

## Events Calendar

Queer Dinner Club  
Thursday, May 2  
Los Insurgentes (Celia's)  
3521 W. 15th  
7:30 p.m.  
Everyone Invited

Queer Dinner Club  
Thursday, May 16  
Italian Delights  
10th at Georgia  
7:30 p.m.  
Everyone Invited

Gay Day At Disney  
Walt Disney World, Florida  
Saturday, June 1

Queer Dinner Club  
Thursday, June 7  
Los Insurgentes (Celia's)  
7:30 p.m.

Queer Dinner Club  
Thursday, June 20  
Italian Delights  
7:30 p.m.  
Everyone Invited

**1996 Amarillo  
Pride Picnic  
Thompson Park  
Saturday, June 22  
1 p.m.**

## ALGA Mourns Loss of Treasure

**O'Brian Lane Kightliner  
October 26, 1943 - April 16, 1996**

On Tuesday, April 16, the Amarillo Lesbian/Gay Alliance lost its treasure, O'Brian Kightlinger. O'Brian was an activist in Amarillo's gay and lesbian community (although he would always deny it). He was also a caring, compassionate, non-judgmental person.

O'Brian the activist. I can't tell you how many times he would tell me, "John, I'm just not an activist. I just don't have it in me." Yet, when we protested the Cracker Barrel, he was there with signs. When we protested Rep. Warren Chisum, again, he was there. For the past two years, he had attended the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force "Creating Change" conference - a conference for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered activists. And, more than that, he is the only Treasure that the Amarillo Lesbian/Gay Alliance has ever had. During months when the Alliance could not afford to pay its phone bill, O'Brian would pay it. I never could understand

*Continued on Page 2*

## Founder of UFMCC Visits Amarillo

*by Kay C. Peck*

Local congregants' pledges and gifts exceeding \$15,000 ensured that Metropolitan Community Church of Amarillo (MCCA) will not soon be forgotten by the leadership of the world-wide Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC). Local funds will be used to support purchase of a \$3.8 million complex in West Hollywood, Calif. The property will serve as both UFMCC headquarters and the new home of the historic "mother church," MCC of Los Angeles.

Rev. David Farrell, director of the UFMCC capital campaign, announced that total pledges from the tiny congregation of MCCA (currently under 100 members) exceeded pledges made at the much larger Cathedral of Hope, the MCC in Dallas.

Rev. Elder Troy Perry, founder of UFMCC, spoke at MCCA on March 20, as part of his "Vision ... for the Next Generation" tour of selected MCCs. MCCA's pledges were taken as a part of Perry's special visit.

"I can't tell you what I felt when I saw the sign 'Metropolitan Community Church' proudly standing in Amarillo, Texas," Perry said.

Perry established the first MCC as a part of his dream to create a place

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*"O'Brian" - Continued from Front Page*

what his definition of "activist" was, but he'll always be an activist to me.

O'Brian the compassionate. O'Brian had to be one of the most compassionate people I knew. Actually, I frequently thought he was *too* compassionate. But then, if everyone was too compassionate, imagine the world we would live in. I remember at the first "Creating Change" conference, O'Brian went to a workshop on transgendered issues. When I inquired why he would go to that workshop (I'm not sure he even knew any transgendered people), he told me that it was a topic that made him "very uncomfortable" and that he just didn't understand it. To most people, that would be a reason to stay away from the workshop; for O'Brian, it was the reason he should attend. By attending the workshop, he met transgendered people and attempted to understand their concerns and issues. O'Brian believed in compassion and justice for everyone. That's why he learned to be as concerned about the rights of transgendered people as he was for the rights of gays and lesbians (and any other minority).

O'Brian was never judgemental. O'Brian did not judge, which isn't to say he didn't have opinions. He would frequently tell me, "John, what you need to do is...." To be honest, there were times I was tired of him telling me what to do. Most of the time, I ignored his advice (of course, he ignored my advice, too). But that never mattered to O'Brian. He loved you just the same. His advice was offered with love, never as a commandment. I'm not sure I even fully appreciated his advice until he was gone. I sat at his funeral wishing I could hear him tell me what I needed to do one more time...

