

Greater Cincinnati GLBT News

PRIDE GUIDE EDITION May 2002: Volume 5, Number 5

What Does Pride Mean to You?

This month GLBT News asked members of our local community to share what “PRIDE” means to them:

John Oxner

Pride, to me, is not just about being proud of our sexual orientation. When I look at where we as a community have come from, look at the adversity and discrimination GLBT people have faced and still do face in this country and especially in this city, and look at where we are today, I see a phenomenal group of courageous people. The fact that once there was a day when an openly gay or lesbian person couldn't be a teacher, and today we have GLSEN. The fact that once there was a day when an openly gay or lesbian candidate couldn't be elected, and today we have openly gay people serving in Congress. When I think of pride, I think of how proud I am of the GLBT community. Knowing where we have come from, looking at where we are, and hopeful for a better future, I see a diverse community of brave individuals creating change.

Bobbie Kramer and LeAnn Dessauer

To us pride means the Tristate area sees there are thousands of us. It shows those GLBTs who haven't even come out to their best friend that they aren't alone, they have a community. It shows those GLBTs who haven't come out for fear of bashings, that it's safe. It shows straight people that we are here and we look like everyone else. We come in all shapes and sizes. Hopefully pride will move us past acceptance, and into common place, so when our son goes to school his classmates won't give the fact that he has two mommies a second thought.

Dianna Brewer

Living with Pride means having faith that your life, just the way you are, is worthy of respect. Pride month should be a time when we seriously contemplate if we are truly happy or living in fear. What is important is that there be at least one person who is willing to stand in the way of misinformation, lies, rampant hatred and injustice. If one person stands then a million more will gain confidence. Pride to me means finding the compassion to educate my family and friends about who GLBT people really are. Pride means standing up and claiming my soul and honoring it just as it is.

Mark Byers

To me, pride means three things. It is a risk, a commitment, and a celebration. Pride is a risk because in our present society it is obviously risky to be out and proud at all times. Being openly gay makes one vulnerable to harassment, both verbal and physical. And, though it is more risky for some than for others, it has its rewards for all. Pride is a commitment, because it can't be temporary or partial. If one does not stand up for his sexuality all the time, he is not truly proud. Pride is a long term obligation. Most importantly, Pride is a celebration: a celebration of the differences that make the human race diverse and exciting. Those who are truly proud know who they are; they recognize and enjoy the differences between themselves and other people. They are strong forces in the community, advance our community the most, and can celebrate in it most wholeheartedly. And if we can all stand together as a strong, visible community by following this example of true Pride, we will all be able to experience the joys that result. We will eventually be able to celebrate true equality for all.

Paula Ison

Pride Week around the country should be an re-affirmation of our constitutional right of free assembly and our right to pursue our own happiness as we individually define it. In Cincinnati and Ohio, re-affirming these rights has a greater urgency given our past and present experience with Issue 3. Thus it's even more important on June 9th to stand out, exercise our voice and claim our rights. It's my personal opinion that GLBT folk in Cincinnati already have all of the assets, resources and talents necessary to win any battle we set our minds to. Now we just have to do it, and as we win each victory, it will be that much sweeter when we say, "We did it right here in Cincinnati". Our Pride Parade is a major victory in itself; sanctioned by our city, protected by our police force, big crowds and a two day music festival to rival any, with our very own local marching band. And only three years ago none of this existed! On June 9th let's celebrate our past and future victories.

David Betz

As someone who just came out five years ago, Pride means that I have accepted myself for who I am and I have entered a process to learn that my gay identity is one facet of my life that contributes to who I am as a person. Pride is an opportunity to revel in the giftedness of being gay and how it is important to use this gift in positive ways for the community and myself. Pride is an acknowledgment that the gay community is just as diverse as the society at large and our participation in society is necessary for the well being of the community and society at large. Pride is a call to educate all whom we come in contact with by letting them know that our place in society is part of the greater story of humanity. Also, for me, being a Catholic Christian who is gay is a witness to the Christian community that being gay is part of the image and likeness of God and God saw all things that were made as being good.

Kathy Laufman

My first Pride Parade taught me the joy and the power of gathering together. I will always remember looking backwards up Ludlow Avenue and seeing marchers all the way to the top of the Ludlow hill. I felt so connected and so strong. Pride means being out, which can feel risky, even for straight allies like myself. Pride means telling everyone about GLSEN (The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) and how important it is for us to take care of and celebrate our young people.-

Doreen Cudnik

To me, Pride means living my life with integrity, and even more than that, with *authenticity* as an out lesbian woman. Pride means knowing that I do not need to apologize for my existence to anyone, especially those who would use the word “abomination” to describe me. Pride means reading a newspaper or a magazine that contains the word “lesbian” or “gay” in the title without giving it a second thought. Pride means honoring those who have paved the way for me, and knowing that I am paving the way for many who will come after me. Pride means waking up every day with my partner and knowing that all the arguments about “choice” vs. “orientation” and “right” vs. “wrong” are meaningless when the heart is flooded with love. Pride is knowing, beyond any doubt, that I am created in the image of God, and that I am OK just the way I am.

Pride Calendar

THURSDAY MAY 30

Spicy Divas "Pump Up" Pre-Pride Show

11:30pm at The Pipeline, more info at www.pipelinebar.com or call 241-5678

FRIDAY MAY 31

"You Go Girl" Dance Party with

guest DJ Michelle Chaney from Columbus
10pm-4am at The Pipeline, more info at www.pipelinebar.com or call 241-5678

SATURDAY JUNE 1

Dayton Pride Parade

line up at 3pm at Cooper Park (2nd Street & Clair), more info at www.gaydayton.org

"Night of Sequins, Suits, Gowns & Clowns"

6pm Razzberry's Variety Room in Covington presented by ISQCCBE, for tickets contact ICP XI Hannah Downs at 381-7577

"Red, White, and Bold" Pride Ball

8pm-1am at One Riverboat Row in Newport presented by Chicout and Spyce Productions more info at www.prideball.com

"Pump 2" Official Pride Ball After Party

10pm-5am at The Pipeline, more info at www.pipelinebar.com or call 241-5678

SUNDAY JUNE 2

Winners Circle Pride Brunch

11am to 3pm at Hamburger Mary's

Drag Races and Winner's Circle Show

2pm on Court Street at The Pipeline a benefit for AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati info at www.pipelinebar.com or call 241-5678

Spin Out Tea Dance with guest vocalist

Jennifer Fouche, 7pm at The Pipeline, more info at www.pipelinebar.com or call 241-5678

THURSDAY JUNE 6

Youth Coming Out Experiences

7pm at the Union Institute, presented by GLSEN (Gay Lesbian & Straight Education Network), info at www.glsencincinnati.org or call 221-1670

FRIDAY JUNE 7

World's Gayest Office Party

5pm to 8pm at Hamburger Mary's presented by Queen City Careers Association for more info call 723-5073

SATURDAY JUNE 8

Pride Pancake Breakfast

9am-noon at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church presented by Cincinnati Youth Group for more info call 591-0200

River Bears Pride Cookout Picnic

noon to 5pm at McFarland Woods Shelter (Area 30 of Mt. Airy Forest located off Westwood Northern Blvd), for more at www.riverbears.org or call 470-0733

Proud Artists Contest Showcase

noon to 11pm at The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati more info at www.glbtcentercincinnati.com or call 591-0200

Pride Interfaith Spiritual Service

4pm at The New Thought Unity Center of Cincinnati, for more info call 921-8192

Pride Music Festival

6pm-11pm at Hoffner Park in Northside presented by the 2002 Pride Committee more info at www.cincypride.com

SUNDAY JUNE 9

2002 Cincinnati GLBT Pride Parade

rally at noon at Burnet Woods Gazebo parade kicks off at 1pm presented by the 2002 Pride Committee more info at www.cincypride.com

Pride Music Festival

1pm to 8pm at Hoffner Park in Northside presented by the 2002 Pride Committee more info at www.cincypride.com

Proud Artists Contest Showcase

noon to 8pm at The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati more info at www.glbtcentercincinnati.com or call 591-0200

