

- If we don't teach our children hatred and prejudice, they just might not learn them at all. A message from this station and the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Here it is. Become Butch or Nellie in less than a day simply by taking the little pink pill. There's no need to recruit, seduce, or rely on environmental conditions anymore. The little pink pill does it all. Just one tablet before breakfast breaks the cycle of heterosexuality for a full 24 hours. For years, heteros have been asking gays if they would take a pill if it would make them straight.

Well, at last, Queersville Labs have responded to this dilemma by giving heteros a taste of their own medicine. Yes, the little pink pill does it all. The boring cliched life of a heterosexual can vanish in one gulp. Mrs. Betty Morgan of Gresham, Oregon talks about the little pink pill.

- My life was a mess. Bridge clubs, gross husband, alcoholism, you name it. Then one morning, I got my act together and took the little pink pill. In an instant, my sexual orientation changed as did my desire to be married. Well, within a week, I'd ditch my old man, met a terrific woman, and got joint custody of my children. All this without water retention, headaches or loss of appetite. Thanks, little pink pill. You made a new woman out of me.

- Results may vary, but don't consult a physician. The little pink pill it does it all.

- And it's available at a local drugstore near you.

- Right down Montrose.

- Girl. Anyway, this right out with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle coming up in about two minutes.

- Ooh, OK.

- I thought this was supposed to happen till 12:15.

- I know. What's the deal?

- Well, the deal is we're here.

- And we're queer.

- And After Hours will be here in just a little bit. So stay with us. While, we're here--

- Yeah, and while we're queer--

- And Frank says he's got like 2 and 1/2 minutes of news.

- Oh.

- This is called filler, girl.

- Oh, my.

- Filler.
- Well, I better get on the stick then for the bimbo wet weather.
- Plus, I won't be here next week.
- What?
- I'll be in Mickey Mouse line. It'll be flawless.
- That's right. It's kind of your birthday tonight, isn't it?
- It is. Bring in the money.
- Yeah, how old are you?
- 102.
- And don't look a day younger.
- And if you'll stay tuned after 1:00, I'll tell you how old she is. Anyway, stay with us. This Way Out with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle coming up at, well, about two minutes, right?
- Yeah.
- And anyone who want this button, just call us now.
- Your buttons are falling off.
- Oh, no, girl. Anyway, we're back on the air.
- Hey.
- Thank God. [INAUDIBLE]
- I know that's right.
- OK, hang on. This Way Out with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle coming up at 12:15. You know what time it's supposed to be on.
- Mm-hmm.
- And then Frank will be here with the news. And who's coming on tonight?
- We've got some BBS people.
- Some what?
- BBS, computer bulletin board.
- Oh, I thought you meant like CBS.
- No.

- CBN, those christian broadcasting--

- No.

- Something or other. OK.

- No.

- Well, hang on. You're listening to 90.1 FM KPFT Houston After Hours radio celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. And we'll be at you at 1:00. Until then, girls, just--

- Hang in there.

- Yeah, pull up your stockings and sit down, man.

- Woo.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- We structured a meeting where everybody involved-- the activists, the FDA, Abbott, community physicians-- get together in a room at one time and don't leave the room until the details are settled and we know that the capacity of this program is going to go.

- If I am right, then the authorities, the department of criminal investigation, sent in an informant to get evidence that we weren't using children, that he was the one in fact who endangered the child.

- This is Lucia Chappelle.

- And Greg Gordon. And you're listening to This Way Out, The International Lesbian and Gay Radio Magazine on After Hours.

- Right here on Pacifica Radio 90.1 FM KPFT Houston. Welcome to This Way Out, The International Lesbian and Gay Radio Magazine. I'm Lucia Chappelle.

- And I'm Greg Gordon. Ballot terrorism won't deter Maine activists.

- Shadows of doubt linger over men's festival bus.

- And the early immune response may catch the cure.

- All that and more because you've discovered This Way Out.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- I'm Mark Saccomano.

- And I'm Cindy Friedman.

