



Amarillo Lesbian Gay Alliance

Update

Volume 2, Number 9

ALGA Information Line: 373-5725

December 1995

Events Calendar

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

P-FLAG
(Parents Family & Friends Of
Lesbians and Gays)
Tuesday, December 12
7:30 p.m.
Call 358-4810 or 373-5885
for details

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

"Question Of Equality"
Part 1
Thursday, Jan 4
Classifieds, 9 - 10 p.m.

"Question Of Equality"
Part 2
Thursday, Jan 11
Classifieds, 9 - 10 p.m.

"Question Of Equality"
Part 3
Thursday, Jan 18
Classifieds, 9 - 10 p.m.

"Question Of Equality"
Part 4
Thursday, Jan 25
Classifieds, 9 - 10 p.m.

World AIDS Day Observed in Amarillo

People of Amarillo commemorated "World AIDS Day" in Amarillo on Friday, December 1. There were three events, including a lunch time gathering, an evening candlelight walk and a healing service. The theme for the day was "Equal Rights, Equal Responsibility." Many Amarillo churches rang their bells at noon in remembrance of those who have died as a result of HIV/AIDS.

The lunch time event included Billie Raye, the State HIV Education Coordinator for this region. Ms. Raye spoke on several points concerning the theme of World AIDS Day, "Equal Rights, Equal Responsibility." She also reminded us that over 157 clients of PASO have died since 1986, 95 of which have died in the last three years. However, this number is deceiving because it only includes people reporting to PASO. Many who die in the Panhandle are not clients of PASO. The number of people in the Panhandle infected with HIV in Amarillo is believed to be much higher. Nationally, it is the number 1 killer of men between the age of 22 and 45. Ms. Raye reminded us all that we must take responsibility for AIDS and work to prevent it our community.

There was a "Lights of Hope Walk" through Western Plaza in the evening that was aimed at raising the public awareness of the effects of HIV in Amarillo. Walkers called out the names of every PASO patient that had died in the Panhandle since 1986, when PASO was formed. "The march impacted everyone who participated and those who were in the plaza at the time," said O'Brian Kightlinger. Many at the walk were in tears as they remembered loved ones who have succumbed to AIDS.

There was also an Interfaith Service of Healing and Hope at the First Christian Church. The Amarillo churches gathered to offer prayers of healing for people with HIV/AIDS. Speakers included Catholic Bishop Matthiasan, Episcopal Bishop Hulseley, Billie Raye and others. They sang, prayed and ended with a personal blessing for those who chose to participate.

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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, "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."

News Briefs

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.

MAINE VOTERS REJECT ANTI-GAY BALLOT MEASURE

Portland, Maine -- Voters in Maine today rejected a discriminatory ballot measure that sought to forever deny basic rights to gay and lesbian Mainers. Question 1, the only anti-gay measure on a state ballot this year, was the first such initiative to appear on a state ballot east of the Rocky Mountains. Last year, voters in Idaho and Oregon rejected anti-gay measures.

"Common sense and decency triumphed over extremism. Today's vote here in Maine is in keeping with the national trend. Americans are rejecting extremism," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the

Human Rights Campaign, the largest national lesbian and gay political organization. "But we must put this campaign in perspective. While this was a wonderful victory, gay and lesbian citizens of Maine have not moved one step closer to having basic equal rights. Gay and lesbian people can still be fired from their jobs, even in Maine, merely for being gay." Birch noted that Maine is one of the 41 states that does not protect its citizens from discrimination based on sexual orientation, and that federal law also offers no such protection.

The Human Rights Campaign sent eight staff members to Maine and provided major technical and financial assistance to Maine Won't Discriminate, the local coalition of religious, business, and community organizations that worked to defeat Question 1. The Human Rights Campaign is also the largest single financial contributor to the legal challenge against Colorado's Amendment 2, which is now before the U.S. Supreme Court.

National extreme right groups actively pushed for a "yes" vote on Question 1. Bob Knight of the Family Research Council toured the state calling on voters to approve the measure, as did Beverly LaHaye of Concerned Women for America. Focus on the Family aired radio advertisements in favor of the initiative.

Unlike earlier anti-gay measures, the language of Question 1 avoided mentioning lesbian and gay people. The question asked voters to limit "protected classifications" in current and future state and local laws to ten specific categories -- not including sexual orientation. The

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.

measure would have repealed two local non-discrimination laws that include gay people, and would have prohibited communities from passing such laws in the future. No federal or Maine state law protects people from being fired, refused work, or otherwise discriminated against merely for being lesbian or gay. Question 1 was written by Bruce Fein, a right-wing lawyer based in Virginia, to circumvent court decisions saying that gays should not be singled out for discrimination.

