

# Amarillo Lesbian Gay Alliance

# Update

Volume 2, Number 8

ALGA Information Line: 373-5725

November 1995

## Events Calendar

**Queer Dinner Club**  
Thursday, November 2  
Washington Square  
7:30 p.m.  
Everyone Invited

**Chili Cook-Off**  
Saturday, November 11  
7:00 p.m.  
2123 S. Polk (MCC)  
\$5.00 Entry Fee  
\$3.00 to Eat

**P-FLAG**  
(Parents Family & Friends Of  
Lesbians and Gays)  
Meeting  
Tuesday, November 14  
7:30 p.m.  
Call 358-4810 or 373-5885  
for details

**Queer Dinner Club**  
Thursday, November 16  
Italian Delights  
7:30 p.m.  
Everyone Invited

**World AIDS Day**  
Friday, December 1  
Call the ALGA information line for

## LGRL Fundraiser a Success

The First Annual Costumed Gay-La on October 28 was a great success. The party was held at the home of Phillip Hill and Steve Kirkpatrick and benefitted the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL). LGRL Executive Director Dianne Hardy-Garcia was the special guest at the party. ALGA wants to thank all the sponsors who made the party possible and especially Phillip and Steve for graciously hosting the party. The party raised over \$700 for the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby.

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas works towards the elimination of social, legal and economic discrimination based on sexual orientation through lobbying, education, and research directed towards the Texas Legislature and other state government agencies. LGRL has focused national attention on the epidemic of hate crimes in Texas directed at gays and lesbians. LGRL also worked to block funding cuts in the state's AIDS budget and other legislation that would negatively affect gays and lesbians.

On Saturday, Channel 7 covered Dianne's visit and President Clinton's endorsement of the Employment Nondiscrimination Act. On Sunday, Dianne spoke at the Sunday worship service of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, where she encouraged people to pledge to help end hate crimes in Texas. She also spoke to a reporter from the Globe News about LGRL and hate crimes in Texas. The article is expected to appear later this month.

## Disney To Give Gay/Lesbian Spousal Benefits

The Walt Disney Company announced that it will begin offering health benefits to the spouses of gay and lesbian employees on January 1, 1996.

Disney joins other entertainment giants such as Universal, Paramount Pictures, Sony and Warner Bros., which have extended such benefits to their gay and lesbian workers in the past three years.

Unmarried heterosexual partners are excluded from the policy.

Compliment Disney on their decision to treat all their employees equally, write to: **Walt Disney World, Guest Letters Department, PO Box 10040, Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-0040.**

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## Clinton Endorses ENDA

Washington -- A top White House adviser today announced that President Clinton has endorsed a popular bill that would prohibit job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Currently, no federal law protects Americans from being fired, refused work or otherwise discriminated against in the workplace merely for being lesbian or gay.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which was reintroduced in June with unprecedented bipartisan support, is backed by the civil rights community, major employers and voters of all political stripes. Lead co-sponsors in the 104th Congress are Sens. James Jeffords (R-Vt.) and Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.).

The legislation explicitly prohibits job discrimination, quotas and preferential treatment on the basis of sexual orientation. It would not apply to religious organizations, small businesses, or the military, and it would not require employers to provide equal benefits to the same-sex partners of employees.

"I have the authorization of the President of the United States to announce today the Clinton Administration's support of legislation to protect all Americans from discrimination in the workplace," said Senior Adviser to the President George Stephanopoulos in a speech to the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association. "Today President Clinton has written to Senator Kennedy restating this Administration's opposition to job discrimination and endorsing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act."

"People should not be fired from their jobs for a reason that has nothing to do with their abilities," said Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch. "Today in America, it's perfectly legal to fire someone for being gay or lesbian. The President stands with the vast majority of Americans in supporting equal rights in the workplace for lesbian and gay citizens."

