

AMARILLO LESBIAN GAY ALLIANCE

Update Update UPDATE

Volume 2, Number 3

ALGA Information Line: 373-5725

June 1995

Events Calendar

Queer Dinner Club
Thursday, June 1
Washington Square
7:30 p.m.
Everyone Invited

Gay Day at Disney
Saturday, June 3
Walt Disney World

Queer Dinner Club
Thursday, June 15
Italian Delights
7:30 p.m.
Everyone Invited

Pride Picnic
Sunday, June 24
Thompson Park
Picnic Areas 70 & 71

**Gay Day At
Texas Water Rampage**
Lubbock, TX
Sunday, July 23
Tickets in Advance \$12

Texas Legislature Almost Passes New Hate Crimes Bill

by John Hintz

The Texas Hate Crimes Bill suffered a narrow loss in the Texas House. Although the bill cleared a major hurdle when it passed the Texas Senate in April, it failed in the Texas House by two votes. Rep. John Smithee, R-Amarillo, voted against the bill. The bill was actively opposed by the Christian Coalition, the Eagle Forum, the American Family Association and other right-wing groups.

Over six thousand people marched on the state Capital on April 2 in support of the Act. At least 30 people from the Amarillo area attended the rally to "Stop the Hate, Stop the Violence." The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas worked hard to pass this bill. Although the bill failed, it went farther than any other gay or lesbian bill in Texas history, according to Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

The radical right fought hard to prevent the hate crimes act from passing and pressured representatives to vote against it. Groups like the Texas Family Association distributed flyers proclaiming: "THE GAY AGENDA: IT'S ABOUT TO BECOME TEXAS STATE LAW". The conservative groups view any codification of "sexual orientation" as a dangerous precedent.

This was the first year that the legislation has been introduced. The religious right did not expect the Hate Crimes act to ever reach the House floor, however, they did everything possible to stop it once it did. When it did reach the floor on Monday, May 19, Rep. Warren Chisum, D-Pampa, succeeded in tabling the bill with a vote of 70 to 68. Rep. Chisum is one of the biggest detractors of any legislation involving sexual orientation.

When the sodomy law was voted on last session, many legislators told Hardy-Garcia that they did not have any gays or lesbians in their district. Many of those same members now report that they received letters from people in their district supporting the Hate Crimes Act.

Hardy-Garcia credits the bills near passage to pressure from constituents. Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) worked very hard to convey the need for such legislation to both the House and the Senate. The bill will be introduced again in the next session, according to Hardy-Garcia.

What's Inside

Current Events	2	Bombing....	4
Gay Pride Picnic & MCC Carnival	2,3	Community Listings	5
"Gay Day" at Tx Water Rampage	2	"My So Called Life"	6
"Braveheart" Protest	3	Self Improvement Workshop	6
Washington Square Entertainment	3	AL/GA Membership	6



Flyer Distributed by the Texas Family Association

CURRENT EVENTS

'Homo' = Environmentalist

Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham appologized for using the epithet "homo" on the House floor during a debate on the Clean Water Act. During the debate, Cunningham stated that supporters of the Clean Water Act are the "same ones that would put homos in the military..." He did not, however, appologize or explain the connection between clean water and gay rights.

Contract for the American Family

The Christian Coalition has announced their "Contract for the American Family. It is a copy of the Replican's somewhat successful, "Contract with America." This contract, however, offers itself as a "blueprint" for repairing the "social fabric" of our counrty. The "repair" calls for prayer in the schools, a stop to abortion, dismantling the U.S. Dept. of Education, vouchers for private school attendance, protecting "parental rights," "support of private charities," "censorhip on the Internet and Cable television and defunding of cutlural agencies, such as the National Endowment for the Arts and the Coproration for Public Broadcasting.

Although gays and lesbians are not specifically mentioned in the contract, the Christian Coalition's history of activism against gay and lesbian people would suggest that it will become a part of their "pro-family" agenda. A free copy of the "Contract for the American Family" can be obtained by calling the Christian Coalition at 800-325-4746.

Rhode Island to enact anti-discrimination bill

Rhode Island became the ninth state to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation. The law makes it illegal to discriminate in housing, employment, credit and public accomodations. The other states with anti-discrimination laws are California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Vermont and Wisconsin.

Melinda Paras, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, siad that the vote "sends a signal that Rhode Island prefers to value and respect all its citizens rather than pit one group against another."

Florida County Repeals anti-discrimination bill

Hillsborough County, Florida repealed its law that protected people from discrimination based on sexual orientation which had been in effect for four years. The City of Tampa, which is located inside the Florida county, already protects people from such discrimination.

