

Greater Cincinnati GLBT News

July 2002: Volume 5, Number 7

Chaotic Stonewall Meeting Ends With Delay of Crucial Vote

At the Stonewall Cincinnati membership meeting on Tuesday July 9th, a petition was submitted to those present to remove Mike McCleese, Roy Ford and Heidi Bruins from the organization's Board of Directors. After lengthy and heated debate, the motion was tabled until September 10th.

Following the business portion of the meeting, the group of about 75 members were invited to express opinions on the petition for removal of the three Board members.

Those who spoke in favor of the petition expressed their concerns that McCleese, Ford, and Bruins had been a divisive presence in the organization, citing examples of situations where they had acted "in the name of Stonewall" without the Board's consent and in some cases in direct violation of it. Board member Chris Seelbach pointed out that McCleese and Ford had never apologized for their actions and would be likely to "do it again" if left in office. Others felt that in the last year under Bruins and Ford's leadership the organization has strayed too far away from its core mission involving GLBT issues.

There was also a sizeable number of members present who spoke in defense and support of McCleese, Ford and Bruins citing the efforts that Stonewall has made in the last six months to reach out to members of the African American community. Many felt that the membership needed to be understanding of the mistakes that have been made and give the current leadership a chance to work out their problems. Speaking in solidarity with McCleese, Ford and Bruins, Board member Dianna Brewer said that she would resign if the three were voted out, saying she had as much responsibility for the mistakes that had been made as they had.

Speaking in his defense, Roy Ford angrily lashed out at those present, defending all of his actions. Bruins spoke directly to the concerns many had raised about her leadership and stated her belief that this petition was the wrong way to handle divisions on the Board. McCleese talked about his passion for social justice issues and his past and present commitment to human rights.

As pressure mounted for a vote on removal, a disagreement arose as to whether names collected online before the meeting by those supporting the petition could be counted as absentee ballots. From here the meeting really descended into chaos. After three and a half hours of discussion, the decision was made by those still present to send out a ballot to the entire membership regarding this matter and hold a formal vote on removal in 60 days. The vote is now scheduled to take place on Tuesday September 10th.

Thousands Attend Regional GALA Chorus Festival in Cincy

During the first weekend in July, the Cincinnati Men's Chorus and MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir, welcomed a huge gathering of gay and lesbian singers from across the country here to Cincinnati. The two local groups hosted the first ever Eastern Regional Festival of GALA Choruses, an international GLBT choral organization.

Over 1,000 singers representing 30 choral groups were in town to be a part of the festival. Six main performances were held in the Aronoff Center's Proctor and Gamble Hall. There were also two free concerts open to the public. One on Friday at noon on Fountain Square and another Saturday morning at Findlay Market in Over the Rhine.

One of the highlights of the festival was the performances given by the Vancouver GLBT Youth Choir from Canada. The group is the first of its kind anywhere and their stirring rendition of "What A Wonderful World" had many in the crowd in tears. The youth sang and shared their stories.

Delegates to the festival enjoyed an evening riverboat cruise on the Ohio on Saturday July 6th. This event will be a fundraiser for both the Men's Chorus and MUSE. The Westin and Hyatt hotels downtown hosted delegates to the festival. To secure a part in this large gathering, both hotels, as well as the Aronoff Center, adopted personnel policies prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The visibility offered to GLBT people in Cincinnati by having such a large event of this kind will hopefully have a lasting impact on our city.

PFLAG Chapter Awards Scholarships

On June 11th at the PFLAG monthly meeting, ten deserving students received scholarships for their college or graduate education. This is the tenth year that PFLAG has awarded scholarships. This year's recipients were Paul Droessler, Megan Jensen, Ryan King, Nicole Kowell, Linda Press, Randall Rubinstein, Mindy Sandfort, Chris Seelbach, Steve Weissenburger and Ryan Taylor.

