

THE BISTRO

Friends, Family,
Community, Fun & Love.

316 North Main
Bloomington, Illinois 61701
309/829-2278

M-TH: 8p.m.-1a.m.,
FRI: 4:30p.m.-2a.m.
SAT: 8p.m.-2a.m.

Web Sites You Should Visit!

The Shark Bar
www.thesharkbarbloomington.com

Central Illinois Gender Society
www.illinoisgender.com

Advocacy Council for Human Rights
www.achr-il.com

Out & About Illinois
www.outandaboutillinois.com

The Bistro
www.myspace.com/bloomingtonbistro
New Covenant Community
www.nccnormal.org

Lancaster's Fine Dining
www.lancastersrestaurant.com

ISU Pride
www.isupride.org

ISU Triangle Association
www.ilstu.edu/employee_groups/triangle_association/

McLean County AIDS Task Force
www.mcatf.org

Serving Our Community

Insurance and Financial Services

Scott Simons
Financial Services Associate
The Prudential Insurance Company of America
2305 Village Green Place, Suite A
Champaign, IL 61822
217-398-2500
<http://www.prudential.com/us/scott.simons>
scott.simons@prudential.com



Insurance issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America,
Newark, NJ and its affiliates.
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New Covenant Community

An Open and Affirming/More Light congregation
which welcomes all persons into full participation
in the life of our community, regardless of race,
gender, age or sexual orientation.

Worship Sundays, 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School and childcare provided during worship

Chapel of the Campus Religious Center
210 W. Mulberry St., Normal, IL 61761 | (309) 454-7362
www.nccnormal.org

The Rainbow Connection

April 2009

ACHR Board of Directors: Dave Bentlin; Peggy Burton; Gary Gletty; Margo Mendoza; Donna O'Crowly

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

McLean County Board adopts LGBT-inclusive policy

After several fits and starts the McLean County Board at its March 17 meeting adopted a county personnel policy that includes protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The main opposition came from County Recorder Lee Newcom, whose efforts to distort the effects of the new policy were rejected by most members of the board.

When the measure was initially proposed Newcom argued that the policy would allow pedophiles to be

hired as teachers at the county's juvenile detention center. He also asserted that it was impossible to determine exactly what sexual orientation meant and that the county could become subject to a flood of lawsuits.

Assistant states attorney Eric Ruud countered the arguments, explaining that if the county's policy did not mirror the statewide laws that already protect lgbt people the county could be held more liable in the case of a legitimate discrimination complaint.

The county's new personnel policy is consistent with nondiscrimination policies in Bloomington, Normal, and at ISU, State Farm, and Mitsubishi.

ISU drag show April 4

The 11th annual ISU Charity Drag Show will be Saturday evening, April 4 in the Brown Ballroom at the Bone Student Center.

This event also will be the 40th anniversary celebration of the ISU student organization which has been known over the years as Gay People's Alliance and GALA.

Check out next month's newsletter for specific information on this event.

day will end with a reception from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

For more information about the event visit the Equality Illinois web site at www.eqil.org.

BN Dining OUT Group sets April, May dates

The BN Dining OUT group will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14 at Ming's, 407 N. Hershey in Bloomington.

The May 12 outing will be at 6:30 p.m. at Swingers Grille, 1304 Cross Creek Drive in Normal.

For more information about group activities e-mail them at bandiningout@yahoo.com.

Reminder – First Fridays at the Bistro April 3

Just a reminder...come join the crowd beginning at 4:30 p.m. on April 3 at the Bistro, 316 N. Main St. in downtown Bloomington.

Free appetizers will be available and the bar will offer some fantastic drink specials to kick off the spring.

The First Fridays promotions are a collaborative effort among our local

lgbt bars and area organizations including the Advocacy Council for Human Rights; McLean County AIDS Task Force; ISU Triangle Association; State Farm Pride; and Scott Simons/Prudential.

Jen Porter Comes to the Bistro

Singer/songwriter Jen Porter will perform 9 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, April 18 at the Bistro, 316 N. Main St. in downtown Bloomington.

The acclaimed performer, whose voice has been described as "soulfully raucous," has appeared at the Bistro several times and is a crowd favorite. A native of Chicago, Porter has played dozens of venues including the Cubby Bear, Hard Rock Café, and the House of Blues. She also has sang the national anthem at several sporting events at Wrigley Field, Soldier Field and U.S. Cellular Field.

Porter's performance is part of the city's Springfest event. For more information about Porter's show contact the Bistro at 309-829-2278.

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Tony Winning Broadway Actor Comes to ISU March 30

Out stage and film actor Anthony Rapp will speak at 7 p.m. Monday, March 30, in Braden Auditorium at Illinois State University.

Rapp, who is best known for his role as Mark in the Tony award-winning musical Rent, is a native of Joliet and graduate of Joliet West High School. He will discuss his stage and film work as well as his 2006 book, "Without You: A Memoir of Love, Loss and the Musical 'Rent'."

Among Rapp's noteworthy credits are the films "Dazed and Confused," "A Beautiful Mind," "School Ties,"

"Road Trip," the Broadway revival of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," the stage and film versions of "Six Degrees of Separation," and the stage, film and filmed-live-on-stage versions of "Rent."

Admission is free and open to the public. The event is sponsored by the University Program Board.

Youth Summit Set for April 4

A youth summit for lgbtqa youth is scheduled for Saturday, April 4 on the campus of Illinois State University.

The summit, which will run from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., will be in the Bone Student Center and will be open to lgbtqa youth, gay/straight alliance members and their advisors, and members of the Central Illinois

Safe Schools Alliance (CISSA). The summit is sponsored by the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance.

Among the sessions offered are gay/straight alliance development; preparing for Day of Silence; networking among gay/straight alliances; and youth voices.

The summit will be another step toward the goal of a world in which youth develop to their fullest potential, learning in safe and nurturing schools, living in communities that accept and honor differences, where everyone has the freedom to express their sexual orientation and gender identity.

For more information or to rsvp to the summit, contact David Fischer at david@illinoissafeschools.org or 312-368-9070 ext. 15.



2009 First Friday Celebrations



5pm - ??

First Fridays is a monthly event held at our local LGBTQA bars and sponsored by local LGBTQA organizations and businesses. Everyone who is LGBTQ and LGBTQ-supportive is invited to join us!

Feb 6 - The Bistro

Food provided by State Farm Pride

March 6 - Shark Bar

Food provided by Scott Simons, Prudential

April 3 - The Bistro

Food provided by McLean Co. AIDS Task Force

May 1 - Shark Bar

Food provided by Triangle Association

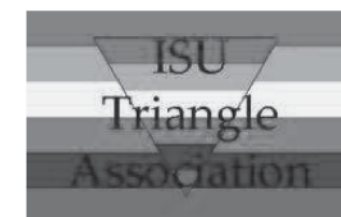
June 5 - The Bistro

Food provided by ACHR

THE BiSTRO - 316 N Main in Downtown Bloomington

THE SHARK BAR - 3 Finance Dr. Bloomington

Sponsors



Civil union is not marriage

By Gene Naden

Mine is a pain born of a lifetime of silence.

No one said, "A woman can love a woman."

Passionately.

No one.

Without a map I wandered.

Year by year.

Years

How many years?

Damn it!

Where was god? Where was the son of man?

A fire within me, my pain.

Were these two men destined to meet, to love, to... marry?

I grow tired of forgiving those who do not know better.

Those who simply follow.

In the writings of my hero Michelangelo Signorile I read about —

The Pink Triangle

Fear, then anger. Fear and anger again. Then...

Pain