- With NewsWrap, a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending April 13, 1991. Maine's Governor John McKernan wants a referendum on that state's proposed anti-discrimination legislation. Maine activists expected passage this year of a bill protecting gays and lesbians in housing, employment, credit and public accommodations despite defeat of a similar proposal in 1989.

However, Governor McKernan stated earlier this month that he would veto the bill unless the people of Maine had the opportunity to vote on it directly. He immediately received a call of friendly protest from Governor William Weld of Massachusetts, one of three states with similar laws already in place. The bill supporters remain hopeful, believing the governor's announcement may have been a scare tactic.

- As 15,000 Catholic educators convened in Boston April 1st, about 100 demonstrators confronted them to criticize the church's stance on abortion, AIDS prevention, and lesbian and gay rights. For about an hour, protesters marched, chanted, and distributed flyers to participants in the National Catholic Educators Convention. One bystander was arrested for assaulting two demonstrators dressed as priests. Organizers of the protest also offered a teach in on AIDS prevention as an alternative to conference workshops.

- A gay couple and a lesbian couple were denied marriage licenses in Austin, Texas earlier this month as they sought to publicize a state bill filed last month to delete gender references from marriage laws. Elsewhere, legislation to register domestic partnerships has been introduced recently in Washington, DC and Berkeley, California. Berkeley already has domestic partner registration and benefits for its city employees.

- In Sydney, Australia, commercial television recently aired an advertisement for the gay magazine, Outrage. Publishers believe it may have been the world's first TV ad for a gay product.

- In England, a judge in Newcastle upon Tyne denied two women's effort to adopt a two-year-old boy, maintaining that a lesbian couple was inherently unsuitable to parent.

- In London, ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, is boycotting and picketing Texaco for discrimination against people testing positive for HIV in their hiring practices.

- In Canada, the mayor of Winnipeg, William Norris, refused, for the second year, to proclaim a Pink Triangle Day honoring gays killed in Nazi concentration camps. Norris, who has consistently refused to proclaim Gay Pride days as well, told the press he wouldn't change his mind because homosexuality is not a subject for civil proclamation.

- April 1 marked the 20th anniversary of San Francisco's Bay Area reporter, a gay and lesbian newspaper which is now distributed in 35 other US cities and has subscribers worldwide.

- The USSR's embattled gay newspaper, Tema, has won a libel suit against the mainstream [? Caratini ?] Riat newspaper. Riat is required to pay a fine and to publish a retraction of its statements that Tema promotes necrophilia and pedophilia.

- Hungary's gay and lesbian newspaper, *Mások*, is starting up again with partial financial support from the International Lesbian and gay Association.

- India has a nationwide gay publication, Freedom, based in Gulbarga, which is now developing its fourth edition. Lesbians and gays in India are also planning their first national conference to be held in Goa in the near future.

- In Switzerland, some gays are protesting the use of a gay artist's work in the celebration of the nation's 700th birthday. Activists told the German gay magazine, *Magnus*, they felt it was wrong for a homophobic government that discriminates against people with HIV to use the work of the late Keith Haring who was a gay rights and AIDS activist as well as a pop art phenomenon. Haring was also a regular participant in the Montreux Jazz Festival and the government planned to use his artwork on the official birthday celebration t-shirt.

- The Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, the largest index to magazines in the US, has added 20 new listings to its latest edition but still lists no gay or lesbian publications whatsoever. The Gay and Lesbian Task Force of the American Library Association is, well, taking issue with the practice. Task force member Polly Thistlethwaite noted with disdain that if you look up AIDS in the guide, the publication most frequently referenced, with four citations, is Vogue magazine.

- And finally, ever had someone make a snide remark to you about how there are no straight pride events? Well, young Americans for freedom, a right-wing student group, organized a straight pride rally at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst last month. They were drowned out, however, by almost 600 pro-gay and lesbian counter-demonstrators.

- That's NewsWrap for the week ending April 13, 1991, compiled from publications and broadcasts throughout the world and written by Cindy Friedman.

- Remember an informed community is a strong community. Find out what's happening in your area by monitoring your local gay and lesbian media. For This Way Out, I'm Cindy Friedman.

