

# Greater Cincinnati GLBT News

October 2002: Volume 5, Number 4

## Celebrate National Coming Out Day with HRC and GLSEN on October 11th

October 11th is "National Coming Out Day," a holiday created over fifteen years ago to celebrate and affirm lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and to urge everyone, whatever their orientation, to renew their commitment to being themselves and standing up for the rights of everyone.

This year, Cincinnati's Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and HRC (Human Rights Campaign) of Cincinnati will celebrate National Coming Out Day with a special program called "Being Out Rocks." Featured speakers will include Jennifer and Belinda Rylen, a Butler County lesbian couple who fought all the way to the Ohio Supreme Court for the right to legally share a common last name. In July, the high court reversed lower court rulings and allowed the two to change their last names. Belinda and Jennifer, as well as other speakers, will share their personal stories and discuss how coming out has been a powerful force in changing their lives for the better.

GLSEN and HRC invite you to join them in celebrating "our special holiday" on Friday October 11th at 7:30pm at St. John's Unitarian Church (320 Resor St. in Cifton.) For more information, please contact Bill Bridges at 921-8192 or visit the GLSEN website at [www.glsencincinnati.org](http://www.glsencincinnati.org). To find out more about National Coming Out Day, read coming out stories, and get tips on how to personally "take your next step," visit [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org).

## Stonewall Cincinnati Moving Ahead Following Ouster of 3 Board Members

After nearly a year of organizational strife and heated debate which reached far beyond the group itself and divided many in the local GLBT community, the members of Stonewall Cincinnati voted for dramatic leadership change at a meeting on September 10th.

Nearly 100 members of the city's oldest GLBT rights group showed up to cast their votes on a petition for the removal of three board members first submitted at a July 9th meeting. Co-chairs Heidi Bruins and Roy Ford and Board member Mike McCleese were accused of acting improperly in statements they made regarding Stonewall's support of a civil rights boycott of downtown businesses. According to Board member Doreen Cudnik, of the 99 votes cast on September 10th, 70 were for removal, with 29 voting against the petition. This result met the required "2/3" threshold needed to oust Bruins, Ford and McCleese.

Since the vote, divergent opinions have been expressed by members of the community about the events that unfolded. Some are expressing concern that Stonewall's leadership will move away from its stands from this past year regarding racial justice in our city. Others are expressing relief that the group will return to its primary mission of providing education and advocacy on behalf of the GLBT community.

In a statement, voted on the night of the election and released the following day, the remaining Board members said, "Stonewall Cincinnati will continue to work on behalf of all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people to end discrimination and violence and promote cultural inclusion through education, advocacy and outreach. We will also stand in solidarity with all groups in search of economic and social justice in our city. However, the Board of Stonewall, with input from our members, will set our own agenda, determine which tactics work best in accordance with our mission and history, and act in good faith with other organizations with whom we have built solid relationships over our 20-year history."

"We want all of our members to know that we appreciate their support, past and present, and we look forward to respectful dialogue and productive work that involves our membership in the days, weeks, months and years to come."

According to Cudnik, the Board will appoint new co-chairs at their October meeting. Qualified individuals are being sought to serve in the vacant Board positions. For more information on Stonewall Cincinnati, call 651-2500 or visit their website at [www.stonewallcincinnati.org](http://www.stonewallcincinnati.org).

## Imperial Court Crowns New Monarchs

The Imperial Sovereign Queen City Court of the Buckeye Empire, All of Ohio, Inc. held its 12th Coronation on September 7th. The gala event, themed "Carnival- A Night in Venice," was held in the Grand Ballroom of the Millennium Hotel in downtown Cincinnati and culminated in the crowning of **Empress XII Ginger Snap** and **Emperor XII Sam Clemons**. Colorful and outrageous costumes filled the room as guests enjoyed gourmet appetizers, lively performances and lots to drink. Visiting monarchs from sister Courts in Texas, New Mexico, Denver, Connecticut, New York City, Buffalo, Chicago, Louisville and others paid their respects and gave special command performances. The most touching moment of the evening was a candlelight tribute to Emperor XI Geoff Grady, whose sudden death in June saddened many Court members. For more information on upcoming Court events, visit their website at [www.isqccb.org](http://www.isqccb.org).

