember that Tues 5/2 is Election Day, which brings hope boomeranging back, but only if you actually vote. Check Emissions from

the blogosphere as Cleveland blogs about politics, and watch as Roldo goes overboard with two columns this week, one deconstructing the un-endorsement of Dennis Kucinich, the other deconstructing Cleveland's deal with Independence over the Cavs moving their training facility. We've included news about towing cars and eliminating Innerbelt exits, we've also pointed you to fresh art & events to keep you engaged.

社區免費講座通知

講座題目: 亞裔移民須知 - 亞裔如何防止在移民問題上受歧視, 怎樣找到幫助
 主辦單位: 克裏夫蘭美華協會
 時間: 五月七日下午一時至三時
 地點: 亞洲商場 二樓會議室

美華協會很榮幸邀請到克裏夫蘭兩位資深移民律師來演講并回答問題, 有大家熟悉的黃唯律師及原克裏夫蘭移民局局長, 現專門辦理移民案件的布郎先生。歡迎大家踴躍參加, 如有問題, 請電 216-373-3278 聯系

克裏夫蘭美華協會
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