Presbyterians Table Homosexuality

The Presbyterian Church decided to adjourn all debate and decisions on homosexuality until its next General Assembly. Until then, the congragations are asked to "discuss the matter and to start a prayer movement to seek God's guidance." Boobs in the way

"Lesbians in the sport hurt women's golf," said CBS Sports commentator, Ben Wright, according to the News Journal of Wilmington, DE. He also is reported to have said that, "women [in golf] are handicapped by halving boobs."

"This is just one more example of how homophobia in sports hurts all women athletes, whether lesbian or heterosexual," said Dee Mosbacher, an NGLTF board member and producer of the documentary film "Out For a Change: Addressing Homophobia in Women's Sports." "Writes comments clearly identify the connection between homophobia nad sexism that women athletes face."

The ALGA UPDATE is published monthly by the Amarillo Lesbian/Gay Alliance, P.O. Box 9361, Amarillo, TX 79105-9361. Anyone wishing to contribute, please call 374-2907 and leave the information on the machine, or mail information to the Editor. Deadlines will be the 15th of the month for the next month's issue.

Gay Pride

The 1995 ALGA Gay Pride Picnic and Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) Carnival will be held Saturday, June 24, at Thompson Park. The picnic and carnival will begin at 1 p.m. in spaces 70 & 71.

"We'll have a new site this year including restrooms, electricity and water," reports ALGA President John Hintz. As usual, the Gay Pride Picnic and Carnival will be clearly marked with rainbow flags.

In keeping with ALGA Gay Pride Picnic tradition, free beer and hot dogs will be served thanks to the generous contributions of local businesses. Plans are currently underway to provide live entertainment in addition to the recorded music provided by a disc jockey as in years past. Elizabeth Wills has already agreed to appear.

For the second year in a row, MCC is providing a "penny" carnival to add to the day's entertainment. Dart throws, pie throws, a possible dunking booth, and more will provide activities and prizes for those attending.

This years Picnic will have the usual fun and games, including volleyball and sack races. The picnic usually lasts until about 7 p.m.

Gay Day at Water Park

The Amarillo Lesbian/Gay Alliance will sponsor its second "Gay Day" at the Texas Water Rampage in Lubbock, Texas on Sunday, July 23. The last event there was attended by 17 people who all had a good time. The water park made all the AL/GA attendees feel very welcome.

We're hoping to have an even larger group attend this year. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$12. A portion of the ticket sales will benefit the Amarillo Lesbian/Gay Alliance. Tickets may also be purchased at the gate for \$12.75, although they will not benefit the Alliance. To purchase/order tickets, please call John Hintz at 374-2907 or Obrian Kightlinger at 358-8600.

PRIDE PICNIC

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

1 P.M.

THOMPSON PARK

AREAS 70 & 71

FUN, FOOD &

ENTERTAINMENT!

*Note that this is a different area than previous years

'Braveheart' Brings GLAAD Protest

The new Mel Gibson film, "Braveheart," is being protested by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. GLAAD believes that Mel Gibson, who produced and directed the film in addition to playing the lead role, has continued his tradition of anti-gay hate in the film.

According to GLAAD, the portrayal of Edward II, who was believed by many historians to be gay, is an "excessively foolish and vain homosexual, deserving of the audiences's ridicule." In fact, the crowd laughs and cheers as his lover is tossed out a window to his death.

Mel Gibson has a history of anti-gay rhetoric. Gibson has

"regularly made a point of ridiculing the gay community, publicly suggesting that gay men and gay sex are disgusting and unnatural. Gibson has also stated that he feared being perceived as gay because he is an actor. 'I became an actor despite that,' he told one interviewer, 'but with this look, who's going to think I'm gay? It would be hard to take me for someone like THAT.'"

Washington Square cafe & bookstore

1607 S. Washington, 373-5885

Entertainment Schedule

Thursday, June 1

QDC at 7:30

Saturday, June 3

Acoustic Guitar with Larry Lemmons

Thursday, June 8

Open Mike 7-10pm

Friday, June 9

Oracle synthesized Jazz keyboard

Saturday, June 10

Gary Guinn & Haskell Morrison

Tuesday, June 13

PFLAG, 7pm

Friday, June 16

Karl Thurmond

Thursday, June 22

Open Mike, 7-10 pm

Thursday, June 29

"How to incorporate your divine self into daily life"
self improvement exercise

Friday, June 23

Stew Moss & Pac Man,
Blues and Jazz

Friday, June 30

Woods & Henry
Classical Guitar and Native American
Flute, 7:30

**Don't forget to give us
your new address!**

Overheard

by Rex Wockner

"ACT UP's three greatest accomplishments were that we made AIDS a political issue; we changed the image of gay men from limp-wristed faires to gough warriors; and we go tthe drug approval process changed from ten years to, in some cases, less than one year."

ACT UP Founder Larry Kramer to New York magazine

"The gay community has tended to fuse cultural self-expression with political tactics. For us, our right to offend people is a political statement. Unfortunately it's had a negative effect. Too much of our energy has gone into cultural self-expression, and not enough into conventional politics."

Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-MAss., to Mother Jones

"I just want to say, if Deb Price appears at your bookstore on June 24th, I'll Personally come ina nd shoot her. I think fags are wrong. ...I'll shoot her, got that?"

Message left on the answering machine at Sisterspirit Bookstore in San Jose, CA., where syndicated columnist Deb Price will sign books.

Bombing ...

by Jean Owen

Today, I stood at the corner of 5th and Robinson in Oklahoma City. It was an event that changed my life.

News reports said that a third of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was destroyed in the April 19 bombing. That's not exactly correct. A third of the outside frame is gone, but the building is destroyed. All that is left is a husk, like the abandoned shell of a locust hanging on the side of a tree. The building is truly a husk. The most important element of all is gone ... life.

Nor is the destruction limited to the Federal Building. It may have been the most notable structure affected by the blast, but smaller, commercial buildings across the street are half-collapsed, and buildings in a five block area now display plywood where there were once windows.

The carnage was gone ... thank God ... removed by emergency workers whose dedication I can only imagine. I heard stories ... stories I will carry with me for many years to come.

It was not the destruction—as awesome as that was—that moved me. It was the people.

Teddy bears and flowers hung from the perimeter fences that kept onlookers away from the unstable walls. An informal shrine was filled with mementoes, flowers and gifts, mainly to the children ... those precious lost children. Empathy and love hung over the entire area like a living force. There was an immediate kinship between all those who looked. We were moved by the sight and cared, almost as if we felt with a single heart, for those who were lost.

A woman, a stranger, grabbed my arm and maintained contact with me as she spoke. "I grew up here," she said. "I've walked these streets since

I was a kid, and someone did this to my ... home."

Another man told me of his mother-in-law, killed in the explosion.

"If you were down, she was always there for you." A misty look appeared in his eyes. "How many other people like that were taken?" he asked.

I was moved, deeply moved. Like so many others, I feel that there has to be something I can do ... something to help make these deaths meaningful. As I looked at the destruction, I felt a message come up from my heart, and I knew it must be said. Not likely to be heard, but I must write the words.

It is time for our world, our nation, our community, each one of us to stop the unchecked destruction caused by the traditional heterosexual male mentality (found with increasing frequency in women and gays). I'll not write names, since a court is yet to determine guilt, but whoever caused this unimaginable destruction most likely did so not because they were evil but because they believed they were right. Loss of life makes this act horrific, but, philisophically, its not far removed from the mentality of the greedy corporate giant who polutes without thought if it furthers the company's bottom line or the blood-thirsty lawyer who loses sight of justice in the whirlwind of his (or her) desire to win.

Our society teaches so many of our young people, especially young men, not that they have a right to dominate or destroy those who dare think differently, but that they have an obligation to do so. I'll never watch football again. It's a sport that tells young males they should strive to physically destroy another person because they dare wear a jersey of another color.

Boycotting football may not seem like a particularly logical protest against the Oklahoma City bombing, but it's one that feels right to me. At least I'll have tried to do something.

Community Organizations

Lambdas of West Texas A&M
 Box WT 335, Canyon, TX 79016
 Saul Reyes, Co-Chair, 374-3054
 Becky Cavitt, Co-Chair 655-5769

Pink Triangles Student Group
 Amarillo College
 Whitney Kelly, Faculty Advisor

Religious Organizations

Metropolitan Community Church
 2123 S Polk, Rev. Bob Finch
 Office hours M-F 9 AM 1 PM 372-4557
 Sunday Services 10:30 AM & 6 PM
 Children's Sunday school during service
 Monday 12 Noon, Brown Bag Prayer
 Wednesday 7 PM, Discussion Group

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
 4901 Cornell
 Sundays, 11 am (Summers, 10 am)
 355-9351

Services

Family Support Services
 Domestic violence, rape crisis, counseling services. Fees charged on a sliding scale.
 900 S. Lincoln
 372-3202
 1-800-749-9026 hotline/helpline

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
 1734 14th St. NW
 Washington, D.C., 20009
 (202) 332-6483

National Gay & Lesbian Teen Hotline
 1-800-347-8336
 Open 6 PM to 11 PM Central Time

Northwest Texas Public Services
 HIV Counselor
 Terry Arnold, 371-1106

Panhandle AIDS Support Organization (PASO)
 604 W. 8th, 372-1050
 1-800-388-4879 Hotline/Crisis number

Parents & Friends of Lesbians/Gays (P-FLAG), Amarillo Chapter
 Parents and friends, you have a support group, too! Call Washington Square for times and dates.

