

Amarillo Lesbian Gay Alliance

Update

Volume 2, Number 6

ALGA Information Line: 373-5725

September 1995

Events Calendar

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

P-FLAG Meeting
Tuesday, September 12
7:30 p.m.
Call 358-4810 or 373-5885
for details

Queer Dinner Club
Thursday, September 21
Italian Delights
7:30 p.m.
Everyone Invited

**Amarillo Lesbian Gay Alliance
Presents**
**A fundraiser for the
Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of
Texas**
with special guest,
Dianne Hardy-Garcia,
Executive Director of LGRL
Saturday, October 28
Details to be announced

ALGA Holds Annual Membership Meeting

(by Jean Owen)

"The (ALGA's) basic mission is to serve the community," explained one ALGA board member during the 1995 annual membership meeting held Tuesday, Aug. 15, at Washington Square.

The comment was given as part of a discussion of the purpose and goals of the Amarillo Lesbian and Gay Alliance (ALGA) in response to questions from one of the organization's newest members. Following that discussion, the new member volunteered to assist with efforts to expand advertising in the ALGA Update in an effort to obtain the resources needed to increase circulation of the publication. Expansion of Update readership would improve this publication's ability to serve the community as a communications channel.

During the Aug. 15 meeting, ALGA President John Hintz reported that ALGA currently has 39 paid members, the largest official membership in the organization's five-year history. While a good number of Amarillo's residents participate in ALGA events (e.g., an estimated 250 at the Gay Pride Picnic), official participation in the organization remains conservative.

Election of 1995-96 ALGA officers topped the Aug. 15 meeting's planned agenda. Officers elected for the coming year included:

- President—John Hintz
- Treasurer—O'Brian Kightlinger
- Secretary—Jimmie Wilson
- Members-at-large:
 - Bekki McQuay
 - Bruce Leventhal
 - Kay P.

The annual financial report showed expenditures for the year totalling \$2,218.39, slightly exceeding income at \$2,188. The balance in the ALGA account as of Aug. 15 was \$487.41.

"This year, the officers have not had to kick in extra money," Hintz commented, indicating a strengthening of ALGA's financial stability. In past years, organizational officers regularly paid phone charges to maintain the ALGA information line. That was not necessary during the 1994-95 fiscal year.

Alert! Please call your Representative (Thornberry or Combest) TODAY and ask them to support the Ryan White CARE Act. (see page 3 for details and phone numbers).

What's Inside

News Briefs	2
Shocking Gray Out of Bus.	2
Washington Square	3
Take Action (Alerts)	3
Overheard	4

Bowling Update	4
PFLAG Move	4
Community Organizations	5
ALGA Member Application	6

Gramm Shows Bigotry

Texas Sen. Phil Gramm backed an effort to oust a longtime member of the Des Moines School Board known to be gay. The Iowa Christian Coalition, a chapter of televangelist Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition, is targeting Jonathon C. Wilson for defeat in the upcoming school board elections. Wilson recently acknowledged that he is gay, amidst an effort by right-wing activists to defend anti-gay discrimination in a proposed change to the school district's curriculum.

Referring to the curriculum controversy in a letter seeking support from members of the anti-gay group, The Report, Gramm condemned the "radical homosexual community" for mounting an "attack on our children" and accused lesbian and gay people of threatening "the very essence of our nuclear families." The Report is a militant anti-gay organization which has circulated explicit, one-sided videotapes in effort to smear lesbian and gay Americans.

"It's sad to see Senator Gramm pandering to extremists," said HRCF Political Director Daniel Zingale. "It appears Gramm believes the only way to get attention for his floundering presidential campaign is to divide the country. Voters of all stripes reject discrimination, and will see through his thinly veiled attempt to prey on public fear for political gain. Lesbian and gay people are very much a part of American families, and should not be targeted for discrimination. The school board race should be decided on the merits of the

News Briefs

candidates, not the myths conjured up about irrelevant issues."

National Coming Out Day Founder Mourned

Rob Eichberg, founder of a workshop called The Experience and cofounder of National Coming Out Day died August 10 in his New Mexico home. Eichberg succumbed to complications from AIDS.

"Rob Eichberg spent his life helping others understand the significance gay and lesbian visibility has on turning ignorance into acceptance," said HRCF Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "Through his work with National Coming Out Day and The Experience, Rob has allowed thousands to take the next important step in their coming out process," said Birch. "Rob always understood that if gays and lesbians were open and honest, more people would be supportive of equal rights for gay people. His vision served as an inspiration to others that coming out makes a difference."

SHOCKING GRAY OUT OF BUSINESS

By E.L. Wiggins and Tige Watts, copyright in Unison

Shocking Gray's consulting buyer and an office assistant have told in Unison newsmagazine (based out of

Columbia, S.C.) the mail-order catalog company has closed and intends to file for bankruptcy.