Miss Pete Rose Way Pageant

11pm at The Dock, for more info call 241-5623

MON. JUNE 10-FRI. JUNE 14

Proud Artists Contest Showcase

6pm to 9pm at The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati more info at www.glbtcentercincinnati.com or call 591-0200

TUESDAY JUNE 11

PFLAG Scholarship Awards Night

7:30pm at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church for more info call 755-6150

SATURDAY JUNE 15

Proud Artists Contest Reception

2pm to 4pm at The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati more info at www.glbtcentercincinnati.com or call 591-0200

Womonfest 2002

begins at 11am in Dry Ridge, KY for more info call 381-6672

Somewhere Over the Rainbow Show

11pm at Jacob's on the Avenue presented by ISQCCBE (The Court) for more info call 591-2100

Dayton Annual Pride Dinner & Expo

5pm at the Dayton Convention Center more info at www.gaydayton.org

SUNDAY JUNE 16

Dayton Family Pride Picnic

noon to 5pm at Carillon Park more info at www.gaydayton.org

SATURDAY JUNE 29

Columbus Pride Parade

line up at noon, parade kicks off at 1pm in the Short North, more info at www.stonewall-columbus.org

Pride Guide 2003

Pride Parade on June 9th Expected to Be Largest In City's History

Mark your calendar and be sure to be a part of what is expected to be Cincinnati's largest GLBT Pride Parade ever! On Sunday June 9th, the parade will begin with a rally at the gazebo in Burnet Woods at noon featuring Reverend Dan Newman as the keynote speaker. Other speakers will include Dr. John Maddux, Erica Riddick, Michael Chanak, Louis McGuinness, Tess Imholt and Dr. John A. Kelly. Returning as emcee will be Michael Chanak and Chris Owens will be the sign language interpreter for the hearing impaired.

Then at 1pm, the Pride Parade will begin. Exiting Burnet Woods to Clifton Avenue, the parade will be led by the perennial parade marshalette Peaches LaVerne and the Queen City Rainbow Band. It will then make a left onto Ludlow Avenue and continue approximately two miles down the hill onto Hamilton Avenue, ending at Hoffner Park in Northside.

When the Parade reaches Northside, the party will continue with a huge Pride Music Festival which will already be in progress. New this year will be an announcer's booth above Jacobs' on Hamilton Avenue, from which Parade participants and floats will be broadcast to the crowd.

Please remember that the only vehicles allowed in the parade will be registered floats, cars, and motorcycles. Details can be found on the Parade Committee's website at www.cincypride.com. The fee for cars and floats is \$60 if received prior to the June 1st deadline, and \$100 thereafter including the day of the Parade. There is no fee for motorcycles. All vehicles, however, must be registered and comply with all rules and regulations as described on the website. Questions may be directed to Chris Good at 470-7068, or email at parade@cincypride.com. As always, any and all groups and individuals may march in the Parade at no charge without prior registration.

The parade route is all down hill, but it is a good distance. Remember to wear comfortable shoes and put on your sunscreen. The last 2 years have been warm, so you may wish to bring some bottled water with you as well. Plenty of water, drinks and food will be available at the Pride Music Festival after the parade.

Pride Music Festival at Hoffner Park Expands to Two Days

Because of the huge success and record-breaking attendance of last year's Pride Music Festival, this year's event has been expanded to two days. It will be Saturday night June 8th from 6pm to 11pm and Sunday afternoon June 9th from 1pm to 8pm at Hoffner Park in Northside. The festival will feature booths from numerous vendors selling pride merchandise, jewelry and crafts, and a host of other items. Also, there will be booths where you can learn all about the local and national GLBT organizations and what they do. In addition, many businesses will be on hand with information on everything from carpet care to gay and lesbian residential communities. The Pride Festival Committee is pleased to also have the participation of several supportive area churches at the festival.

In the tradition of the last two years, the Music Festival will feature something for every musical taste. On Saturday evening, the new Queen City Rainbow Band will make its debut at the festival. Other performers on Saturday night will include MUSE Women's Choir, Cincinnati Men's Chorus, Sherry McCamley and Carol Sherman-Jones, as well as other surprise acts.

At 1pm on Sunday afternoon, as the parade is kicking off up in Clifton, the Music Festival will start back up again for the crowds that gather to watch the parade come down Hamilton Avenue. Following the parade, you're invited to grab some food and beverage, shop at the booths, and relax on the lawn while listening to some of the finest live music Greater Cincinnati has to offer. The musical line up for Sunday reads like a who's who of the recent Cammy Awards, featuring Pride Festival veterans Chris Collier, Ryan Adcock, and Vicki D'Salle, as well as newcomers Annette Shepherd, Jake Speed and the Freddie's, Belinda Scroggins, Beatrice, Close Quarters, the Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Choir, and more. These musicians have donated their time and talents in support of our community. Please support them by attending their shows at other venues. The festival will continue throughout the afternoon, lasting until approximately 8pm.

There will of course be great things to eat and drink. The festival will once again feature plentiful refreshments from numerous locations in the park. Food vendors will include Cody's Café, Chow Hounds, and others featuring everything from sweet potato fries to burgers and hot dogs and even fried baloney sandwiches. Beverages booths throughout the site will offer bottled water and drinks, fountain soft drinks, as well as draft beer and "hard" lemonades. And all food and beverage will be available on BOTH Saturday and Sunday of the festival. In addition, Northside restaurants such as One Mo Cup and Kay's will be open for business.

Don't miss it! And do remember that this is an outdoor music festival, so feel free to bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on and relax as you enjoy the music. The 2002 Greater Cincinnati Gay Pride Parade and Music Festival is sponsored by Jacobs' on the Avenue, Bullfishes, The Serpent, Crazy Fox Saloon, The Comet, OUT in Cincinnati, The Word and Human Rights Campaign. At press time we expected the Gay and Lesbian Community Center to come on board as a sponsor. Visit the website at www.cincypride.com for the most current list of sponsors, as well for the most current information about the event.

Free Shuttle Bus Service Makes Pride Parking Easier Than Ever!

The 2002 Cincinnati Pride Parade and Music Festival will be more convenient to attend than ever thanks to a central parking location and free shuttle bus sponsored by Bullfishes, Jacobs' on the Avenue, and The Serpent.

The free event shuttle bus will operate on Sunday June 9th between the hours of 11am and 8pm. Those wishing to march in the parade should park at Cincinnati State College. Enter off of Ludlow Avenue. Between 11am and approximately 12:45pm, the shuttle bus will transport marchers from Cincinnati State College to Burnet Woods. Then throughout the afternoon, the bus will shuttle between Cincinnati State and the festival at Hoffner Park, allowing parade marchers to return to their vehicles, as well as providing convenient parking for those attending only the festival. Parking at Cincinnati State and transportation on the shuttle bus is FREE. You should NOT park your car in Clifton or Burnet Woods and expect to drive to the festival with the parade unless your vehicle is a registered float in the parade. Also note that the bus will NOT run from Hoffner Park to Clifton or Burnet Woods. Be aware that on June 9th street parking will be restricted surrounding the festival. There will be a limited amount of off street parking available in the Northside business district parking lots, but there will be a charge to park there. Because of the potential for traffic congestion, we encourage everyone to take advantage of the FREE parking shuttle from Cincinnati State College.

Handicapped Accessibility for Pride Festival

Both the rally at Burnet Woods and the festival in Hoffner Park are wheelchair accessible. Please note, however, that the shuttle buses are not equipped with wheelchair lifts. Because of this, those in wheelchairs who wish to attend the festival only may park in the Northside Bank parking lot on Palm Street across from Hoffner Park free of charge. You must display a valid handicap parking sign on your vehicle. Handicapped individuals wishing to be in the parade may enter their vehicles free of charge, however the vehicle must be registered. All deadlines, insurance requirements, etc. still apply. Visit the Pride web site at www.cincypride.com or call the committee's voice mail at 681-4627 for more information.

