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MARIEANN MERINGOLO



Friday, March 24

Bone Student Center Brown Ballroom

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the RAINBOW CONNECTION

The Advocacy Council for Human Rights

March 2006

ACHR Leaders Meet With Congressional Candidate

Several members of the board of the Advocacy Council for Human Rights met with John Pavich, candidate for the 11th congressional district seat now held by Rep. Jerry Weller. During our conversation, John reiterated his support for equal rights for glbt people and explicitly expressed his opposition to a constitutional amendment that would ban same sex marriage. John's support for glbt equality, combined with Weller's poor record on glbt issues, has convinced us that Pavich is the best choice in the 11th district.

What follows is a press release from John's campaign which gives more information on his stands on other issues facing our nation. More information about John can also be found on his web site – <http://www.pavichforcongress.com>.

Why I'm running for congress



By John Pavich

Less than a year ago, I made a decision to offer citizens of the eleventh congressional district an alternative to

politics as usual, an opportunity to challenge policies shaped by well-heeled lobbyists that have led to high energy costs, enormous budget deficits and a Medicare program that fails to serve our most vulnerable citizens.

I grew up in this district, and after getting my law degree, I served as an officer in counter-terrorism operations of the Central Intelligence Agency. I received five citations for my work, but I became concerned about the direction of our country and decided to return home to serve my fellow citizens in other ways.

I was raised in a family of four children guided and inspired by two wonderful parents Robert & Marcia Pavich. After the birth of our son Andrew, my wife Kelly and I decided

that to make a better future for our son, I would go to the people of this district – we live in Beecher--and offer a vision of how to address the concerns of a district whose incumbent congressman, Republican Jerry Weller has consistently voted against the interests of his constituency.

As an attorney deeply involved in national security issues, I know that it is not only possible, it is necessary to fight terrorism without violating the law or destroying liberties that distinguish our country from its foes. We need a congress that is willing to challenge and correct the incompetence that has permeated the current administration, from its disorganized and feeble response to Hurricane Katrina, to its ill-prepared occupation of Iraq, to its bungled attempt to overhaul Medicare by turning over its administration of pharmaceutical lobbyists.

We need a Congress that is not beholden to corrupt donors like Jack Abramoff, the defense contractors who spent \$2.4 million in bribes to Congressman Randy Cunningham and indicted former House Leader Tom

March Bistro Offerings

The Bistro, 316 N. Main St. in downtown Bloomington, has a slate of events in store for March.

On Sunday, March 12 the Bistro will host the Miss Bloomington 2006 competition. The show begins at 10 p.m. with first prize \$300 and runner-up prize \$150. Cover charge for this event is \$5.

The Bistro's Seventh edition of Talent Night continues on Monday, March 13. The show begins at 10 p.m. with the winner earning \$75. There is a \$3 cover charge for talent night.

Line dancing returns to the Bistro after a successful event in February. Line dancing lessons will be offered on Sunday, March 19 at 8 p.m. with dancing throughout the evening.

While details were not available at press time, March 30 is Momma's birthday so look for a week of wild fun to celebrate the occasion. Check out the Bistro web site – <http://www.thebistro.us> – for all the details!

DeLay. Frankly, I am embarrassed that our current congressman, not only accepted money from these corrupt donors, but he has, unlike other members of congress, refused to give the money back. Instead, he keeps the tainted funds and issues a press release that he won't do this again in the future. Is this leadership? The citizens of the district deserve better.

Jerry Weller shows up for pictures and ribbon cuttings on projects that were sponsored by others who did the heavy lifting. In an election year, Congressman Weller is happy to pose with others who have worked hard and long to get a third regional airport at Peotone, but he has been missing in action while key local officials, and labor leaders fought to put together a plan that would create jobs and serve transportation needs.

I am heartened by the support and encouragement I have received from so many people in the district from different backgrounds and from across party lines. I look forward to a spirited debate on the issues that face our district, from unemployment, to health care, to national security.

Women's Music Festival

First, Bloomington/Normal was rated one of the "Best Lesbian Places to Live" by Girlfriends magazine. Now comes word that Illinois State University and Bloomington/Normal has been chosen as the site for the National Women's Music Festival.

This year's festival will be held July 6-9 on the campus at ISU. Further details are being worked out, so look for more information in future issues of the Rainbow Connection or go to the festival web site at <http://wiaonline.org/nwmf/>.

See Krystal Knight's Farewell Performance!

Drag legend Krystal Knight, a longtime fixture at the Bistro and other clubs around the country, is hanging up her cha-cha heels after a storied career as THE drag queen. However, you can catch Krystal one last time when she performs at the Bistro on Saturday, April 1. For more details check the Bistro web site at <http://www.thebistro.us>.

Help Bring Logo to Bloomington/Normal!

Logo is the newest cable channel from MTV Networks, the force behind channels like VH1, MTV, TV Land and SpikeTV. Logo is entertainment programming for lesbians and gays and just about anyone who enjoys a gay point of view.