Ed Rhuebart, a Manhattan-based buyer for the largest gay and lesbian catalog company, said Shocking Gray has stopped processing orders, released employees and padlocked their offices shut.

Rhuebart said he did not know if Shocking Gray's shutdown is permanent or if they will open after realigning the company and its procedures.

"Shocking Gray, the catalog, was doing fine. Shocking Gray, the company, was not," Rhuebart said. A former office assistant of the company said Shocking Gray was not being run like a business should. "It was a real big mess. We had vendors stop supplying us unless we paid in cash. Creditors were hounding us, and we just dug a hole too deep to get out of," said the former employee, who requested anonymity.

Rhuebart confirmed the bankruptcy is the result of bad business decisions by Shocking Gray. In fact, Rhuebart said he did not know about the closing until Aug. 17 when he was re-negotiating his contract with Shocking Gray. Rhuebart was waiting for his contract to be faxed from the company, when he

Continued on last page

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.

Congress May Attack Gay & Lesbian Parents

Washington - Radical right political groups are attacking a longstanding policy of not discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation in adoption and foster parenting decisions in Washington, D.C. Groups like Concerned Women for America are preying upon the most repugnant myths about gay people and children to try to scare Congress into mandating that local governments place personal prejudice ahead of the best interest of the child. The first action on this will probably occur in the C.C Appropriations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Decisions on foster and adoptive parenting have traditionally been left for states and cities. There is no reason for Congress to change that now. Any action Congress takes to discriminate against lesbian and gay foster and adoptive parents in the District of Columbia will affect all lesbian and gay Americans opposed to discrimination in parenting. Urge your Senators and Representatives to oppose discrimination against lesbians and gay men in adoptive and foster parenting.

Ryan White Care Act Faces Next Hurdle

Washington -- The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS

Resources Emergency (CARE) Act, the federal government's leading effort to provide vital medical care to more than 350,000 men, women and children with AIDS, will end on September 30 unless Congress renews it. Thanks to the many phone calls in support of the Act, the U.S. Senate thwarted Sen. Jesse

Helms' efforts to gut the bill, and passed it in July by an overwhelming 97 to 3 vote.

This battle is far from over, however, as it moves to the House of Representatives. Anti-gay extremists may try to gut the bill

with amendments that would exclude local medical providers serving the gay community -- denying gay Americans with HIV equal access to vital medical care. We need to build bipartisan momentum of the Senate vote and pass the Ryan White CARE Act in the House of Representatives - without any negative amendments. Call and write your U.S. Representatives TODAY

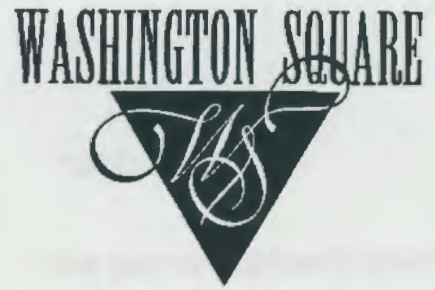
Important Phone Numbers

Senator Phil Gramm (R)
202-224-2934
(FAX) 202-228-2856

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R)
202-224-5922
(FAX) 202-224-0776

Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-13th)
202-225-3706
(FAX) 202-225-3486

Rep. Larry Combest (R-19th)
202-225-4005
(FAX) 202-225-9615

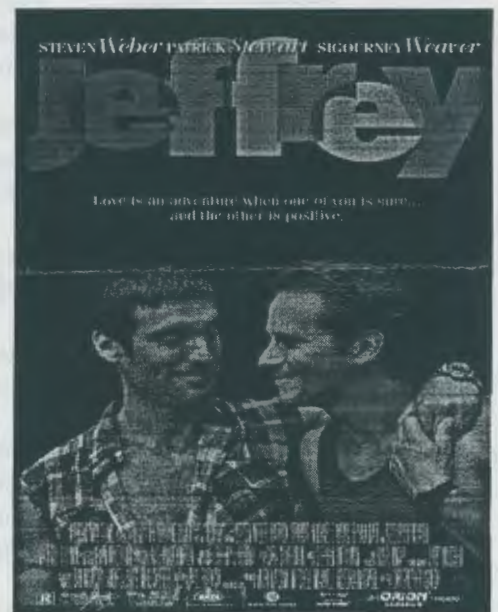


1607 S. Washington, 373-5885

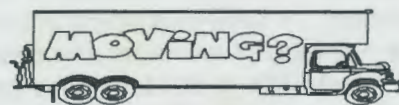
Friday & Saturday,
September 15 & 16
Tennessee Tuckness

Friday, September 22
Diane Curtis
(folk-rock)

Friday & Saturday
September 29 & 30
Stew Moss



Jeffrey is now playing in larger cities, including Tulsa and Albuquerque.



