

THE REAL DEAL

JUNE 2014 • VOLUME ONE • NUMBER THREE PRESS



STUDENT INTERNSHIPS aren't what they used to be
 ➔ **PAGE 5**

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Act Locally

We didn't expect to use this valuable front-page real estate to share our thinking with you. So much is happening in our community right now and so much is simultaneously not happening. Both should be the focus of our attention.

Consider for a moment what is happening: we are rapidly transforming downtown Cleveland — the face of our region — into something that is actually pretty exciting. We are building new buildings, modernizing and repurposing older ones. We are redefining old spaces — Public Square, the Mall that runs from the Library to the Lake. The face of our community is changing right before our eyes in ways that are mostly good. I was downtown one night last month to cover a fairly basic event at the Wyndham Hotel, a youth talent show at the Omega Psi Phi regional conference.

[We cover a lot of events that we can't yet find space or time to cover adequately in these pages; suffice to say the most talented youth won, rendering a most accomplished performance of a Liszt composition. His name is Xavier Rivers, he hails from Columbus, he's 17, and he has been volunteering monthly at Friends of the Homeless since he was eight years old.]

Just outside the second floor ballroom where the competition was being held, thousands of greater Clevelanders

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OP-ED

Tower City has unwelcome aura for young black males



Editor's Note: Jon Haller is a pseudonym for a young black professional whose family is well known to me. His powers of observation are keen, his views generally thought through with care. I agreed to publish this piece under his pseudonym because the writer's employer is extremely conservative and his job might be in jeopardy should his identity be discovered.

By Jon Haller

Cleveland is a city on the rise: we hope we are next on the list of urban hot spots, and concerted efforts have been made here to make it so.

Aspects of these efforts, however, give me night-sweats. For example, a recent visit to Tower City made me feel as if I'd stepped into a police state.

The entrance of the shopping center was extremely well guarded. There were three or four police vehicles parked outside of it, and a number of police officers formed a perimeter in front of the building. I was aware that a rule now forbids anyone under 18 from entering without a guardian, so I took this in stride. But inside the shopping center, there were very few

shoppers and a lot of police.

The stores I passed were more often than not completely vacant. The most noticeable presence, by far, was the police. Officers and security guards were strolling, patrolling, chatting, and making their presence known to each and everyone who might be doing anything but a) walking to a store to buy something, b) buying something,

or c) leaving.

The most well guarded section of the shopping center was the food court. Two officers were posted at its entrance, to deter any undesirables who had managed to sneak through the heavily guarded entrance and, ninja-like, avoided the numerous patrols. If any masters of stealth managed to get by those two officers,

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New Southgate owners aiming for giant rebound

By R. T. Andrews
 Editor

MAPLE HEIGHTS — Two decades before the rise of Randall Pall Mall in the Village of North Randall, another massive commercial development arose just north of the future Randall Mall site, resting between the same heavily traveled arteries of Warrensville Center Road on the west and Northfield Road on the east.

Measuring in at close to

800,000 square feet of retail space, Southgate Shopping Center must have been nearly as impressive in its girth upon opening in 1955 as Randall Park was some twenty years later. Built by several local families, include the Ratners and Millers of Forest City Enterprises. Southgate opened with 44 stores and grew to as many as 150 stores, fueling and being fed in return by the expansive growth of Maple Heights and surrounding

communities.

Not surprisingly, both Randall Park's opening as America's largest mall and its precipitous decline to a virtual asphalt desert, impacted Southgate negatively: Randall's opening lured away tenants, customers, and dollars, while its decline spread blight as it convulsed and failed.

Though it looks tired and worn, Southgate has nonetheless survived and now appears poised for a

rebound only five years after it went into foreclosure. Southgate Center Associates, whose controlling owner is Baltimore-based America's Owners Realty, bought it out of receivership last year. AOR owns about 100 shopping centers east of the Mississippi.