Old Traditions, New Twists and Camp Northside!

by Ken Colegrove, Pride 2003 Committee

It's hard to believe that the new incarnation of Cincinnati's Gay Pride Parade and Festival is only in its third year. Although now it seems like an annual tradition, prior to June of 2000, there had not even been a Pride Parade for five years.

But that would change when, in the fall of 1999, Chris Good assembled a small but dedicated group of volunteers, and named them the Pride Parade Committee. At the time, I was producing the Alternating Currents radio show on WAIF. When I heard about the Com-mittee and the planned Pride Parade, I contacted Chris to see how Alternating Currents could be involved, and learned that the Community Center was planning to have a community picnic at Hoffner Park after the parade. After attending meetings with both the Parade Com-mittee and The Center, I somehow found myself in charge of producing four hours of music at the picnic, which would be broadcast live on WAIF. Excitement began to build and expectations ran high in the community as June 11, 2000, drew near. We all thought that with a little luck and good weather, as many as five hundred people might attend the event. Two thousand showed up.

None of us wanted the Parade to be a one-time event, so the Committee immediately began plans for the following year. I had agreed (reluctantly) to organize the Parade. When I approached the various government agencies about the Parade, they insisted that they only wanted to deal with one organization instead of three for what they perceived to be the same event. The first year there were separate permits issued to the Parade Committee, the Community Center, and Alternating Currents. For 2001, there would be only one, and the Parade Committee would be "it". The Committee worked hard in an effort to equal the success of 2000. On June 10, 2001, the Lakeside Pride Marching Band came from Chicago to be in the Parade. The community picnic became a full-fledged festival complete with arts and crafts, pride merchandise vendors, plentiful food and beverage, and a beer garden. Some of the best musicians in Cincinnati performed. And over four thousand showed up!

So what's in store for Greater Cincinnati Gay Pride 2002? The past year has seen much change. The World Trade Center attacks, the sagging economy, and racial and political tension in Cincinnati have contributed to a somewhat somber mood. The local GLBT community, historically fragmented, has become even further divided over issues such as the boycott and Article XII. Well, "TIME OUT!" Stop the bickering and the petty squabbles; leave the cares, troubles, and politics of the big city behind, and come spend the weekend of June 8th and 9th in "Camp Northside!"

There is plenty to do in "Camp Northside." It's a celebration of Pride in who we are and what we are, where the entire community will come together for a two-day block party. And what a party it's going to be!

The party will begin on Saturday June 8th at Hoffner Park on Hamilton Avenue in Northside with the opening of the Pride Music Festival at 6pm. The festival will run Saturday night until 11pm, after which you are invited to special events planned at Bullfishes, The Serpent and Jacobs'. But don't stay out too late! There is a big day planned for Sunday June 9th as the Cincinnati Pride Committee presents its third annual Gay Pride Parade. A rally will proceed the parade at the Gazebo in Burnet Woods beginning at noon. At 1pm, the parade will kick off. The Pride Music Festival will run for a second day from 1pm to 8pm on Sunday.

An event of this size does not just happen. It takes the dedicated work of many individuals, organizations, and businesses, as well as the cooperation of various government agencies. The 2002 Pride Committee would especially like to thank the Cincinnati Police Department and the Cincinnati Park Board for their continued assistance with this event. Also thanks to The Subway, The Pipeline, Hamburger Mary's, Jacobs', and The Serpent for hosting fund-raisers. Also thanks to John Oxner, Charlie Goetz, David and Marc Epplenhil, Tri-State Leather, Ted Prisant, ChicOut Productions, Rob McDonough, Alternating Currents, Helen Elfenbein, Dale Allen, and GLBT News, as well as all those who donated time or money to help make this event a reality. Also special thanks to Kerry Wickstrom for her countless hours designing and maintaining our website, our print and internet ads, as well as this year's poster.

2002 Cincinnati Pride Committee members include Debra Randall, Marie Hedrick, Wes Adkins, Mark Landman, Ken Colegrove, Chris Good, Doug Striker, Michael Chanak, Mitch Hulley, John Maddux, Worley Rodhaver, Bill Bridges, Chris Owens, Kerry Wickstrom, Jason Dul, Maryhelen A. Hibben, Cynthia Jeffries, and you! Contact the Committee at 513-681-4627, or by email at info@cincypride.com.

New Queen City Rainbow Band to Lead Pride Parade

Every good gay pride parade needs its own marching band and flag corps. Cincinnati will have just that this year! In 2001, the Pride Parade Committee invited Chicago's Lakeside Pride Band to participate in our Pride Parade. The response to this lively group was so enthusiastic that a number of local musicians decided it was time for us to have a pride band of our own. The Queen City Rainbow Band was formed in January and began regular rehearsals in late February. The group is made up of current and former musicians of all backgrounds and musical abilities. They also have a big group of non-musicians who have formed a Rainbow Flag Corps to march with the band. The group will have its debut at the Pride Music Festival on Saturday night June 8th at Hoffner Park in Northside. They will also be leading the Pride Parade the following day down Clifton Avenue. Beyond their June performances, the band is already receiving requests for other bookings. They will be entertaining in this year's Northside Fourth of July Parade and at Pride Night at Paramount's Kings Island on August 30th. For more information on the Queen City Rainbow band or to find out how you can join up or just support their work, visit their website at www.qcrb.org or call 598-1922.

Drag Races to Kick Off Pride Celebration

Ladies and gentlemen, start your pumps! The Drag Races will happen on Sunday June 1st along Court Street outside The Pipeline. Before cheering crowds, teams of contestants will dash to the finish for the coveted trophy, wearing big wigs, high heels and outrageous dresses and costumes. All this fun is for a very good cause with proceeds going to benefit AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati. In addition to the races, there will be an entire afternoon of fun with vendor booths, food provided by Cincinnati River Bears and drinks from the Wolf Pack. Jessica Diamond, the Pipeline's show director, has put together a special "Winner's Circle" drag revue which will be performed for the crowds outside the bar. The show will feature title holders from many of the area's gay clubs. Following the races, The Pipeline will host a tea dance with special guest vocalist Jennifer Fouche at 7pm.

The Pipeline is making an entire weekend out of the Drag Race event. On Thursday May 30th, the Spicy Diva's will present "Pump Up" with DJ Chris Mercier. Special guest DJ Michelle Chaney, from Wall Street in Columbus, will be featured at their "You Go Girl!" Pride Kick-off Dance Party on Friday night May 31st. The Pipeline's second floor bar will be the place to come after the Pride Ball on Saturday June 1st with dancing until 5am. And before you come down to the races, Peter and staff at Hamburger Mary's invite you to join them for a special Winner's Circle Pride Brunch from 11am to 3pm. You'll get a free mimosa with your armband from the Pride Ball on Saturday night. For more information about the Drag Races or to find out how you can enter a team, go online to pipelinebar.com or contact Gene at 241-5678.

PrideBall Back by Popular Demand

ChicOut and Spycy Production's "Pride Ball" returns to provide men and women with one night packed full of excitement and unspeakable desire to kick off the Pride Celebration in Cincinnati. Pride Ball will be from 8pm until 1 am on Saturday June 1st at the One River Boat Row (Benson's) in Newport, KY. This open-air, docked vessel provides two floors of wall to wall excitement combined with Cincinnati's best sound system and lighting. DJ Chuck Q of Columbus will be spinning the hottest circuit tunes upstairs, while on the outdoor patio eye-catching dancers will mix with incredible views of the city. DJ Chrissy G's steamy sounds will rock the boat downstairs. A stage show by Pipeline's Spicy Divas caps off the evening. This year's Pride Ball theme is "The Red, The White and The Bold," which will be an opportunity to combine our pride and show support for the victims of September 11th. A portion of Pride Ball profits will be donated to the New York City Gay and Lesbian Community Center, ultimately helping 9-11 victims and their loved ones. There will be a banner for everyone to sign that will be sent to NYC to be displayed at Ground Zero. Get your tickets early to see over 700 of the hottest bodies in town. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 after May 13 or at the door and can be purchased at Metronation (824 Elm Street) and also online at paypal.com and enter chicout@aol.com. For more information on the Pride Ball, call the ChicChat hotline at 513-588-9987 or visit www.prideball.com.