Public opinion research conducted for the Human Rights Campaign by Republican and Democratic polling firms shows that majorities of voters, regardless of party affiliation, oppose job discrimination on the basis of sexual

## News Briefs

orientation and support equal rights for gay and lesbian Americans. In a poll of people who voted in the 1994 elections, more than 70 percent said gays "should have equal rights in terms of hiring and firing." The figure included 65 percent of Republicans, 71 percent of Independents and 77 percent of Democrats.

Polling data also shows that, while most Americans favor preventing job discrimination against gay people, most are not aware that such discrimination is still legal. A May 1995 poll by Lake Research, Inc., found that 74 percent of Americans favor preventing job discrimination against gay people, but 80 percent are not aware that gay people are not covered by current civil rights law. Citing the need for public education, Birch says that "as more people learn that hardworking lesbian and gay Americans face widespread job discrimination with no protection under federal law, support keeps growing for equal rights in the workplace."

In Congress, ENDA currently has 29 co-sponsors in the Senate and 128 in the House of Representatives.

"This bill provides equal protection to all workers from unfair treatment on the job," Birch said. "It affects real people like Cheryl Summerville, an award-winning cook at a Cracker Barrel restaurant who lost her job when the company fired all of its gay and lesbian staff. Throughout the nation, the Human Rights Campaign has documented case after case of Americans who have been treated unfairly at work, only to find that they have no basic recourse under the law. ENDA would change that, establishing a level playing field in the workplace."

"Today's endorsement is a historic step forward in our movement for equal rights," Birch said. "President Clinton is doing his part to heal the divisions that plague this country. He will be remembered in history as a

President who stood for the principles of fairness and equality for everyone."

In a survey conducted last year for Newsweek, 91 percent of gay and lesbian people cited "equal rights in the workplace" as the most important issue they face.

## New Mexico Summit brings rural Gay and Lesbian people together

More than ninety Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community leaders from across New Mexico met in Elephant Butte October 13, 14, and 15 for New Mexico's first statewide LesBiGay planning session, sponsored by The Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Rights in New Mexico. The Summit was successful in its goal of bringing leaders together to build a strong infrastructure for support, advocacy and political action on behalf of sexual minorities in New Mexico.

"I think that this conference affirms my thoughts that Albuquerque and Santa Fe aren't the only places in New Mexico with Gay and Lesbian people, and it may translate into legislative victories," said Julio Abreu of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest Gay and Lesbian organization in the United States. Abreu represents Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered people in New Mexico and the Southwest as a lobbyist in Washington, DC.

Participants attended from Cedar Crest, Las Cruces, Espa, F10la, Taos, Socorro, Mountainair, Chamisal, Alamagordo, Lovington, Farmington, Silver City, Portales, Clovis, University Park, Roswell, Truth or Consequences, San Jose, Madrid, as well as Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

Harry Hay, the co-founder of the modern Gay and Lesbian liberation

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.

movement, spoke Saturday night. The octogenarian eloquently spoke of the need to protect children from the abuses of the radical right.

"This outrageous coercion of Gay kids into hated heterosexual identities and behaviors against their wills is not only sexually abusive," said Hay. "It is spiritually devastating rape because the child, unknowingly, is led into developing and practicing self loathing."

Hay and his lover of more than four decades, John Burnside, are former residents of New Mexico. They founded one of the first Gay and Lesbian organizations in New Mexico: Lambda Santa Fe.

"The experience was that of being at home. We share lots of energy and wisdom," said John Knopp of Las Cruces. "Harry [Hay]'s visit was icing on the cake."

Saturday's keynote address was given by Melinda Paras of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Paras spoke of the growth and strength of Gay communities across the country even under adversity.

"The Gay and Lesbian community has about 2000 leaders, not 3 or 4 in Washington," said Paras. "This is the center of gravity in the movement."

Paras had spent the previous week in Colorado Springs, Colorado, the national epicenter of attacks on the rights of Gay and Lesbian people. Paras stood with the Gay and Lesbian community of Colorado Springs on October 10, the day the US Supreme Court heard arguments on Amendment 2.