O'Brian was a friend. I knew I could tell O'Brian anything. I knew I could depend on him for anything. No matter what happened, he would be there for me. O'Brian's memory will continue to live in many of us.

- *John Hintz,*

resident,  
Amarillo Lesbian/Gay Alliance

*"Perry" Continued from Front Page*

within established religion for gay men and lesbians. Since the first meeting of 12 people in a Los Angeles living room, UFMCC has grown to over 40,000 members world-wide and is recognized as one of the world's fastest growing denominations.

Representatives from throughout Amarillo's gay and lesbian community nearly filled the sanctuary of MCCA during this rare opportunity to hear a living legend. Perry's dynamic speaking style gave those attending the Amarillo service first-hand experience of the energy and dedication that enabled Perry to establish the first "gay" church and to lead the growth and development of UFMCC.

Before directly addressing the capital campaign which motivated his tour, Perry spoke on the need for vision and for the importance of communicating that vision. The inspiration of his own dream for the future of UFMCC was easily apparent in the success of pledges received from those attending the Amarillo service.

"I promise to come back some time when I'm not looking for money or a vote," Rev. Elder Perry pledge to his Amarillo audience.

## "BIRDCAGE" SURPASSES THE \$100 MILLION MARK

LOS ANGELES, CA -- April 24, 1996 -- For the first time in history, a film featuring gay characters has broken the \$100 million mark, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) announced today. According to Variety, the United Artist release "The Birdcage" the domestic box office gross topped \$105 million.

"The success of 'The Birdcage' further dispels the myth that gay-themed films are box office poison," says Tamra King, GLAAD's Entertainment Media Director, "What audiences want to see when they go to the movies are great stories with characters they care about. Given the right mixture, gay-themed films not only do well, but they can produce blockbuster figures."

Within its first six weeks of release, "The

# News Briefs

"Birdcage" has even surpassed the highly successful major studio film "Philadelphia," which grossed approximately \$78 million domestically. "La Cage Aux Folles," the 1979 French film on which "The Birdcage" is based, grossed \$17 million in the U.S.

## Congress Overturns HIV Military Policy

Congressional leaders repealed legislation that would have forced the Defense Department to discharge service members who tested positive for HIV, calling the move a historic step towards fairness for people living with the virus.

"I don't remember the last time a bipartisan Congress moved so unequivocally to repeal a controversial measure," said Matt Coles, Director of the ACLU's AIDS Project, which lobbied heavily against the provision. "It marks a historic shift in the movement to secure fairness and equality for people with HIV. Bashing people with HIV and AIDS is no longer a winning issue. In fact, it can hurt you politically."

The repeal, requested by the Clinton Administration and the Pentagon, is included in a major appropriations bill that was hammered out after two-days of intense negotiations between congressional leaders and the White House. The compromise bill will soon be forwarded to the House and Senate, where it is expected to pass easily.

The provision, which was sponsored by Representative Robert K. Dornan (R-Calif.), required the military to discharge

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any service member who tested positive for the virus within six months, including those who are able-bodied and asymptomatic.

The ACLU's Coles also attributed the measure's defeat to the leadership of the Clinton Administration, which kept pressure on Congress to repeal the ban. "Americans living with HIV can take comfort that the White House is committed to opposing measures that single them out for discrimination."

**Fox Offers Benefits**

Joining MGM/UA, DreamWorks, Disney and hundreds of other entertainment organizations, Fox, Inc. has announced that it will extend spousal health care benefits to employees' same-sex partners. Now all major studios offer same-sex partner benefits. "It's the fair thing to do as far as compensating all employees equally" said Tamra King, GLAAD's Entertainment Media Director. "It sends a very strong message from the entertainment industry that everybody's families are valued on even terms."