## Saints and Sinners Come Together at Men's Chorus Halloween Bash

The Cincinnati Men's Chorus invites you to pull out your most outrageous costume and head down to the Ohio River for their third annual "Saints and Sinners Ball" on Saturday night October 26th beginning at 8pm.

This festive evening of masquerade and dancing will take place at One Riverboat Row, in Newport, Kentucky. There will be two very different floors of fun with the upstairs themed as "heaven" where guests can enjoy a gourmet buffet, cash bar and conversation with a fantastic view of the Ohio River and downtown Cincinnati. Darker times await downstairs in "that other place" with DJs spinning the hottest dance music and lots of "river wildness." Big prizes will be awarded for the most fabulous and original costumes and there will also be a silent auction. George Saroffen, vice president of the chorus, says "We want to promote this event as a 'circuit party' for the locals," adding "we hope everyone feels this is something they want to attend."

All proceeds from the "Saints and Sinners Ball" will go to benefit the Cincinnati Men's Chorus. Tickets are \$60 (\$35 for students with a college ID) and are now available by calling the CMC hotline at 542-2626 or online at the group's website at [www.cmc.bigstep.com](http://www.cmc.bigstep.com).

# Community News

## GLBT Pride Night at Kings Island A Huge Success!

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati met its major goal for this year's Pride Night at Paramount's Kings Island, according to Troy Henson, The Center's vice president. Attendance at the group's largest annual fund-raiser held on Friday August 30th was significantly up from last year.

An estimated crowd of 3,500 came out to ride the rides and enjoy the live entertainment with some coming from as far away as Toronto, New York and even Phoenix. In addition to the local advertising, Pride Night received national attention in *Out* magazine as their featured event for the month of August.

According to Center president Harold Keutzer, the management of Kings Island was so pleased with this year's turnout that they have already agreed to host another Pride Night next year. So stay tuned!

## Enquirer to Run Same-Sex Union Announcements

It was widely reported in the national press last month that the *New York Times* will now publish announcements of same sex unions on the same page with its regular wedding announcements. The major policy change has led many other publications across the country to follow their lead. Beginning this month, our own *Cincinnati Enquirer* will begin publishing announcements of lesbian and gay couple's celebrations. The new page will now be titled "Celebrations" and will offer space for paid announcements of all kinds of events. The staff of the *Enquirer* stresses that all submissions will be at cost, not just the ones for GLBT people.

## Diva Dazzle III Coming November 16

One of Cincinnati's best loved performers, Kathy Wade, will be among those honored at "Diva Dazzle III" on Saturday November 16th. This glamorous fundraising event presented by AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati will take place at the Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel in downtown Cincinnati and will feature performances by Carol Sherman-Jones, Deb Girdler, Melodie Guinta, Spring Starr Pillow and many others. Tickets for Diva Dazzle III start at \$125 per person. For tickets, call Doris Marks Callis at 861-3522 or visit [www.avoc.org](http://www.avoc.org).

## New Black Gay Society Forming

African-American lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people have a new group whose mission it is to give them the voice they need to speak for themselves. Because of the discrimination faced by many not only from straight society and its institutions, but also from some in the mostly white GLBT community, local activists have formed a new group called the Black Gay Society (BGS) of Cincinnati. They will meet next on Saturday October 19th at 3pm at One Mo Cup, 4116 Hamilton Avenue in Northside. Plans are for the group to create its own political action committee. For more information contact Dwight at 531-3331.

## "Honoring GLBT Families" Picnic

Stonewall Cincinnati, the Rainbow Alliance, and several other area groups will sponsor a fall picnic to "Honor Our GLBT Families." The picnic will feature informational table/booths, games for the children, burgers, hot dogs and drinks. It will be on October 20th from 1pm to 4pm at Brunet Woods. The entire GLBT community is encouraged to attend this fun outing which can emphasize the many things that unite us. For more information, please call Dianna Brewer at 681-7765.

