



## Calendar of events

**Every Wednesday**  
7 p.m.  
ISU PRIDE (glt student group)  
Student Services Building Room 375

**Every Wednesday**  
8:30 p.m.  
Movie and 80s Retro Night  
The Bistro  
316 N. Main St., Bloomington

**Every Friday**  
7:30 – 10:30 p.m.  
Open Door Youth Center  
313 N. Main St., Bloomington

**Every Saturday**  
7:30 – 10:30 p.m.  
Men N2 Men Social Group  
Connections Community Center  
313 N. Main St., Bloomington

**Monday, Jan. 31**  
10 p.m.  
Talent Night Competition  
The Bistro

**Saturday, Feb. 5**  
2:30 – 5 p.m.  
Group Sledding  
Sponsored by COLAGE (Children of  
Lesbians and Gays Everywhere)  
Call 309-287-3516 for details

**Saturday, Feb. 5**  
Mardi Gras Party  
The Bistro  
(see article for more details)

**Sunday, Feb. 6**  
10 p.m.  
Open Mic Night  
The Bistro

**Tuesday, Feb. 8**  
6:30 p.m.  
McLean County AIDS Task Force  
General Meeting and Board Meeting  
313 N. Main St., Bloomington

**Tuesday, Feb. 8**  
Fat Tuesday Party  
The Bistro

**Thursday, Feb. 10**  
4:30 p.m.  
ISU Triangle Association (glt  
employee group)  
Faculty Staff Commons, Bone Student  
Center

**Wednesday, Feb. 16**  
5 p.m.  
Advocacy Council for Human Rights  
Meeting  
Connections Community Center

## Chicago Gay Men's Chorus and Amasong Order Tickets for April 30 Concert ... Just \$15!

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. show can be purchased by completing the order form below and mailing it to ACHR. Your will be acknowledged with an e-mail message or phone call. Tickets will be available for pickup at the "will call" table the night of the show.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ enclosed (\$15 per ticket) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this order form with a check payable to ACHR to:**  
**ACHR**  
**P.O. Box 5048**  
**Bloomington, IL 61702-5048**

# the RAINBOW CONNECTION

The Advocacy Council for Human Rights

February 2005

"We will  
not tolerate  
discrimination  
of any kind in  
Illinois."

– Illinois Governor Blagojevich

## Illinois General Assembly, Governor Approve Legislation GLBT Discrimination Outlawed

Governor Rod Blagojevich was joined by lawmakers and human rights activists on Jan. 21 as he signed Senate Bill 3186, landmark legislation that protects Illinoisans from discrimination based on sexual orientation. With his signature, Illinois became the 15<sup>th</sup> state in the nation to extend equal protection for its gay and lesbian citizens.

"We will not tolerate discrimination of any kind in Illinois. The new law I am signing today is a critical step forward in the struggle for equality," said Governor Blagojevich. "I am proud to be able to extend the guarantee of fairness and equality in the eyes of the law to all of Illinois' residents."

Senator Carol Ronen and Representative Larry McKeon, both of Chicago, sponsored the amendment to the Illinois Human Rights Act, which passed both houses of the General Assembly with solid majorities.

"This is a day I will always remember. We are fulfilling the legacy of the Land of Lincoln – the land of equality under the law," said Senator Ronen.

"This is a great day for equal justice for all Illinoisans. Many people, organizations and elected officials contributed to this victory, I would like to thank them for all of their hard work. I would also

like to personally thank Governor Blagojevich for his exceptional leadership and support over the past two years to ensure this bill's passage," said Representative McKeon.

The original Human Rights Act which passed in 1979 and became effective in 1980, guarantees freedom from unlawful discrimination on the basis of a variety of factors, including race, religion, sex, age, and a number of other characteristics, now including sexual orientation. Discrimination is prohibited in relation to employment, real estate transactions, access to financial credit, and the availability of public services and accommodations. It also provides protection from harassment in employment and higher education, and against retaliation for filing a discrimination charge.

Advocates have worked for nearly 30 years to add sexual orientation to the Illinois Human Rights Act. Legislation was introduced on a variety of occasions starting in 1976. A version of the bill passed the House on several occasions, but never won approval in the Senate before last week.

"In our Pledge of Allegiance, we describe ourselves as a nation where there is 'liberty and justice for all,'" said the Governor. "Signing this legislation allows us to fulfill that

promise to more of the citizens of this state."

The Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR), which administers the Act, received approximately 4,000 charges of discrimination in the fiscal year 2004, prior to the extension of the Act. Based on a study done by the Department in 1997-98, IDHR anticipates 275 to 300 additional complaints per year with the addition of sexual orientation.

Any individual wishing to file a complaint can do so in writing, by phone, or in person with the IDHR office, generally within 180 days of the date of the alleged discrimination. More information, as well as the complaint forms, are available through the IDHR website at <http://www.state.il.us/dhr>.