Don't forget to give us your new address!

Overheard

by Rex Wockner

"There's nothing wrong with being gay, so to deny it is to make a judgment. And why make a big deal of it? If someone doesn't want to hire me because they think I'm gay, well, then I have to deal with it, I guess. Or if people were picketing a theater. But otherwise, it's just gossip, isn't it?"

--Actor Keanu Reeves to *Vanity Fair*.

"It's one of the best roles I've ever played. It's a very witty character. ... I think it's quite an important little film."

--Patrick "Captain Picard" Stewart on his new role as a gay interior designer in "Jeffrey."

"Pat Robertson and his legions consider each and every one of us -- from flamboyant drag queen to the most straight-acting Log Cabin Republican -- the children of Satan who, in the name of Jesus Christ himself, must be erased from the face of the earth."

--Marvin Liebman, the conservative leader who turned to gay activism at age 67, in his syndicated gay-

PASO Mixed Bowling League

Nets \$1,000 as Fund Raiser

The 1995 Panhandle AIDS Support Organization (PASO) Mixed Bowling League netted over \$1,000 as a fund raiser for the PASO food pantry, it is learned from league officials. A portion of each bowler's weekly fee for participation in the 12-week league was designated as a contribution to PASO in a cooperative agreement with Amarillo Bowl.

For the second year in a row, the annual league has proven to be a successful fund raiser, as well as an entertaining community event, for the Panhandle's primary AIDS support organization. League members voted to continue the league again in 1996 with officers for the coming year elected following awards ceremonies held late in July.

Final team results from the 1996 league were as follows:

	Won	Lost
Cruise Club	34	14
Ceces	31	17
Gutter Cows	28	20
Strawberries	26	22
Bad Boys	26	22
PASO	23	25
La Mafia	22	26
Bowl Blanche Bowl	21	27
Holy Bowlers	10	38

PFLAG Moves to New Location

The Amarillo Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) recently changed their monthly meeting location from Washington Square Cafe to the Cana House, 1012 W. 13th St., adjacent to St. Mary's Catholic Church. PFLAG's regular meetings continue to be held on the second Tuesday every month at 7 p.m.

PFLAG members and participants decided on the location change in an effort to welcome those parents and family members who may be reluctant to attend a support group in a public cafe, it is learned from Travis McBride, Amarillo PFLAG's president. The Cana House offers a more private environment.

Representatives from the organization expressed strong appreciation for the months in which Washington Square opened its door to the fledgling organization.

"Without the time and caring Bekki McQuay (Washington Square's owner) put into PFLAG, I'm not sure there would even be an Amarillo chapter," one member said.

The organization continues to grow and develop since their first informal meeting last December. Nine individuals have officially joined the organization and each meeting draws from ten to 20 participants, including family members and friends of gays as well as gay men and lesbians there to support the organization.

Ongoing PFLAG projects include negotiations with the Amarillo Independent School District to provide educational materials to counselors throughout the school system. PFLAG also plans to provide reference materials and contact telephone numbers to ministers and counselors throughout the city.

While efforts to education the general public will continue, the primary purpose of Amarillo PFLAG is to provide an ongoing support group for parents, family members and friends who must go through their own "coming out" process in loving and understand their gay relative or friend.

Student 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
Contact Rob Mills, 371-5300

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

St Andrews Episcopal Church
1601 S. Georgia, Father Bill Nix
376-6316

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

**Painhandle 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

**Parents, Family & Friends of
Lesbians & Gays (P-FLAG)**
Travis McBride 358-4810 or
Wash. Square 373-5885

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.

Continued From Page 2
discovered the company was closed.

After a lengthy wait, Rhuebart called the company only to find Shocking Gray's phone lines were disconnected. "I was real surprised at the way they handled this, considering they were my brothers and sisters. I could understand it if it was AT&T," he said.

With the closing, Phoenix Rising co-owner Rex Mitchell said he'll reach more consumers through catalog sales. Phoenix Rising, headquartered in Virginia, will distribute about 900,000

catalogs for the holiday shopping season right around the corner.

"We're poised and ready to go in there and fill the void Shocking Gray has left," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said he doesn't think gay and lesbian consumers will have too much difficulties ordering merchandise, but consumers may have to look harder for products.

"With Lambda Rising going on America Online, and us setting up our own World Wide Web page, I think gay and lesbian consumers won't have any problems ordering this year," he

said.

Mitchell said he has already been bombarded by former Shocking Gray vendors wanting to get in his chain's catalog.

I'm really sorry this happened to Shocking Gray, but at least there are alternatives available (for gay and lesbian consumers)," Mitchell said.

Did you write or call your congressman about the Ryan White CARE Act? People's lives depend on it. Call today.

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)
- \$10 Student/PWA/Low Income membership (with 12 issues)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ ()

Date: _____

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