A Night of Sequins, Suits, Gowns and Clowns

The ISQCCBE (The Court) will present a gala evening of dining, dancing and entertainment to kick off this year's Pride Celebration. Join hosts Truly Scrumptious and Randy Bridges for "A Night of Sequins, Suits, Gowns, and Clowns" on Saturday June 1st at Razzberry's Party Room (25 West 7th Street in Covington, KY.) Doors open at 6pm, with dinner served at 7pm. Following dinner enjoy an all-star show with The Court's reigning Empress Gypsy Russel, ICP XI Hannah Downs, Empress II Kate Central Parkway, Miss Ambrosia and many other fabulous performers. A DJ will be on hand for dancing following the show until 2am. Tickets are \$30 with all proceeds going to benefit The Court's local charities. Tickets for the event can be purchased by contacting Hannah Downs at Simon Says at 381-7577.

GLSEN to Features Youth and GSAs in Pride Program

Imagine being a junior in high school, coming out to friends and family, and demanding that your school start a Gay Straight Alliance to stop harassment. The Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) will present "Youth Coming Out Stories" on Thursday June 6th at 7pm at The Union Institute (440 E. McMillan Ave). This Pride Program will highlight the lives of GLBT students in Cincinnati. The youth will be sharing their coming out stories, as well as their experiences in local schools. The youth will also discuss how important their Gay/Straight Alliances (GSAs) have been in their lives. Don't miss this unique opportunity to show our local GLBT youth that you support them and how proud you are of them. Directions to the Union Institute can be found on the GLSEN website at www.glsencincinnati.org. If you have questions, call Laura Stanton at 755-6718.

The World's Gayest Office Party on June 7th

The Queen City Careers Association invites you to kick off your big pride weekend with them at their annual "The World's Gayest Office Party!" This year's event is will be on Friday June 7th at Hamburger Mary's (909 Vine Street). There will be happy hour pricing from 5 to 8pm and hors d'oeuvres provided. This will be a fun and festive opportunity to relax after a long work week and get your bat-teries charged up for all the other great pride events to come. For more information, contact QCCA at 723-5073 or online at www.qccainc.com.

Miss Pete Rose Way Pageant Coming to The Dock

The Dock will host the 1st annual "Miss Pete Rose Way Pageant" on Sunday June 9th at 11pm. Before judges from many of the area's bars, contestants will compete in fun categories like "Slippery When Wet" and "No U Turn." Entertainment will be provided by Mercedes, Monica St. James and Nellie Olson. For more information, call The Dock at 421-5623 or go to www.thedockcomplex.com.

Community Center Presents Proud Artist Competition

During Pride Week, the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Greater Cincinnati will be hosting a Proud Artist Contest and Exhibition. This will be an opportunity for local lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and supportive artists, in a variety of media, to display their work and an opportunity for you to see it. Works will be displayed in The Center's office space at 4119 Hamilton Avenue in Northside. Stop by during the Pride Music Festival on Saturday June 8th from noon to 11pm and Sunday June 9th from 12 noon to 8pm.

The Center will also be open Monday through Friday June 10th to 14th from 6pm to 9pm. All guests who stop in to view the artwork will be invited to vote for the best piece displayed. Every vote will give the voter a chance to win two tickets to this year's Pride Night at Paramount's Kings Island on August 30th. On Saturday afternoon June 15th, The Center will host a special reception for the artists from 2pm to 4pm. During this event the winners of the contest will be announced. Prizes will be awarded for the first and second place. The Center is pleased to welcome Cincinnati Museum Center as an official sponsor of the Pride event. For more information, go to the Center's website at www.glbtcincincinnati.com or call 591-0200.

PFLAG Cincinnati to Award Scholarships

For the tenth year in a row, our Cincinnati chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) has offered scholarships to support deserving students who are from Cincinnati or studying in Cincinnati. The scholarship program aims to encourage and reward GLBT students, particularly those who strive to foster understanding and acceptance in the community. The PFLAG Banquet on March 2nd was a fundraiser for this scholarship program. With over 300 tickets sold and many donated items auctioned off, this year's banquet was the largest PFLAG event in Cincinnati to date. The scholarship application deadline was April 20th and a record number of applications were received. The Scholarship Committee is reviewing applications now and will be presenting awards at the PFLAG Program during Pride Week. Everyone is invited to join PFLAG on Tuesday June 11th at 7:30pm at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church for a wonderful evening as they celebrate the success of their scholarship winners.

Teens to Serve Pride Pancake Breakfast

Come one, come all to the CYG Pride Pancake Breakfast! On Saturday, June 8th at the Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church members of Cincinnati Youth Group will be serving up delicious breakfast treats. Join them for pancakes, bacon and sausage, juice, coffee, fresh fruit, and plenty of non-meat alternatives. The event is from 9am to noon with admission \$7.00 on a sliding scale.

"Last year's pancake breakfast was one of the best things I liked about pride weekend" says one CYG youth member. Others say it is "to die for". Come support Cincinnati Youth Group in its work to provide social opportunities and group support for GLBT, questioning and supportive youth ages 13 to 21. For more information about the Pancake Breakfast, call 684-8405 or go online to www.cygteens.org.

River Bears Pride Cookout

The Cincinnati River Bears will be hosting their annual Pride Cookout Picnic on Saturday afternoon June 8th. The group will have hot grills, plenty of ice, cups, plates, utensils, etc. You are asked to bring your own meat to grill, a dish to share, and non-alcoholic drinks. There will be games, contests and other summer activities. The picnic will be from noon to 5pm at the McFarland Woods Shelter (Area 30 of the Mt. Airy Forest) located right off of Westwood Northern Blvd. near the Montana Ave. inter-section. This event is open to everyone. The entire Cincinnati GLBT community is invited to come. For more information, call 470-0733.

Columbus Pride March on June 29th

Year after year, the Pride Parade in Columbus keeps growing. It has become a must-see, must-do monster event. More than 32,000 people were there last year making it the largest GLBT Pride march in Ohio history. Mark your calendar for Saturday June 29th to come to Columbus and be a part of it all. The parade kicks off at noon near Goodale Park in the gay-friendly Short North area of Columbus. It will proceed down High Street, past the State Capitol, and end with a giant festival in Bicentennial Park. The festival features booths, games, food, and lots of live entertainment from 2pm to 6pm. There will be a family area for people with children and a beer garden at the festival. For more information on Columbus Pride events, go to their website at stonewall-columbus.com.

Dayton Pride Parade and Dinner

Dayton Pride will be hosting three big events this June. On June 1st, Dayton's Pride Parade will kick off at 4pm at Coopers Park (2nd Street and Clair). It will move through downtown Dayton to Courthouse Square where a festival with booths, vendors and entertainment will follow. Grand marshals for this year's Dayton parade are New York City Gay Officers Action League President Ann Cregan and NY PD officer Francis Coppola, who lost his partner, a NYC firefighter, in the collapse of the World Trade Center on September 11th.

On Saturday June 15th, the Dayton Pride Dinner and Expo will take place at the Dayton Convention Center. An expo of local GLBT-supportive businesses and organizations will begin at 5pm. The banquet dinner starts at 7pm. Entertainment following the dinner will include lesbian comedian Suzanne Westenhoeffer, Miss Bonni Blake and many others.

Dayton will wrap up its Pride festivities with a "Family" Outdoor Picnic on Sunday June 16th. Come out to Carillon Park from noon to 5pm for live entertainment, vendors, local artists and the "Wacky Olympics." For more information about these Dayton Pride events, go to their website at www.gaydayton.org or call Jeff at 937-275-3059.