"The Justices have been affected by the cultural change," said Paras "that's what the Supreme Court said this week, 'It's not that big a deal.'"

Summit participants developed legislative and lobbying plans, including hiring a lobbyist; communication networks; a regional meeting schedule; a voter registration drive; a New Mexico Gay and Lesbian Family Reunion; support of regional groups; and skills training

programs.

The Coalition has four unwavering commitments:

1. Passage of the New Mexico Non-Discrimination Act (known as SB 91);
2. Passage of the Hate Crimes Act, vetoed earlier this year by Governor Johnson;
3. Inclusiveness; and,
4. The fight against anti-gay legislation.

**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

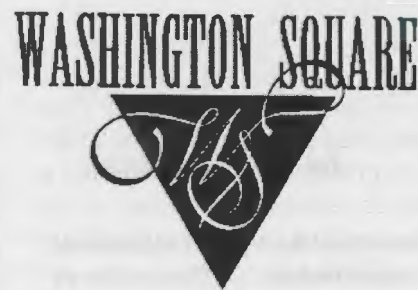
**Rep. Larry Combest (R-19th)**  
202-225-4005  
(FAX) 202-225-9615

**Thornberry, Combest Vote Against Gay Rights Law**

The US House of Representatives voted to remove Domestic Partnership provision from the District of Columbia Appropriations Bill. Both Mac Thornberry and Larry Combest voted to deny the domestic partnership benefits to gays and lesbians.

Rep. Barney Frank fought against the amendment on the house floor on November 1:

"Mr. Chairman, I hope intellectual honesty is still in order. ERISA, schmariisa, this is not about ERISA. This is about people who want to show a dislike and disapproval of gay men and lesbians, and for some odd reason, apparently they find gay men and lesbians more obnoxious if we happen to be in a stable relationship than if we are not. This is the 'Promote Promiscuity Act,' I suppose, but people sometimes get into



1607 S. Washington, 373-5885

**Thursday, November 16**  
**Open Stage**  
**Poetry & Songs**

**Friday, November 24**  
**Amy Buchanan**

unintended consequences. Let us also be clear the nitpicking of the statute, it is a District of Columbia ordinance, is besides the point. If it were tightened, if it in fact said this is for gay men and lesbians who could not otherwise be married, they would be just as angry.

"I did agree with the gentleman from California, who pointed out how many people have died of AIDS, who were well below the normal age at which people die. I welcome his support for greater AIDS funding. Maybe he will explain to the Senator from North Carolina the relevance of that, when more people have died of AIDS than died in World War II.

"But I want to address this notion that somehow this undermines the family. Members have said 'Well, people are here looking for their approval.' Herb and I have been together for 8 years. I want to assure those who have spoken in favor of this, we do not seek your approval. It is of no consequence to us whatsoever. What we seek is to protect ourselves, and, even more, people more vulnerable than us, from the bigotry and interference that would harass them, belittle them, and deny

# Overheard

by Rex Wockner

"I, too, was stunned by that statement by Sen. Jesse Helms. ... The notion of any illness being a punishment from God is not only ignorant but mean-spirited. Let us never descend to that level."

--Advice maven Ann Landers.

"It was like being in a black-and-white movie that suddenly converted to color."

--Andrew Sullivan, the gay editor of the influential journal *The New Republic*.

"What's the big deal? You don't have a problem kissing puppies, do you? You're playing a role, man! I've been in acting classes when I've done that before. It's like doing an accent."

--"To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar" star Wesley Snipes on kissing men, to *USA Today*.

them basic rights. And you say 'Well, you have got to do this. It is not meanness, it is not bigotry. You have got to do it, because it would undermine the family.'

"That is bizarre. Is your faith in the family of such fragility that you think people are going to learn that Herb and I live together, that Dean and Gary live together, and they are going to leave their wives?"