**PFLAG PRESIDENT
MITZI HENDERSON
ISSUES
STATEMENT**

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), has met with harsh attacks on its Project Open Mind television advertisements in Tulsa, Oklahoma and in Houston, Texas. Project Open Mind challenges anti-gay hate speech and addresses its harmful impact on lesbian and gay Americans, their families and friends and society at large.

In a letter addressed to all television general managers in Project Open Mind's target cities of Tulsa, Atlanta and Houston, CBN threatened to "seek judicial redress" against all stations airing the television advertisements, "to the maximum extent permitted by law, including injunctive relief and monetary damages."

When Tulsa NBC affiliate station KJRH consulted its attorneys and decided to air the ads, CBN then issued a memo to the station that said "we hereby demand that you immediately air a retraction and public apology to Pat Robertson and CBN." KJRH discontinued its airing of the ads, citing its concern about the "creative content" of the ads. "This is censorship, pure and simple," said PFLAG President Mitzi

Henderson. "We are saddened and angered that television stations who have a broadcast responsibility to their communities would cave in to pressure to censor from the Christian Broadcasting Network."

KHOV, the CBS affiliate in Houston, Texas and KHTV, a Houston independent station, who had accepted the initial advertising buys, also pulled the

advertisements from their schedules after receiving the letter from CBN. The spots never aired on either station. At the time of this release, TCI Cable of Oklahoma has also put the ads "on hold."

Mitzi Henderson said, "We are condemning hate speech. Project Open Mind was created to

challenge all hate speech that is currently being spoken by those who consider themselves moral leaders in our society, and to show the potential tragic consequences of such anti-gay rhetoric. America needs to hold its leaders accountable to a higher standard of tolerance and acceptance of their fellow human beings. The ads are a wake-up call to tolerant, fairminded Americans that this kind of hate speech in their communities is harmful to their lesbian and gay family members and neighbors.

"The religious and political leaders featured in the television advertisements are unfortunately only representatives of those who bring insidious anti-gay rhetoric into our culture every day for political gain. There is no justifiable context for the demonizing and

Important Phone Numbers

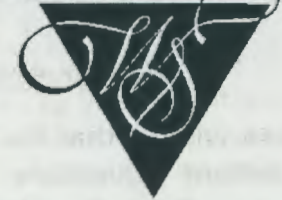
Senator Phil Gramm (R)
202-224-2934
(FAX) 202-228-2856

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

WASHINGTON SQUARE



1607 S. Washington, 373-5885

New Holiday Hours

Mon-Wed 7:30 - 3:30 pm
Thurs-Fri 7:30 - 10:00pm
Saturday 2 - 10 pm

Tennessee Tuckness

Friday & Saturday
December 8 & 9
8 pm

D.G. Flewelyn

Thursday
December 14
7 pm

Elizabeth Wills

Friday & Saturday
December 15 & 16

Washington Square is selling out of all books and magazines. They are opening a new TV and smoking lounge in the back area.

marginalization of gays and lesbians, or any group of American citizens."

Overheard

by Rex Wockner

"Bob Dole wishes that his less-than-excellent adventure with the gay Log Cabin Republicans would just go away, and no wonder. This farcical affair -- during which Dole accepted a campaign contribution from Log Cabin, then returned it, then this week said returning it had been a mistake -- branded him not only as a flip-flopper but also as a hypocrite (why didn't he return any contributions to Time Warner?), a buck-passer (he blamed all the pratfalls on his staff) and a procrastinator (he let the embarrassing mess drag on for two months). It's hard to imagine how anyone could make a worse case for himself as a potential chief executive of anything, let alone the U.S.A."
 --New York Times columnist Frank Rich.

"They're great. Got the best music there, got the best atmosphere. You know, you have to throw out all that bull, all that prejudice against gay people. I'm straight, bro, but you can go anywhere you want to."

--Chicago Bull Dennis Rodman when asked about his patronization of gay bars.

"He does not believe that we should endorse or sanction [gay] marriages. ...He thinks that we should do everything we can to stop discrimination. He will continue to do that."

NGLTF IS "CREATING CHANGE"

by John Hintz

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force held the eighth annual "Creating Change" conference in Detroit, Michigan November 8-12. The conference bills itself as "The National Conference for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Movement." Over 1,800 activists from around the country attended the conference, including two from Amarillo.