Southgate now has a new manager as well, Arnold Eisenberg and Associates of Beachwood. The firm's Steve Eisenberg, who spoke via

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without written permission. The mission of the Real Deal Press is to attract, articulate and amplify civic intelligence and community good will in our coverage area and beyond. We welcome letters to the editor. Please include your name, address, and your best phone number. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space. Send letters, press releases, notices, inquiries, calendar items, and corrections via email or fax.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Cuyahoga NCNW Hosts Bi-Annual Gala in Bedford Heights on May 31

The National Council of Negro Women, Cuyahoga section, is honoring Darnell Carter, Lovell J. Custard, Darryl Harris, Rudolph Buffington, and Staff Sergeant Charles D. Jones, Jr., with "Excellence in Citizen-Focused Service Delivery Awards" at their biannual gala. The awards recognize civic service leaders who deliver efficient, effective, and seamless service, and maintain a strong service ethic.

The event takes place at Mediterranean Party Center, 25021 Rockside Rd., beginning with a 6:30pm Mix & Mingle, followed by dinner at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$50.00 and must be purchased in advance.

For tickets, contact Valerie Dowery, Gala Chair 216.559.3959 or vdowery@gmail.com] or Sabrina Hays, Gala Co-Chair 216.978.6216 or sabrinahays@yahoo.com; or send ticket request to: ccsncnw@yahoo.com.

Cleveland NCNW hosts Annual Legacy Luncheon in Mayfield Village on June 7

The National Council of Negro Women Cleveland Section will hold its annual 2014 Legacy Luncheon, will be held on Saturday, June 7, at the Hilton Garden Inn Cleveland East, 700 Beta Drive, Mayfield Village. The event begins at 10am with Market Place vendors.

The luncheon program starts at 11am. Guest speakers are Marsha Mockabee, President/CEO Urban League of Greater Cleveland and Barbara Daniel, Publisher/Editor of the Cleveland Women's Journal East.

Musical performances will be provided by Cleveland Councilman Kevin Conwell and Footprints. Proceeds will benefit the Cleveland Section National Council of Negro Women Inc. Adopt a School and Women's Outreach Programs. Tickets/information: 216.681.5129 or dewempire44108@yahoo.com. Advance sales only.

Tenth Annual County Fatherhood Conference set for June 13

Registration is now open for the Cuyahoga County Fatherhood Initiative's 10th Annual Fatherhood Conference to be held on Friday, June 13th. The conference will be held at the Wyndham Hotel at Playhouse Square, 1260 Euclid Ave. Conference events include an Opening Plenary Session, a Resource Fair, a Town Hall Meeting, a Fatherhood Awards Luncheon and Informational Workshops. Register online, fatherhoodinitiative.cuyahogacounty.us/. All events are free with registration. For questions, call 216.348.3967.

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Warrensville Chamber set for growth with new COSE partnership



(L to R): Marcella Cox delivers remarks as she receives Distinguished Business Award on behalf of Boyd Funeral Home. Mayors (L to R) Robert Nash of Highland Hills, David Smith of North Randall, and Brad Sellers of Warrensville Heights. Photos courtesy of Michael Lichterman.

Close to eighty businesspeople attended the 2014 annual meeting of the Warrensville Heights Area Chamber of Commerce on May 21. The noontime event was held at Thistledown Racino in North Randall.

The Chamber presented several awards to area companies and institutions, including the Partnership Circle Award to Gino's Awards; the Impact Award to the Word Church; the Distinguished Business Award to E. F.

Boyd & Son Funeral Home; the New Business Award to Great Lakes Petroleum, and the Community Beautification Award to South Pointe Hospital, CCHS.

Chamber president Steve Petti and Steve Millard of the Council of Small Enterprises announced a partnership under which expanded benefits are now available to WHACC members. Visit www.whacc.org or www.cose.org/dualmembership for more information.

Southgate Continued from page 1

telephone with The Real Deal Press at the end of May, said the owners would be spending between \$800,000 and \$1 million on physical improvements that would significantly boost the center's attractiveness. The improvements would include both facades and parking lot upgrades, and perhaps some structural repairs where necessary.

According to Eisenberg, Southgate presently has 72 stores, including anchor tenants Giant Eagle Supermarket and Home Depot. The current occupancy rate hovers around 65%, and management hopes to increase that to

about 75 or 80% by year's end. Eisenberg wants to attract the retail and service businesses — apparel shops, home goods stores, footwear chains, etc. — that people need day in day out, so that Southgate becomes once again becomes a main destination for shoppers with multiple needs.