The 2002 Scholarship Committee chaired by Dorothy Byers selected the winning students. The Committee based its selections on applicants' academic record, activities, future plans, and references. Emphasis was placed on students who help to fulfill the PFLAG missions of providing support, education and advocacy in the community. Committee members Lyndsay Schaeffer and Ric Stackpole highlighted the accomplishments of the recipients, who in turn gave insight into their personal journey and spoke inspiringly about future plans.

The scholarship winners demonstrated a wide range of accomplishments in support of the GLBT community including poster sessions, underground papers, school presentations, volunteering for organizations such as GLSEN and the Youth Summit, and founding or taking leadership roles in school and college alliances. The collective accomplishments of these students impressed all present and elicited enthusiastic praise. Continued efforts by students such as these will indeed make the world a better place.

Funds for PFLAG scholarships are raised through the PFLAG banquet, held in late winter of each year. The Tenth Annual Banquet held in March featured guest speaker Mel White and was a great success. Thanks to the contributions of many, the Scholarship Committee was able to award more scholarships than ever before to deserving students in our city.

Gay & Lesbian Community Center Gears Up For 2003 Pride Night at Paramount's Kings Island

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati is busy putting the final touches on plans for this year's GLBT Pride Night at the Paramount's Kings Island theme park. The event will be on Friday August 30th from 6pm to midnight, with the entire park closed to the general public for this private party that is reserved exclusively for our community. All the major rides and attractions, including all the roller coasters and the new Tomb Raider ride, will be open throughout the evening.

Live entertainment for Pride Night will include several DJs, the Queen City Marching Band and the Cincinnati Men's Chorus. There will also be special performances by the "Divas of Paramount's Kings Island." This new group of female illusionists is made

up of top name entertainers from across the tri-state and is sure to be a highlight of the evening.

This year's Pride Night is part of a weekend of local events. Dubbed the "Kings and Queens Weekend" by organizers, it will feature special happenings at many Cincinnati area bars and restaurants from Thursday August 29th to Sunday September 1st.

"I am very confident that this year's event will be one of the largest we have had yet. We have had a very dedicated committee that I am very proud of," said Troy Henson, Pride Night Committee Chair and Community Center Vice President. "This year is my third year with the committee and I've never seen it stronger."

Pride Night is The Center's single largest annual fundraiser. Proceeds from the evening are vital to keeping their doors open and programs running. Tickets for Pride Night will be \$41 at the gate. You can save \$5 by purchasing your tickets online at www.kqweekend.com or at The Community Center, The Dock, Pink Pyramid, Hamburger Mary's, Metronation or the Pyramid Leather Crypt. Tickets are reduced to \$21 if you buy them online with the purchase of a Center membership or renewal. Your ticket stub will also get you discounts and free admission to many of the other weekend events. For more details, call The Center at 513-591-0200.

Coronation XII to be September 7th

The ISQCCBE (The Court) will be celebrating 11 years of fun and fundraising in the Cincinnati area on Saturday September 7th. "A Carnival: A Night at a Venetian Ball" will feature the crowning of the group's new Emperor and Empress for the coming year. Great food and entertainment by monarchs from across the country will highlight the evening. To find out more, go online to www.isqcbe.org.

Support AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati at the Red Ribbon Walk

September 21st is the date for this year's Cincinnati Red Ribbon Walk and Run to support AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati. The 10k walk through downtown and the riverfront begins at 9am at Sawyer Point Park. Plenty of live music, food and refreshments will be featured at the after-party following the walk. All proceeds from the walk and run go to support the HIV education, prevention and outreach services AVOC offers. Mark your calendar and save the date. To register your-self or a team, please contact AVOC at 421-AIDS or online at www.avoc.org.

Northern Kentucky Block Walks for Fairness

The Northern Kentucky Fairness Alliance (NKF) is working to secure protections for lesbians and gay men in Covington. The group is working with Covington's Human Rights Commission to add sexual orientation to the city's human rights ordinance. As a part of this effort, NKF is participating in an effort to identify the level of support such a change can expect and to reach out to fair-minded voters in the city. They will sponsor blockwalks on Saturday July 20th and Saturday July 27th from 9am to noon in Covington. To find out the specific locations and how you can participate, contact Charles King at 859-491-3608.