## A Very Hairy Haunted House

You will be scared stiff at The Serpent Bar in Northside on Saturday October 26th. Join Cincinnati River Bears, a social group for gay men who consider themselves "bears" and their friends, as they present their annual Haunted House on the patio of the bar. It will be a fun and frightening time for all. This is the third year for this event and it keeps getting better every year we are told. For more information, call The Serpent Bar at 681-6969.

## Second GLBT Youth Summit to be at NKU

GLBT people are coming out at younger and younger ages. The many issues they face at school, with parents and family members, and with their peers will be addressed next month at the second Greater Cincinnati GLBT Youth Summit.

Following the incredible success of last spring's summit which attracted over 100 participants, organizers are working hard to put together their next gathering which will be held Saturday November 16th at the Northern Kentucky University campus in Highland Heights, KY. The summit will feature workshops on topics important to GLBT and supportive youth, from "coming out" to HIV education to same-sex dating. Leaders of gay/straight alliance groups at area high schools will talk about their experiences and how they went about forming these clubs. In addition there will be lots of time for youth from all over the area to get to know one another.

Sponsors of the Youth Summit include NKU's Common Ground, GLSEN (Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network), Xavier Alliance, PFLAG (Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and Cincinnati Youth Group.

In order to make the summit meaningful and fun for every-one, organizers are asking young people (and supportive parents) to submit proposals for workshops. Simply visit their website and enter your ideas before October 15th. For the latest information, call 513-633-4100 or go online to [www.cincyouthsummit.org](http://www.cincyouthsummit.org).

## GLAAD Comes to Cincinnati

On Tuesday September 26th at Hamburger Mary's, Michael Young of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) came to Cincinnati to unveil the group's new "Monitor and Mobilize" program to local GLBT activists. Building on recent successes in responding to the anti-gay bigotry of high profile personalities like Eminem and "Dr." Laura, GLAAD is beginning this new project to focus on the Heartland. Their hope is to create a team of local people who can respond quickly and effectively on a daily basis to homophobic messages in our local media. For more information on how you can get involved, contact Doreen of Stonewall Cincinnati at 651-2500 or visit [www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org).

## **We are “One Human Family”**

On the afternoon of October 6th, One Human Family, a new non-partisan organization which will be working for GLBT rights and human rights in general, held its first membership event at the Karma Nightclub in Over the Rhine. The party featured DJs from The Dock, Pipeline and Hamburger Mary's and a performance by the Queen City Rainbow Band. This organization is the outcome of a series of meetings held since April by concerned GLBT and supportive people who felt that a new group to work for human rights was badly needed. One Human Family has now developed a mission statement and appointed a temporary Board until leaders can be elected in January. For more information, contact James Jackson at [jackson@cincinnati.com](mailto:jackson@cincinnati.com).

## **Women's Choir Begins 18th Season**

MUSE, Cincinnati's Women's Choir, will kick off its 18th season with concerts on Saturday November 16th at 8pm and Sunday November 17th at 3pm at St. John's Unitarian Church. The presentation, titled “We Are A Village” will celebrate the importance of women in our communities. For tickets call 221-1118 or visit the website at [www.musechoir.org](http://www.musechoir.org).

## **Klub Kapri Korn Halloween Party**

Klub Kapri Korn of Cincinnati invites you join them for their annual Halloween Costume Party on Saturday October 26th. The giant bash, to be held at I.U.E. 776 Union Hall on Heid Street in Dayton will feature a full dinner, BYOB drinks and a costume contest with cash prizes. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Klub Kapri Korn is a diverse social and community service group made up of women and men from all racial and orientation backgrounds. For tickets and information, call Darlene at 281-3446.

## **Women's Center Reopens**

Since the closure in February of the Crazy Ladies Center, the organization's leaders have successfully retired over \$25,000 in debt and completed closing the books on the old bookstore. Over the summer, the lesbian/feminist landmark has been reborn as a new non-profit group called the Greater Cincinnati Women's Resource Center.

