

**Dining With Friends** is the Premiere "at-home" fundraiser of the McLean County AIDS Task Force. Host your own party any time between now and December 3, 2005 and ask your guests to make a donation to MCATF. We have host materials ready for your convenience and you may request an ambassador to assist you in planning your party.



**WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE IN HELPING THOSE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.**

You and your guests are invited to a Dessert Finale on December 3rd at ISU's Center for Visual Arts from 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm. There will be entertainment, desserts, and a silent auction. *Dining With Friends* is co-sponsored by the local chapter of *The Links Inc.*, a national organization that promotes health for African American Women.



For more information please contact Josh King: joshking@mcاتف.org or 309-827-2437.

**Middle-age gau guy** *continued from front ...*

"mid-life crisis" and changed jobs a few years ago—today I am fully ensconced at Heartland Community College as an English teacher. So I guess you'd have to admit that we are "established."

And if all that sounds dull, well, you just haven't gotten the chance to know us yet.

Behind all of this "dullness" is a passion about everything I do in this community. Yep, I love living here! And at least in part, this column will be about sharing some of that love—the love of walking through Miller Park in the fall, the love of taking my grandson around the courthouse square when the old bell rings, the love of walking hand in hand with my husband through downtown Bloomington in the early evenings, and most of all—the love of being just what I am—a middle aged, graying, granddad, papa bear, paunchy, passionate gay man.

Over the next months I'll write about the early days of the gay movement in B/N, what it's like to be an openly gay teacher at a community college, dealing with the medical community as an "aging" gay couple, buying diapers for the grandsons and lube and condoms in the same shopping trip, what it takes to keep passion in a 20+ year relationship, "coming out" for

the 1,000,000<sup>th</sup> time (for those of you that are just now coming out—well, it never ends—and you can learn to love that, I promise), speaking about traditional gay family values in front of college classrooms, what it was like for two openly gay men in the middle of the cornfields to raise a fierce blonde daughter, reactions to world news, and the joys and trials of just "being" a gay family in central Illinois.

I hope you'll enjoy what you read, or get mad sometimes, or maybe just sit down now and then to have a good think. If you ever want to add your "two cents" worth to the conversation (and I think ALL writing is a conversation), don't hesitate to contact me at teachertom57mac@hotmail.com. I'll always send a reply.

Until next time—I'll be counting the new gray hairs.

**ACHR supports WGLT pledge drive**

Members of the Advocacy Council for Human Rights will staff the phone lines from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 19 as part of WGLT-FM's annual pledge drive.

WGLT 89.1 FM is Bloomington/Normal's public radio station and offers rare and thorough coverage of controversial issues including sexual orientation issues. They provide fair and thoughtful analysis and are a welcome respite from the usual slash and burn journalism found in much of the electronic media.

Join us in supporting WGLT-FM on Oct. 19 by listening and phoning in your pledge!

**Controversial performance artist comes to ISU ...**  
see page two for more information.

**COLAGE to Meet**

The Central Illinois Chapter of COLAGE (Children Of Lesbians And Gays Everywhere) will meet at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 15 at the Wine and Cheese Festival in Decatur.

After the festival, the group will have a picnic. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share, your own table service, meat and beverage. Fire and a grill for cooking will be provided.

This will be a special meeting because Ramona Oswald from the University of Illinois will join the group to gather information for a future presentation.

If you plan to attend, please contact Gretchen at 309-287-3516 or bloominginnrml@aol.com.

**Memorial Service Set**

The life of Charles Maloney (a.k.a. Kadiva Mann) will be celebrated with a memorial service at 9 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 16 at the Bistro, 316 N. Main St. in downtown Bloomington.

Kadiva performed at the Bistro many times and was the featured performer at one of the Bistro's Hot Spots last year.

# the RAINBOW CONNECTION

The Advocacy Council for Human Rights

October 2005

## Bloomington commission hears sexual orientation case

The Bloomington Human Relations Commission recently heard its first complaint of discrimination based on sexual orientation but dismissed the case based on a lack of probable cause.

The case involved a Bloomington woman who alleged that she was discriminated against by her employer based on her sexual orientation. The woman said she was passed over for promotions and was disciplined differently than other employees.

Commissioners looked at all the evidence and agreed that there was a lack of corroborating

evidence presented by the plaintiff. Commissioners also felt that if discrimination did take place that it may have been based on the plaintiff's gender and not her sexual orientation.