New Programs at The Community Center

Starting in July, the Gay and Lesbian Community Center will begin a new Movie Night program on Mondays. Each week join them for a different gay themed movie starting at 6:30pm. To find out upcoming titles, go to their website at www.glbtcencincinnati.com.

The Gay Men's Support Group will take a brief recess during the month of July while it is being restructured to address the needs and desires of the community. The new Gay Men's Interactive Group will start in August on Thursdays at 7pm. Interactive games will be used as ice breakers for each session.

Games Night continues on Friday nights at 7pm. Since this season of "Queer as Folk" has come to an end, The Center will feature episodes from "Tales of the City" starting in July. Immediately following each episode will be a fun filled evening of board or card games. Stop by and try your hand at the "How to Get Your Pink Card Game" or the ever popular "Rainbow Gayme."

In My Opinion

Me and My Big Mouth

by Paula Ison

I have loved parades ever since my father took me to my first one. My dad did twenty years in the Marine Corp so there was always a parade to go to and I still get goose bumps just thinking about a Marine Corp marching band. It must have something to do with men in uniforms.

So I was excited in late 1999 to hear that our GLBT community was taking another shot at a Pride Parade after a 5 year hiatus. I called the organizers, Chris Good, Ken Colegrove, Michael Chanak and others and became a volunteer. My role in that first parade was walking at the end of the parade picking up trash and police barricades. Not a very glamorous role but a necessary one nevertheless. And, hey, I was in the parade, right where I wanted to be. What could be better?

I knew one thing that could be better so at the next parade committee meeting I said "Great parade fellows but next year we need a marching band". Their response was, "Get on it, Paula." Me and my big mouth.

I called area high schools and colleges but as school ends in May, the schools couldn't or wouldn't get their bands back together for a June parade. Then a parade committee member, Kelly Gorth, told me about a GLBT national band organization. I found them on the Internet and learned that the nearest GLBT marching band was in Chicago.

The Chicago band agreed to come to Cincinnati if I helped raise money for a charter bus. I called some straight business clients of mine and told them exactly why I needed their donations and they all came through for me. As Chris Good said at the first parade rally, "Don't ever hesitate to ask straight people for money." The Chicago band came to Cincinnati last year and they were fabulous! They put fifty people on the street including their flag corp. This time, instead of being at the end of the parade picking up trash, I walked with the band helping give out cups of water to the band. I wasn't a full-fledged band member but I was right in the middle with them. One Chicago musician, Maryhelen Hibbens, was actually from Cincinnati. She called me two weeks before the parade and asked for the phone number of the Chicago band as she wanted to march with them since Cincinnati didn't have its own band.

When last year's parade ended I was really pumped from the excitement so I said to Maryhelen, "The Chicago folks are nice but they've got nothing on us; lets organize our own Cincinnati marching band for next year's parade." Me and my big mouth.

Maryhelen and I started asking everyone we knew if they had ever played in a high school band and please join our new band. We got lots of strange looks, the kind of look that says, "This is Cincinnati, don't you know you can't do that here?" I guess we

were too dumb to know that. I've never played an instrument so I agreed to be in the flag corp. Not knowing which end of the flagpole was up didn't disqualify me as we needed bodies!

By February of this year we needed to start practicing but how many musicians would show up? The very first practice drew five musicians and two flag corp but each week our numbers grew and the enthusiasm kept building. By May we had twenty musicians, six flag corp, our own web site, www.qcrb.org, and our own bank account funded mostly by straight businessmen plus a generous donation by Jacob's On The Avenue.

On June 8th we debuted at the Saturday night music fest and the next day we marched in our first parade. There is an unforgettable exhilaration in marching that last two hundred yards from the White Castle to Hoffner Park. Everyone should march in the parade for that experience alone. WOW, what a great parade!. And this time I was up front in the flag corp, throwing and waving my flagpole around making it look like I knew what I was doing and impressing my friends and myself. Being in the parade is cool enough but marching with the Queen City Rainbow Band is way, way cooler!