GLBT Pride Interfaith Service

Everyone is invited to this year's Pride Interfaith Spiritual Service on June 8th. GLBT people come from many different religious and spiritual backgrounds. Often we have grown up in churches which teach that homosexuality is sinful and give us unhealthy messages about ourselves. That was then and this is now. Increasingly, congregations from various denominations and spiritual traditions are openly discussing GLBT issues, taking stands in support of our rights, and opening their doors and their hearts to welcome us back. Even in conservative Cincinnati there are churches and faith communities of every persuasion that are affirming places for GLBT people to worship. On Saturday June 8th, we will gather together to celebrate the spirituality of GLBT people and acknowledge the courage and commitment of local churches who have gone out of their way to be supportive. The 2002 GLBT Pride Interfaith Service will feature readings, songs and prayers from Hindu, Christian, Native American, Buddhist, Unitarian, Pagan, Jewish, Humanist, and lots of other faith traditions. Ministers and other lay leaders from many of the area's GLBT supportive churches will be participating. There will be special music from several local choirs and soloists. Please make plans now to join in this spiritual celebration on Saturday June 8th at 4pm at the New Thought Unity Center of Cincinnati (1401 East McMillan in East Walnut Hills.) There will be a time of free food and fellowship following the service.

Womofest Offers A Day of Music and More

On Saturday June the 15th, hundreds of women are expected to gather for this year's Womofest. It will be a day of great live music, arts and crafts and food. Gates open at 11am. For those who want to camp out, tents are permitted both Friday night before the event and Saturday night. The admission is \$15.00 at the door and \$12.00 in advance.

Among the many performers scheduled to appear at this year's Womofest are: Lucy Blue Trembley, Katie Reider, Jamie Fota, Chris Collier, Legacy, Tracey Walker, Lia & Keryn, Peggy Erin, Just the Band, and Rita Beach. Volunteers will be needed to help with the event. For further info about Womofest, call Lauren at 859-781-6614.

Gay Days at Six Flags in Louisville

The first unofficial Gay Day events at Louisville's Six Flags amusement park will happen on Saturday June 8th and Sunday June 9th. GLBT folks and their friends and families are encouraged to come out and enjoy the safe, wholesome fun at Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom. Saturday will focus on the amusement park while Sunday will focus on the water park. No registration is required, all you need to do is show up and purchase a park admission. Attendees are urged to wear bright red shirts. While SF Kentucky Kingdom is an "innocent victim" of circumstance, they offer some great pricing for tickets purchased in advance. For information on purchasing these tickets go to the Kentucky Gay Day website at www.midsouthfun.com/gaydays. Official and unofficial Gay Day events are being held each year at a growing number of the country's amusement parks. The gay event at Cincinnati's Paramount's Kings Island will be on Friday August 30th this year. For more information about Kentucky Gay Days at Six Flags in Louisville, contact Brian at 270-783-7400 or kygaydays@midsouthfun.com

In My Opinion

What Have You Done Today to Make You Feel Proud?

by Tom Jones

I respect people who can say things better than I. So I'm going to begin with the words of Steve Elkins, editor of the Camp Rehoboth Letters. "A mid March press release reported that Sylvia Rivera had died of liver cancer. Sylvia, according to the book Stonewall by Martin Duberman, played a pivotal role in the confrontation at the Stonewall bar that is credited with launching the modern GLBT movement. The book reports that on the morning of June 28, 1969, the day Stonewall Inn patrons fended off police in a raid of the bar, she was heard shouting to her partner, "I'm not missing a minute of this— its the revolution!" Since that time, many people have participated in "the revolution." Stonewall opened the doors, but all across the country people were ready for change, ready to stand up and stop being afraid. Though we've come along way since 1969, we have a long way to go. In churches, in schools, in businesses, in families, in every part of our lives the quiet revolution continues. People like Sylvia opened the doors but it's up to each of us to keep them open, to strive for equal rights for all people." It's up to YOU.

Cincinnati has a reputation, some would say well deserved, others would say overstated, of being conservative and not gay friendly. In this case, reputation, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. Cincinnati can be a wonderfully gay city if you want it to be and work at it a bit. Or it can be a dreadfully unwelcoming city if you choose to work at THAT. The key in either case is the "you." To be quite honest, it is tiresome to hear it said there is nothing for GLBT people to do here or that Cincinnati is unwelcoming. The echo of those comments especially rubs the wrong way when meetings of any of the 45 (yes, 45!) GLBT or GLBT-supportive organizations in this city only find a dozen or so, at best, in attendance. These organizations offer an entire spectrum of interests and activities, from leather to religion, from sports to HIV support, from cross-dressing to investments, from politics to music. (Who knows where Mr. or Ms. Right might be hanging out?) The spectrum is offered, but YOU must accept the invitation. To put it bluntly, if you are bored or down on GLBT Cincinnati, get off your butt and do something!

Take it from one who over the years has "been there and done that." It's easy. Go to a group's function. If you like the people there, if you like what the group stands for or offers, go back, get involved. If you don't like what you find, choose another. It's similar to picking a nightspot— you go, you try it out and you return... or not. And you move on. You try a lot of them until you find the ones where you are most comfortable, much like the way we choose our friends. Actually, it's a lot like the way we make our lives. And—and this is a very big— you will be making a positive contribution to the GLBT community we live in and to the larger Greater Cincinnati area as well by your participation. By that participation, YOU will be making the world a better place and your life a better life just like Sylvia Rivera. Perhaps your name won't be immortalized in the chronicles of GLBT history (not even a footnote), but you will have the personal satisfaction of knowing YOU helped make our GLBT community more vibrant. And YOU pushed the path a little further for those who will come after. And YOU had a good time doing it!

I'm honored to be writing in the Pride edition of GLBT News. I'll be marching in the Pride Parade and attending the festival. I'll contribute some money to the event. I'll carry a flag because I'm proud of our wonderfully diverse lifestyles that will be celebrated on June 8th and 9th. Cincinnati is not perfect, far from it. But no place is. I'm going to try to make it better. You can too, with pride!

When I sit at the bar at Spurs one of my favorite videos is "Proud". With images of the diverse (love them or hate them) characters from *Queer as Folk* showing in the background, Heather Small sings these words: "What have you done today to make you feel proud?" It is a challenge to each of us. We are not perfect, but I am proud of my GLBT and GLBT-supportive friends and family. I'm proud of our nightspots, parties, and drag shows. I am proud of our businesses and organizations, the work they do for our community, and their efforts to make Cincinnati a better place for everyone. But we can do better. We can make our own revolution right here in Cincinnati. Join me in echoing Sylvia's words, "I don't want to miss a minute of it!"

Community News

Kyle Robinson Wins Mr. Queen City Leather Contest

It was standing room only on April 27th as Kyle Robinson was crowned the winner of the very first Mr. Queen City Leather Contest at Jacob's. This event was significant in that its sponsor, the ISQCCBE (The Court), was venturing into a new arena. That arena being the leather community. On Friday the 26th contestant registration was held at Shooters during a show hosted by Miss Queen City 2002 Lady DeVane. The contestants were introduced on stage at midnight. The next day the actual contest began. The contest consisted of 3 components: Interview, Hot/Bar Wear and Leather Image/Speech. The interview portion was held in the late afternoon followed by the actual contest that night at Jacob's. Between contestant components, Cody Ann, Kara and ICP VIII Sam Clemons modeled fashions supplied by The Pink Pyramid's Leather Crypt. An after party was held across the street at The Serpent Bar.

Pageant hostess Imperial Crown Princess X Ginger Snap says of the event, "The whole purpose was to integrate the drag and leather communities for the common good of all communities through out the Tri-State." The Court plans on continuing with this event and hopes that the leather community gets more involved in not only this aspect of the organization but hopefully others. Proceeds from this and all other Court events go to this year's designated local charities. The charities for Reign XI are AIDS Volunteers of N. Kentucky, Caracole House and the YWCA Breast Cancer Fund.

Employees Working for Change in Comair Policies

GLBT employees at Comair have recently organized to provide social and professional support for one another. The objective of Pride Of Delta At Comair, is to provide educational and policy change assistance to Comair senior management.

