

# Amarillo Lesbian Gay Alliance

# Update

Volume 2, Number 12

ALGA Information Line: 373-5725

March 1996

## Events Calendar

Queer Dinner Club

Thursday, March 7

Los Insurgentes (Celia's)

3521 W. 15th

7:30 p.m.

Everyone Invited

## The Birdcage

Friday, March 8

We'll meet for the last  
showing of the evening for a  
gay night at the movies

Queer Dinner Club

Thursday, March 21

Italian Delights

7:30 p.m.

Everyone Invited

Texas Human Rights

Foundation Meeting

Saturday, April 27

Texas Lesbian Conference  
May 3-5 at the Dallas Grand  
Hotel

For more information

call (214) 520-8108

or e-mail to

CLWinkle@aol.com

Gay Day At Disney

Walt Disney World, Florida

Saturday, June 1

Amarillo Pride Picnic

Thompson Park

Saturday, June 22

## Troy Perry To Visit Amarillo MCC

Rev. Troy Perry, founder of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) will be the featured speaker at special services on Wednesday, March 20, in the Metropolitan Community Church of Amarillo (MCCA). Services will begin at 7 p.m. as Perry includes Amarillo on in his "Vision ... for the Next Generation" nation-wide tour of selected MCCs.

This special tour provides a unique opportunity for the gay and lesbian population of the Texas Panhandle to meet with the man who founded a denomination that helped create an accepted place within Christianity for gays and lesbians. Perry established the first Metropolitan Community Church in 1968 when a group began meeting in a Los Angeles suburban home. Since that time, the Unified Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC) has grown from 12 people meeting in a living room to over 40,000 members world-wide. That 40,000 includes the nearly 100 members of MCCA.

Perry's current good will tour to individual MCCs centers around a capital campaign to raise the \$1 million needed to pay closing and move-in costs for the new global headquarters for UFMCC in West Hollywood, Calif. The facility also houses the original MCC Los Angeles, mother church for all MCCs.

As of February 20, MCCA leadership planned to hold services for Perry's visit in MCCA. If initial response to announcement of Perry's visit indicates that the church will be unable to seat the anticipated crowd, another facility may be rented for the event. Anyone interested can watch for announcements in the church bulletin, ask a MCC member or check the front door of the church on March 20, for a posting of a new location for the service.

### Maggies Quietly Closes

Maggies Disco, one of Amarillo's oldest gay and lesbian bars, closed recently. Maggies business has always had highs and lows. At times, Maggies was without question the most popular gay and lesbian bar in Amarillo on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. At other times, they had so few customers it was amazing they could stay open.

Periodically, competing bars would open and lure Maggies customers away. However, for one reason or another, Maggies always managed to get the crowd back. Sometimes, Maggies would close for a period while they remodeled or threw on a fresh coat of paint. Many people thought Maggies had more lives than a cat. However, the "sold" sign on the building would seem to indicate that this was Maggies last life.

### What's Inside

Current Events	2	NGLTF Commentary	3
Overheard	4	Organizations	5
Take Action	3	ALGA Membership Form	6

## Fort Worth Star-Telegram

NEW YORK, NY -- January 31, 1996 -- The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) questions the transfer of Todd Camp, the openly gay graphics editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram's children's section. Camp was removed from his original post after Debbie Price, the paper's Executive Editor, received a letter from a writer for the Fort Worth chapter of the American Family Association (AFA).

"This is a shocking example of discrimination," said William Waybourn, GLAAD's Managing Director, "Camp's work for a gay community newspaper (the Texas Triangle) has no bearing on his competency as an editor at the Star-Telegram. The American Family Association should not be positioning itself as a job counselor."

## REPEAL OF DISCRIMINATORY HIV PROVISION URGED

Washington -- The Human Rights Campaign hailed a bipartisan bill to repeal a discriminatory measure that would kick out all armed service members who have tested positive for the AIDS virus, even if they are healthy and performing their jobs competently. Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX) voted for the discriminatory measure.

"That was one of the meanest, most vindictive measures to come out of the 104th Congress, and we will do everything in our power to ensure repeal of that discriminatory measure," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's senior health policy advocate.

The bill to overturn the HIV measure was introduced in the House late Thursday by Reps. Peter Torkildsen, R-Mass., Jane Harman, D-Calif., Connie Morella, R-Md., and Ron Dellums, D-Calif. It is expected to be introduced next week in the Senate by Sens. William Cohen, R-Maine and Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

The repeal bill is expected to have broad bipartisan support in both houses, Stachelberg said, noting that Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn, ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, has called the HIV expulsion measure "punitive."