There is still time to join the band and flag corp. At the end of the parade we got a lot more names and phone numbers and at our next practice we had six more musicians, another flaggie and a baton twirler. There is even talk of starting a rifle squad So what can I do for an encore next year? I've already made contact with the Wright Patterson Air Force band in Dayton to see if they'll join us next year. It mostly just takes money so I'll be calling my straight friends again. Just think of it, a United States military band marching in a Cincinnati GLBT parade! Me and my big mouth.

Thank You to the 2002 Pride Committee

Dear Pride Committee,

On behalf of all the member organizations of The Cincinnati GLBT Coalition and the countless GLBT and supportive individuals in the Greater Cincinnati area, we want to offer a most sincere and hearty thank you for once again giving us a celebration we all can be very proud of!

The spirits of pride and solidarity and friendship filled the air both Saturday night and on Sunday June 9th. Once again you made it all come together flawlessly, and the thousands who participated reveled in the joyous, yet meaningful, atmosphere that you created. Importantly, the image of GLBT pride you presented to the rest of our city was both affirming and positive.

These are very small words of thanks for a very big success! On behalf of the Cincinnati GLBT Coalition, the GLBT and supportive community, those who were at the rally, parade and festival and those who could not be there but certainly benefited nevertheless, THANK YOU !

–The Cincinnati GLBT Coalition

GLBT Health

Adult Immunizations

by Bob Donovan, MD

Most everyone is familiar with baby shots, but many adults aren't so familiar with the immunizations that they ought to be receiving.

What is an immunization, or a vaccination? Two main types exist: the most common being a *killed* vaccine. With these, the bug is grown in the lab, killed, and then a part of it is taken off. This is what's shot into your arm. When your body senses this invasion, it makes antibodies to try to remove it. When the body has been primed like this, if you come in contact with the live bug, your body can burst into action right away before the bug has a chance to reproduce enough to infect your body. The second type is similar, but the virus is *live*, then attenuated so that it can't easily cause the infection. People with immunity problems, like HIV or who are on cancer chemotherapy, usually must avoid these types of vaccinations. The most common reaction to an immunization is soreness at the sight of the shot. An important way to reduce this is to relax when getting the shot. A tense arm is more likely to get sore. Sometimes people will feel a little under the weather for a day or 2 two after the shot.

In a previous article, I mentioned why everyone who has sex should be immunized against **Hepatitis A and B**. **Tetanus** is a bacterium that is found in many places, especially the soil. If there's a cut in the skin, sometimes just a small one, and tetanus gets in, it can produce a deadly illness, commonly called "lockjaw". Because of immunizations, tetanus is rare nowadays. Usually a tetanus shot includes another vaccine for **Diphtheria** at the same time. Most commonly it would be recommended to have a booster every ten years. (In the last year, there's been a shortage of tetanus vaccine, so we're temporarily holding off on boosters for people without dirty injuries' – keep checking with your doctor to find out when the supply gets better.) **Influenza** is an important disease for many adults to be immunized against. The **Pneumococcal** (or "pneumonia") vaccine prevents some of the very serious consequences of the bacterium *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. This is not the strep that causes strep throat, by the way. This vaccine is given once, and then repeated again after 6 years in those who were under 65 when the first one was given. Most would recommend everyone over the age of 65 receive the vaccine, as well as anyone with heart and lung diseases, diabetes, alcoholism, certain liver and kidney diseases, people who have had their spleens removed and probably those whose immunity is suppressed. The **Varicella**, or chicken pox, and **Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)** immunizations are live vaccines. A few adult who haven't had these diseases or haven't been immunized as children would need these. Ask your doctor if you're not sure.