Captain Russell A. Stark, the group's chairman, has been with Comair for 15 years. He has provided extensive educational information and assistance to Comair's Human Resources for the past 6 years. Captain Stark stated that emphasis is being placed on the need to change existing company policies that currently do not provide protection for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees or supportive co-workers. Comair currently is the largest airline in North America that does not provide GLBT protections. While Comair is a wholly owned subsidiary of Delta Air Lines, Inc., they are resistant to conform to the current airline industry standard by including sexual orientation in their non discrimination policies. Furthermore, Comair is also denying Domestic Partner Benefits to its GLBT employees.

Parent company, Delta Air Lines, has had a non discrimination policy for nearly a decade. Not only does it include sexual orientation but age and marital status. Last October, Delta extended Domestic Partner Benefits to GLBT workers. According to Capt. Stark, "It has been frustrating trying to educate management that considers itself to be conservative and remains unresponsive to its own diversity."

Pride Of Delta At Comair employees meet every third Monday of the month in Covington. All interested Comair GLBT employees and supportive coworkers and families are welcome. Please contact Capt. Stark at russ@lseptentrion.qc.ca for times and exact location of meetings.

ENDA Moves Closer to a Vote

On Saturday April 20th, a town hall meeting was held at St. John's Unitarian Church to discuss ENDA (The Employment Non Discrimination Act) which is now before the U.S. Congress in Washington DC. About 40 people turned out for the program which was sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and the Hamilton County Democratic Forum.

Kyler Broadus, HRC's Capitol Hill legislative counsel, presented both the specifics of this legislation and its possible impact on Cincinnati's Article XII. On April 24th, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, chaired by Senator Edward Kennedy, held a historic mark-up on the ENDA. By a voice vote, the committee recommended the legislation, which would outlaw workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation, to the entire Senate for consideration. The proposed bill enjoys widespread bipartisan support with 44 co-sponsors in the Senate and 191 co-sponsors in the House.

At this point there is no definite date for a floor vote in the Senate, although there is a strong possibility of a vote by mid-June to late July, according to Bill Bridges, chair of HRC's Cincinnati area Political Committee. Bridges says, "It is very important to start a letter writing campaign to Ohio's Senator DeWine.

Currently HRC has an "Action Alert" up on its website at www.hrc.org. A letter has already been written to which you simply can attach your name, address and telephone number. Also remember, that hand written letters and emails are the most effective. Letters can be sent to Sen. Dewine at 140 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-3503 or emails can be sent through his website at www.dewine.senate.gov. Phone calls can be made to 202-224-2315.

MUSE Goes Back to Her Roots

MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir, presented its spring concerts on May 10th and 11th at Memorial Hall. The program, entitled "Woman, You've Got To Face The Music," was a celebration of the early music of the Women's Movement that inspired the choir's creation. Featured selections included old favorites from well known women singer-songwriters such as Ferron, Ysaye Barnwell, Evelyn Harris and others, plus songs made popular by early women's music stars such as Joni Mitchell and Carol King. MUSE had commissioned special arrangements of Alix Dobkin's "A Woman's Love," Mary Christian's "Face The Music," and Therese Edell's "The Longest Night" for this performance. The choir was joined by Close Quarters, a tight-harmony quartet for several selections. MUSE will be performing at the Pride Festival on June 8th.

Art Academy Senior Explores Fetishism, Spirituality and Sexuality

A large group of Spurs regulars and many others was on hand for the opening of the senior thesis show for Art Academy of Cincinnati student Mark Stanton Williams and two fellow seniors on April 28th. Williams, a 2001 PFLAG scholarship recipient, presented works dealing with fetishism, sexuality, spirituality and HIV/AIDS.

Among his work at the show was "Black and Blue," a multimedia piece that layered projected film of leathermen cavorting over an American flag; and "Interactive Trans Portrait," in which viewers were invited to become a part of the art by photographing themselves with their head inserted over the body of a deconstructed nude of various anatomical genders. Williams says of his work, "I look at it like being a mirror, in that what is seen is open for interpretation, and for different reactions. My interest doesn't always lie between the idea of shock value and blasphemy but rather in displaying the beauty in images that have been made to be viewed as embarrassing or instill horror and fear, by our society."

The show also featured provocative works by fellow Art Academy seniors Eliza Combs and Sarah Helbig. Helbig's work mainly addressed issues of gender bias and stereotypes of women through the use of familiar images and language, while Combs' multi-media pieces were inspired by her concerns about corporate globalization and her experiences at the demonstrations of the Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue here in Cincinnati in 2000. The show ran at the Art Academy's Chidlaw Gallery from April 28th to May 4th.

Our Faith Too!

Celebrating the Spirituality of GLBT People

Administrative Council to Consider Two Overtures Concerning Gay-Friendly Policies of Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church

After surprisingly little debate, the Presbytery of Cincinnati has voted 124 to 77 to send two Overtures submitted to the body to an Administrative Commission to be formed at its July meeting.

The call for an Administrative Commission came from the Presbytery as an alternative to the main Overture (resolution) submitted by the Maderia/Silverwood Presbyterian Church which called for Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church to rescind its statement of dissent and non-compliance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church concerning the ordination of and leadership roles for gay and lesbian members. Mt. Auburn had submitted a second (alternative) Overture calling for a special committee to re-view Mt. Auburn's ministry.

In brief debate before the vote was taken only six people spoke in favor of establishing an Administrative Commission and seven against. Seven other churches in the Presbytery (it was pointed out having about a fourth of the membership of the Presbytery) sided with the Maderia/Silverwood Church.

The Rev. Hal Porter, pastor emeritus, of the Mt. Auburn church, revealed during his comments supporting Mt. Auburn's alternative overture that charges against him had been publicized before he had even received official notice of such charges. That was later called a serious breach of the church's due process.

This will be the second Administrative Commission called to enter debate concerning Mt. Auburn's open policy toward gays and lesbians. For more than 10 years the church has stated publicly that gays should be full members of the church and several have been or are in leadership roles there.

The Session (governing body) of Mt. Auburn said in its alternative motion, "We only seek to love as Jesus loved. We wish to stand in solidarity with the other congregations of this Presbytery who seek to serve Christ, who alone is Head of the Church."

Had the Maderia/Silverwood overture passed, Mt. Auburn Church could have been dissolved. Now it will be up to the Administrative Commission what happens at the church. They will not report back their decision until sometime in 2003.

GLBT Health

Piercings and Tattoos

by Bob Donovan, MD

Thinking about getting a tattoo or having your body pierced? In addition to worrying about where to put it, think about infection, since both involve needles and blood. Tattoos usually heal fairly quickly, in about a week, so infection is unusual. However, piercings can take anywhere from 3 weeks for the tongue to 9 months for the navel to heal completely. During this time, then, infection can set in. So, carefully follow the instructions given by the artist to keep the area clean and disinfected. Don't use alcohol, which isn't a very good disinfectant and dries the skin. Even with good cleansing, you can get an infection, so if the area gets very red or swells or drains pus, get to see your family doctor.

More serious infections are possible, too. Hepatitis B, C, and D have been transmitted by piercing and tattooing. HIV and tetanus can be transmitted too, although this is extremely rare. Virtually always the reason for this is poorly sterilized equipment or re-using needles. Needles, corks, jewelry, gloves and ink should be single use, and the work site very clean. In a reputable parlor, none of this should be a concern, but ask about their technique. And don't let your friend do this to you!

How is a piercing done? After disinfecting the surface, the skin is pulled firm with a surgical clamp and then the opening is created with a large hollow needle followed by inserting the jewelry, which will maintain the opening. This can be done with a piercing gun, but this can crush the tissue, creating future problems, and the guns are more difficult to sterilize, so many experts suggest avoiding this method.

As you notice, there is no numbing involved, so it will hurt some (or a lot!). So, if you're not tolerant of pain, this may not be the thing for you!

Financial Advisor

Diversify to Make Your Retirement Plan Sing

by Vicki L. Marsh, American Express Financial Advisors

Just as a composer takes advantage of multiple musical instruments to create a beautiful concerto, your investment portfolio should include a range of financial instruments to help you reach your financial goals.

In late 2001, the collapse of the Enron Corporation gave many investors insight into why it can be extremely risky to place all of their money in a limited number of assets. Thousands of Enron employees, many of whom were invested heavily in Enron stock, found the value of their employer-sponsored retirement plans greatly diminished. Diversifying – investing in several different types of investments— can be a sound strategy to reduce overall investment risk.

