

IWU PRIDE Alliance Hosts Debutante Ball

The IWU PRIDE Alliance will host a Transvestite Debutante Ball at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 2 in the IWU Hanson Student Center.

The evening will feature many activities including a lip sync contest, 50/50 raffles and a fashion show.

Admission to the show is \$5 with all proceeds going to the McLean County AIDS Task Force.

Bistro Plans April Events

The Bistro, 316 N. Main St. in downtown Bloomington, is planning a full slate of events in April.

On Friday, April 15 Krystal Knight will take the stage for a series of Hot Spots at 11:30 p.m., 12:30 a.m. and 1:30 a.m.

The club will hold a Spring Drag Show on Sunday, April 17. Featured will be all of the Bistro favorites basking in the glow of spring. Showtimes are 9 and 11 p.m. with a \$5 admission for each show.

Talent Night competition continues with a 10 p.m. show on Monday, April 25. Talent contestants should sign up by 9:30 p.m. There is a \$3 cover charge for this event.

The Bistro's regular events also are on tap. The monthly Open Mic night will be held at 10 p.m. on Sunday, April 3 and Movie/80s Retro Nights will begin at 8:30 p.m. on each Wednesday of the month.

Drag show to raise \$

The sixth annual Charity Drag Show will be at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 16 at ISU's Bone Student Center Ballroom.

The event will again be hosted by Krystal Knight and feature both amateur and professional performers.

Admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for the public, with proceeds to the ISU GLBT Support Fund.

Task Force moves ahead with fundraiser

The McLean County AIDS Task Force (MCATF) and The Links, Incorporated are proud to bring back Dining With Friends! The organizations are asking people to volunteer to host their own parties to raise money to help support MCATF clients. Hosts invite their own guests, prepare the meal, and ask for donations from their guests. Then, all of the hosts, guests, and any other interested parties will be invited to a Dessert Finale towards the end of the year centered around World AIDS Day.

The Links, Incorporated is the premier African American women's organization. Its national membership is approx. 11,000. Chapters are primarily in the U.S., but there are chapters in

the Bahamas as well as Germany. The Central Illinois Chapter has a membership of 26 women that are from Springfield, Champaign/Urbana, Charleston, St. Louis, and of course Bloomington-Normal. The Links, Incorporated conducts service projects in the areas of health, education, mentoring, tutoring, youth, senior citizens, teenagers, voter registration, and much more.

MCATF gives up to \$400 per client per year to help with rent, utilities, etc., as well as operating a food pantry. The number of clients has risen to over 60! The task force is committed to continuing to serve its clients, but they need your help.

For more information contact the task force at (309) 827-AIDS.

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Chicago Gay Men's Chorus and Amasong tickets available now!

Order form on enclosed flier ... reserve your tickets today!

the RAINBOW CONNECTION

The Advocacy Council for Human Rights

April 2005

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus and Amasong concert less than a month away ...

Have you bought your tickets?

The glbt concert event of the year in B/N is less than a month away... have you purchased your tickets yet?

Yes, in less than 30 days – April 30 to be exact – the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus and Amasong will perform at a 7:30 p.m. concert at IWU's Westbrook Auditorium.

Both groups are excited about the concert and anticipate performing before a large and enthusiastic crowd. This will be the first B/N performance for the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus and they are particularly excited to bring their show to central Illinois.

We have been selling tickets since early March and plan to have ticket booths at various events (see information below). We are grateful to the Bistro and IWU Blue Moon Coffeehouse for giving us the opportunity to sell tickets at their events.

Tickets also are available for sale during business hours at the Bistro, Garlic Press and Lancasters. Again, we appreciate these businesses and their willingness to support this musical event.

A third way to purchase tickets is to fill out the order form found on the back of this newsletter and mail it to us. When we receive your order we will acknowledge it with an e-mail or phone call. You can pick up your tickets that night at the "will call" table outside of the auditorium.