The bill would repeal a provision of the \$265

## News Briefs

billion Defense Department's 1996 authorization. That provision, written by Rep. Bob Dornan, R-Calif., would discharge within six months the 1,049 HIV-positive U.S. service members and immediately cut off all health care benefits to their dependents. Half these service members are married and, on average, they have served in the military for a decade, according to the Pentagon. Nearly 20 percent of them are officers.

"The Human Rights Campaign worked closely with congressional offices and the White House to craft this repeal measure," Stachelberg said. "We are pleased that President Clinton is putting the full force of the White House behind undoing this atrocious provision."

Clinton has voiced strong opposition to the measure since the authorization bill passed Congress late last month. "The president doesn't believe it should be in the defense authorization bill and will look for a way to try to take it out prior to the effective date in June," White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Monday. Clinton is expected to sign the authorization bill next week.

Dornan and other GOP extremists added the HIV provision to the House version of the defense authorization, but it was not in the Senate bill. When the two versions went to a House-Senate conference committee for reconciliation, House Republicans made sure this discriminatory measure became part of the final bill, Stachelberg said.

"This measure would remove trained, experienced, physically healthy and productive men and women from the armed forces," Stachelberg said. "It singles out men and women with HIV and treats them differently from service members with other diseases."

Currently, service members with the virus that causes AIDS may serve their country as long as they can perform their duties, but they are not deployed overseas. The same policy is applied to service members who have other chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease or cancer.

The repeal bill is expected to have broad

bipartisan support in both houses, Stachelberg said, noting that Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn, ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, has called the HIV expulsion measure "punitive."

## Kodak Offers Benefits

Eastman Kodak has announced that, beginning January 1, 1997, it will extend full domestic partnership benefits to its employees worldwide. Employees will be required to sign an affidavit attesting to what as become a standard list of qualifying factors, including intent to maintain the relationship, shared responsibilities, and proof-of-residence. In a memo to managers, Kodak said that it was the right thing to do, and that it brings the company into line with its long-standing EEO and diversity policies.

## GLAAD MEDIA AWARDS

Los Angeles, CA-- Ellen Degeneres, Paul Reiser, David Schwimmer and Cybill Shepherd will be among the presenters at the 7th Annual GLAAD Media Awards to be held on Sunday, March 10 in Century City.

Others on hand to give out awards to recipients such as Boy George, Margarethe Cammermeyer and Sid Sheinberg include: Dan Butler ("Frasier"), Tony Curtis, Arsenio Hall, Jessica Hecht ("Friends" & "The Single Guy"), David Hyde Pierce ("Frasier"), Garry Marshall, Jane Sibbett ("Friends"), Lily Tomlin and Ming-Na Wen ("the Single Guy"), among others.

## CARTER COMMENTS ON GAY HATE

February 23, 1996, Washington, DC...The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has commended former U.S. President Jimmy Carter for a bold commentary in the Los Angeles Times, saying that Carter "models the principled moral leadership that we should expect from those holding or seeking elected office."

*Continued on page 4*

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.

## SNL Endorses Hate Violence

On Saturday Night Live, February 24, 1996, Norm MacDonald, as the last item on "Week-end Update" reported on the sentencing of John Lotter, the killer of Brandon Teena and two other people. With a one paragraph clip about the sentencing from USA Today behind him. MacDonald's joke went:

"In Nebraska this week, a man was sentenced to death for attempting to kill a female crossdresser who accused him of raping her. Sorry if this sounds harsh, but in my opinion, everybody in this case deserved to die."

If you want to comment to NBC on your feelings about this joke, the addresses are:

Warren Littlefield, President, NBC  
3000 West Alameda Avenue,  
Burbank, California 91523  
Email: entertainment@nbc.com or  
nbcshows@msn.com

## ABC NEWS OFFENDS

For the second straight day, ABC News World News Tonight has used the term "practicing homosexual". Such a term implies choice.

They are doing a 3 part series on homosexuality and the church in their America Agenda segment. The American Agenda reporting itself is fair and accurate and certainly tells our side.

However the anchor, Peter Jennings, has continually used the term "practicing homosexual" when doing the introductory piece. He is clearly referring to a non-celibate gay man or woman. The story has to do with ordaining [sic] "practicing" homosexuals into the clergy.

Please call ABC News in New York at (212) 456-7777. Ask the operator for their viewer response line, which is a voice mail system. This allows you to leave your own message in your own voice.

Tell them that homosexuality, like heterosexuality, isn't something one "practices". If Peter Jennings means non-celibate or sexually active, then say so.

