

The Lowell Ledger

Volume 16, Issue 25

Serving Lowell Area Readers Since 1893

Wednesday, April 29, 1992

Posthumus angered by political donation allegation Senator looks to protect his reputation and integrity

Senate Majority leader Richard Posthumus believes a few bad politicians give politicians a bad name, and a few bad reporters give the press a bad name.

Posthumus believes he was stung by some shoddy reporting by a Detroit News reporter.

The story stated that Posthumus and three other state legislators who recently vacationed in Alabama beach-front condominiums managed by two of Michigan's most powerful Capitol lobbyists took more than \$29,800 in political donations from lobbyists' clients.

Posthumus strongly denies the allegation that there was any connection between the Gulf Coast vacations, which they said they paid political dona-

"I don't care what the eastside thinks of concerned dizes the reputation that I carry constituents," said. Michigan says he has ily on and past seven Alabama The spot so popular with vacationers that Posthumus said he has to make reserva-



Richard Posthumus

tions for the following year within a month or two after leaving.

"I am then billed. Upon receiving the bill it is paid," Posthumus said. Because of the questioning and interrogation the Senator said he opened up his records to the reporter. Posthumus also went ahead and paid for his stay before the bill arrived.

"If this job as Senate Majority Leader is going to require that I give up a 20-year friendship, Pam (Posthumus' wife) and I will kiss the job good-bye."

Dick Posthumus

Posthumus was further angered by the fact that the story did not state that both he and Patrick Laughlin, a partner with Gary Owen in a fast growing lobbying firm (also owners of the condominium site), have been friends for 20 years, even prior to Laughlin becoming a lobbyist and Posthumus a legislator.

"The other fact is I was down there with seven other members of my graduating class," Posthumus said. "But that was all left out of the story."

Posthumus said he has always been careful about avoiding socializing with lobbyists, because of the perception it gives. The Senator said he was asked if he should be careful of the

friends he socializes with.

"If this job as Senate Majority Leader is going to require that I give up a 20-year friendship, Pam (Posthumus' wife) and I will kiss the job good-bye."

To avoid problems in the future, Posthumus says he will pay the bill by VISA when he leaves the condominium site instead of waiting for the bill.

Records indicate Posthumus voted against a bill to cut

Posthumus, cont'd., pg. 8

Explorers to keep a watchful eye on Stoney Lakeside Park

In an effort to help control activities at Stoney Lakeside Park, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Lowell City Council have agreed to use the Law Enforcement Explorers to watch for park violation rules.

The Law Enforcement Explorers Post gives its members, ages 14-20, a chance to learn about career opportunities in law enforcement at the local, state, federal, and military levels.

Part of the Explorers program is service to the community. It assists with traffic control and parking at parades

and the 4-H Fair, participates in Law Enforcement Week, supports the local crime prevention programs (Neighborhood and Childhood Watch), assists in the bicycle safety/rodeo program, conducts tours of the Lowell Police Department for youth groups, and provides administrative support in recordkeeping, filing, and related areas.

"The Law Enforcement Explorers Post is excited about the Stoney Lakeside Park opportunity," program advisor Al Eckman says.

The Explorers will be

Explorer, cont'd., pg. 3

Along Main Street



SHOWBOAT ENDMAN TRYOUTS

The Lowell Showboat will be holding endman tryouts on Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m. in the educational wing of the First United Methodist Church.

Those wishing to try out are asked to bring their own musical selection. A piano will be available. Also, bring a few jokes and stories along with a moderate resume of play and musical involvement.

SHOWBOAT CHOIR HAS OPENINGS

There is still room on the Lowell Showboat Choir for more voices. The choir meets every Thursday night at the Middle School choir room at 7 p.m.

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS CLUB MEETING

A special meeting of the general membership of the Lowell Area Schools Athletic Boosters Club will be held on Monday, May 4 in the Media Center of the High School.

The Varsity coaches will be introducing their parent representatives and a discussion on plans for the 1992-93 school year will take place.