If the concert is not sold out by then we will have tickets available for sale at the door. However, we anticipate brisk ticket sales in the coming weeks so we encourage you to purchase your tickets in advance!

The concert committee of the Advocacy Council for Human Rights thanks you for your support – we hope to see you at the show!

Concert tickets available at:

- Blue Moon Coffeehouse – Saturday, April 9
- Bistro Hot Spots – Friday, April 15
- Bistro Spring Drag Show – Sunday, April 17
- Blue Moon Coffeehouse – Saturday, April 23
- Bistro Talent Night – Monday, April 25

Tickets can also be purchased from the bartenders at the Bistro and at Lancasters and the Garlic Press. Tickets may also be available at the door if the event is not a sellout. We encourage you to purchase your tickets in advance!

OUTRAGEOUS!

The city council of Marquette Heights, a small community just outside of Peoria, recently voted 4-1 to change the name of one of the town streets.

It seems that eight of the 10 homeowners on Gay Road petitioned the council to change their street name, saying that they were embarrassed and teased because of their street address.

Fifty years ago Gay Road was named after Picard du Gay, a French explorer. All roads in Marquette Heights are named after an explorer, Native American, or president.

The council voted to change the name of the street to Hennepin Road, after the explorer Hennepin.

What next? Petitions to change the name on Dairy Queens across the nation? Boycotts of Marvin Gaye's music? Bombing of the dykes in Holland?

Concert reception celebrates ACHR tenth anniversary

The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus and Amasong concert on April 30 will be an evening of great fun, and an opportunity for you to join us for a very special anniversary.

It was ten years ago that the Advocacy Council for Human Rights was formed to help amend the human rights ordinances in Bloomington and Normal to include sexual orientation. Our efforts in 1995 and 1996 were not successful, but we remained determined to help bring equality to Bloomington/Normal, and in 2001 and 2002 the cities both enacted human rights ordinances that protect glb people from discrimination.

During the concert intermission we will hold a special reception to commemorate the group's anniversary. A commemorative program is also being printed for the occasion.

We hope that previous Advocacy Council board members, volunteers and mentors will join us on April 30 to help us celebrate and reflect on 10 years of glbt activism in Bloomington/Normal.

Calendar of Events

Every Wednesday

7 p.m.
ISU PRIDE (glbt 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 Thursday

9:30 p.m.
IWU PRIDE Alliance
Multicultural Center, Park St.

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

Saturday, April 2

8 p.m.
Transvestite Debutante Ball
IWU Memorial Student Center
(see article for more details)

Saturday, April 9

2:30 p.m.
COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and
Gays Everywhere)
Call 309-287-3516 for details

Tuesday, April 12

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

Wednesday, April 13

7:30 p.m.
Kate Bornstein
Gender Issues in Today's Society
Braden Auditorium, ISU

Thursday, April 14

8:30 p.m.
Activist/Author Kate Bornstein
IWU Hanson Student Center

Thursday, April 14

4:30 p.m.
ISU Triangle Association
(glbt employee group)
Faculty Staff Commons,
Bone Student Center

Continued at right ...

Where there's a will ...

by George Spelvin

I have heard nowhere that there is a glbt connection in the Terri Schiavo story, but the predicament that faces her loved ones...on both sides of the debate... is one that should resonate with our community, and that is the importance of a will, a living will, and a medical power of attorney. With the often complex dynamics in our relationships with family and/or significant others we need to take these simple legal steps to assure that our wishes are understood and legally protected.

In Illinois, a handwritten or video-taped will usually holds up in a litigated or negotiated settlement, but for a few dollars more a lawyer can draw up a binding document to protect your wishes. Keep in mind, however, that as one's affectional choices change, so should one's will. It's not at all uncommon for an entire estate to go to a former partner, leaving the current partner high and dry. The widowed partner

City elections April 5

Some people tend to discount the value of voting in elections unless it is a presidential or gubernatorial election year. However, the local races for mayor and city council are important and we encourage you to get out on April 5 and cast your vote.