- And I'm Mark Saccomano.

- From the AIDS front, Mary VanClay reports on two breaking stories.

- The New England Journal of Medicine reports that the body stages a stunning fight against the human immunodeficiency virus shortly after infection. Researchers in California, New York, and Alabama published the finding in their report on the early stages of the disease. They also confirmed suspicions that people can be highly contagious during the initial illness, though a conventional AIDS antibody test will not yet show signs of infection.

Though the virus multiplies rapidly at first, the human body soon begins to mount a strong defense, driving replication of the virus back down to barely detectable levels. Dr. Eric Daar, an AIDS researcher at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, says he and his colleagues are intrigued by the body's initial immune response, which is much stronger than was expected.

- What is it about this immune response, whether it's the antibodies or another part, that's working so well at the beginning? And then what is it that fails down the line when 7 to 10 years, they start to have increased levels of virus again and start to become symptomatic.

- When HIV-positive people later develop full-blown AIDS, the levels of HIV in their blood rise dramatically. Researchers are hoping to figure out what beats the virus back during the early stages in hopes of eventually developing medication that could boost the body's natural defenses.

Abbott Labs of Illinois has applied to the Food and Drug Administration to release an important experimental drug to people with AIDS on a compassionate use program that could lead to FDA approval. Clarithromycin treats a complex related to tuberculosis. Known as MAI, the opportunistic infection is the number two killer of people with AIDS after pneumocystis pneumonia.

The activist group ACT UP takes credit for pushing Abbott Labs into the decision with protests outside company headquarters around the country. Michael Wright with ACT UP in San Francisco says clarithromycin is available throughout much of Europe for skin and respiratory infections, but because the drug does not have FDA approval in the US, people with MAI here must fall back on an ineffective cocktail of drugs that cause nausea, vomiting, liver ailments, and other problems.

- A person that I know that has MAI has told me that the standard treatment was so bad when they were put on it that they discontinued it, that they'd rather die. And that person, in fact, is now doing clarithromycin that he's importing from Ireland and he's feeling better.

- But it costs \$600 to \$800 a month to import the drugs from Europe. Under the compassionate use program, participants will get it free from Abbott Labs. The company will bear the cost of production until the FDA grants final approval for sales. Wright says he won't be satisfied until people with MAI actually start receiving the drug. And he says activists may have to nudge the system along as they did with DDI and Bristol Myers.

- At the point that we had enough information that that drug was helping keep people alive, we structured a meeting where everybody involved-- the activists, the FDA, Abbott, community physicians-- get together in a room at one time and don't leave the room until the details are settled and we know that the compassionate use program is going to go.

- Wright says he was inspired to push for clarithromycin distribution by ACT UP's 18-month countdown program. Last summer, the group vowed to get treatments approved for all age-related opportunistic infections within the coming year and a half. In San Francisco, I'm Mary VanClay.

- There are thousands dying tonight.

- This is Charles Pierce, as Katherine Hepburn here to remind you that you're listening to This Way Out, The International Lesbian and Gay Radio Magazine. Well, if I were you, I know I'd be listening.

- Begin with a men's gathering in the Midwest, add an incredible case of homophobia ranging from various state agencies to the FBI, toss in a vigilante mentality and an inside informant with a criminal record. The result is a law enforcement faux pas of bizarre proportions. The eighth annual Midwest Men's Festival was held in late August of last year on a private campground.

It had been held for several years in Missouri until state agencies rescinded their usual permits, citing alleged nudity and acts of sodomy at the previous year's festival. When the festival found a hospitable location in Iowa, Missouri State agencies apparently contacted Iowa Law Enforcement officials to warn them that some very queer criminal actions were going to be perpetrated in their state. Here's part of Mark Saccomano's original report last September on the raid at the Midwest Men's Festival.

- If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of the a surprise. If you go down to the woods today, you'd better go in disguise. For every bear that ever there was will gather there for certain because today's the day the teddy bears have their picnic.