**Victims Assistance Hotline**

A new, non-profit, toll-free hotline is now available to assist all victims of anti-gay incidents and provide them with a centralized source of information and documentation. The Gay & Lesbian Victims' Assistance Hotline (800-259-1536) is a 24-hour project of LAMBDA Services Anti-Violence Project (AVP), located in El Paso, TX. The hotline is answered by trained volunteers who provide information and referrals to persons who have experienced terrifying violence or more common anti-gay incidents, such as discrimination, harassment, or vandalism. Callers may remain anonymous and all information is kept strictly confidential.

"We hope that anyone with information to report will call us," said Rob Knight, president of LAMBDA Services. "Anti-gay brutality and discrimination has long been invisible, mainly because it is among the least reported of crimes," said Knight.

**Wipe Out Smears; 'Spill Ink' On Defamation**

*by Mark F. Johnson/GLAAD News Media Director*

As the voices of gays and lesbians have become louder and more forceful over the years, we should not lose sight of the age-old power of the pen. Perhaps that power is now more appropriately accorded the personal computer, but you get my point.

Even in the age of sound bites and sit-ins, writing is still an effective way of sending a message. Whether the letter or statement gets emailed, faxed or sent the old-fash-

ioned way, if the point is made effectively, it will most likely elicit a response.

Just recently, I sent a letter to Peter Jennings, anchor of ABC's World News Tonight, expressing GLAAD's disappointment at his continued use of the term "practicing homosexual" in referring to Father Barry Stopfel, the non-celibate gay priest at the center of the Episcopal Church heresy proceedings. In the letter, I called Jennings' attention to the pejorative implications of the term.

I also reminded him of the powerful voice that the press has and the tendency for many to regard the media as sacrosanct in its role as news provider and opinion-maker. Therefore, I said, it is extremely important that members of the media choose words and present information carefully. To use words that imply that homosexuality is a choice and is something that one practices is a misrepresentation.

Part of GLAAD's mission is to work with the media to help foster a better understanding of issues of sensitivity, inclusion and respect with regard to the gay and lesbian community. However, it is very important when pointing out a faux pas to not add insult to presumed injury. Perhaps the other party really had no idea of the damage that they inflicted and would have chosen to act or speak differently had they known.

At least this is what Peter Jennings said to me when he called me a day or two after receiving the letter.

He told me that he never meant any disrespect to the gay community and had in fact only used the term because he had heard it used elsewhere and did not realize that it was offensive. Jennings mentioned during our brief but substantive conversation that he always tried to make sure he used terminology that was not considered offensive to any group and thanked me for my letter.

I was satisfied with our conversation and I believe that Jennings is a friend to the gay and lesbian community. At the very least, he knows that we will not allow the broadcast of false or inaccurate information, whether intentional or not, to go unchallenged or uncorrected.

There are times in the continuing struggle to attain equality of rights for gays and lesbians that a simple, fact-based, well-formulated and persuasively argued letter can be the most effective weapon, and sometimes the only one necessary. To be an activist does not necessarily mean that you carry a banner, get arrested or call a press conference. Sometimes, a single voice that does not represent a group or coalition has as much or more impact. The fact that someone took the time to write or call to protest a comment or action is impressive. When our community talks, more and more people listen---and actually do something to satisfy our concerns.

The work performed by GLAAD and other national gay and lesbian groups is important in voicing the community's concerns and perspectives. But remember that, as individuals, we can all be our own "little GLAADs" and safeguard the dignity and representation of our community from our very own homes. Take every possible opportunity to challenge defamation.

The chances of being smeared will diminish the more ink you spill.

**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 is nobody's business to tell somebody when to be out or when not to be. Coming out is a slow and difficult process for some people. Until you've walked in the other person's shoes, you just don't know. I know some big stars who, if they came out, would change the world overnight. But I can't criticize them; I'm not living their life."

--Actor/playwright Harvey Fierstein to Boston's Bay Windows.

"Ughhhhh! You know there is a gay man trapped in her body! She has learned how to take gay skills and mass market them to straight women."