Spread Your Dollars to Orchestrate Success— Unfortunately, like many Enron employees, a large number of Americans lack diversification within their retirement plans. According to a recent survey conducted by Hewitt Associates, an employee benefits consulting firm, 46% of all 401(k) participants have invested in only one or two funds in their retirement plan. (Source: Hewitt Associates news release, Nov. 2001.) No single investment can be expected to perform well all of the time. Most financial advisors recommend investing across different asset classes – such as stocks, mutual funds, bonds and money market instruments to achieve a diversified portfolio that would spread the risk of investing in a single investment.

So how can you diversify your retirement plan? Many mutual funds offer built-in diversification by spreading their investment dollars among several different investments. Investing in a mix of various funds can be a good way to start diversifying your retirement assets.

Follow the Beat of a Different Drummer— Be wary, of investing too heavily in your own employer's stock. Even if you're optimistic about your company's future, keeping a large portion of your assets invested in a single stock may leave you vulnerable to large losses if it decreases in value. As a rule of thumb, you may want to consider the restrictions that apply to defined benefit pension plans. By law, no more than 10% of the money in these pension plans may be invested in company stock. If your company's retirement plan matches employee contributions with equal investments in company stock, be cautious of investing additional dollars in similar types of investments; for example if you work for a computer manufacturer, you may wish to consider choosing funds that are not heavily weighted in technology companies.

Investing money outside of your retirement plan, in a taxable investment account, can be another way to diversify your overall portfolio. Using a taxable account, you are likely to have a broader range of investment choices than those from within your retirement plan, which may have more limited investment options.

When Stocks Hit a Sour Note— In addition to Enron, last year was less-than-kind to several stocks that previously were strong performers. A number of companies once considered solid investments, such as Bethlehem Steel, Chiquita and Kmart, filed for bankruptcy during 2001. So what do you do if you've invested in a company that has filed for bankruptcy?

Remember that just because a company declares bankruptcy it doesn't automatically mean the stock becomes worthless. If the company in which you've invested is still operating, its stock maybe still trading. Rather than simply unloading the stock, consider carefully with your tax and investment advisors what your best course of action would be relative to the stock.

Don't over look the fact that a company in bankruptcy could rebound from its financial troubles. For example, Federated Department Stores, which owns the Macy's department store chain, filed for bankruptcy in 1990 but returned to financial health just a few years later.

Put Your Financial Picture to Music— To help ensure your 401(k) or other employer sponsored retirement plan is working in concert with your overall financial goals, consult with a professional financial advisor. He or she can help you create a diversified financial strategy and help ensure that your investment selections are in tune with your long and short-term goals.

Thought You Knew

Advice for the Confused and Clueless

from Ambrosia

Dear Ambrosia,

I am a happy, well-adjusted lesbian who is in a happy, well-rounded relationship with my partner, Peg. Peg and I enjoy everything together— we're best friends, explosive lovers, etc. Well, recently, I came into a small sum of money from the death of my mother. We already live comfortably so this money isn't needed. Peg and I decided that I should have fun with it—be frivolous! I was honest with Peg and told her I've always wanted a bigger bustline. She didn't react the way I thought she would. I had hoped that she would be ecstatic and happy for me. The thought of having a more full, firm chest is exciting to me, and I thought it would be even more so for her! For the first time in our marriage, she has forbidden me to get the surgery. I've wanted a bigger chest even before I knew her. I love her with all of my heart and don't want to leave her but this is a big deal. I don't know what to do.

—Want to be Busty in Cincinnati

Dear Big Busty in Cincinnati,

I have to say this is a good one. My first response is "go for the boobs!" Big boobs bring big happiness honey. Ask anyone! Go for the busto I mean gusto. Do you think Pam Anderson has these problems? Bet she doesn't. If I were you, I would ask myself is bustline beauty better than my relationship with Peg? Can Peg bring me anything that a big set of breasts can't? These are important considerations on this issue. I'm sure you'll work it out. See you in the double D club next month!

Dear Ambrosia,

I'm a little new to the scene. I'm a lonely student at UC. I moved here to go to school and to try some new things. I'm a little confused on an old saying about guys. I've always heard (usually only from girls but I till listened) "Big hands, big ____, small hands, small ____ ." Is this true? From my little experience, I would say it is. Because I can't get out very much, I want to make my time count when I am out, if you know what I mean. Please let me know if there's any truth to this old adage.

— Curious George

Dear George,

If I had a dime for everytime I hear this question, well, I'll let you finish the rest. George I've got some numbers for you, phone numbers that is... I feel deeply for your situation. Are big hands an indication of ample endowment or not? This is a wildcard. If that were true, we wouldn't be blessed with the ability to take things into "our own hands" literally. Reach out and touch honey. Don't worry about the peripherals. Cut to the chase and get down to business. Don't waste your time looking at things that don't matter - get what you want and makes you happy. Good luck and write to me about your success!

Amb,

I must say that I am soooo happy that you're answering this column. I've followed you for years—since the 80's. (I hope that's not giving too much away about your age!) I'm always watching. Since then, you've gone through many different looks—long hair, bobbed hair, pixie hair, evening gowns, S&M, etc. I have to say that throughout your changes you always look fabulous. Your make up is always smooth, crisp, and neat. Your complexion radiates glamor and everything is so well put together. Please let me know your secret — so that some day someone might watch me!

—"Vicki Voyeur"

My dearest Vicki,

I AM flattered by all of the attention. My secret is actually pretty simple. I believe that beauty (the fabulous beauty that you're talking about) comes from the inside. Inner beauty always manifests itself on the outside. All of the expensive clothes, furs, shoes, etc. that everyone can see— really don't matter, because without inner beauty no one would see it. I've got proof of this. Think of some of our other local performers that you may have seen in a similar outfit, or borrowed outfit. None of them can hold a candle to me because they're all focused on the outside—thinking that's all it takes. Vicki, please be careful with this secret. If you practice it, everyone will be looking at you all of the time.

Ambrosia wants to hear from you! Write to her at ehutflie@cincyradio.com.

By The Book

Local Authors to Appear at Pride Festival

Two local authors will be at this year's Pride Festival in Hoffner Park in Northside. They will be there to sell their books, as well as autograph them.

Pauletta Hansel is a resident of Northside and was formerly on the staff of the Urban Appalachian Council (UAC). Carol Sherman-Jones is the former owner of the popular Carol's Corner Cafe, downtown. Pauletta has authored a book of poetry, Diving. The poems reflect both her Appalachian heritage and the time she spent with Terry Flanigan who was dying with AIDS. After his death she went on to perform a one-women stage production, "Sitting with Terry."

Carol Sherman Jones was passing through Cincinnati on her way to the east coast in the early 1980's when her car broke down. Having no money to fix the vehicle, she decided to get a job and stay in Cincinnati until she could save enough to get her auto fixed. The auto is long gone but she is still here. She worked at several establishments and then decided to open her own place. She bought a bar on Main Street and renamed it Carol's Corner Cafe. She went on to obtain a larger space a few doors north on Main Street and opened what became one of Cincinnati's premier gay friendly restaurants. But she grew weary of the constant pressure and sold the business and then settled down to write a book she eventually titled, My Life as a Gay Man in a Straight Woman's Body enough to arouse interest among the critics and media types all by itself.

She didn't know exactly how to write what she wanted to write, an autobio-graphy, so she went to a local organization called Women Writing for a Change. There she met Pauletta, who now serves on the staff there. Carol says, "Seeing Pauletta changed my life." She got the support there she needed to finish her book and the two, now good friends, do book signings together from Pauletta grew up in Jackson, Kentucky but has roots all over Eastern Kentucky. Her father was a minister so the family moved quite a bit. She came to Cincinnati to study at Xavier University. She taught for a while after graduation, then directed a school and went on to work for Legal Aid. It was there she got involved with the environmental justice program in Lower Price Hill, which led her to her association with the Urban Appalachian Council. She was assistant director of the UAC for 10 years. She

didn't write for several years, but Diving makes up for lost time. Carol's book is published by Five Star Productions and is \$14.95. It is available at bookstores in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and now in Australia, or online at 5starpublishations.com/books/mylife. Diving, which is published by Woven Word Press (www.wovenword.com), is \$12.00 and can be obtained at Joseph Beth, Grailville, St. Francis Book-store, New World Books and Barnes & Noble at Newport Levee. But, if you attend the Pride Festival you can obtain signed copies of both these books from the authors themselves.