## Elections Are Coming, Elections Are Coming

by John D'Emilio, Director  
*Policy Institute, NGLTF*

Now that Iowa and New Hampshire are behind us, you can bet the media will sharpen its focus until almost nothing but election news is in view. This year's campaigns seem especially important. Not only will gay and lesbian issues surface directly--witness the Marriage Protection Rally in Iowa--but the whole tone and content of the campaigns could decisively shape the political context in which we do our work for years to come.

Elections like this one, in which extremist candidates are running for office, raise interesting questions about whom we support and don't, about how we decide who is for or against

us, and about the calculus of politics that we each carry in our heads. Sometimes the decision is easy: what self-respecting lesbian or gay man would do anything but actively oppose Helms, Dornan, or Buchanan, who have made attacking us their mission? By the same token, how can we be anything but happy when Barbara Boxer, a

Senator from California, runs for re-election?

Most candidates fall somewhere in between these two poles and, in a two-party system where we don't have many choices, we face interesting dilemmas. If Sam Nunn, a middle-of-the-road sort of guy on most issues, had chosen to run for re-election, what would gay Georgians do? After all, he did lead the charge in support of the military's exclusion policy. On the other hand, would an untested Republican opponent, from a region in

which the party is deeply homophobic, have been better?

Or, take another Georgian, Newt Gingrich. I've heard many say that, with a lesbian half-sister, he can't be all bad, and that, since becoming majority leader, he's quieted his antigay rhetoric and kept the House "extremists" in line. Yet, at the same time, he has been the architect of the so-called Republican Revolution which threatens the viability of programs such as Medicaid and which has created a climate hostile to civil rights of any sorts. He also allowed the House to hold the antigay hearings on schools, which Lou Sheldon requested. How can Gingrich's reelection possibly be good for us?

The question of whom to support becomes especially fascinating when we look at the field of Republican presidential hopefuls in the wake of Buchanan's victory in New Hampshire. Shortly after the primary, the Log Cabin Republicans said that, in contrast to the extremist Buchanan, four other candidates had "potential": Dole, Alexander, Forbes, and Lugar.

The response puzzles me. Certainly, if Buchanan is your point of reference, those other candidates look good. But let's sharpen our lens. Forbes, for instance, avoided the "social issues" for a long time. But when Republican Christian extremists in Iowa made his silence an issue, he spoke out against same-sex marriage and gays in the military. Dole and Alexander are making a big deal about Buchanan's extremism after his New Hampshire showing, but both of them were willing to sign on to a hate-inspired anti-gay "Marriage Protection" rally in Des Moines.

But there's a larger issue that's being ignored. "Moderate" Republican presidential aspirants are not running solo. They are the candidates of a party which is able to make a bid to become the majority party precisely because extremists have flocked to the GOP. Without the Christian extremists, without the crusaders for "traditional family values," the Republican party wouldn't have a chance in hell of electing a president or controlling Congress. Whoever runs for President as a Republican will need the intolerant hatemongers in order to win, and therefore be in debt to them. And in most states, the same is true of

*Continued on last page*

### 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

# Overheard

by Rex Wockner

"It's a real shocker, and I'm doing it for all you kids out there."

--Roseanne to *Out* magazine on plans for another "Roseanne" co-star to be unmasked as gay.

"Oh my God, oh my God, oh my God. ... I am not a lesbian. I wish they'd stop saying it. I have a daughter, for God's sake. What do they mean by this? They write this shit and one day I'm gonna have to talk to my daughter. ... Please, I'm so pissed off right now. Excuse me."

--Singer Whitney Houston to *Entertainment Weekly*.

"This child should be given the opportunity and the option to live in a nonlesbian world."

--Pensacola, Fla., Circuit Court Judge Joseph Tarbuck in granting custody of an 11-year-old girl to her father, John Ward, a convicted murderer, rather than her mother, Mary Ward, a lesbian. Ward was imprisoned from 1974 to 1983 for shooting to death his first wife during an argument over child custody.

"TALLAHASSEE -- The father is a convicted murderer but the mother is a lesbian, so a judge decided that the couple's 11-year-old girl should live with dad."

--Lead sentence on the above story in the *Orlando Sentinel*, which obviously "got it."

"Our fave touch: June Lockhart as the perplexed mother of [gay] groom Leon (Martin Mull). After playing mom to Lassie's Timmy and *Lost In Space's* Will, we're glad June finally got someone normal for a son."

--*TV Guide's* "Cheers & Jeers" column on the recent gay-wedding episode of "Roseanne."

"The 'don't ask, don't tell' policy stopped Bill Clinton's more radical policy of no restrictions on gays in the military. Under the current military-supported policy, if a homosexual is found, they are immediately discharged. Mr. Forbes supports that position."

--Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes' campaign manager.