SHOWBOAT TALENT SEARCH

The Lowell Showboat Amateur Talent Search will be Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16. The winners selected will perform one evening of the Lowell Showboat in the pre-show entertainment.

Application deadline is Friday, May 1. If you have any questions, call the Showboat office at (616) 897-8280 or Karen Hample, Talent Search Director at (616) 897-0055.

Main St., cont'd., pg. 7

Mikel Ltd., 201 E. Main

Crafty Cole creates crafts store for creative customers

When Mike Cole was laid off from his job at Steelcase, he decided to get crafty and create his own job.

Thus the genesis of Mikel, Ltd., a fine arts and craft supply store at 201 E. Main (for-

merly Man's World).

Cole's hobby of drawing and painting provided the impetus for the business journey.

Supporting that charge was the strong interest in the arts

that the Lowell Area Schools stresses for a well rounded education, a small but very much respected Lowell Area Arts Council, and the numerous shows and fairs in the West Michigan area.

"This area has a strong interest and following in the arts," Cole explained. "Thus I felt there is a need for a convenient arts and crafts store in this area."

Cole added that people from this area had to drive to either Ionia or Grand Rapids for art supplies.

Mikel Ltd. offers general crafts, bendable ribbons, quilting fabrics, yarns, art supplies, cross stitch and ribbon to name a few.

"We will be looking to expand our inventory within the next few weeks," Cole says.

The Lowell businessman says things have been going good and expects that it will get even better.

"I've set no time limit. I've mapped out a plan which I will review annually," Cole said. "It takes a business five years before it starts to turn a profit. It takes time, through advertising and word of mouth."

A misconception Cole believes he is fighting, is that a

Mikel, cont'd., pg. 3



Mike Cole, Mikel Ltd., offers a variety of arts and crafts for West Michigan artists.

Thad's Thoughts

Mirror of public mind --- Interpreter of public intent --- Troubler of public conscience.

This is the first of 10 points listed in "The Newspaper in a Free Society" - Reminder of what a Free Press means to us.

Every now and then when I'm confronted with an ethical issue or moral issue on whether reporting something is right or wrong, I read this list.

In recent weeks the press has been scrutinized for its judgment in reporting. Most notably Arthur Ashe. Recently, local Senator Dick Posthumus.

In the Ashe incident it was a case of the press being a troubler of the public's right to a personal life.

In the case of Posthumus (see story front page), it was the press attempting to interpret the public's (politicians) intent.

Ashe is a very private man, a very proud man, a family man, a man very much concerned with the plight of his Afro-American heritage, and a very intelligent man.

He had the HIV virus passed onto him five years ago through a blood transfusion. You all know the story, the USA Today learned of this presumably through a small circle of close friends Ashe had confided in. The paper went to Ashe and said it would break the story Ashe asked that the paper not report the matter, but it insisted. So Ashe held a press conference and told the story himself. If I understood a recent story in TV Guide correctly, first he had to explain it to his youngest daughter.

Ashe was hurt and upset that he was forced to come forward with a matter he considered a private one. Afterall, he hadn't been sexually permissive, and he hadn't put any illegal needles in his arm. He was in a hospital recovering from open-heart surgery when he received a blood transfusion. That was common, it was done all the time, it would provide him with strength, quicken his recovery.

That one transfusion would change his life forever. Being

the proud man that he is, at least from what I have seen on television or read in magazines, he met the challenge head on, kept his personal grief to himself, immediate family and a close circle of friends.

Upon hearing the information, the USA Today treated the story like it has any other prominent, celebrity-like figure, it checked its sources, and then contacted Ashe to let him know it was going to print it. Print the fact a celebrity was dying from a deadly disease, just like papers did when it was learned Michael Landon had cancer.

The third point down on "The Newspaper in a Free Society" states that newspapers are a light shining in on dark places. Further on it states it is a nourisher of public spirit.