Normal Races

In Normal, Mayor Chris Koos faces a serious challenge from council member Jeff Fritzen. Mayor Koos played a significant role in 2001 when as a Normal City Council member he threw his support behind the human rights ordinance. In contrast, Jeff Fritzen demonstrated his opposition to glbt equal rights legislation in 1996 when he voted against a proposed human rights ordinance. The choice is clear... Chris Koos deserves our support.

and the former partner could easily end up sharing the home purchased by the deceased and widowed partner.

A medical power of attorney can often be filled out at a hospital and some doctor's offices. It needs to be witnessed by two other individuals and notarized. The person you choose will then be empowered to carry out your wished regarding end of life decisions, should you be unable to articulate them yourself.

A living will sets forth your instruction for your medical power of attorney. Again, it needs to be witnessed and notarized, and copies should be made available to family, doctors, and any hospital where you regularly receive medical attention.

Most of us don't really like to think about death...either our own, or that of a loved one...but setting forth one's wishes in legally binding documents can make the loss of a loved one a little less traumatic, and it's never, never too soon to do it.

Normal Council members Adam Nielsen and Cheryl Gaines, both strong supporters of glbt rights and the 2001 human rights ordinance, are running for re-election.

Bloomington Races

In Bloomington, retired State Farm Vice President Steve Stockton is the only candidate running to replace Judy Markowitz, who is retiring after two terms as mayor. As mayor Judy has been a defender of equal rights for glbt people, but her heir apparent is somewhat of an unknown. Stockton has stated his support for the living wage drive and has been endorsed by the B/N Trades and Labor Assembly, but his views on glbt issues are largely unknown.

Continued at right ...

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City elections continued ...

Bloomington Council races include a faceoff in Ward 7, where incumbent Tom Whalen faces challenger Steve Purcell. Whalen voted for the human rights ordinance when it was proposed in 2002 although his support was lukewarm. Still, his track record of supporting unions and fighting for a living wage in Bloomington make him preferable to Purcell, who is a conservative and reportedly decided to challenge Whalen after his votes in favor of the ordinance and the arena project.

In Ward 1, alderman Rich Veitengruber faces off against Allen Gibson. Judging from the letters to the editor it appears that most Gibson supporters are angry that Veitengruber supported the arena

project despite the fact a public referendum showing a majority of voting residents opposed the project. Veitengruber did not support the 2002 effort to enact the human rights ordinance; in fact, Veitengruber declined an invite to meet with ordinance supporters.

Incumbent Jim Finnegan faces off against Grant Holloway in Ward 5. Finnegan is a fiscal and social conservative and was among council members who voted against the human rights ordinance in 2002.

School Boards, Library Board

Candidates in these races who we believe are glbt supportive include Meta Mickens-Baker, who is running for Unit 5 School Board, and Susan Stillwell, who is running for a seat

Calendar continued from left ...

Friday, April 15

11:30 p.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 a.m.
Krystal Knight in the Hot Spot
The Bistro

Saturday, April 16

7:30 p.m.
ISU PRIDE Charity Drag Show
Bone Student Center Ballroom

Sunday, April 17

9 and 11 p.m.
Bistro Spring Drag Show
The Bistro

Wednesday, April 20

5 p.m.
Advocacy Council for Human Rights
Meeting
Connections Community Center

Friday, April 22

7:30 – 11:30 p.m.
Open Door Youth Prom
Unitarian Church

Monday, April 25

10 p.m.
Talent Night Six Competition
The Bistro

Saturday, April 30

7:30 p.m.
Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
and Amasong
IWU Westbrook Auditorium
(see article for details)

on the Normal Public Library Board.

For more information on voting in Bloomington and Normal visit the City of Bloomington Election Commission web site (<http://www.becvote.org/>) or the McLean County Government web site (<http://www.mclean.gov>).

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

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