The space, located at 4039 Hamilton Avenue, has been converted into a new resource center with library, computers, bulletin board, kitchen, a video viewing area and comfy chairs. In October, a new gift, art and book store will open. It will offer gifts on consignment, artwork by local women artists, and donated used books for sale. Most of the second and third floors of the building have been rented out as office and studio space. Volunteers are needed to staff both the resource center and bookstore. For more information, call 541-4906 or visit the website at [www.gcwrc.org](http://www.gcwrc.org).

# **Coming Out**

## **Mitch Hully Struggled To Come Out... But He Did**

In our very diverse GLBT community, there is one thing that we all seem to have in common. Everyone has some sort of “coming out” story. And most will tell you it was one of the most powerful and important things they have ever done. Friday October 11th is National Coming Out Day, a time for us each to “take our next step” and be open with just one more person. Below is the story of one young gay man from our local community and how “coming out” led him to a new life.

Did your dad ever hit you with a phone so hard the phone broke? Mitch Hully had such an experience after the assistant pastor of his church told his dad Mitch was gay.

Mitch says, “He told me he heard I was telling people I was gay. He took me home and beat me unconscious with a cordless phone. It was no longer usable after that.” Hully adds that his father had beat him from the time he was six until he turned 13 and then he stopped until he found out Mitch was gay. Mitch said he spent many a night outside in the woods waiting for his father to go to sleep. At the time he was living on a rural road in Northern Kentucky where it can be difficult to get in and out, even in the summertime. Mitch decided to move in with his mother, who had left the marriage. He was there for about seven months but had to leave because her new boyfriend did not like his being gay.

Mitch then moved into a former school bus that his deceased grandmother had used as a camper. He was there for a year and a half through a winter with no heat and no water. “I almost froze to death,” he says. A friend helped him financially so he could move to Cincinnati where he got an apartment in Walnut Hills. Prior to being “discovered” by his father, he was an “evangelist” in his fundamentalist church and was preaching at age nine. He was preaching the power of the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues, praying for people. He was a rising star in the church until.....

At age 15 he determined he was gay but he didn't come out for a year because his church said being gay was “sinful.” He later attended seven churches and was kicked out of all of them until coming to Cincinnati and attending Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, whose congregation treats all people as equal children of God. He didn't want to go because he had been kicked out of so many churches, but his boy friend at the time talked him into it. “He kept pleading so I went and I enjoyed it,” Hully says.

When at 15 he told his mom he was gay, “she told me I was too young and I didn't really know who I was. But I knew exactly who I was,” quips Hully.

Now Mitch lives in Cincinnati and works for the Pink Pyramid. He also works with others who have had problems coming out and is organizing a support group for abused and abandoned teens and adults. He volunteered in the Green Party while still in Northern Kentucky and more recently did fund raising for Stonewall and the Pride Parade Committee. He has also volunteered at Unity House in Northside, helping feed the poor last Christmas. Before returning to the Pink Pyramid, where he had worked previously, he briefly sold advertising for GLBT News.

# In My Opinion

## Using Our Stories and Courage to End Discrimination

by Dean Forster

"No one should be discriminated against." These are the words we hear time after time from residents of Covington, Kentucky. During the last few months members of the Northern Kentucky Fairness Alliance, Kentucky Fairness Alliance and our supporters have walked the neighborhoods of Covington, knocking on doors to talk about discrimination of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. These friendly face to face conversations have revealed that a majority of people think it is wrong to discriminate and would support legislation to protect all people from discrimination. Most are surprised that there is no protection for people who are GLBT and that it is possible for them to be fired from a job or denied access to housing, etc. just because they are gay or lesbian.

A survey of registered voters in Covington reflects a 1999 statewide poll indicating that 74% of Kentucky voters agree that employers should not be allowed to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. The same poll revealed that 62% of voters support a law in Kentucky to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment, and public accommodations. According to both Princeton Survey Research Associates and Gallup polls, more than 80% of all Americans support employment and housing equality for lesbians and gay men. Despite these numbers, no state or federal laws currently protect Kentuckians from discrimination based on their sexual orientation.

Many of the people who have participated in these block walks have shared that they had no idea their neighbors are so supportive. One NKFA member expressed surprise, "All we had to do was ask?"