Anyone who feels they have experienced discrimination in Bloomington or Normal should contact the commissions. The Bloomington equal rights associate is Ernestine Jackson; she can be reached at 309-434-2218. Her counterpart in Normal is Jennifer Hanna; her phone number is 309-454-9675.

## Middle-age gay guy

By Tom O. McCulley

**An Introduction**

Welcome to Middle Age Gay Guy. Over the next few months (or as long as you'll tolerate me!), I'll be writing about what it's like to be approaching 50 as an openly gay man in central Illinois. I hope you'll find what I have to say to be entertaining at times, thought provoking at others, and perhaps even a little troubling now and then.

By way of introduction, it's only fair that I let you know a little bit about who I am and what I do in the quaint environs we call home—

Bloomington/Normal, Illinois.

I've lived in B/N since 1982, so I guess I have to accept that I am officially a "resident" here. This year I turned 48, so I really am middle aged. (I have gray hairs in places I don't even want to talk about!) I've been with the same man since early 1983, so my relationship is what one would have to call "established." My husband Ron and I are "gay granddads," so I suppose that makes us family men. Our family has been political for a very long time, so I guess we might be called "activists." Ron has held the same job for over 20 years and while I went through a

...continued on back page

**ACHR Open House planned**

The Advocacy Council for Human Rights will sponsor a fall open house from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 20 at Connections Community Center, 313 N. Main St. in downtown Bloomington.

Advocacy Council board members will be on hand to discuss upcoming programming for 2006. Some of these 2006 events include the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus/Amasong concert; a presentation on legal/financial/insurance issues for glbt people; a community meeting on the attempts to ban gay marriage in the Illinois constitution; and a presentation on homosexuality and religion.

Please join us for an afternoon of conversation, music, food and good times!

**Bistro plans busy October**

Karaoke, drag legends, talent night and Halloween fun are all slated for the Bistro in October.

Drag legends Mahogany Knight and Armani Mann will perform beginning at 10:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28.

Bistro Talent Nights continue in October with competition beginning at 10 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 10. Anyone interested in signing up should do so by 9 p.m.

Karaoke nights continue in October with singers and wanna-be singers hamming it up on Oct. 4 and 18.

Check the Bistro web site – <http://www.thebistro.us> – for more details on events planned for Halloween weekend.

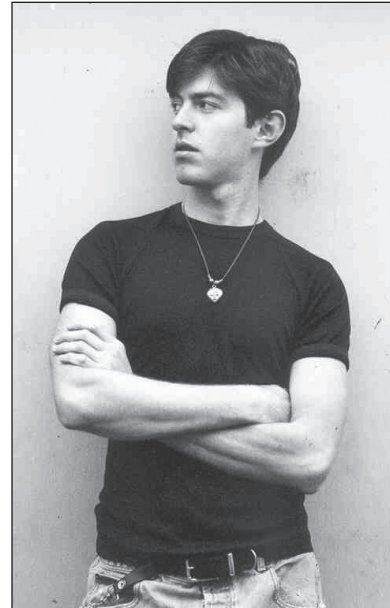
**Support businesses that support ACHR ...**  
*see page three*

"I think the sweaty reality of live performing is a great place to shine my creative highbeams on the tasty pleasures and nasty injustices that queer folk face. I feel lucky that I get to gather with people all over the country at my shows to raise awareness, encourage activism, stir the dating pool and test-drive strategies for lesbian and gay equality."

- Tim Miller

## Controversial performance artist comes to ISU

Gay performance artist, teacher, activist and writer Tim Miller will bring his acclaimed performance of "Us" to Illinois State University for one night only, at 10:45 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 7 at the university's Center for Performing Arts Theatre.



"Us" is about Miller's love affair with Broadway musicals and explores the issues of gay marriage and the oppression faced by glbt people. Because of adult themes the suggested audience is adults 18 or older.

Miller is an internationally acclaimed performance artist. His creative work as a performer and writer explores the artistic, spiritual and political topography of his identity as a gay man. Hailed for his humor and passion, Miller has tackled this challenge in such pieces as Live Boys, Postwar, Buddy Systems, Stretch Marks, Sex/Love/Stories, My Queer Body, Fruit Cocktail, and Body Blows.

Miller's performances have been presented all over North America and Europe in such prestigious venues as Yale Repertory Theatre, the Institute of

Contemporary Art (London), the Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), and the Brooklyn Academy of Music. He is the author of the books Shirts and Skin and Body Blows.