Financial Advisor

Simplify Your Financial Life

by Vicki L. Marsh, American Express Financial Advisors

For some consumers, keeping track of their finances has become more of a chore than it has to be. Multiple financial accounts with banks, investment firms, credit card companies and lenders means that multiple statements appear in mailboxes each month and pile up on desks until its time to reconcile accounts. Some consumers use financial software to help get a clearer picture of their financial position and set up online bill payment to save time and energy each month. Anything to stay on top of it all.

How did we get this way? We get older and may require more financial options. It often starts with a savings account when you're young and learning about saving for goals. You reach your teens and realize you want access to your money without

having to ask your parents, so you open a checking account in your own name. In college, a credit or charge card may become an important spending tool. Once you join the workforce, retirement accounts such as 401(k)s or 403(b)s often enter your life. As the years go by, you may buy a house, purchase life and disability insurance and realize you may need to save outside of workplace retirement accounts to reach your financial goals, so you open an IRA or an online brokerage account and begin to consider buying individual stocks, bonds and mutual funds as long-term investments.

What do all these financial accounts create besides the building blocks of a financial future? A logistical headache caused by trying to keep all of your accounts up to date, either on paper or online, and questions about whether there's a better way.

A product that helps is an account that integrates saving, investing, borrowing and spending functionality in a single account. One such product is the American Express ONESM Financial Account. This account offers unlimited complimentary check writing with and overdraft protection; an American Express Gold Card; brokerage services including online trading, disclosure equity research, portfolio analysis tools, margin loans; a suite of cash products including an FDIC insured account with preferred rates; and an ATM/debit card. By consolidating your financial accounts into a ONE account, it helps you gain simplicity and convenience as well as preferred rates and rewards when you reach certain asset levels.

Consider this change of scenario. Rather than sifting through multiple financial statements each month and licking stamps before you mail in your mortgage payment, utility bill or systematic investments, open an integrated account where you can have a consolidated statement and utilize services such as direct deposit, online bill pay, systematic investing¹ and other money movement functionality. You have a secure Internet site to view your account and when you visit your financial advisor for an annual financial review², your current financial position is available online and is up-to-date.

You might be saying, "how would I set up the account?" It's easy. Go online or contact your financial advisor for help in opening the account. You can set up direct deposit from your paycheck to help fund the account and in a matter of days, you'll be transacting most of your financial needs from a single account. Information on the account is available at www.americanexpress.com or by phone at 1-800-AXP-8800. Although you'll need to spend a few moments closing your existing accounts and funding relationships, once you have your relationships in one account, you'll start to see the rewards that come from account consolidation. Consider opening an integrated financial account. It's fast, easy and convenient. You'll simplify your financial life and be able to spend your valuable personal time on things other than sifting through financial paperwork.

¹Such a plan does not guarantee a profit or protect against losses in a declining market.

²Services provided by financial advisors may require separate fees.

Our Faith Too!

Celebrating the Spirituality of GLBT People

A Clergyman Speaks OUT About Sexual Abuse Situation

by the Rev. Keith Haithcock

In the past months the press (along with the Roman Catholic Church leadership) have talked a lot about gay clergymen. Most (if not all) of this coverage has been negative equating pedophiles with homosexuals. Very few have spoken out against this negative untruth. I, for one, am sick of it.

It seems as though some leaders in the Christian faith with power want to use gay clergymen as their scapegoat for the mistakes that they have made in managing what the Church (Roman Catholic in this case) has trusted them with. They seem to want to use us as their sacrificial lambs for the actions of those who have abused position, trust, power, emotions, psyches and bodies. Anyone who has been paying attention in the past thirty years knows that a person's sexuality has nothing to do with whether or not they are sexually abusive. From the reports I have read it seems there are more heterosexuals involved in such behavior than homosexuals. Bottom line, it doesn't matter. It's abuse and it must stop! So Bishops back off! Own up to your own mistakes. Accept the legal and ecclesiastical consequences and repent. The sanctity of life goes far beyond the protection of a fetus. It involves respecting boundaries and the preciousness of a child or teenager's body, self worth, innocence and youth.

