

The Rainbow Connection

May 2010

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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, or e-mail info@achr-il.com

Work continues on “Your Normal LGBT Film Festival” Oct. 7-10

A small but dedicated group of volunteers is meeting regularly to firm up plans for the first “Your Normal LGBT Film Festival” on Oct. 7-10 at the historic Normal Theater in Uptown Normal.

The group has created a facebook page - accessible by searching “Your Normal LGBT Film Festival” - and we are continuing examine the LGBT cinema offerings to select the best the genre has to offer.

The festival will feature a combination of new feature films, fan favorites/classics, and short films. Volunteers also hope to add additional programming such as discussions with actors, writers and directors whose work will be part of the festival.

May 15 AIDS Walk/Run For Life to benefit McLean County AIDS Task Force

Runners and walkers will gather on Saturday, May 15 for the annual AIDS Walk/Run for Life! at the North Pavilion at Tipton Park in Bloomington.

The walk/run will begin at 8 a.m. with runners starting first. The 5K race portion will be timed and recorded by officials from the Lake Run Club. Awards will be given out at 9 a.m. to top female/male finishers and top finishers in specific age groups.

Following the walk/run breakfast items will be available for runners and walkers.

Same-day registration will take place from 7 to 7:45 a.m. at the race site. Pre-registration forms can be found at <http://www.mcatf.org/events/aids-walk-run/>.

All funds raised from the event will go toward helping local people living with HIV/AIDS.

For more information contact the task force at 309-827-2437.

“A Single Man” to play at Normal Theater May 13-16

The acclaimed film “A Single Man” will be screened May 13-16 at the Normal Theater in Uptown Normal.

The film, featuring an Oscar-nominated performance by Colin Firth, is based on a Christopher Isherwood story about an English professor who, after the sudden death of his partner tries to go about his typical day in Los Angeles.

For specific showtimes visit www.normaltheater.com.

Family Reunion Picnic July 11

In another month spring will be but a memory and the full roster of summertime LGBT events will be underway. It seems we have a large choice of festivals, parades, and picnics within three hours of Bloomington/Normal which is another reason this is a good place to live!

Please save the date, Sunday July 11. This is the date of our annual “Family Reunion” Picnic to be held at Underwood Park in Normal. We are planning a full afternoon of food, games, a raffle and lots of other fun activities.

Keep your eye open for updates in future editions of the Rainbow Connection!

Freight Train

Gene Naden
March 29, 2010
Chicago, IL

A red light in the dark.
The brakeman's signal.
Tom and I jumped the train
loaded with clean new pickups.
The shock absorbers helped us.
We had an easy ride.

The warm California darkness settled upon us,
a great soft blanket.
As we unrolled our sleeping bags he said with a
grin, "We can talk physics."

I thought of Tom's exams I had read,
and of our conversations.
He was bright, near the top of his class.
And he loved his subject.
As did I.

On that rare sober night, I wanted him all the more.
To hold him, to kiss him, to be kissed by him.
More than to talk.

But pride and fear and old rules confounded me.
I said nothing.
Thus he could not embarrass me.

Yet I was ashamed of my inaction.
Almost cut in two by my -
ambivalence.

Day broke and found us riding through a forest.
On the skirts of awesome snowy Mt. Shasta.
I did not wake Tom.

Soon we would be in Oregon.
The train stopped, a long delay.
The engineer came back to apologize.
As if we had tickets.

We jumped off in a Portland freight yard.
We threw our backpacks down.
To avoid a hard fall.
Then we leapt after them.

Hitchhiking to my parents' home gave me time
alone.
Time to think.
I had lost my virginity in the Western darkness,
as surely as if I had slept with my companion,
I knew for the first and thousandth time that I was a
man's man.

Don't Ask Don't Tell Policy event

The Advocacy Council in cooperation with the Human Rights Campaign (www.hrc.org) is planning a public forum on the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy on Tuesday, Aug. 31 at the Normal Public Library.

President Obama has pledged to end the military's "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy that bans openly-gay service members and since its inception 17 years ago has brought about the discharge of thousands of LGBT military personnel.

Sen. Joe Lieberman has introduced a bill to abolish the policy. A study including Congressional testimony and information gathered from the four branches of the military is currently underway.