Miller has received numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. In 1990, Miller was awarded a NEA Solo Performer Fellowship, which was overturned under political pressure from the Bush White House because of the gay themes of Miller's work. Miller and three other artists, the so-called "NEA 4", successfully sued the federal government with the help of the ACLU for violation of their First Amendment rights and won a settlement where the government paid them the amount of the defunded grants and all court costs. Though the Supreme Court of the United States decided in 1998 to overturn part of Miller's case and determined that "standards of decency" are constitutional criterion for federal funding of the arts, Miller vows "to continue fighting for freedom of expression for fierce diverse voices."

Since 1990, Miller has taught performance in the theater dept at UCLA and the dance program at Cal State LA. He is a co-founder of the two most influential performance spaces in the United States: Performance Space 122 on Manhattan's Lower East Side and Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica, CA.

The Oct. 7 performance at ISU is part of a six-day residency for Miller in which he will work with students and conduct a student workshop.

Are you a member of the Advocacy Council for Human Rights? If not, see the membership insert for information on how to join.

### ACHR planning sponsorship of film

The Advocacy Council for Human Rights is in negotiations with film distributors to sponsor a special showing of Brokeback Mountain, a gay love story starring Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger.

Scheduled for wide release on Dec. 9, Brokeback Mountain tells the story of two young men - a ranch-hand and a rodeo cowboy - who meet in the summer of 1963, and unexpectedly forge a lifelong connection, one whose complications, joys and tragedies provide a testament to the endurance and power of love.

Look for updates on this special event in the November newsletter.

### AIDSTOCK Oct. 28

The McLean County AIDS Task Force will sponsor AIDSTOCK from 6 to 11 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28 at the Elks Lodge, 110 N. Madison St. in Bloomington.

Up to 10 local bands will be performing in this fundraiser to benefit the McLean County AIDS Task Force.

Cover charge for the event is \$5. For more information, contact the task force at 309-827-2437.

## ACHR values our sponsors ...

### Kelly M. Stacey

Attorney at Law

**Telephone:**  
309-750-1550

**E-mail:**  
kstacey\_2@hotmail.com

**Address:**  
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61761

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**Web:**  
www.aches-away.com

**E-mail:**  
info@aches-away.com

### Calendar of Events

**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

### Need publicity?

**The Rainbow Connection** will publicize your GLBT or GLBT-friendly event. Please include the event date, time and title, along with a contact name and phone number. Submissions should be made before the last week of the month prior to publication (ex. before the last week of August for the September issue), and can be e-mailed to info@achr-il.com, or sent via US Mail to P.O. Box 5048, Bloomington, IL 61702-5048.

**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

**The Advocacy Council** would like to thank Jan Lancaster and the staff of **The Bistro** for their ongoing support.

# Become a dues paying member of ACHR

The Advocacy Council has existed as a volunteer organization since November 1995, and in that time we have represented our community by working toward passage of gay rights legislation on the local, state and national levels. We have also offered activities and events in an effort to expand our community's cohesiveness, and educated the Bloomington/Normal straight population in an effort to dispel myths about the glbt community.

## ACHR Accomplishments

- Lobbying for the state bill that would add sexual orientation to state human rights act
- Meetings with Rep. Dan Brady, Sen. Dan Rutherford, and Sen. Bill Brady
- Monthly printing of "Rainbow Connection" newsletter – distributed to 300+ households
- Participation in "Not in Our Town" anti-racism festivals
- Participation in Baby Fold Festival of Trees
- Sponsor of July "Family Reunion" Picnic
- Sponsor of community forum on gay marriage
- Sponsor of fundraisers for gay-supportive candidates at the local, state and national levels
- Participation in Bloomington Labor Day Parade
- Participation in WGLT Pledge Drives
- And many more!

## Sponsorship Levels

Just as some people cannot afford to give \$10, there are others who may want to contribute more than the base amount. For those people we have created a sponsorship level program. Here's how it is set up:

Member .....	\$10
Donor .....	\$25
Sponsor .....	\$50
Patron .....	\$100
Sustaining Member .....	\$500
Lifetime Member .....	\$1,000

Because our organization is involved in political lobbying activities membership dues and contributions to ACHR cannot be claimed as tax deductible.

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## Advocacy Council for Human Rights Membership/Sponsorship Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- Member - \$10     Donor - \$25     Sponsor - \$50     Patron - \$100  
 Sustaining Member - \$500     Lifetime Member - \$1,000

Questions? E-mail us at [achr@mailcity.com](mailto:achr@mailcity.com)

Cut on dotted line and mail form along with payment to:

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