Most clergy that I know (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-gender, and straight) are hard working dedicated people who have felt the call of God and have committed to serving our religious communities as faithfully as we know how.

We have made personal sacrifices to be in the vocation of ministry. Giving up much personal time, relationships, and financial benefits. We love our vocation and the good people we serve.

In Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky there are a number of Gay clergymen and clergywomen of many faiths who are actively serving faith communities. Please pray for us. We are finding ourselves in more difficult positions than usual due to the untruths being spread about us by those who should know better.

What can you do about the untruths that are being spread about LGBT clergy persons? Call the Bishop (or other religious leaders) in your area and express your outrage over continuing antigay rhetoric from Roman Catholic leaders. For contact information for Roman Catholic dioceses in the US, go to www.usccb.org. Demand that the bishops accept responsibility for their own role in the cover-up of clergy sexual abuse, and demand an end to the scapegoating of Catholic priests. End the bigotry now!

Rev. Haithcock is the pastor of St. John United Church of Christ of Bellevue, KY.

Pride in Action

Rusty Hinges

by Cynthia Jeffries

A friend of my daughter's has been working around my house doing yard work. I didn't even ask him to do it but he likes that kind of stuff, and believe me it needs a lot of work. It seems since I am OUT in the community and doing lots of different things for my support group and several other organizations, the yard work, and other chores have fallen to the wayside, especially since I began my full time transition from male to female in January 2000. I simply don't have the time, energy or desire for digging in the dirt, pulling weeds, or using a chain saw. I have wild tree seedlings coming up in my flower beds and garden, and they are starting to look more like shade trees instead of seedlings. Anyway, as I was walking around the yard discussing things with my daughter's friend, and as we were looking at the things that needed to be done by the back of the house, I noticed that my cellar door was crooked. With further examination I could see that the hinges had completely rusted through. You see I had built those

cellar doors over 25 years ago. When I made them I thought I had used the best material available (pressure treated lumber, galvanized screws, etc.) and with pride in the work I had done, I figured, these doors will last until my children's children are old and gray. At first I was disappointed that the door needed repair. Then, as I stood there looking , I realized that I had out lived a metal hinge that I thought would be there way longer than my life would span.... I began to giggle as I thought about it.

The more I thought about it, the more I giggled, (I am prone to giggling bouts on occasion). The thoughts began to flow and I giggled even more. Feelings of joy and happiness began to take over. I began to laugh uncontrollably. I turned to another friend that was standing by. I grabbed him and gave him a big hug, saying "I'm so happy, I feel great, and it's good to be alive". They thought I was nuts. All the while I was still laughing. Finally, I began to regain my composure and I sat down on the bench. My mascara had run down my face from the tears and I looked a mess, but still smiling, I looked at my daughter and said, you know what... I'm going to fix that hinge and then I'm gonna out live that one too.... Strange what the sight of a little rust can do to one's emotions... I think the enthusiasm I have for living a much longer life, is because I am so proud of what I have accomplished since I started living as Cynthia. The person that is really me. All the obstacles that a transgender has to overcome are tremendous, but I did it!!... Working on this year's Gay Pride Parade Committee gave me an even bigger since of pride, because I saw a community, that isn't ashamed of who they are and not afraid to show it. People that are wil- ling to stand up for themselves, and proud of who they are.

Thought You Knew

Advice for the Confused and Clueless

from *Ambrosia*

Dear Ambrosia,

I am thinking about getting silicone injections in my face to help with drag. Do you think this is a good idea?

–*New 2 the Scene*

Dear Ambrosia,

I've heard that you can get silicone injected into your behind and legs to produce a more womanly figure. Does anyone in Cincinnati have this done and what does it look like?

–*Bootlicious*

Dear Ambrosia,

I've heard a lot about botox, collagen, and gortex recently in cosmetic circles. Which have you used and what's best?