- Over 30 law enforcement agents representing the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation-- the local County Sheriff's Department, the Iowa State Patrol, the Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and the FBI-- invaded the annual men's retreat in an operation described by the Iowa Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus as a near hysterical homophobic reaction. Mark Reed, one of the participants at the Midwest Men's festival, described the unexpected wake-up call.

- I was in my tent and awakened by an officer peering in, asking me to come out and telling me that he had a search warrant. And then the next thing, he was asking if there were any children in my tent. And I was, of course, just waking up, I was pretty groggy, but I thought, why is this man asking me if there are any children in here. In fact, one person was asked where the six little girls were.
- Were there any minors in the camp?
- There was one boy there, a nine-year-old boy, who had been coming to festival for the past seven years.
- What's your estimate of how many police officers were there?
- We were told by an officer in the camp that there were 31 and there were approximately 60 to 70 people in camp that day.
- So about one officer per two participants.
- Right.
- Local press reports described photo albums at the festival.
- Somebody saw photo albums and they automatically assumed that, well, God, this must be these wild queers up there having a heyday and taking pictures of sex acts and everything else. There are no more than family photos, if you will. There were photos of past festivals. And about the only way anyone would be interested in them is if you happen to be in one of the photos.
- So we're not talking about photographs depicting sexual acts with minors or anything that could be reasonably described as child pornography.
- That's part of the hysteria.
- And were one of these photo albums in fact confiscated?
- Several of them were confiscated.
- The items taken as evidence by the authorities included registration information on those attending the festival.
- We don't really have any way of ascertaining for sure what sorts of improper uses these lists may have been or may be being put to.
- Michael Kurn of the Iowa lesbian and gay Political Caucus--
- The county attorney said there's more to it than we originally thought. And the sheriff spoke of ongoing interstate investigations of people who were named on the list, given the massive nature of this raid and the broad level of law enforcement involvement from the county sheriff all the way up to the FBI. People are going to be very reluctant to admit that this was basically a groundless kind of activity. And they're going to search as far as they possibly can for some kind of justification.
- That was part of Mark Saccomano original report on This Way Out last September. Last month, Dave Buell spoke at length with two of the festival organizers, John Pierce and Jason Kerrigan.
- Jason, you're one of the original festival organizers. Why don't we start with the background of the festival and what kind of activities take place there?

- The festival began-- I think 1982 was the first year. Some of the workshops and play shops have involved issues of personal safety, intentional communities, clay baking, all various recovery groups, dealing with issues of racism, ageism, relationships with women, yoga and tai chi, men who may be over 40 getting together to talk about their issues.
 - We began our festival on a Sunday. And during the week, we noticed a lot of helicopters going over. This was during the time that the National Guard was beginning to gear up for what later would become Desert Storm. And we just thought they were out doing their maneuvers. At least that's what we wanted to believe.
 - The front entrance of the camp was right on a river and there was a vehicle parked with several individuals fishing. It turned out that they were recording the licenses of people that were coming to the festival and that, really, they were government agents.
 - And the helicopters, of course, were taking aerial photos. And we had been there over a week. And suddenly one Sunday morning, we were all awakened by uniformed officers representing a minimum of five different branches of law enforcement, including the FBI, the Department of Criminal Investigation, the County Sheriff's Department, the State Highway Patrol, and the City Police. They came complete with dogs to search for drugs and a video camera and they videotaped the entire preceding.
- I was asleep in my tent. And all I know is that suddenly, there were two men, one at the front and one at the back of my tent telling me to wake up. They asked me if I had any children in my tent, if I had any weapons in my tent.
- My experience was very similar. I was asked if there were any children in my tent and then if there were any drugs. And then we had to provide identification. They took name and address and Social Security number. And then officers proceeded to go through all of my belongings.
 - During the raid, I asked one of the officers why they were asking everyone about children. And I asked him how many children he had been led to believe were at the festival. And he said between six and a dozen. Another of the police officers asked where are the women? Now, why they would be looking for women at a men's festival is totally beyond me. But they wanted to know where the women were and where all the children were.
 - So it sounds like the informants were passing along some pretty questionable reports.
 - When we look at the affidavit and the testimony given by one of the two informants, there is mention of a large number of men smoking marijuana.
 - Approximately 20 males smoking marijuana in the dining area during the meetings of the festival. There's no smoking of cigarettes allowed in the dining area. There were no meetings held in the dining area. 20 men would have represented approximately a third of our total population. And the idea that many men would have been standing in one place smoking marijuana is absurd.