"I have said this before. There was a commercial before about V-8 Juice, and there would be this cartoon character. And he would drink an apple juice, and he would drink a tomato juice, and he would drink a carrot juice. And someone would give him a V-8, and he would say, 'I could have had a V-8.'

"What are we, gay men, the V-8 of American society? Are you so frightened that people will see two men living together in a loving relationship, or two women living together in a loving relationship, and that will undermine the family? Shame on those. You are the ones who undermine the family when you trivialize it like this.

"If you want to compare, if your view of the family is that materialistic, apparently some of them believe on the other side that if you do not bribe people, they will not stay in their families. If you have that materialistic view, I would say do not worry, because there will still be many, many more advantages. The right to visit someone who is very ill, and that right has been denied to gay partners. It is not purely academic, it has been denied to people. The material balance will still be on your side.

"But I have to know what it is, how does this mechanism work? How are we undermining families? And you say, 'Well, we don't want the Federal Government to give this stamp of approval.' That is a very totalitarian concept of the Federal Government. What happened to your libertarianism? Is it not the role of the Federal Government in fact to let people make their own choices. Are you saying that the people you represent, the people for whom you speak, do not think what they do has value, unless

it is stamped 'kosher for Passover' by the Federal Government, the necessary changes being made? I do not understand the logic here. In fact, what has happened is the District of Columbia, and, by the way, I am also struck, I guess maybe the *New York Times* is going to have to recall the issue of a couple weeks ago with the picture of Marion marry and Newt Gingrich on the cover, the two pals. Speaker Gingrich said he is for home rule. What, until bigotry says otherwise?"

"We are not talking about the constitutional right to do things. We have a constitutional right to do a lot of things. The question is whether or not we should do it."

## STUDDS WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION

by Rex Wockner

U.S. Rep. Gerry Studds, D-Mass., the first openly gay member of Congress, announced Oct. 28 that he will not seek re-election in 1996.

Speaking in an historic Edgartown church on Martha's Vineyard, Studds said his decision was based on "a profoundly personal issue, not a political one" and that it was time to move on to "other challenges."

The Reuter news service elaborated, "Democratic observers have said Studds, 58, has appeared unhappy since the 1994 Republican resurgence cost him the chairmanship of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, which was later dissolved."

In a prepared statement, Studds said: "To everything, as the Biblical verse goes, there is a season -- a time to plant and a time to harvest. It is now time for me to chart a new course: by no means to retire, but to find new endeavors, both public and private, that will allow more than an occasional weekend or evening to catch up on things neglected for a quarter century, like reading and writing and actually using my tide chart; to be a better partner, brother, uncle and friend; and to be a useful human being in new ways that the demands of elective office have precluded for most of my adult life.

"Since embarking on this improbable journey," Studds continued,



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**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

**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 Pavillon**  
**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

**Bars**

**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.

"I have been very conscious that each of us is allotted only so many hours and so many days on this earth. ... It's probably divulging no great secret to admit that I do not thrive on what some consider indispensable parts of the job. I am not by nature a particularly gregarious person. I get annoyed by frequent interruptions. I get tired of hearing myself talk. And there are already far too many people in Washington who confuse themselves with the monuments."

Studds spokesman Mark Forest said Studds' health and his relationship with his lover are both in fine shape.

"I honestly think he's looking for a break," Forest said. "The job requires tremendous energy and a total commitment to one's work. Gerry has always enjoyed spending time with his


family, friends and partner, and putting out his lobster traps, fishing, reading."

Studds has been in Congress since 1972 and was re-elected six times after being censured by the House in 1983 for having had sex with a 17-year-old male Congressional page in 1973.

Studds came out of the closet on the floor of the House during the 1983 scandal -- thus becoming the first openly gay U.S. Congressman.

There are two other open gays in Congress -- Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Rep. Steve Gunderson, R-Wisc., who also is not seeking re-election.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!!



**Natural Healing**

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Stress Management

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Reiki Master

by appointment  
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## 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