These are not articulate leaders going door to door to talk to people. They are not people with a specific political agenda. In most cases, the volunteers have not had previous experience in political work. One participant said, "Mercy, I was about the most unlikely person in the world, being the music director in a Southern Baptist Church, totally closeted except to a few very close friends and family, to be out and about openly campaigning for GLBT rights. Being a part of this whole thing has been such an incredible experience for me. I have seen men and women working together to reach people. In some cases people are giving many hours a week to help secure basic human rights for all people."

The support of Kentucky Fairness Alliance members from throughout the state has added to the success here in Northern Kentucky. We regularly have members from Lexington and Louisville joining our local efforts. They bring their insight and energy. Both Lexington and Louisville were successful in educating their communities and passed ordinances protecting the rights of their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender citizens.

At a fundraiser for NKFA this past April, Kentucky State Senator Ernesto Scorsone (D-Lexington) spoke of the significance of volunteers working for civil rights. "The most powerful statements are simple, direct and from the heart. And those powerful words and deeds come from volunteers. They've got to come from volunteers. You can't pay for courage. Money doesn't drive the love and support that a hospice buddy shares with his/her client. Dollars don't generate the courage to meet and organize on campuses where homophobia is still alive and well. All of these acts are very powerful political statements. There are statements of self-worth, caring, and they speak volumes about what it means to be a part of a community."

*Dean Forster serves as a member of the NKFA Steering Committee.*

## Our Faith Too!

*Celebrating the Spirituality of GLBT People*

### New Spirit MCC Buying Their Own Building

Having a building of their own has been a dream for the members of New Spirit Metropolitan Community Church for well over nine years. The congregation, which is one of the oldest GLBT organizations in Cincinnati, is now in the final stages of purchasing a building in the gay friendly neighborhood of Northside.

According to New Spirit's senior pastor, Rev. Bonnie Daniel, the church is negotiating to purchase a new home which will be located right on Hamilton Avenue very near Jacob's, Bullfishes, the Greater Cincinnati Women's Resource Center, and the Gay and Lesbian Community Center.

"Having our own building will enable us to do so much more and reach so many more people with the powerful and transforming message of God's love," says Rev. Daniel. She looks forward to the church having a much more visible presence in the GLBT community and believes that moving to Northside can do just that. In addition, having a space of their own will allow New Spirit MCC to offer Sunday worship services in both the morning and evening and being in Northside will allow the congregation to develop much stronger ties to gay and lesbian establishments and organizations in the area.

Their new building has a large space which can be used for worship and fellowship. Rev. Daniel says that when the necessary repairs and remodeling are finished, the space will be "glorious in that way that only gay people can make it." Plans are for stained glass and rainbow flags to adorn the front windows. There are also two apartments on the upper floors which the church hopes to renovate and possibly rent.

Members and friends of the congregation have been saving funds for over a decade to make this purchase. While they have already raised the money necessary to secure the building, there are major repairs and remodeling that will have to take place before they can move in and begin holding regular services there. Rev. Daniel says that she hopes all this work can be done quickly and that New Spirit MCC will hold its first service in its new home by this coming Christmas Eve. In order to make this a reality, she is appealing to everyone in our community to support MCC by making a tax-deductible donation, big or small, to help the church buy chairs, kitchen equipment and make other renovations to the property. Please send checks to: MCC Building Fund, 5501 Hamilton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45224.

New Spirit MCC is a part of the International Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, the world's largest GLBT organization. They have worship services every Sunday at 7pm at their current home, Grace Episcopal Church at 5501 Hamilton Ave. in College Hill. For more information, please call 661-6464.

# Financial Advisor

## Asset Allocation— Helping Investors Combat Market Volatility

by Vicki L. Marsh, American Express Financial Advisors

If you're like many investors who participated in the boom market of the 90's, tips on "hot" investments may have tempted you. In the recent past, we all heard stories of people who struck it rich day trading or by timing the market, but with today's increased market volatility people who try to implement these strategies may actually be hurting their portfolios' long-term performance.