One man was arrested for possession of a very small quantity of marijuana. And he has since appeared in court and was sentenced to 100 hours of community service work because of the letters of support he had received from people in his community. The confidential informant reported having observed an adult male and a nine-year-old performing oral sex on each other in a trailer on Friday night. There was a man arrested for that and later the charge was reduced.

The man who was arrested had no money. He was appointed a court, appointed attorney. I'm not saying he was represented poorly. What I'm saying is I'm not sure he was represented well. He was sentenced to two years in prison. And my understanding is that it's very likely he will be released before the end of one year. They probably just plea bargained it.

- Now, the upshot of the man's pleading guilty to a reduced charge is that you haven't been able to confront the informant. But I understand that you've been able to piece together some information about him.

- Having read the affidavit, we know that the informant came into our camp on Thursday. We know that the event he allegedly witnessed on Friday night was in a trailer, and there was only one trailer. The child, by the way, was in the trailer because the tent that he had been sleeping in had gotten wet during a rainstorm and he had been moved inside to keep him dry.

We know there were three adults in that trailer. One was the man who was charged. He had been at the camp since Sunday. The second had been in the camp since Wednesday and was the owner of the trailer. The third man came in on Thursday. What I'm saying here is speculative, but it is my assumption that the third man was the informant.

The child has since stated that the man who was arrested did not molest him but that the other man, who we believe may well have been the informant, did attempt to sexually molest him. The man we are talking about is a member of another organization that has been under investigation by the FBI. And members of that organization have been arrested for child abuse charges.

If I am right, then the authorities, the Department of Criminal Investigation, sent in an informant to get evidence that we weren't using children, that he was the one, in fact, who endangered the child.

- Now, I believe I've heard that the festivals registration materials were seized during the raid.

- The warrants that were served did specify that they were to confiscate registration materials. And the individuals who were there representing the various law enforcement agencies took that as license to confiscate not only the registration materials, the photo albums that were also mentioned in the warrant. They also confiscated an entire board of the different activities that were planned for the week. They didn't know it at the time, but they did take records from previous festivals. They did not, however, get the current registration lists that they were supposed to.

- Midwest Men's Festival organizers Jason Kerrigan and John Pierce. The Iowa Civil Liberties Union represented festival participants in their legal efforts to get the seized materials returned. As we go to tape this week, Dave Buell filed this report on the latest developments in this story.

- Last fall when the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, or ACLU, originally asked the court to return [INAUDIBLE] these materials to festival organizers, the court instead issued an order prohibiting distribution of those materials by the various law enforcement agencies involved in the case. Boone County Sheriff Ronald Fehr specifically testified at that time that none of the materials in his possession had been shared with the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigation, more commonly known as the DCI.

In what John Pierce calls an act of thoroughness, ACLU attorney Randall Wilson then wrote a letter explaining the court's order to the office of the attorney general of the state of Iowa. That's the agency which works hand in glove with and is responsible for prosecuting cases brought to it by the DCI. Responding to Wilson's letter, Iowa assistant attorney general Gary Hayward cited Sheriff Fehr's court testimony, which indicated the DCI had not been given any of the materials in question, thus making it impossible for them to violate the court's order.

Just recently, in a long-awaited deposition finally given by Sheriff Fehr to the ACLU, Fehr contradicted his previous court testimony, admitting that copies of material seized during the raid had in fact been turned over to the DCI at the time of the raid. It is not known whether the ACLU might seek perjury charges against Sheriff Fehr as a result of his contradictory testimonies.