Eisenberg said he was not terribly familiar with the community benefits agreements that developers of public projects are beginning to negotiate with community partners in Cleveland. He did say that he always looked local and preferred to make decisions based on quality and price.



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BUSINESS CALENDAR

June 5 • The Commission on Economic Inclusion of the Greater Cleveland Partnership is expected to release its first Public Report on its overall efforts to date regarding construction diversity and inclusion [CDI] and community benefits agreements [CBA]. <http://www.gcpartnership.com/en/See-What-We-Do/Economic-Inclusion>

June 10 • The Ohio Department of Transportation is hosting an informational meeting about the Opportunity Corridor and Lakefront West construction projects from 6-8PM at the Langston Hughes Center, 2390 East 79 St. in Cleveland's Fairfax neighborhood. Information about the projects can be found at lakefrontwest.transportation.ohio.gov and opportunitycorridor.transportation.ohio.gov.

June 12 • The Northeast Ohio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic Business Center are co-sponsoring the 2014 Northeast Ohio Hispanic Business Expo at Corporate College East, 4400 Warrensville Center Rd., in Warrensville Hts. For more info call 216.281.4422 or visit neohcc.org.

June 20 • Former major leaguer Andre Thornton will speak at the quarterly Faith & Finance Breakfast sponsored by the Christian Business League. Location: Manor Party Center, 24111 Rockwell Rd., Euclid. Breakfast begins at 7:30am. \$15. Call 216.791.5760 or email christianbusinessleague@gmail.com.

Third Grade “Guarantee” subject of annual McCullough talk June 6 at City Club

By R. T. Andrews
Editor

Common Core, Reading Guarantee, Teaching to the Test: it seems parents and activists need schooling to learn how and what their children are being taught. Our educational system has seldom seemed more tangled. Parents, teachers and students will soon learn the results of Ohio's *high-stakes testing for eight year olds* when the results of last month's testing are released.

Please join The Center for Community Solutions, in partnership with The City

Club of Cleveland, as we learn more about the Campaign for Grade Level Reading and one of the most important predictors of school success and high school graduation—grade-level reading by the end of third grade.

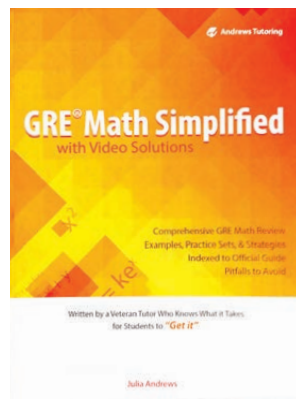
Dr. Barbara O'Brien, national policy director for the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, will address some of these issues on June 6 when she serves as keynote speaker for the 72nd Annual Human Services Institute, sponsored by The Center for Community Solutions.

O'Brien is a member of the Denver School Board and served as the Lt. Governor of Colorado from 2007-2011. She is a long-time advocate for young children and has a history of innovative policy initiatives.

The City Club will host this special Friday forum in partnership with CCS. Lunch will be at noon and the program will begin at 12:30pm. Call 216.621.0082 for reservation.



Dr. Barbara O'Brien



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Bedford Schools Foundation hosts Scholarship Awards Banquet June 5

By Jeremy F. Taylor
Special Correspondent

BEDFORD, OHIO – The Bedford City Schools Foundation has been supporting Bedford school district students and teachers for excellence in education for more than 25 years. Each year the Foundation awards scholarships to four outstanding seniors headed off to college. The \$1,000 awards are renewable each year up to a total of \$4,000.

“The selection process involves looking at a student’s, ‘academic achievements, community involvement, leadership, and involvement in extracurricular activities.’”

— Hilary S. Taylor, Foundation President

This year's awards will be announced on June 5 at a banquet for the families of the scholarship recipients. Students whose scholarships have been renewed will also be in attendance to recount their achievements during the past academic

year and share their goals for the upcoming year. This year's banquet will be at Catered Elegance, 1160 Broadway Ave.