So how should you think about investing in a turbulent market? The answer for many successful investors has been to take direction from a strategy called "asset allocation." The following are some of the attributes of this investment strategy:

**Diversification.** One of the most appealing benefits of asset allocation is the direction it gives us in diversifying our portfolios. Tying your fortunes to a single high flying company may be tempting but recent history has shown us the danger in doing so; since stocks that goup fast may plummet just as rapidly.

Asset allocation diversifies your investments into many classes— so one investment's poor performance may be offset by another's rise and/or another's stability. This can help lower your investment portfolio's volatility.

**Customization.** Asset allocation lets you spread your dollars across stocks, bonds and cash according to your particular goals, time frame, risk tolerance and financial resources. For example, a 25-year-old who has just started her career might choose a relatively aggressive stock/bond mix. Her main objective is capital growth, and she is less concerned about occasional market downturns. Conversely, an individual in late retirement might hold a 20-70-10 stock/bond/cash mix to emphasize current income and minimize the risk of major setbacks in the market. (These two examples are relatively simple— most asset allocation models incorporate many more asset classes.)

Many of us might have thought of ourselves as aggressive investors until the recent downturn in the market. Now many investors will seek to choose portfolios that fall somewhere between these two examples. A knowledgeable financial advisor can be valuable in helping you examine your situation and determine a suitable asset combination.

**Quantification.** Does asset allocation really make a difference? History tells us that your returns are greatly influenced by how you allocate your investments among asset classes. In fact, a respected study, "Determinants of Portfolio Performance," (Brinson, Hood and Beebower, *Financial Analysts Journal*, May-June 1991) showed that 91 percent of a portfolio's performance can be traced to its investment allocation strategy.

Asset allocation's overwhelming influence on your returns means you can probably worry less about: *When to invest.* Because you've set a fixed allocation of specific investments, market timing should be less of a temptation. However, if your financial situation changes and you decide to buy or sell securities, rely on your asset allocation model to help restructure your portfolio.

*What to buy or sell.* Again, setting your asset allocation and maintaining it helps keep you from randomly buying or selling securities according to market buzz. You purchase more of one investment if it falls below your allocation or sell another if it expands beyond its set percentage. In most cases, rebalancing reinforces a "buy low-sell high" discipline.

The best way to start your asset allocation strategy is to work with a financial advisor who can help you examine your situation and create a portfolio that's likely to achieve your objectives while allowing you to sleep at night. Once you've set your various investment allocations, invest your money accordingly. You can allocate your investments all at once or you can make changes gradually (over six months or a year), whichever is most comfortable for you.

Once invested, recheck your portfolio's asset percentages every year and consider re-balancing when your goals change, your risk tolerance shifts or whenever you feel it is necessary.

Asset allocation may sound complex, but it's really a smart way to make investing simpler and more effective, helping you to avoid panic and remain patient during these times of increased market volatility.

# GLBT Health

## Smoking A Serious GLBT Problem

by Bob Donovan, MD

If you've gone to any GLBT function, it's easy to say that smoking is a serious problem for folks in our community. A study showed that percentage-wise in the U.S., twice as many gays and lesbians smoke as do the general population. We've rightfully put a lot of energy behind HIV as a serious risk to the health of our community. But in reality, smoking will cause much more sickness and death for gays and lesbians than HIV.

Cigarette smoking seriously increases the risk of many fatal illnesses: lung cancer, cancer of the mouth, esophagus and stomach, cancer of the breast and cervix, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, hardening of the arteries which can lead to heart attack and stroke. Smoking affects memory over time. It also worsens several illnesses: ulcers, allergic symptoms, colds, healing time, and on and on.

People who live with those who smoke are at some increased risk for several diseases. Children whose parents smoke are at greater risk for asthma and ear infections. Smoking doubles a spouse's stroke risk. So, even if you don't quit for yourself, quit for someone you love.