I'm not sure the publicity the press in general got from this story is going to nourish the public spirit. I think it further dampens the public impression of the press. Yes, the press did shine a light in a dark place, although I don't think it was intended to be done at the expense of a forthright, honest family man.

Lowell youths join Grand Rapids Youth Symphony Orchestra

This year there are three area teens participating in the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony Orchestra (GRYSO). Lauren Basney, Connie Kelly, and Paula Hansen auditioned and were chosen to join the GRYSO for the 1991-92 season.

They practice Monday evenings at Creston High School and have performed three concerts this season with three more coming. Students participating are from 28 schools throughout the West Michigan area. John Varineau, their conductor, is also the Associate Conductor of the Grand Rapids Symphony.

Lauren Basney plays the violin and is the daughter of Lionel and Ruth Basney of Grand River Drive in Lowell. She attends Grand Rapids Christian High School and is 12 years of age.

Basney auditioned for the GRYSO since there is no orchestra at her school and her

parents felt she would benefit from the symphony experience. Basney takes private lessons as do most of the musicians in the Youth Symphony. She is impressed at how well the kids play together and how interested in music they are. Varineau is a lively conductor and Basney feels privileged to have the opportunity to play for him.

Paula Hansen plays the flute and is the daughter of Dee Hansen of Pine Hollow Drive in Alto. She is 17 and attends Caledonia High School. Hansen said she had auditioned twice before so was excited when she was accepted this year. She graduates in June and plans to continue her studies at Western Michigan University. When asked for advice to other musical students Hansen said, "If you see something you would like to do, go for it!"

Connie Kelly plays the bassoon and is the daughter of Mike and Marti Kelly of

Senator Dick Posthumus was mentioned as one of four state legislators who together took more than \$29,800 in political donations from lobbyists' clients.

Posthumus was more than upset, he was outraged. He had taken his family to Gulf Shores, Alabama for a vacation, a spot where they had vacationed numerous times before. It happens to be owned by Gary Owen and Patrick Laughlin, partners in Governmental Consultants, the fastest-growing mega lobbying firm in the state.

In its story, the Detroit News implied, that Posthumus and the three other legislators were making political donations. Interpreter of political intent. Posthumus says the bill from his stay will be on his credit card. He also suggests that from now on he will pay for his stay when he leaves. Because he is a frequent visitor, the beach-front condominium site bills him.

Posthumus said his wife, Pam and himself have been friends with Laughlin for many years, even before he was a legislator and Laughlin was a lobbyist. They both state no "hot shot" reporter looking to make a name for himself is going to change that.

Riverside Drive in Lowell. She is 15 and attends Lowell High School. Kelly wanted to have a musical challenge and to be around others her age who are as interested in music as she is so she auditioned last spring. When asked what she liked about the GRYSO, Kelly replied, "It is wonderful to play with the best bassoonists in West Michigan and to make new friends while playing great music."

The Grand Rapids Youth Symphony Orchestra will play two concerts in May. The first is Sunday May 3 at E. Kentwood High School at 3 PM. The following Sunday, May 10, at 2 PM, the GRYSO will play at DeVos Hall with the Grand Rapids Symphony in their Family Series.

Posthumus, cont'd.

insurance rates by 15 percent, a bill that was fought by Owen. They also indicate Posthumus voted for a bill lobbied for by Owen in regards to deregulating the telephone industry.

Owen in regards to deregulating the telephone industry.

"My voting history will show that I have always supported a free market congress. One that works to keep government out of the business of people and businesses," Posthumus said.

The Senator credits this story to a hot shot reporter trying to make a name for himself. "I'm very angry. This concerns my reputation and integrity."

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lowell Township Board approved the following:

- Dr. Tuthill's request for rezoning property located at 11827 Fulton, S.E. from Rural Low Density Residential to General Commercial; and
- on Terry Smith's request for rezoning 245 acres at 3790 Pratt Lake, S. E. from Prime Agriculture to Rural Agriculture; the Board approved rezoning the north 165 acres to Rural Agriculture, leaving the south 80 acres as Prime Agriculture.