–*Curious in Cincinnati*

Alright ladies. Let's talk about silicone. Since I've been writing this column probably the number one question has been about whether or not to use silicone injections to enhance one's appearance. This question brings a lot of images to my mind: the legion of talentless drag queens that haunt my sleep with the attitude that "my silicone makes me what I am" or the fact that they have silicone in their body instantly aug-ments them to professional talent and beauty status. Hmm. Seems that everyone wants to be pretty –it's fun but some just don't have it.

Let's step back a bit. Usually, when someone opts for silicone in their face it's to make one's lips and/or cheeks bigger. In some cases, having bigger cheeks and/or lips does make one prettier. I think my drag mother summed it up best when she asked, "How often do you walk up to someone and say, 'My what pretty cheeks you have.'" If someone were to say "My what a pretty mouth you have," that's just a rude observation leading to one thing that I won't mention here. Usually, when someone looks at a face, they notice the eyes or entire face. Nor-mally, bigger cheeks or droopy, shiny lips don't make you pretty –unless you have an oral fetish.

Of those performers that have "their face done" how many of them actually look better? Of those that do look better, did they just get the silicone because they were too lazy to learn how to apply make-up? What do those performers look like during the day?

I'll leave my astute readers to answer those questions. Now here are some important facts about silicone you should know...

1. It's a poison.

2. It can shift positions once it's injected. (Think of those queens that can't stop getting it in their face, as it falls, their face gets wider. Would God make a face that wide?)

3. It's cheap. (One treatment is much less than a nice outfit.)

4. It can be done anywhere. (Typically in trailer parks on picnic tables in West Virginia, not exactly your average Botox party here.)

5. It's pretty permanent. It isn't removed easily and shouldn't be absorbed into your body. If it is then you run the risk of one of the many diseases brought on by silicone poisoning.

6. Body silicone needs daily maintenance (body silicone should be kneading daily to prevent cellulite-like lumps)

7. Results are instant as soon as swelling goes down. (Some girls are on stage the next day!)

There are a lot of pros and cons to this. Many performers have found silicone to be the key to their success and beauty. As with a lot of things, this treatment is not without risks.

If it was for me, I would opt for a procedure done by a licensed physician in an accredited medical facility. Going in for any treatment, it's hard to know if you'll be that one statistic that will have a problem or be violently allergic to your beauty treatment.

I would also make absolutely certain that the needles are clean and new. Collagen and botox at the doctor's office aren't permanent but are much safer than silicone injections. Doctors can insert implants in various parts of the body. More expensive, but implants can be removed easily if there is a problem. There we are again at the money problem –not all drag queens have problems getting money honestly!

Let me leave my questioning readers with a request. Get out a piece of paper. On it make two columns, "pretty" and "no-so-pretty." Fill in the names of all the performers you know. Look to see how many of the queens that have had work done (most of them brag about it not realizing how shallow it makes them look) are in your pretty column. That, my dears, should be your answer!

(Next month *Ambrosia* goes head to head with *Drag Queen Bandits*–Is it alright to steal dresses?)

GLBT Calendar- July 2002

Tuesday July 9th

Coming Out Group for Women, 7:30pm, Gr. Cincinnati Women's Resource Ctr., 244-4403
Frontrunners Run, 621-6363

Three Dollar Investment Club Meeting, 7pm, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian, 541-6036
PFLAG, 7:30pm, Mt. Auburn Presbyterian, 755-6150, www.geocities.org/pflagcinci
Stonewall Cincinnati Membership Meeting, 6:30pm, Off The Avenue, 651-2500

Wednesday July 10th

Crossport Transsexual Support Group, 7:30, Church of Our Saviour, 919-4850
Pride Night at Kings Island Committee, 7pm, The Community Center, 591-0200
Queen City Rainbow Band Practice, 7pm, 598-1922, www.qcrb.org

Thursday July 11th

Integrity of Cincinnati, 7pm, 648-0790
Frontrunners Run, 621-6363

Friday July 12th

Games Night, 7-10pm, The Community Center, 591-0200, www.glbtcincincinnati.com
Women's Social, 7pm, Greater Cincinnati Women's Resource Center, 541-4906, www.gcwrc.org