### IDHR office locations:

100 West Randolph Street,  
Suite 10-100  
Chicago, Illinois 60601  
(312) 814-6200  
(312) 263-1579 (TDD)

222 South College, Floor 1  
Springfield, Illinois 62704  
(217) 785-5100  
(217) 785-5125 (TDD)

### How local elected officials voted:

- Sen. Bill Brady – against
- Sen. Dan Rutherford – for
- Rep. Dan Brady – against
- Rep. Keith Sommer – against

### Boy Gets Girl at Heartland Theater Company

Beginning February 17, Heartland Theater Company will present Rebecca Gilman's unsettling modern thriller, *Boy Gets Girl*. This play, commissioned by Chicago's Goodman Theater, and *Time Magazine's* #1 play of the year, is set against the backdrop of New York City singledom, but *Sex and the City* it's not! It is the story of a woman whose life of accomplishments is quickly destroyed by a disturbed admirer.

*Boy Gets Girl* examines the pursuit and objectification of women that occurs all too easily and subtly in our society.

*Boy Gets Girl* is directed by Sandra Zielinski, and features a veteran cast of local actors. Show dates are February 17, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27 and March 4 and 5. Reserve tickets now (Heartland Theater tends to sell out, especially for performances late in the run). Tickets are available through the theater box office at 309-452-8709, or online at [www.heartlandtheater.org](http://www.heartlandtheater.org).

## Tickets for Chicago Gay Men's Chorus and Amasong available now!

Order form on back page ...  
reserve your tickets today!

## States With Anti-Discrimination Laws that Include Sexual Orientation:

- New Jersey (1992)
- New York (2002)
- Massachusetts (1989)
- California (2003)\*
- Wisconsin (1982)
- Minnesota (1993)\*
- New Mexico (2003)\*
- Connecticut (1991)
- Vermont (1992)
- New Hampshire (1997)
- Nevada (1999)
- Rhode Island (2001)\*
- Maryland (2001)
- Hawaii (1991)
- Illinois (2005)\*

\*state also bars discrimination based on gender identity

## All I Need is Love

by George Spelvin

With gays and lesbians lobbying for equal marriage rights, and the high Holy Day for romantic love fast approaching (February 14, in case anyone's forgotten), I have been considering "that ole black magic" and the spell it tries to weave.

Now, I have known desire, I have known infatuation, I have known wishful thinking, but I'm not really sure I have really known love. I love my dog, I love my family, I love man- and woman-kind in the abstract. But the kind of love that inspires songs, romance novels, and the impulse to march down to City Hall and get a license to wed has so far escaped me.

And it's not as if I haven't tried. I've actually married once (the wrong gender as it turned out). I've had partners with whom I co-habitated, invested in real estate, helped raise children, worn rings, and even

promised to be faithful. I've imagined I was in love, but after several failed attempts and sometimes hideous breakups, I have to admit ... I'm no good at it!

And that's alright. In fact, accepting the simple fact of my life has made it so much easier for me to navigate the currents of dating, friendship and eros. Love requires negotiation, compromise and commitment. Love asks us to put another person's interests if not ahead of, then at least equal to our own. It annoys me to write about these requirements! What a prison ... at least for me!

Will I die a single, bitter old man? Perhaps so, but isn't that better than taking a hostage with me? So this year, once again, I'll buy no candy, no flowers, chill no champagne, whisper no sweet words of love. I'll slip into bed early with a good book and the one I truly love, me.

## ACHR values our sponsors ...

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The Rainbow Connection is published by the Advocacy Council for Human Rights (ACHR).

Correspondence can be sent to P.O. Box 5048, Bloomington, IL 61702-5048.

E-mail: [info@achr-il.com](mailto:info@achr-il.com)

Web: [www.achr-il.com](http://www.achr-il.com)

The Advocacy Council would like to thank Jan Lancaster and the staff of The Bistro for their ongoing support of ACHR and the Bloomington-Normal community.

Bistro phone: (309) 829-2278

## Order Tickets Today Using Form on Back Page!

## "In the Mood" for a Night of Good Music?

Westbrook Auditorium at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington will be the site for the April 30 concert featuring the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus and Amasong.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. show are \$15 which will help us cover the cost of bringing these two fine groups to our community. **Tickets can be purchased by completing the order form on the back page and mailing it to us.** When we receive your order we'll acknowledge with an e-mail message or phone call. Tickets will be available for pickup at the "will call" table the night of the show.

This is an expensive show for us to sponsor and we are faced with

several substantial upfront costs, so we are asking concertgoers to purchase their tickets early so we can cover these pre-concert expenses.

The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus will be making their first appearance in Bloomington/Normal. The group will sing selections from their spring show "In the Mood," which is dedicated to the American music form of jazz. For more information about the chorus visit their web site at <http://www.cgmc.org>.

Amasong is a lesbian/feminist chorus based in Champaign-Urbana. We are proud to again sponsor a local appearance of this award-winning group. Amasong was

recently profiled and was the subject of a PBS documentary. Additional information about Amasong can be found on the web at <http://www.prairienet.org/amasong>.

The concert will also serve as a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. In 1995 the Advocacy Council was formed as a result of a "community" meeting held at the Bistro. The group was formed to help gain passage of local human rights ordinances that include sexual orientation, but we also have worked to provide education, community service, social activities, and community building activities in Bloomington/Normal.