Civil Liberties Union attorney Wilson has asked the Iowa Bar Association for an opinion as to whether assistant attorney general Hayward's cagily worded response was unethical. It's been reported that in private conversations, some law enforcement officials have expressed regret and embarrassment at the way the raid was conducted. They now say they'd like to talk to the man the nine-year-old boy says actually attempted to molest him, the same man festival participants believe to be the informant. For This Way Out, I'm Dave Buell in Kansas City.

- This Way Out will continue to follow this story, and we'll have additional details as they become available.

- Thanks for choosing This Way Out, The International Lesbian and Gay Radio Magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Mark Saccomano Dave Buell and, Mary VanClay contributed program material. Thanks, also, to Mike Alcalay, Gary Taylor, and Charles Burl.

- The Tom Robinson Band, the Palm Court Theater Orchestra, and John Pacino from the Feeding the Flame AIDS benefit album performed some of the music you heard. Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.

- This Way Out is brought to you by a staff of community volunteers and is sustained by financial support from the community. Audio cassettes of our programs are available by mail individually or by subscription. Write to us for more information.

- We'd also like to hear from you with any comments, suggestions, or questions you might have or just to let us know you're listening. Write to This Way Out-- Post Office box 38327, Los Angeles, California 90038.

- This Way Out is produced by Lucia Chappell.

- And Greg Gordon, and we thank you for listening on WORT Madison.

- KMUD Garberville.

- And CKL in Toronto.

- Among others.

- And for supporting this local community radio station.

- To which we know you'll stay tuned.

- You hear the sounds of the waves brush up against the sand where he has written both of your names with a heart around it.

- You are looking at the sky burning red with the sunset. Quickly, a car drives up alongside of you. You stop for a red light. Suddenly, the car is surrounded.

- They circle your blanket, coming in closer.

- Bottles are thrown out of car windows.

- The sound of glass breaking.

- Baseball bats against metal.

- A hand grabs at your hair.

- Glass at your feet, in your face, in your eyes.

- A fist across your face again and again.

- Die queer. Kill them. Kill them. Kill them.

- Homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry, which is why the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project wanted you to hear and think about this message. For more information, write us at Post Office box 65603, Los Angeles, California 90065.

- The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

- Hi, this is Craig Washington reminding you that none of us are free until all of us are free. So keep listening to After Hours KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- This is afterwards for the week of April 28. I'm Frank White.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

This is a legislative report by Laurie Eiserloh, legislative director of the Texas Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby of Texas. Discrimination against gay and lesbian people by the funeral industry is a very serious problem for our community. At our community center in Austin, the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby and the Texas Human Rights Foundation have received numerous complaints about the funeral industry.

Two of the most common complaints are refusal by funeral homes to accept the bodies of persons who have died of AIDS and refusal by funeral homes to honor pre-death written instructions of the deceased, designating a lover and not a family member as the person who may claim the body for burial.

In response to these difficulties, there are two bills pending in the legislative session that would benefit the lesbian and gay community in our dealings with the funeral homes. The first bill, which was recently heard by the House Public Health Committee and which will soon be heard by the entire house before it moves to the Senate, is House Bill 899.

Sylvester Turner, Democrat, Houston, is the sponsor of this bill, originally written by the Texas Funeral Commission. This bill would prohibit funeral homes from discriminating against either the body or the person claiming the body on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or cause of death.

The cause of death clause in this bill is important because it prevents funeral homes from refusing to accept the bodies of those who have died from AIDS. Another common problem with the funeral industry involves pre-death testamentary arrangements made by the deceased.

Until recently, except in the case of pauper's funerals, spouses, children, parents, and other family members were the only individuals who could claim a body for burial or cremation. Because of legislation supported by the LGRL last session, it is now possible for a person to designate his or her lover as the person who may claim a body. If you decide to do this, be sure you have a lawyer draw up the papers. Despite this new law, funeral homes had been reluctant to follow the instructions of the deceased.

The problem is this-- if one's parents, children, or even brother or sister come to the funeral home and request that the body be disposed of in a certain way, the funeral director will usually follow the instructions of the family member and ignore the testamentary instructions of the deceased. Part of the reason for this is that funeral directors do not fill the present law adequately protects them from liability to family members.