Saturday July 13th

Frontrunners Run, 621-6363
Alternating Currents Radio Program, 3 to 5pm, WAIF 88.3FM, www.alternatingcurrents.org
INDY Project Social, 343-9999
River Bears Potluck, www.riverbears.org

Sunday July 14th

2002 Pride Parade Committee Meeting, noon, www.cincypride.com
Cincinnati Youth Group, 6pm, 684-8405, www.cygteens.org
New Spirit Metropolitan Community Church, 7pm, 5501 Hamilton Avenue, 681-9090
TriState Primetimers Meeting, 956-4398

Monday July 15th

Movie Night, 6:30pm, The Community Center, 591-0200, www.glbtcincincinnati.com

Tuesday July 16th

Frontrunners Run, 621-6363
Coming Out Group for Women, 7:30pm, Greater Cincinnati Women's Resource Ctr., 244-4403
Stonewall Cincinnati Board Meeting, 6:30pm, Off The Avenue, 651-2500

Wednesday July 17th

River Bears Council Meeting, riverbears.org
Queen City Rainbow Band Practice, 598-1922

Thursday July 18th

Crossport Monthly Social, 7:30pm, Washington Platform Restaurant, 919-4850
Frontrunners Run, 621-6363

Friday July 19th

Games Night, 7-11pm, The Community Center, 591-0200, www.glbtcincincinnati.com
Gay/Bi Married Men's Group, 293-3640
Women's Social, 7pm, Gr. Cincinnati Women's Resource Ctr. 541-4906, www.gcwrc.org

Saturday July 20th

Frontrunners Run, 621-6363
Queen City GLBT Coalition Meeting, 10am, St. John's Unitarian, 542-6694
Alternating Currents Radio Program, 3-5pm, WAIF 88.3FM, www.alternatingcurrents.org
Dignity Cincinnati, 7:30pm, 557-2111

Sunday July 21st

Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church GLBT Spirituality Group, 10am, 281-5945
Cincinnati Youth Group, 6pm, 684-8405
New Spirit Metropolitan Community Church, 7pm, 5501 Hamilton Avenue, 681-9090

Monday July 22nd

Movie Night, 6:30pm, The Community Center, 591-0200, www.glbtcincincinnati.com
Northern Kentucky Fairness Alliance, 7pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 859-491-3608

Tuesday July 23rd

AIDS Volunteers of N. Kentucky Dinner, 6pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 483-5757
Coming Out Group for Women, 7:30pm, Gr. Cincinnati Women's Resource Ctr., 244-4403
Frontrunners Run, 621-6363

Wednesday July 24th

Crossport Transsexual Support Group, 7:30pm, Church of Our Saviour, 919-4850
Pride Night at Kings Island Committee, 7pm, The Community Center, 591-0200
Queen City Rainbow Band Practice, 7pm, 598-1922, www.qcrb.org

Thursday July 25th

Frontrunners Run, 621-6363
Cocktails With The Court, 7pm, Shooters, 859-291-0993, www.isqccbe.org
Jewish GLBT Group, 7:30pm, Jewish Family Services, 469-1188ext.123, www.jfscinti.org

Friday July 26th

Games Night, 7-11pm, The Community Center, 591-0200, www.glbtcincincinnati.com

Saturday July 27th

Frontrunners Run, 621-6363
Alternating Currents Radio Program, 3 to 5pm, WAIF 88.3FM, www.alternatingcurrents.org

Sunday July 28th

Cincinnati Youth Group, 6pm, 684-8405, www.cygteens.org
New Spirit Metropolitan Community Church, 7pm, 5501 Hamilton Avenue, 681-9090

Monday July 29th

Movie Night, 6:30pm, The Community Center, 591-0200, www.glbtcincincinnati.com

Tuesday July 30th

Coming Out Group for Women, 7:30pm, Gr. Cincinnati Women's Resource Ctr., 244-4403
Frontrunners Run, 621-6363

Wednesday July 31st

River Bears Night Out, www.riverbears.org