Nicotine is a very addictive substance. Sur-prisingly it's even more addictive than crack and alcohol, so it's not an easy thing to quit. But the benefits of quitting take place almost immediately: After 24 hours, the risk of heart attack already has decreased. After 48 hours, the sense of smell and taste increase and nerve endings begin regrowth. After 72 hours, breathing becomes easier as bronchial tubes relax and lung capacity increases. After 2-12 weeks, circulation improves and walking is easier. After 1-9 months, the body's energy level increases, the lungs increase their ability to handle mucous, and sinus congestion, coughing and shortness of breath decrease. After 5 years, the death rate because of lung cancer decreases about 50% for the average one pack-per-day smoker. After 10 years, the death rate from lung cancer is almost to that of a non-smoker, and the risks from other cancers decrease.

What can you do if your partner or other loved one smokes, but you don't? First off, nagging is unhelpful, both in terms of helping a person to stop smoking and to your relationship. Express your concerns about your partner's health— that you worry about the consequences of smoking. If your partner does decide to quit, be supportive. Help in getting ready for triggers and hand/mouth substitutes. Be ready for some grumpiness for a couple of weeks. But also be ready yourself for a setback. Realize your disappointment, but make sure you don't get angry and do encourage your partner about trying again at some time.

Convinced to quit? Get some help. Check out the internet - QuitNet - [www.quitnet.org](http://www.quitnet.org) and links is a good site. Call the American Lung Association or American Heart Association. Consider nicotine gum or patch. Make an appointment with your family doctor. Or check this space next month, and I'll give some important suggestions about quitting.

# Thought You Knew!

*Advice for the Confused and Clueless  
from Ambrosia*

**Dear Ambrosia,**

I'm a 17 year old lesbian and I'm just coming out to our local community. One of the things that I really don't understand is this whole fascination so many people have with drag queens. Some of my women friends really don't like drag and say that it is offensive. They think that its just gay men dressing up to make fun of women with the high heels and all the makeup. Other women friends I have met recently love to see the shows at The Dock and are big fans. I figure you have an opinion about this.

*–The Lovely Lesbian*

**Dear Ms. Lesbian,**

Congratulations on getting your sexuality figured out and being comfortable with it at such a young age. Secondly, you're right I have an opinion about what you mentioned. First of all, it's hard to give any right answer across the board. For example, when I was younger, I thought that the butch women that one might see (crew cuts, sleeves rolled up, swagger, trucker's wallet, etc.) were making fun of the lipstick image I had of women. Oh, don't we know how wrong that is. But its just as wrong with saying that all drag queens are just in it to make fun of women. Once again, I must say that DIVERSITY is one of the founding blocks of our great community. Don't worry about what people think about drag queens just enjoy your own opinion.

**Dear Ambrosia,**

I'm an eighteen year old hottie. I'd like to know where I can go to meet an older, rich man that will be my sugar daddy– you know I put out, he pays the green stuff. I've heard that you used to do this and figured you might know. I don't mind using an old guy for his money. If you use this in your column, please email me first so not everyone will get there with me but I know I have nothing to worry about because I know I'm hot. Let me know. I know I don't have to worry about you because you're too old.

*–Young Hottie*

**Dear Mr. Hottie,**

You certainly don't have any poor self-esteem issues. Your letter seems to lean toward prostitution– someone paying for sex. We all know that is wrong. I can honestly say that I don't know where the honest, old, rich "johns" hang out. Although, I guess doing it for cash beats doing it for other things that I have seen recently... I can honestly say that I have never been a prostitute either. Enjoying the mere company of older men doesn't brand one a hooker!

You say that you don't mind using an older man for his money– I think you might be the one coming out short in that deal. You don't realize it now but you're really the one getting used. He's using up things in you that you can't get back– he can always make more money. From the sound it, you might already be all used up on your youth!

Lastly, just because I impart wisdom to the masses, don't assume I'm too old to do anything!

I would like to thank my fellow workers, Joan, Taylor Mayde, and Peter LaFoon of Mary's for the successful Mojo Happy Hour Show on Sep-tember 18th! Oh, and readers hold on for my exciting diet and fitness tips next month. Only five more pounds to go! Also next month I'll talk about how I landed that first cast position at a bar and broke into the scene!

Ambrosia wants to hear from you! Write to her at [ehutflie@cincyradio.com](mailto:ehutflie@cincyradio.com).