The Pavilion Northwest Texas Healthcare System
 Intensive Outpatient Program/
 Addictive Disorders
 354-1835

Shepherd House (call PASO)
 MWF 11:30 - 1:30
 Home cooked meal services for HIV/AIDS individuals

Sisters (Women's Discussion Group)
 MCC 2123 S Polk
 Every Sunday 7 PM

Speak Out! Human Rights Campaign Fund Information
 1-800-777-HRCF

Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas
 P.O. Box 2579
 Austin, TX 78768
 (512) 474-LGRL

People For The American Way
 2000 M Street, NW, Suite 400
 Washington, D.C. 20036

Businesses

Alexander's Lounge
 1219 W 10th Ave
 372-7414

Maggie's Disco
 1515 S Harrison
 371-9312.

The O.P.
 500 W 16th Ave
 379-9613

The Ritz
 322 W 10th Ave
 372-9382

Sassy's
 309 W 6th Ave
 374-3029

The Classifieds
 519 E. 10th St.
 374-2435

Gay Friendly Businesses/Organizations

Amarillo Bowl
 4100 Wolflin
 352-5681

Hastings Books and Video
 2001 S Georgia - Gay/Lesbian book section & magazines
 4301 W 45th - Lambda book section

Kinko's Copies
 3801 Olsen Blvd
 Open 24 hours

Italian Delights, Inc.
 2710 W 10th Ave
Queer Dinner Club (QDC) meets 7:30 PM on the third Thursday of the month. Everyone is welcome!

Valley Lodge Family Motel & The Hole Thing Donut Shop
 PO Box 304 - Main Street
 Red River NM 87558
 Reservations: 1-800-951-2262
 Information: (505) 754 2218

Via Veneto
 1108 N Pierce
 Same owners as Italian Delights, open for lunch only.

Gay Owned Businesses

Washington Square Cafe & Bookstore
 1607 S. Washington
 373-5885
 Teas, coffees, light dining, books, magazines, entertainment and art.
 Closed Sunday.

French & Co. Realtors
 Paul D. French, Owner
 4200 Ridgecrest, Suite A-5
 356-9086

This listing is a service of the Amarillo Lesbian/Gay Alliance. Please send corrections/additions to ALGA Update, P.O. Box 9361, Amarillo, TX 79105-9361.

GLAAD HOPES TO SAVE 'MY SO-CALLED LIFE'

by Rex Wockner

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has joined the push to save the ABC-TV program "My So-Called Life" which features openly gay actor Wilson Cruz as the gay character Rickie Vasquez.

The program is on hiatus while ABC mulls its fate. Letters are urged to Randi Cohen, ABC Productions, 2020 Avenue of the Stars, 5th Floor, Century City, CA 90067; fax 310-557-6147.

GLAAD also supports a grassroots campaign to save the program. It is Operation Life Support, P.O. Box 641200, San Francisco, CA 94164-1200; fax (415) 292-4111, e-mail savemscl@aol.com

Special Workshop

On Thursday, June 29, Shannon Ratliff will be doing another session of her interaction series. This one will be "How to Incorporate your divine self into daily life." Both men and women are welcome to join Shannon for dinner and fun.

Writers Needed

The ALGA Update needs contributors. If you have a story or column, please submit it to The ALGA Update, P.O. Box 9361, Amarillo, TX, 79105 or call John Hintz at 374-2907.

MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES

One half page	\$94.50
One quarter page	\$47.25
Business card	\$28.00

Business Directory Listing

Three lines	\$7.00
Each additional line	\$1.00

Discount Rates

Prepaid ads to run 3-6 months receive a 10% discount
Prepaid ads to run over 6 months receive a 20% discount.

All advertising charges must be paid in advance. Deadlines for camera-ready ads are 5 PM on the 20th of the month.

The Amarillo Gay/Lesbian Alliance (ALGA) Membership Application

ALGA seeks to provide an organization that will encourage healthy acceptance of our lifestyle both within our community and the population at large. Our annual budget is funded solely by your membership fees. Membership guarantees reduced rates for future ALGA-sponsored events. Those same fees pay for printing and mailing of this newsletter, sponsors the annual ALGA Gay Pride Picnic, camping trips, future workshops and our hotline costs. All mailings are discrete, and our mailing list will never be provided to any other agency.

We are happy to provide the **ALGA UPDATE** to people who cannot afford to purchase a subscription; however, we ask that anyone who can afford to subscribe, do so to keep the exchange of information flowing, our community informed, and allow for more activities in the future.

- \$50 Silver membership (3 year membership, and 36 issues)
- \$35 Household annual membership for 2 adults (with 12 issues)
- \$25 Individual annual membership (with 12 issues)
- \$15 Individual 6-month membership (with 6 issues)
- \$10 Student/PWA/Senior membership (with 12 issues)

▼ **NEW!** ▼

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ ()

Date: _____

Please make all checks payable to ALGA
PO Box 9361, Amarillo, TX 79105-9361