The funeral directors have said that they are waiting for a lawsuit to test this new law, but this could be a lengthy and expensive process. The LGRL has written legislation this session introduced by Glen Maxey, Democrat, Austin, which would correct this liability problem. House Bill 2709 would protect funeral homes, funeral directors, embalmers, and other industry members from liability if they follow the instructions of the deceased.

The legislation could also create liability for funeral homes which fail to follow the instructions of the deceased. As usual, those opposing the civil rights of lesbian and gay people are ready to strike down our funeral legislation. At the committee hearing on House Bill 899, our gay-bashing opponents offered almost an hour's worth of testimony.

One man said he should have thought about this problem with funeral homes before we chose to be homosexual. And others suggested that homosexuals should be the only ones forced to bury other homosexuals. One woman believed that her most convincing argument against the bill was to graphically describe what she imagined to be common sexual practices among gay men. She used the neutral word homosexual, but from the context of her remarks, I know she meant gay men. Lesbians are always invisible in these discussions and this will be the topic of a later column.

Despite the gay bashing, it looks as if House Bill 899 will be voted upon favorably by the committee. As of this writing, the final vote has yet to been taken, but the chairman of the committee Tom Craddick, a Republican from Midland, has given his assurance of a favorable vote. A favorable vote in committee is a positive step for House Bill 899, but the House and Senate must hear and vote on this bill.

With such outspoken opponents, it is very important that you write or call your state senator and state representative today and say that you support House Bill 899. State that you support the bill as it existed on the day of the House Committee hearing with the inclusion of protection on the basis of sexual orientation and protection against the discrimination based on the cause of death. Also state that you support House Bill 2709. House Bill 2709 deals with funeral home liability, and therefore there is no reason to mention sexual orientation when expressing support for this bill.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Texas A&M University President William Mobley is under pressure from the faculty who refuse to endorse the school's anti-discrimination policy because it does not include sexual orientation. The Faculty Senate voted 37 to 22 on April 8 to tell A&M President William Mobley it favors a policy listing specific unacceptable forms of discrimination rather than a general one outlawing illegal discrimination at the university.

Mobley must now decide whether to follow the Senate's advice or stick to the more generalized policy. The vote sends the administration a message says Larry Hickman, professor and faculty advisor for A&M's Gay and Lesbian Student Services. We have specific problems and we need specific language to address them.

In an open letter to the university community April 8, he said the changes recently made to school policy were meant to make them as broad and inclusive as possible. The recent amendments altered the school's 1989 policy protecting students from harassment on the basis of sexual orientation, a 1990 statement extending that protection to employees and a policy for academic freedom that had listed sexual orientation as one of the many forms of discrimination not to be tolerated.

The Senate also voted down a compromise bill that called for a general policy, prohibiting forms of discrimination other than academic ones. Eight years after first consideration approval for such a group, Southern Methodist University Student Senate has granted a charter to the Gay and Lesbian Student Organization.

After 2 and 1/2 hours of impassioned speeches by recitations and sometimes bitter attacks, the Senate voted 19 to 13 last week, allowing the group to become eligible next year for university funding. SMU administrators have remained neutral, saying they would stand by the Senate's decision.

An art sale to benefit the Gay and Lesbian Students Association at the University of Houston will be held at Inklings Bookstore at 1846 Richmond Avenue on Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18th from 10:30 AM to 6:30 PM. The sale will feature ceramics, paintings, photographs, and sketches done by University of Houston students.

The Gay and Lesbian Student Association, a subcommittee of the Montrose Activity Center, is a social service and educational organization dedicated to improving the lives of lesbian, bisexual, and gay members of the campus community. The student group is working to raise money in preparation for the 1991, 92 school year when it will celebrate 20 years of lesbian and gay organizations at the University of Houston.