If you are LGBT and are a member of the military or have been discharged because of the military's DADT policy please contact the Advocacy Council at info@achr-il.com.

Jeanette L. Roberts

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200 West Monroe, Suite 305
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(309) 820-8162

ACHR Members attend Lobby Day

Members of the Advocacy Council attended the April 22 Lobby Day in Springfield to urge local lawmakers to support SB1716, commonly known as the civil unions bill.

The group met with Rep. Dan Brady, who listened and promised to read our literature but reminded them "I think you know my history on these issues." Brady has been a consistent opponent of equal rights measures for LGBT people.

Sen. Bill Brady was out of the office. It is common knowledge that Sen. Brady, the Republican nominee for governor, opposes all equal rights legislation for LGBT people but the group left literature and their contact information.

Sen. Dan Rutherford was also out of the office because of a death in the family. Rutherford has indicated he supports the civil unions bill so the group left their contact information and notes of thanks.

SB1716 is currently making its way through the House. The deadline for final action on the bill could be extended to the November veto session.

For more information on SB1716 and how to contact your legislators visit the following web sites: www.ilga.gov (Illinois General Assembly); www.equalityillinois.org (Equality Illinois).

Transgender Legal Forum April 18

John Knight and Ed Yohnka from the ACLU of Illinois were joined by Tori Kirk (photo at right), plaintiff in an Illinois case where the state was sued because they refused to correct Tori's birth certificate. Tori underwent surgery in a foreign country and the state initially refused to honor her request because the surgeon was



not licensed to practice in the United States. The state changed its policy after ACLU filed the case.

New LGBT releases at the Movie Fan

The Movie Fan, 503 S. Main Street in Normal, continues to be a mecca for the latest in LGBT film fare.

Among the new DVD titles available are:

The New Twenty - Five best friends in their late 20's discover new truths about themselves and the friendships they thought would last forever.

My Big Gay Musical - Paul and Eddie have just begun previews for the new Off-Broadway musical "Adam and Steve Just the Way God Made 'Em." Their lives strangely mirror the characters they are playing.

Tru Loved - Recently relocated from San Francisco to conservative suburbia by her lesbian mothers, Tru struggles like all teens to fit in and find love.

Chef's Special - This film is one tablespoon gay romance, one quarter cup advocacy, a few teaspoons parenting instruction and a cup of culinary skills and you have a screwball Spanish comedy. Winner of the Audience Award at the 2009 Los Angeles OUTfest.

For more information about the Movie Fan visit the store's web site at www.themoviefan.com.

Men's chorus concert planned

The Capitol City Men's Chorus will be in concert Sunday, May 16 at the Laurel United Methodist Church in Springfield. The group will be performing at 4 p.m. The church is located at 631 S. Grand Ave. W. in Springfield. The Chorus' website is www.tccmc.org.

HEARTLAND THEATRE COMPANY

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INNS & OUTS: The Hotel Lobby

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There will definitely be Inns & Outs when Heartland opens up a hotel lobby!

Reservations: 309 452 8709 or
boxoffice@heartlandtheatre.org

www.heartlandtheatre.org

Rainbow Connection has gone green!

December 2009 was the last mass snail mailing of the newsletter to our readers.

If you do not have access to the internet or would rather receive a paper copy of the newsletter we can arrange to continue mailing the newsletter to you; in return we ask that you consider a donation of \$10 to ACHR to help offset printing and mailing expenses for the calendar year 2010.

If you haven't already done so, please send your email address to us, or send your \$10 donation to:

Advocacy Council for Human Rights
PO Box 5048
Bloomington IL 61702-5048

THE BISTRO

316 North Main
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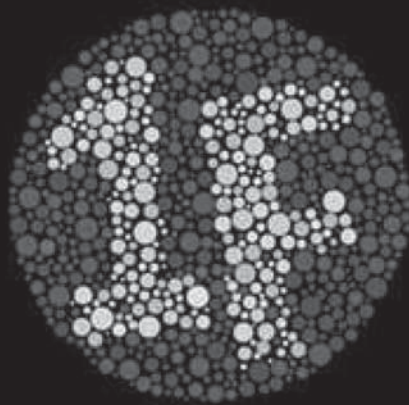
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FIRST FRIDAYS

At the Bistro

May 7, 2010

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