Last year's winners were Maria Alilovic, Dareon Freeman, and Simone Scott.

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HBCU and national Hampton U. alumni events to make for active July in Cleveland

By R. T. Andrews
Editor

Are we wrong or have HBCU and Greek activity been at an especially high level this season? Zeta Phi Beta just had a regional leadership conference here April 24-27. Then Omega Psi Phi had its regional conference here the following week.

This was followed by an old-school cabaret party collaboration last month between alumni of Central State University and Kentucky State University to raise scholarship funds.

Jazz Brunch

Then, on June 8, the local Hampton alumni chapter hosts a Jazz Brunch. This will be its 48th annual scholarship fundraiser event. The Sunday brunch will run from 12:30pm-3:30pm. The Pat Harris Trio will entertain.

Location: Doubletree Cleveland East, 3663 Park East Dr., Beachwood. Tickets are \$50. Info: 216.932.3857.

HBCU Alumni Weekend

Next month will see two more big events. First, the Cleveland Council of Black Colleges Alumni Association is planning HBCU Alumni Weekend for July 18-20. Scheduled activities include a Friday night Bowling for Scholars Party at Cloverleaf Lanes in Independence; a Saturday morning community service project at the HBCU Preparatory School, 12601 Shaker Boulevard; and on Sunday, an HBCU Freshman Send-Off Cookout, also at HBCU Prep.

The HBCU Alumni Day Party will be Saturday afternoon at Harvard Wine and Grille, 14201 Harvard Ave.

For tickets and more

information, visit HBCUAlumniCLE.com.

Hampton Alumni hold national gathering in Beachwood

Area Hampton alumni will have precious little time to recover from the HBCU alumni weekend as the very next week sees the 11th National Hampton Alumni Association's biennial convention come to Cleveland.

The host site will be the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Cleveland East in Beachwood. Hampton alumni from all over the country are expected to attend. University President William Harvey, members of his administration, and other school representatives will also be here. For more information, visit www.nhaa-inc.org/biennial/.

Students, Universities demanding measurable value for internships



CSU VP Byron White

By Christina Sanders
Real Deal Press
Correspondent

As summer approaches, internship season is upon us and this year, the pressure to create high-quality paid internship programs is just as heavy on em-

ployers as it is on students all around the country to find a place to gain meaningful experience.

Universities and their career services centers are cracking down on employers who previously offered students unpaid time in their offices.

Cleveland State University is following suit, actively working with employers to transition their student experience programs from unpaid to paid and categorizing the experience types, says Byron White, Vice-President of University Engagement at Cleveland State University.

"If it's unpaid, we don't count it. When we say we have 2400 internships available, we are talking about paid experiences, if it's unpaid then it's considered volunteer work," says White.

Internships are a hot topic in college circles these days, with students bringing lawsuits against the likes of mega companies Viacom Inc. and 21st Century Fox for failing to compensate them in spite of providing a full-time employee type of work load. Some companies have even gone so far to make student in-

terns work overtime.

The lawsuits, along with the economy, the job market and other factors, are affecting the way students are looking at internships these days. University officials, professors and career services advisors have instilled a value in students for their time and work.

"As a student, your time is valuable and we believe that our students should be compensated for their work in some way or experience," says CSU's White.

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Foundation Continued from page 4

Since 2004, the Foundation has also given a renewable \$500 scholarship in memory of former trustee, community advocate and Bedford Fireman, Chris Valley. John Mohnasky was the 2013 Valley Scholarship awardee.

Each spring students apply for the scholarships in the Bedford High School guidance office. The Foundation's scholarship committee, comprised of 10-12 members including Bedford alumni, former teachers and administrators, then reviews the applications and selects the winners.

Hilary S. Taylor, who has been the Foundation's president since 1993, said the selection process involves looking at a student's, "academic achievements, community involvement, leadership, and involvement in ex-

tracurricular activities." Taylor, a 1963 Bedford HS graduate, said, "Recipients of the scholarships have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, businessmen and women and outstanding citizens in the community."