Pride in Action

Looking in the Mirror

by Cynthia Jeffries

Sometimes I stand in front of my mirror as I'm about to walk out my bedroom door. I'm checking myself out, you all know how it is, making sure everything is just right, so we can face the world. With me, I'm checking all the details, making sure all those little things are in place to make me feel I am at my best.. Then I point my finger at my image in the mirror and say out loud, "You look good for a fifty year old." Then I'll smile and out the door I go to face another day.

I know that may sound vain or catty to some of you but I haven't always had such high self-esteem. There were times in my life when I couldn't look at myself in the mirror and say that. I saw only someone that was ashamed of who they were, someone that could never accomplish any goals, or want to, mostly out of depression and fear. Society was always there to bring me down, telling me I couldn't be who I was, and I allowed society to do it. Then, through my support group and other supportive friends and family, I was able to pull myself up, and I realized that I had no reason to be ashamed of who I was. I started setting goals for my life, and then accomplish them. With goal accomplished, my life began to change. Instead of being ashamed of being me, I started being proud and happy for who I am and I have continued to grow over the years into who I am today.

With major goals accomplished in my life I have been able to turn my attention over to other matters, being on the Pride Parade Committee is one of them. But seeing the problems that the GLBT community is going through these days, and all the disagreement that we have on issues and controversies within our community, I wonder how successful that the Pride Parade and festival may be. I'm hoping that there is not such a rift between everyone that there is no unity, in the GLBT community.

That is the important issue in my mind. Can we stay united in the face of con-troversy? Can we stay centered and focused on the fact that we have more in common than any differences that we may have? Can we stay united in spite of what the Greater Cincinnati community may think of the us? I say Yes we can. We can show Cincinnati that we are proud to be who we are by coming together for a Pride celebration like we have never had before. We can show Cincinnati that even though we may have differences of opinions in how problems and issues can be solved, we still stand in unity. United and proud of who we are. Let's set aside our differences and show Cincinnati that we do have pride in our lives. Come march in your Parade, with thousands of your brothers and sisters on June 9th, I'll be there, proud and free. I hope to see you too.

Out of the Past

That Hateful Little Part of Our City Charter

by Bruce Beisner

As most of you know, the City of Cincinnati has the dubious distinction of being the only municipality in the nation whose charter specifically forbids equality for GLBT people. Next year we will mark the tenth anniversary of the passing of the infamous Issue 3 (now Article XII of the city charter). But how could this happen?

Well, way back in 1992, after years of lobbying by Stonewall Cincinnati and many other local GLBT activists, City Council passed a Human Rights Ordinance which included equal protections for gays and lesbians in employment, housing and public accommodations. Alarmed by this develop-ment, the ultra-conservative American Family Association (AFA) and its executive director Phil Burrell led a petition drive to put an amendment to the city charter on the ballot. Issue 3, as it became known, would not only remove "sexual orientation" from the existing human rights ordinance but also prohibit the city from ever enacting any similar protections for gays and lesbians in the future.

Issue 3 went before voters in November 1993. The campaign by the AFA and other anti-gay groups was bankrolled by large conservative donors from within the city and from across the nation. Their ads portrayed protections against discrimination for gays as "special rights." The campaign to stop this measure focussed on linking Issue 3 to other legacies of hatred such as the Klu Klux Klan and Hitler's Nazi Germany, using the message "Never again!" Issue 3 passed by a substantial margin, with 68 percent of voters approving it. The night after the vote, Roxanne Qualls, in one of her first acts as Cincinnati's new mayor, spoke before a candlelight protest vigil on Fountain Square.

Injunctions were placed on the law almost immediately by local courts which in a short time declared it unconstitutional. The AFA and other groups appealed this decision to a district court which agreed with the lower court in striking it down. In 1995, the United States Court of Appeals of the Sixth District reversed the lower court's ruling and upheld Issue 3. In its stunning decision, the Court of Appeals not only rejected all legal theories which the lower courts had used in their rulings, but concluded that "legitimate government interests were served by having the amendment in effect." Lawyers for the ACLU, Lambda Legal Defense and other groups appealed this decision to the US Supreme Court the following year. The high court declined to hear the case, allowing Issue 3 (now Article XII) to stand.

In reaction to the passage of Article XII, a national boycott of Cincinnati was organized. In the past eight years, the city has lost over \$65 million in revenues from conventions and other events which decided not to come to town because of the anti-gay law, according to the Greater Cincinnati Visitors and Convention Bureau. In the past few months, this boycott has received new attention in the media with Stonewall Cincinnati very publicly re-newing its call for conventions to stay away.

This brings us to today. As it now stands, the only way for GLBT Cincinnatians to gain equal rights is to first repeal Article XII. This must be done by a ballot initiative. In the last several years, a group called Citizens to Restore Fairness (CTF) has been studying the feasibility for such a repeal effort and working to gather the resources for it. Even if a repeal effort is successful, an ordinance which affirms GLBT protections will still have to be voted in as well. For more information on the progress of the repeal and how you can get involved, contact Gary Wright at 513-981-0548 or wrightgw@fuse.net.

Nightbeat

Arts, Entertainment and Nightlife

by Miss CC Bloom

I'd like to start off this month with a little correction. Some astute reader contacted me this past week to point out that the Strip Pool Contests at **The Serpent** in Northside are on Tuesday nights, not Wednesdays as I stated in last month's column. This sweet soul told me, "I just didn't want someone to show up expecting to bare it and be there on the wrong night." I certainly know what that's like being the only person in the room wanting to take their clothes off. My apol-ogies to all. Speaking of The Serpent, they hosted a Slave Auction on May 11th. All proceeds went to benefit the Pride Parade.

Big changes continue down at **The Dock**. The inside of the bar is undergoing a major remodeling. They are also now closed on Monday and Tuesday nights. The Tuesday drag shows will move to Friday nights beginning in June with a new show director. Rumor has it that the legendary Scirrocco will be rejoining the cast. Wednesday nights are now called "Dark" with trance and deep house music. Oh and before I forget, a hearty congratulations to my good friend Samantha Rollins who was crowned the new Miss Dock (again!) on May 5th.

Melissa Etheridge, one of rock's best performers and probably the best known lesbian on earth after Ellen, will appear in concert at Cincinnati's Riverbend Music Center on July 7th. She'll be performing music from her latest album "Skin" as well as all your favorite songs. Tickets go on sale May 18th. I saw her two years ago in Washington DC and she is hot!

The celebrated "**Mamma Mia**" will be in Cincinnati this month. This musical with a disco beat features 22 hit songs by 70's Swedish supergroup ABBA. It won rave reviews in London, Toronto and New York. Now the touring company is bringing their sequined jumpsuits and timeless hits like "Dancing Queen," and "The Winner Takes It All" to the Queen City for shows May 14th to June 2nd at the Aronoff Center for the Arts. It will be groovy for sure.

After you see "Mamma Mia," stop in for a drink at **The Subway**. They really do have some of the best well liquor in the whole city, I swear by it! Junior and his staff invite you to join them for karaoke every Sunday night and drag shows on Saturdays.

If you've only eaten at **Hamburger Mary's** and not been into their bar, you've missed half the fun. During Pride would be good time to check it out. Peter and his staff have put in a new improved dancefloor and a special elegant lounge area.

I hope everyone is planning to show their **Pride** at the parade on June 9th. Remember to wear comfortable shoes and bring lots of sunscreen and bottled water. No matter how homophobic this town is, your chances are still higher of getting skin cancer or heatstroke than getting fag bashed!