Unfortunately the Dish Network is the only area cable provider carrying this great new channel. This leaves subscribers to DirecTV and Insight Cable out in the cold.

HOWEVER, if you want Logo added to the DirecTV and Insight lineups, Logo has made it easy for you to make your request. Simply go to <http://logo.mcsqd.com/index2.html> and enter your zip code and cable provider. A new window will open up that will allow you to make a request for Logo that will be forwarded to your local provider.

Let's bring some more diversity to our cable providers - request Logo today!

State Organization Kicks Off Hospital Discrimination Project

When Curt Sills lay dying from cancer in an Illinois hospital room, the staff wouldn't let Curt's same-sex partner stay next to his bedside overnight - a privilege commonly extended to straight spouses. The hospital staff wouldn't even call Randy Walden to let him know when Curt was taking a turn for the worse. As a result, Randy nearly missed saying goodbye to his life partner of nine years as Curt took his final breaths.

To combat this discrimination against same sex couples, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois has established a Hospital Discrimination Project. If you or anyone you know has ever experienced such cruel treatment at a hospital, please consider filling out a discrimination survey found at the ACLU web site - <https://www.acluaction.org/glr/survey.shtml>.

If you prefer to use postal mail, the survey is also available as a download in Word format at <http://www.aclu-il.org/getequal/hospitalsurvey.doc>. You can mail your completed survey or a letter describing the event to: Hospital Discrimination Project, ACLU of Illinois, 180 N. Michigan, Suite 2300, Chicago, IL 60601.

The information gathered in the surveys will help the ACLU of Illinois, Equality Illinois, Lambda Legal, and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago show Illinois legislators and judges that a serious problem exists and that legal remedies are necessary.

Marieann Meringolo at ISU March 24

Acclaimed New York cabaret singer Marieann Meringolo comes to ISU's Brown Ballroom at the Bone Student Center for a show at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 24.

Meringolo has received widespread praise for her voice which has been described as a cross between KD Lang and Barbra Streisand. Meringolo has performed all around the country and has been profiled in gbt publications including OUT, the Windy City Times and Time OUT New York.

Meringolo's show is part of the Bone Student Center's "Catch a Rising Star" series. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at the Braden Box Office or at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

Transamerica Comes to Central Illinois

Transamerica, featuring the critically-acclaimed performance by Felicity Huffman ("Desperate Housewives"), is playing in one central Illinois theater and will soon arrive at two others.

Willow Knolls 14 - <http://www.willowknolls14.com/> - in Peoria is currently showing the film, in which a pre-operative male-to-female transsexual takes an unexpected journey when she learns that she fathered a son, now a teenage runaway hustling on the streets of New York.

The film begins a March 3 run at the Avon Theater - <http://www.theavon.com/> - in downtown Decatur. Transamerica also will be coming to the Champaign Boardman's Art Theatre - <http://www.boardmansarttheatre.com/> - on March 24.

For those of you who don't want to hit the highways, please be aware that "Transamerica" is one of the proposed films for the Normal Theater's lineup in April/May/June.

ISU PRIDE Charity Drag Show March 31

Drag queens and drag kings will take the stage for ISU PRIDE's annual Charity Drag Show at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 31 in the Brown Ballroom at ISU's Bone Student Center. This will be one of the last performances for drag diva extraordinaire Krystal Knight. Krystal will again emcee the show but plans to retire from the world of drag after the show.

All money raised from this year's drag show will go to the GLBT student support fund at ISU. General admission is \$3 for ISU students and \$5 for the general public. Tickets will be available in advance and at the door. Doors will open at 7 p.m.

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Telephone:
309-750-1550

E-mail:
kstacey_2@hotmail.com

Address:
P.O. Box 793
Normal, IL
61761

Kelly M. Stacey
Attorney at Law

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Calendar of Events

Every Friday
Open Door Youth Center
7:30 - 10:30 p.m.
Connections Community Center
313 N. Main St., Bloomington
<http://www.opendooryouthcenter.org>

Every Saturday
MenN2Men Group
7:30 - 10:30 p.m.
Connections Community Center
313 N. Main St., Bloomington
<http://www.mcatf.org/menn2men.htm>

Every Wednesday (except March 15)
ISU PRIDE Student Group
7 p.m.
Student Services Building Room 375
<http://www.isupride.org>

Sunday, March 12
10 p.m.
Miss Bloomington 2006 Competition
The Bistro

Monday, March. 13
Talent Night
10 p.m.
The Bistro

Tuesday, March. 14
ACHR Meeting
5 p.m.
Conference Room, First United Methodist Church
211 N. School St., Normal

Tuesday, March. 14
McLean County AIDS Task Force Meeting
6:30 p.m.
McLean County AIDS Task Force, 313 N. Main St.

Sunday, March. 19
Line Dancing Class and Demonstration
8 p.m.
The Bistro

Friday, March 31.
ISU PRIDE Charity Drag Show
7:30 p.m.
Brown Ballroom, Bone Student Center

Saturday, April 1
Krystal Knight's Farewell Performance
The Bistro

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

Web: www.achr-il.com