The Foundation, which also provides five to ten grants a year to teachers in the Bedford City School district, is primarily funded through donations and fundraisers. Annual fundraisers include a Walk and Run, Pancake Breakfast, Golf Scramble, Holy Ball and Silent Auction. This year's Golf Scramble will be held on Friday, August 1 at the Astorhurst Country Club.

More information on the Foundation, its activities and trustees, can be obtained by visiting www.BedfordFoundation.net or calling 440.439.4777.

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Act Locally Continued from page 1

were massing in a growing throng preparing to celebrate the lighting of the Playhouse chandelier. The excitement was palpable — think of a compact version of Times Square on New Year's Eve. At the same time, there were 15 or 20,000 people taking in a baseball game at Progressive Field, and another several thousand attending a music concert somewhere in the vicinity. With various streets blocked off to accommodate pedestrians and the lighting ceremony. I saw more cabbies working downtown than I can ever remember seeing before. I went home via a re-routed Healthline thinking that Cleveland actually resembled a big city that night: a reminder of what is best about a dense urban community.

Yes, it was only one night, and a lot of it was symbolism. But memorable nights and symbols are part of what make up our social fabric. And it was all the better because it was unexpected. The joy and celebration was organic that night.

Space is tight, so let that night represent all that is positive in terms of community resurgence, a rebounding economy, a rebuilt physical core, etc. And we'll just give a nod to two May events at the highly attractive, impressively well-functioning new Convention Center: the first-ever stakeholders meeting of Metro-Health Systems, and the rollout of Global Cleveland's new initiatives.

Let's look at what's *not happening* in our community. Eighteen months — a full year and a half — after the region's largest safety force, the Cleveland Police Department, engaged in mob violence and executed two of our fellow citizens under color of law, our elected prosecutor has brought no criminal charges against even one of Cleveland's finest.

Where is the outrage? Why are we tolerating this justice denied?

If we say at least part of the answer is that the two homicide victims that night were *less than* exemplary citizens, if we say it's because we are by-standing public citizens, then perhaps

we are close to focusing on some of the community challenges that shiny buildings, open spaces, high tech jobs, and civic celebrations can't resolve.

What are we going to do about our public education system that may be getting better *and worse*, more *and less* accountable, more efficient *and dysfunctional*, all at the same time?

What are we going to do about jobs that go begging because our citizens are not trained to do them?

What are we going to *do* about equity and inclusion besides talk? I do see lots of positives, even in the construction industry, where some enlightened owners and contractors are more ready to enter into Community Benefits Agreements to increase the ancillary value of that booming sector, but our dispirited communities are not yet well enough organized to come to the table as equal partners.

And speaking of equity and inclusion, and making Greater Cleveland a more welcoming society that values all of its citizens, the outstanding video that Global Cleveland rolled out to an enthusiastic audience would have been a Grand Slam except for one blemish that was so unsettling that weeks later it still remains the dominant takeaway. I speak, of course, about the young man who so knowledgeably and graciously speaks about all that our region has to offer. Unfortunately, his cubicle is festooned with five or six hideous Chief Wahoo posters whose symbolism gives the lie to what an open and tolerant community we are building. [*Memo to Cleveland: Get that fixed PDQ before the show goes on the road later this month.*]

Change is happening all around us at such a rapid pace that we must continually adjust how we do things, even if all we want is to hold our place. If we want to improve, we have to do even more.

This is our third issue, and already we feel the pressure to get better fast. We had lots of ideas and theories as we planned and worked **Continued on Page 7**

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to launch *The Real Deal Press*: which communities to cover, what issues to zero in on, how best to reach and serve the interdependent audiences that comprise the categories of “reader” and “advertiser”.

We are extremely gratified, buoyed, and appreciative of the responses we have received from both readers and advertisers. To our readers we say, write us, call us, tell us what you think we should be covering and writing about.

To our advertisers, we say thank you. To potential advertisers, we say take a look at our engaged readership.

To all of you, let’s figure out how we can build better communities and a better community. We will continue to our best to inform readers and to help shape the civic discussion.

Never has it been more important for us to think globally and act locally.