Carol L. Wells, Clerk
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LISTINGS FOR FRI., MAY 1 THRU THURS., MAY 7

Wedding bells signal the series' end when guest star Leslie Nielsen joins regulars Rue McClanahan (left), Estelle Getty, Bea Arthur and Betty White on *The Golden Girls*, Saturday on NBC. McClanahan, Getty and White will reprise their characters next season in CBS' *Golden Palace*.

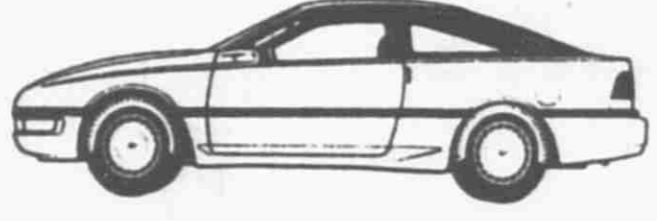
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TOWN TALK

With the decision of the YMCA, the Lowell Recreation and Parks Commission and the City of Lowell to close the King Memorial Pool, would you now favor creating funding for the construction of a new pool?



Sandie Perkins
No, it's just one more thing that will increase our taxes. We don't need our taxes raised anymore. Not only that, I have no use for a pool.

Susan Geelhoed
Yes, as long as everyone can use it.



Madonna Harrall
Yes, we need one. It's too inconvenient to go to other places for swimming lessons.



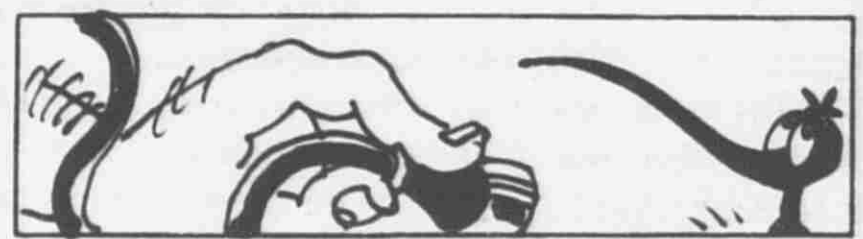
Cindy Marsman
Yes, I'm a swimmer, I'm definitely in favor of a new pool, especially an enclosed one.



Dawn Thompson
Yes, I think a pool is something the community should provide for the children.



Rein Kansman
Yes, my son has reached the age for swimming lessons. The opportunity for that here in Lowell isn't as great as in other communities.



A hummingbird's heart beats more than 1,000 times a minute.

LEA offers scholarships for all levels

No longer will it just be seniors who are going off to college who will be eligible for scholarship money from the Lowell Education Association. Elementary, Middle School and ninth-11th graders will also be eligible for scholarship money. The concept is a new and unique idea which will start this year. It will also allow college students to re-apply for scholarship money in their sophomore year.

What makes this concept unique is that the money to finance the academic scholarships will come from teacher payroll deductions. The Association will also provide the scholarship concept with funds.

"The Lowell Education Association wanted to do more to improve student learning, more for the students and provide the students with opportunities they may not otherwise have had," said LEA public relations chairman Lannie Rice.

There are currently 174 members of the Lowell Education Association. Rice said most of them agreed to participate in the payroll deduction scholarship plan.

Under the LEA plan three high school scholarships and two college renewals will be awarded.

There will be \$300 allocated to the Middle School, \$200 to each of the elementary buildings and \$300 for 9-11 grades.

The scholarships at the Middle School and Elementary levels will help provide students with funds to attend academic camps and or workshops.

"Some students may not have enough funds to attend a camp or workshop, but with a little help could," Rice explains.

LEA, cont'd., pg. 24



Brenda Jousma
Yes, there should be a pool. This community needs a nice family activity. It is also needed for swimming lessons.



Sarah Vezino
Yes, the community needs an environment for children. A place to keep kids off the streets.