--Playwright/actor Harvey Fierstein on TV home/yard goddess Martha Stewart to Chicago's Outlines

"[P]ressures from the more extreme religious activists have pushed almost every [Presidential] candidate to demagoguery, emphasizing vicious attacks on gay men and women ostensibly based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. An even more disquieting claim is that AIDS is God's punishment on someone who has sinned and that the sufferers should be treated accordingly. ... Other Christians and the general public must not condone, even by silence, these obnoxious attitudes, increasingly promoted among a few demagogic religious and political leaders. In addition to the direct punishment of many American citizens, undisputed acceptance of a premise that originates within the religious community tends to authenticate it among those who have their own personal prejudices. 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."

--Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in The Los Angeles Times.

"He is the only [presidential] candidate that can say the words 'gay and lesbian' without spitting."

--Candace Gingrich, lesbian sister of U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, on Bill Clinton, during a recent university appearance.

## LPGA GOLFER COMES OUT

by Rex Wockner

The Ladies Professional Golf Association has its first out lesbian player. Muffin Spencer-Devlin, 42, told Sports Illustrated this week that she plans to marry her lover, musician/composer Lynda Roth, in May.

"Coming out is like an incredibly huge weight being lifted from my shoulders," Spencer-Devlin said. "No more living in the shadows. No more lies."

"Could you imagine me hugging and kissing my woman lover at the conclusion of my last tournament win? Well, [that's what you'll see] at my next one."

Spencer-Devlin said she has no intention of becoming an LPGA lesbian spokeswoman. "I'm not anybody's mouthpiece," she said.

LPGA President Vicki Fergon said "not ... every player will be thrilled about [the coming out] but we're a family and we respect each other."

"I applaud Muffin," she said.

LPGA commissioner Jim Ritts said: "I don't have any concerns about this. I know there are still individuals who have problems with diversity, but we've come so far as a society that I don't see this as a topic that really moves people."

Spencer-Devlin has won three LPGA tournaments in her 18 years on tour.

### Amarillo Pride Picnic Saturday, June 22 Thompson Park

The 6th annual ALGA Amarillo Gay & Lesbian Pride Picnic is Saturday, June 22 at Thompson Park. This year promises to be the even larger than last years, including an all new MCC Carnival and live entertainment. The picnic will begin at 1 p.m.

MCC has built all new booths for this years picnic. One committee member said, "We want this to be bigger and better every year."

## The ALGA UPDATE

The entertainment also promises to be the biggest and loudest ever. The Groobees, a local rock/pop band, will be playing at the picnic. They have just released a new CD and are very excited about playing the Pride Picnic. The Groobees are being presented by French & Company Realtors and Hastings Books, Music & Video.

ALGA is currently looking for people to help with the picnic. ALGA needs volunteers for the day of the picnic. If you are interested in volunteering an hour or two during the picnic, please call John Hintz at home, 374-2907. Please do not call after 11 p.m.

## PARTY OF FIVE ACTOR COMES OUT

by Rex Wockner

LOS ANGELES—Actor Mitchell Anderson, who plays Ross on the TV series Party of Five, announced that he is gay March 10 at the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation's Seventh Annual Media Awards ceremony.

Anderson had been asked by a re-

*Continued on Last Page*

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**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,  
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porter how it feels to be a straight man playing a gay role. When he came to the podium as a presenter, Anderson said he needed to correct the reporter's assumption: He is a gay man playing a gay role, he said.

"The crowd went wild and gave him a sustained standing ovation," said GLAAD Managing Director William Waybourn. "He was the highlight of the evening and was swarmed afterward. ... It was a scene of high drama."

Anderson's publicist has since been inundated with inquiries from the mainstream media, Waybourn said.

**Welcome Inklings**

ALGA welcomes Inklings of Houston as an advertiser. Please see their advertisement on page 4 and mention the ALGA Update when placing an order!

*\*Presented by French & Company Realtors and Hastings Books, Music & video*

# 1996 Pride Picnic

## Saturday, June 22

## Thompson Park

## 1 p.m.

Including

## MCC Carnival

and

## The Groobees\*

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 discreet.

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): \_\_\_\_\_

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State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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