— **Richard T. Andrews,**
Publisher

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Karamu kicks off Centennial Celebration with Hall of Fame Ceremony June 14

Law & Order star S. Epatha Merkerson this year’s “National Living Legend” inductee

S. Epatha Merkerson, the critically acclaimed actress best known for her 17-season run as Lieutenant Anita Van Buren on NBC’s “Law & Order,” will be inducted into the Karamu Hall of Fame as its 2014 National Living Legend on Saturday, June 14, at 6:00pm at the Silver Grille in Tower City 200 West Prospect. Call 216.795.7070.

The Beauty of the Black Male is panel topic at MLK Library, June 21

Sankofa has partnered with the MLK Library to present a panel discussion for Saturday, June 21 at 2pm, in conjunction with an art exhibit, “Unseen Beauty, Disregarded Truth - The Voice of the Black Male Artist”. The discussion will explore differences in how black men are seen versus who and what they really are and how what black men show their true selves through self-expression. A reception will follow the panel discussion.

Greater Cleveland Jr. Golf Scholarship Fund annual outing is June 23

The 8th annual golf outing of the Greater Cleveland Jr. Golf Scholarship Fund will be held at StoneWater Golf Club, Highland Hts. Call Joyce Shinn at 216.387.1900 or visit gcjgsf.org.

Internships Continued from page 5

White says that the university will even consider a company-student relationship an internship if the student is able to receive course credit, just so long as the student doesn’t leave empty-handed.

“We have been in talks with different organizations to ensure that our students can receive course credit in exchange for their work, if there is no possible way for the organization or company to allocate resources to compensating our stu-

dents,” says White.

By making sure that programs are compensating students for their work, universities are hoping companies will be motivated to make sure students are being given relevant and meaningful experience during their internships and apprenticeships.

“I have never known a company that when a proper internship program is in place, they have not benefited from the talents a student has brought to the

table,” says White.

White also acknowledges that financial consequence and risks students are taking when they embark upon an internship.

“Many students are in a position where they can’t leave their jobs to work an unpaid internship, so even if a part-time internship scenario was in place, students would be able to gain the experience they need to further their careers without losing financial stability.”

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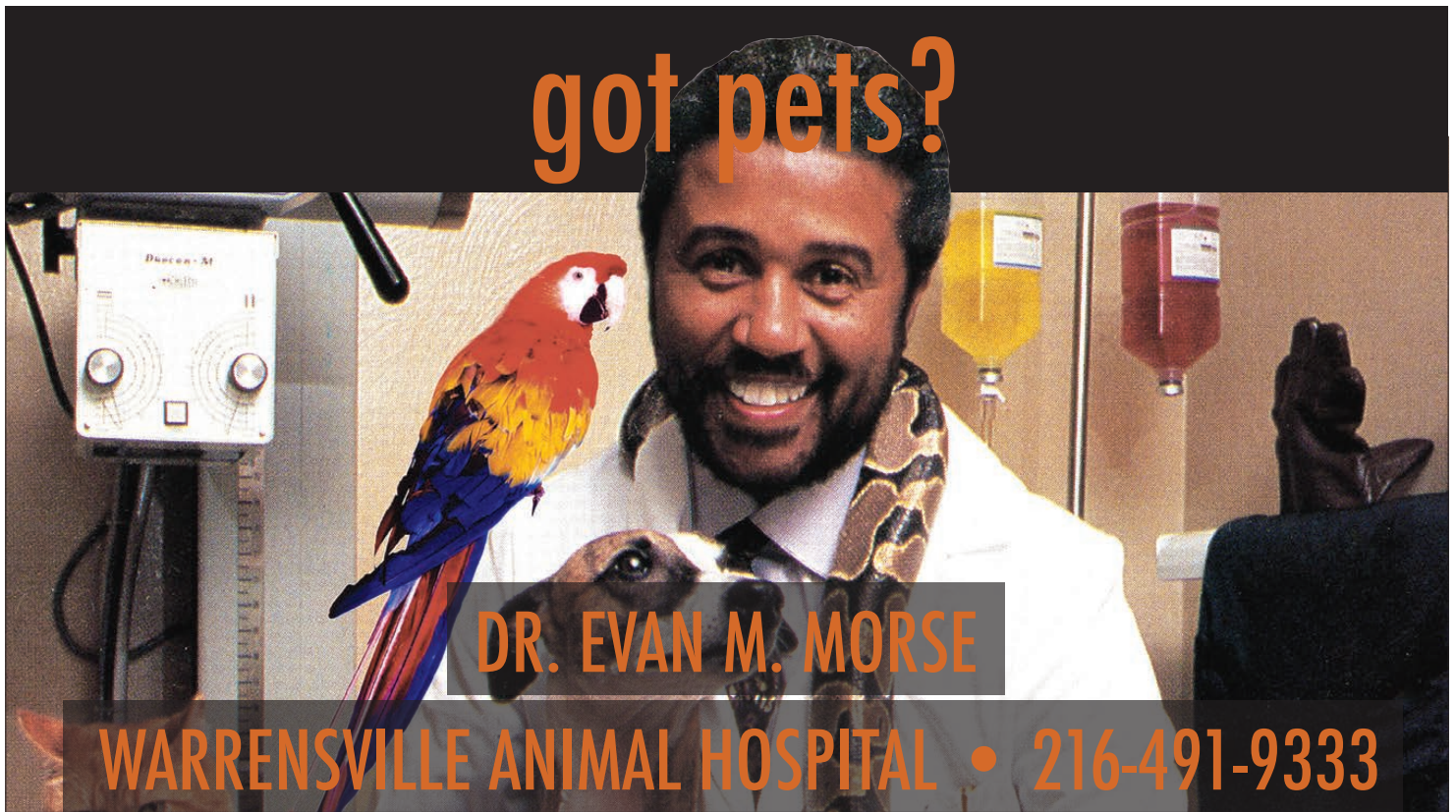
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Tower City Continued from page 1