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<p>EVENTS</p> <p>BINGO Every Friday Night 7:15 P.M. Lowell VFW Hall East Main St., Lowell Early Bird Bingo at 6:45 P.M. PUBLIC INVITED.</p> <p>BINGO Every Saturday Night 7:00 P.M. LOWELL MOOSE BINGO 1320 E. FULTON Early Bird Bingo at 4:00P.M.</p> <p>FREEPORT AREA VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ANNUAL AUCTION - Sat., May 2, 10 a.m. Anyone wishing to donate items should call Jess at 795-7002, Danny at 765-3326 or Lane at 765-5120 for pickup. Food available on the grounds. Freeport Fire Station, (right downtown).</p>	<p>BUSINESS SERVICES</p> <p>Complete Formal Wear Rental WEDDINGS OR OTHER SPECIAL OCCASIONS</p> <p><i>Pfaller's</i> CLOTHING</p> <p>RIDGEVIEW SHOPPING CENTER</p> <p>2173 W. MAIN ST., LOWELL Ph. 897-6411</p> <p>WILSON TREE FARM - 2 to 3 ft. Colorado Blue Spruce trees available for transplanting. Delivery & planting available. 474 Bellamy Rd., Ionia, MI. 527-6514.</p> <p>COTE'S PAINTING - Interior/exterior painting specialists. Homes, offices, barns, mobile homes, etc. Over 16 years experience 897-8195.</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>FOR SALE - Ladies 14 carat yellow gold wedding set, Tiffany style, mounted with 1 diamond, approx. .30 carat. Paid \$800, will sell for \$350. 897-1788 or 956-2189 days.</p> <p>FOR SALE - 2 matching sitting room lamps, bathroom sink. Call 897-7348.</p> <p>FOR SALE - Palomino, AQHA-PHBA 12 year old mare, English, Western, started over jumps. Call 364-9083.</p> <p>FOR SALE - '85 Isuzu Trooper, new paint & tires, high mileage, excellent shape, \$3,200 or best offer. Please call 897-5807.</p> <p>FOR SALE - 1984 Tidecraft bass boat, 16 ft., 75 horse Merc., with tilt & trim, EZ loader trailer, & more. Call 897-8145.</p> <p>FOR SALE - 1987 Redman mobile home, 14 x 70, 2 baths, 2 bedrooms, deck, & shed 642-3875.</p> <p>1988 LINCOLN TOWN CAR - 4 door, classic white with burgundy leather interior, loaded, \$9,995. Days, 897-4153; evenings, before 9 p.m., 897-5560.</p> <p>FOR SALE - 1989 Plymouth Horizon, 61,000 miles, 5 speed overdrive, AM/FM cassette, runs good, looks good, \$3,400. 897-6039.</p> <p>FOR SALE - White 30" gas stove. Clock doesn't work, stove & oven work great, \$35. 361-9766 after 6 p.m.</p> <p>FOR SALE - Mallard travel trailer 1988, 34 ft., excellent condition, loaded, sleeps 9, 897-5042.</p> <p>FOR SALE BY OWNER - 14x70 3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home, good condition, located on lot in country with low rent. Under \$10,000. Call 897-6742 after 6 p.m., leave message.</p> <p>FOR SALE - 1989 Plymouth Horizon, 61,000 miles, 5 speed overdrive, AM/FM cassette, runs good, looks good, \$3,400. 897-6039.</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>FOR SALE - Allis Chalmers C, totally reconitioned, with hydraulics, & snow-plow, \$1,700. Call 897-8145.</p> <p>HORSE TRAILER - 3-place, 1985 Prairie, excellent condition, \$1,200. 868-0042 after 6 p.m.</p> <p>WALLPAPER - BORDERS We have 4000+ rolls now in stock BUY TODAY HANG TODAY Walls \$4.99 to \$7.99 S/R Border 99¢ and up Lowell Paint & Wallpaper 219 E. Main St., 897-0012</p> <p>WANTED</p> <p>WANTED - Old time crafts, food booths, flea market antiques for Civil War Muster, May 30-31. Call 897-6430, leave message.</p> <p>WANTED - Babysitter to care for 2 children, mostly nights. Average 15-20 hours per week. Must be close to Eastgate. 897-6534.</p> <p>WANTED - Girls and boys used clothing, sizes 5, 6 7 or 8. Call 868-7175.