The conference featured various workshops including discussions on race and discrimination, youth organizing, campus organizing, state organizing, workplace organizing, public schools, violence, marriage, HIV/AIDS and gender issues. Speakers included Rep. Tammy Baldwin, a second term member of the Wisconsin State Assembly, Harry Britt, who served on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for 14 years, Elias Farajaje-Jones, who is a "Spanish-speaking afrikan native-american and an anarchist guerrilla theologian/AIDS terrorist/writer/cultural critic/performance artist/ritual technician," and Urvashi Vaid, a community organizer, attorney, and former director of NGLTF.

Digital Queers, "an organization of professional technology professionals and fans that is dedicated to empowering the queer community through computers and email technology," held computer training courses throughout the conference.

Entertainment included a "Motown Dance" one night and a concert that featured singing from The Fabulous Flirtations (which lesbian singer Suede has now joined), comedy from Karen Williams and Lea Delaria and Nell Carter as the headliner.

The Task Force seems appeared to be headed in the right direction. Executive Director Melinda Paras listened more than spoke in the smaller meetings. She was determined to make sure that NGLTF understands what the community needs from it rather than telling activists what NGLTF would do for them. The Task Force used the conference as a place to allow activists to communicate and share ideas, needs and experiences.

--White House adviser George Stephanopoulos discussing President Clinton's positions at the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association convention Oct. 20 in Washington, D.C.

"Stayed with Tod. Tod's photos of naked boys and trees are excellent."

--Nov. 15, 1919, entry in the

journal of British war hero Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts (in 1908). The Boy Scouts ban gays.

"Possibly, I might get a further look at those wonderful photographs of yours."

--Nov. 18, 1919, letter from Baden-Powell to A.H. Tod.

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
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! 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

Bars

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

Maggie's Disco
1515 S Harrison
371-9312

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.

GAYS IN ZIMBABWE ARE FRIGHTENED

by Rex Wockner

With President Robert Mugabe and several members of Parliament continuing to spout some of the most virulently anti-gay rhetoric heard anywhere in the world, Zimbabwean gays and lesbians are quite simply "afraid," says Stephen Van Breda, international spokesman for the group Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe.

In an interview with this news column, Breda explained: "In Zimbabwe the police force and army are merely the puppet of the prevailing government. They can, and often do, arrest and detain people under the flimsiest of excuses. We have lived under military rule for so long that the mention of arrest and/or possible detention has a tremendous impact on any individual irrespective of status or social standing. Therefore it is safe to say that the entire gay and lesbian population of Zimbabwe is constantly afraid.

"Very few people are aware of their legal rights or have the resources to defend themselves against the mis-use of authority [and] even those who do have both the

knowledge and resources are reluctant to get into a battle with the government and prefer to remain silent," Breda said. "We are currently reorganizing GALZ to try to cope with the changed circumstances."

Mugabe has labeled homosexuality "sub-animal behavior" that will "never ever" be allowed in Zimbabwe. "If you see people in your areas parading themselves as lesbians and gays, arrest them and hand them over to the police," he has urged. "I don't believe they have any rights at all."

Gay activist groups such as GALZ, Mugabe declared, are "immoral and repulsive."

Meanwhile, in Parliament Nov. 8, MP Norbert Makoni stated: "Whipping used to be the answer [for bad behavior]. Let us use a sjambok [whip]. All found practicing this evil should have stiff punishment meted out."

MP Tirivanhu Mudariki urged fellow parliamentarians "that this House unreservedly condemns the evil and iniquitous practice of homosexuality and lesbianism ... and urges Government to

take all the necessary steps to stamp out this evil practice. [I]f we allow or condone such bastardy acts under the so-called human-rights banners ... we shall also have rapists, murderers, criminals and those sodomists who are militating to have sex with four-year-olds claiming their human rights," he said.

And MP Border Gezi suggested: "I would like to ask [that the police] take them and put them somewhere where they can never be seen because we cannot mix with such people. ... If we take them to jails ... they will start engaging in these homosexual and lesbian practices. ... If we let them free, you will find them in the night going for other men instead of women to have sex with. ... These people do not belong to our culture."

Protests may be directed to Parliament of Zimbabwe, P.O. Box CY298, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe, and to President Mugabe, Private Bag 7700, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe. Support may be sent to Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ), Private Bag A6131, Avondale, Harare, Zimbabwe.

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