there was a separate patrol dedicated to the small interior of the court. *Auntie Annie* has never been so secure.

I stopped for some teriyaki chicken, marveling at this odd show of force. While I was eating, two patrolling officers stopped and told a visitor to “move it along.” There seemed to be a minor confrontation over this, and I knew this because I could see the officers. But try as I might, I could not locate the person to whom they were speaking.

I am still genuinely confused by this. I kept looking around as I sat there eating, thinking: “They must be talking to someone.” I

even started to wonder if they were talking to me. I couldn’t see a single soul who could be considered loitering. There was barely anyone in the whole food court, just a handful of people quietly eating with heads down, trying to be invisible. Perhaps they had confronted the ghost of one of the unruly teens who were now not allowed in Tower City?

I began eating as fast as I could, so I could get out of there. I have never felt less comfortable in a mall. The absent teenagers were by far less intimidating than the police presence. I do, however, have the average black man’s discomfort with exces-

sive shows of police force.

This is our downtown renaissance. I suppose the idea is that at some point, the undesirable teens will give up on visiting the mall altogether. Then young professionals will descend on it, flinging wreaths of flowers while singing and dancing and buying up everything in sight, sparking an economic revolution that will launch Cleveland into the ranks of America’s top urban destinations.

But it is far more likely that the tense atmosphere caused by the extreme police presence will cause people to stay away altogether. The malls stores, malnourished

as they already are, will slowly die out. The city will then subsidize a certain type of shop in order to bring Tower City back to life, and years from now we’ll begin to speak about the ‘revitalized’ shopping center.

But perhaps this is the plan. It certainly felt as if I had witnessed the machinations of the powers that be, as they try to reshape the Cleveland landscape. I have to wonder about the slash-and-burn tactics, the severity of them. Who gets left behind?

Black kids used to hang out on Coventry Road in Cleveland Heights, until someone had a fight, and now no one under 18 is al-

lowed past an early curfew. Black kids used to hang out in Tower City, but now no one under 18 is allowed there either. So maybe a better question is: who gets pushed out?

I cannot prove causation between the severe tactics seemingly being used to change the profile of Tower City, the fact that the unwanted youth were almost exclusively African American, and the general racial dynamics of our town. But I know for sure that I don’t feel welcome in Tower City anymore. And I don’t like what that says about the way Cleveland is choosing to reinvent itself.