Continued from page 2

In a letter to the former President sent today, Kerry Lobel, NGLTF Deputy Director, thanked Carter for "rejecting the politics of hate and discrimination that have marked the early weeks of the 1996 presidential season."

In his commentary, Carter said "we must make it clear that a platform of 'I hate gay men and women' is not a way to become president of the United States."

## SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOLS BAN CLUBS

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH--February 21, 1996--The Salt Lake City School Board dealt a severe blow to students last night by voting 4-3 to ban all noncurricular clubs from district schools in order to block gay and lesbian students from forming clubs.

In a packed public hearing at Hawthorne Elementary school, more than 100 speakers addressed the board during a two hour period. Most spoke in favor of allowing the clubs, including high school students and school district employee associations. The ban will begin with the next school year and will effect clubs such as young men and women's associations, ethnic clubs, volunteer councils, Kiwanis clubs, human-rights groups, hiking, skiing, rugby, soccer, chess, and environmental clubs.

"The board demonstrated a real lack of courage in bowing to pressure from extremists," said Charlene Orchard, co-chair of the Utah Human Rights Coalition (UHRC). "For many young people, the organizational and leadership skills developed in clubs spills over into their academic work. In addition, we all know from our personal experiences that when we get excited about something like chess or human rights, the motivation to learn and do well in other areas such as school increases. The school board's actions are so dismissive and disrespectful of students that we need to organize to get the school board to reverse its decision"

"We're extremely concerned for the safety of the students who have spoken out in favor of the Gay/Straight Alliances," said Hank Hannah, the other co-chair of UHRC. "Who is going to protect these kids from the backlash that we all know is going to occur?"

## ELLEN OUTED

by Rex Wockner

New York magazine outed actress Ellen DeGeneres in its Jan. 29 issue.

DeGeneres stars in the ABC-TV sitcom "Ellen."

The two-sentence outing appeared in the magazine's "Intelligencer" column. It read, in full:

"In a curious, coy moment of editorial discretion, the [New York] Daily News omitted one minor detail from a recent item on 'Ellen' star Ellen DeGeneres, who was spotted 'soul-kissing and pawing' a 'short-haired fan' on a Wednesday night at Nowbar, Mason Reese's Seventh Avenue club. What the item oddly neglected to mention: that every Wednesday the club is home to a lesbian party, 'Wow Bar at Nowbar,' and that the 'fan' in question was a woman."

DeGeneres' publicist, Jennifer Allen of the PMK Inc. agency in Hollywood, did not return a reporter's calls over a two-day period.

DeGeneres' agent referred a reporter back to Allen.

The man who invented outing, New York journalist Michelangelo Signorile, called New York magazine's report "an example of fair and honest journalism within a gossip column."

"They tell us all about the lives of heterosexual stars and now they're telling us about the lives of homosexual stars, particularly the ones that have been public about it -- and they're being critical of another publication for covering it up," Signorile said.

"That shows how far outing has come and how successful the outing movement has been."

Signorile launched the outing craze in 1989 via his "Gossip Watch" column in the now-defunct New York City gay magazine

## Student Organizations

**Lambdas of West Texas A&M**  
(inactive)  
Box WT 335, Canyon, TX 79016

**Pink Triangles Student Group**  
(inactive)  
Amarillo College  
Contact Rob Mills, 371-5300

## Religious Organizations

**Metropolitan Community Church**  
2123 S Polk,  
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**  
D.J. Wyatt Community Health Ctr.  
351-7220

**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!

**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

**Texas Human Rights Foundation**  
(Gay/lesbian legal issues)  
1-800-828-6417

## Bars

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

**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

**B & E Coffeehouse**  
coffee, espresso, latte, beer, wine,  
sandwiches  
3806 W. 6th  
351-0084

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

**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

## Gay Owned Businesses

**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.

*Elections, Continued from Page 3*

Republicans running for the Senate, the House, or for state office.

Then there's Clinton. He leads the party in which the strongest support for gay rights is to be found. But he, too, opposes same-sex marriage, and gave us "don't ask, don't tell." On the other hand, he's been good on appointing us to government positions, supports bans on discrimination in employment, and employs a political rhetoric of inclusion and tolerance. All in all, a mixed record.

In the end, deciding who to support this year will involve a lot more than simply assessing the words and deeds of particular candidates, although that can be a starting point. It also requires, especially in races for national office, that we scrutinize who a candidate is willing to run alongside, what political environment he or she is choosing to call home, and whose support they require in order to win.

# *Is Someone you know not receiving the ALGA Update?*

## *Send them a gift membership to ALGA!*

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 information line costs. All mailings are indiscreet, 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