A chapter of the Gay Liberation Front was formed at the university in 1971, making University of Houston the first university in Texas to have a gay or lesbian student organization. For more information, call 664-7371. Representative Ron Wilson, a Democrat from Houston, has introduced a bill that would distribute 1.65 million condoms to university students across Texas. The cost of the bill would be \$3.3 million.

Recently, representative Wilson has come under attack by various fundamentalist groups and some of the cities in some of Houston's media. The--

- Sorry. Sorry, what happened?

- No, nothing. Nothing.

- Frank, you know what it is?

- What?

- Jimmy's trying to push his way in here to give that damn weather.

- Oh, to do the weather? Well, basically--

- Mary, let him finish the news.

- Basically--

- OK.

- Let me wrap up this. They don't want to give--

- Wrap it up.

- The fundamentalists and some of the newspapers--

- Oh, god the fundamentalists.

- And some of the newspapers in town--

- I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

- --think that this bill that caused \$3.3 million is too expensive and that the only solution to college-aged students not getting AIDS is abstinence.

- Oh, yeah.

- It's the best way to avoid AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases or unwanted pregnancies. So abstinence is the solution to abortion and everything.

- Hey, that worked for the drug thing. Just say no, right?

- Right, just say no and you won't have it. And it's worse now than it ever was. So anyhow, we need to call and talk to Ron Wilson and tell him we support this bill and call your other senators and tell them you support this bill because if the fundamentalists have it their way, no one's going to have condoms in this state and--

- Or everything else.

- Or anything else. I mean, yeah, exactly.

- Hallelujah.

- The real board.

- Is that it?

- That's it.

- OK.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

And now we have the weather bimbo.

- I beg to differ. It's the weather bimboette.

- That'll teach you not to bring a script.

- Yes.

- OK. Go ahead, man.

- Let's see the weather. At intergalactic, it's a steamy 84.

- It's like being in a-- it's like being in a sauna somewhere.

- Yes. And then Galveston at 78. And then big old Montrose, it's 82.

- Big old Montrose.

- Yeah.
- Girls.
- Tonight and tomorrow cloudy with 30% chance of rain. And tomorrow, we'll have the low 80s with gusty winds. Was it good for you?
- Is that it?
- I can't do anymore.
- Good, get out. Thank God I won't have to be here for two weeks and listen to that garbage. Just remember, it's all free until next week. Then we're going to marathon [INAUDIBLE].
- There's one more announcement.
- Hurry, you're running out of time.
- It's your birthday.
- Yes. Yes. Birthday.
- OK, so what?
- So I'm supposed to ask-- I was told that I'm supposed to say this by the producer of this show tonight.
- See, we have 100,000 watts of power, and she's screaming into a \$500 microphone. And I can't hear anything you say.
- OK, I was asked by the producer of this show who will remain nameless to say that it's someone's birthday here and that if anyone that's listening wants to they can stop by this station.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- And that's the end of the news with Frank.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Peter, I was getting worried.
- Train was late. Aaron, you look fantastic.
- Well, I should. After all, it's the night of my prom. Come on upstairs. I've got a tuxedo.
- Did you get the lavender ones?
- Did you really think I was tacky enough to wear a lavender tuxedo?
- Well, I am.

- Reflections of a Rock Lobster, a story about growing up gay in rural America. When Aaron Fricke decided to take another young man to a senior prom, the story made national headlines and caught history. Rock Lobster is the tender coming out story of one brave young man and his very special night at the prom.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- That's the story of Aaron Fricke and how he sued to take his boyfriend to the high school prom.

- Yeah.

- And that'll be coming up later on, so stay with us. International festival, girl.

- Yeah.

- Downtown.

- Hi, this is Larry Winters asking you to join KPFT downtown at the Houston International Festival. Country folk and bluegrass stage in Tranquility Park for two weekends of great music. That's April 27, 28, May 4 and fifth. Enjoy some real fine captivating sounds of David Grisman along with Shake Russell, Jack Saunders, and people like Kevin Black. KPFT personalities will be hosting the show. So come on down and enjoy the food, fun, and excitement with us. And don't forget this stage is sponsored by KPFT 90.1 FM and the Houston festival.