</p> <p>NICE FAMILY WISHES TO RENT - 2 bedroom home in Lowell area. New business owner. Rent must be reasonable. Call 897-7910 or 458-5102.</p> <p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>DISHWASHERS, COOKS - Apply in person, Thornapple Village Inn. 676-1233.</p> <p>GIRLS WANTED - From Michigan, between 7-19, to compete in this year's 2nd annual 1992 Lansing pageants. Over \$20,000 in prizes and scholarships. Call today 1-800-Pageant, Ext. 2939. (1-800-724-3268).</p>	<p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>ATTENTION - New factory outlet has several permanent full and part-time positions. Full-time, \$1,500 and able to start immediately. Phone 945-5831, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.</p> <p>KUWAIT, SAUDI WORKERS NEEDED - \$35 & up per hour. Tax free. Both skilled & unskilled. For info. call 615-779-5505 Ext. K1145.</p> <p>BABYSITTER - light housekeeping. Looking for mature lady to sit 1 year old boy in Lowell home, 8-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. To begin mid-May, 897-6955.</p>	<p>IN MEMORIAM</p> <p>IN LOVING MEMORY of Sidney Alvin DeHaan, Jr., who passed away April 30, 1990.</p> <p>We miss you more than anyone knows, As each day passes the emptiness grows, The tears in our eyes we can wipe away, But the ache in our hearts will always stay.</p> <p>Sidney & Elaine DeHaan, Sr. Fred & Theresa Downin & girls Eric & Cara DeHaan & baby Sidney John & Gert DeHaan, uncles, aunts, cousins</p> <p>BLAKESLEE In memory of my wife, Jane, who upon this date, May 1, 1987 passed away.</p> <p>These years are now in the past, But our love and memories of her will forever last. Sadly missed, Husband, Russ Sons, Gary, David, Mother, Gyda Sister, Jean of Lansing.</p> <p>CARD OF THANKS</p> <p>WE WISH TO THANK the people of this community, neighbors, friends, our customers, the various service organizations, our church family, all of you who have shared with us the shock and sorrow of losing Gurney. We thank you for the get well cards, some with many signatures. For the heartfelt sympathy cards with poems and caring notes that have touched us so deeply. For the beautiful floral tributes and donations, to all who came to the funeral home and attended the funeral. We will always remember your kindness. The family of Gurney Hahn</p> <p>ARROWHEAD FRIDAY NIGHT COUPLES GOLF LEAGUE - Beginning May 1, tee off 5:15 to 6:00 p.m. For more information contact Norma Raymor at 897-5183.</p> <p> Lake Superior, our largest Great Lake, is 350 miles long and 160 miles wide.</p>
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LEA, continued...

Vic DeWaard, LEA vice president, said the idea was presented to the association by Alto teacher Tim Hawkins. Students and parents must file application by Friday, May 15 to be eligible for scholarship money.

For more information parents should contact their child's teacher or call the school. "This is the teachers doing something for the students," DeWaard said. "It's about kids, and that's what we're all about."

It is the desire of the Lowell Education Association to be of service to those students within the Lowell Area Schools wishing to enhance their education."

Sidewalk SALE

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<p>The Strawbasket 221 W. Main 897-5521</p>	<p>Lowell Graphics 309 E. Main 897-6308</p>	<p>Cousins' Hallmark Card & Gift Shoppe 223 W. Main 897-5000</p>
	<p>Mikel, LTD 201 E. Main 897-9906</p>	<p>Hinkley Drug Store 2173 W. Main 897-6818</p>

• Close-Outs
• Odd Lots
• Scratch & Dents
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