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- Homophobia is the Berlin Wall of the African-American community.
- They received 40,000 letters stimulated by Southern California and Southern United States evangelical ministers protesting the change of the policy. And so if-- well, don't hiss. Take out your pen and write a letter.
- This is a big deal. I have lived in Olympia, Washington, for 15 years. This is a big deal. Trust me.
- 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. France turned back the clock on sexual rights.
- 8th AIDS Conference makes endangered species list.
- And Olympian effort succeeds in Pride Premier.
- All that and more, because you've discovered This Way Out.
- I'm Cindy Friedman.
- And I'm Mark Saccomano.
- With *NewsWrap*, a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending July 20, 1991.
- Same gender sexual activities were decriminalized in France in 1982 by a socialist-controlled government, but a right wing resurgence may turn back the clock. The upper house of the French parliament voted to reinstate criminal penalties after only one hour of debate. The proposed amendment to the penal code will now come before the lower house.
- ILGA, the International Lesbian and Gay Association, has won its first official recognition by the United Nations. Earlier this year, ILGA's bid for consultative status with the UN's Economic and Social Council was deferred until 1992.

However, that council's department of public information has now granted ILGA so-called DPI status, which empowers ILGA to send two representatives to monthly briefings on UN activities. DPI status is expected not only to help ILGA lobby more effectively, but also to support its future efforts to gain further UN recognition. ILGA's next UN targets are the World Health Organization and the World Court.

- The report of the Christopher Commission investigating police abuse by the Los Angeles Police Department identifies bias, not only against women and people of color, but also against gays and lesbians, and make specific recommendations for improvement.

Reviewing records of internal LAPD computer messages, the commission wrote, some of the most offensive comments in the transcripts reviewed by the commission concerned lesbians and gay men. Finding that there is excessive use of force against gays and lesbians, the commission quoted an officer who said, "it's easier to thump a faggot than an average Joe. Who cares?"

The commission interviewed more than 50 officers who identified themselves as lesbian or gay, but who remained closeted in the belief that coming out would jeopardize their police careers and their personal safety. The commission reported testimony from all of the closeted cops and some of the non-gay officers that, quote, "gay-looking suspects are regularly subjected to derogatory comments about their [AUDIO OUT]

Exaggerated. The edition published June 24 was its last. Hints of the impending shutdown began with a major budget crisis in December and with the dismissal of editor-in-chief Gabriel Rotello in June.

Employees were anticipating the addition to be published June 28 would be the last, but arrived on the morning of June 27 to find a notice taped to the door that it would not be going to press. Employees had already missed paychecks.

OutWeek ceased publication after almost two years of operation as a result of financial problems, including debts, a continuing weekly dollar loss, and money conflicts among the owners. There are some investors who still hope to save the operation.

OutWeek was notorious for its willingness to out celebrities and in doing so, broke new ground for at least one mainstream publication. New York Post executive editor Jerry Nachman told the press, OutWeek forced the mainstream press to become more introspective about what constitutes openly gay and not openly gay behavior. We are now less likely to serve as a journalistic beard for people in the closet.

OutWeek was also upfront in its support of the direct action groups Queer Nation and ACT UP. Karen Schwartz, acting New York executive director of GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, remarked every gay activist read OutWeek at least twice, once to see if they'd been attacked and again, to see what's going on.

Schwartz went on to describe *OutWeek* as having made accountability a weapon and some believe this confrontive approach hurt the magazine's ad sales.

In the face of a recession in the US magazine publishing industry and of the closure only a week before of the Indianapolis gay magazine *Heartland*, does the end of OutWeek bode ill for the lesbian and gay press? Jodie Sabato, president of the Rivendell marketing firm which handles ad sales for 175 gay publications, denied it, telling reporters *OutWeek* can no way, shape, or form reflects what's going on in the gay media.

Not sorry to see *OutWeek* go is the *New York Native*, which had lost substantial circulation after the appearance of *OutWeek* and stands to gain from its shutdown.

- A decade into the war against AIDS, the US Congressional Black Caucus held hearings for the first time ever this month on the increasing epidemic in the African-American community. The group heard proposals for more funds that are more fairly distributed and a call for an end to silence among Black leaders.

Some question why Black leadership has lagged behind the gay white community in responding to AIDS. Reggie Williams is executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention for Black and white men together.

- Homophobia is the Berlin Wall of the African-American community, a major barrier in preventing the community from unifying around a whole host of interpersonal issues of which HIV and AIDS are among the most visible, life-threatening manifestation.

Homophobia is no doubt the reason why no one with credibility and influence in the Black community has gone public with an HIV/AIDS diagnosis, though several public figures with celebrity status have died of AIDS-related causes in the past year.

- That was Reggie Williams, executive director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention for Black and white men together.

- The US ban on gays and lesbians serving in the military cast its shadow on Independence Day celebrations. In Denver, Colorado, a city that passed anti-discrimination legislation earlier this year, the committee organizing the annual 4th of July parade refused to let a group of lesbian and gay veterans carry a banner that spelled out their name, while the abbreviation GLBVA was considered acceptable.

The Rocky Mountain Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America was felt by parade organizers to be too political and a distraction from the theme of welcoming home Gulf War participants.

In California, however, the lesbian and gay San Diego Veterans Association not only appeared in welcome home parades in San Diego and the military-based dominated town of Oceanside, but received a personal invitation from a member of the city council to participate in the 4th of July parade in El Cajon.

- Some people calling themselves Lavender Tortoise are organizing a sort of mobile pride celebration called Obscure Tour Number 2. More than 30 gays and lesbians are planning to ride a special bus across the US in September, contacting truck drivers en route, and making stops to promote visibility.

Coordinator Greg Deborah Taylor says they'll appear out of the mist, hit, be glamorous, be mad, and move on. The excursion will be videotaped and plans to leave gift fruit baskets at the White House and at the homes of homophobes Senator Jesse Helms and Representative William Dannemeyer.

- And finally, earlier this year, we reported a demonstration demanding increased visibility for AIDS issues and for lesbians and gays on the US Public Broadcasting System's MacNeil/Lehrer *NewsHour*. GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, is now calling for letters of protest as the show has sunk to a new low in gay and lesbian invisibility.

The June 24 show included a report by Roger Rosenblatt called "Hidden Children," exploring the lives of people, quote, "passing as members of the society that wants them to disappear." Rosenblatt discussed what he called self-denial, quote, "anyone who imitates some conventional model of behavior and thereby denies his own character hides himself from himself."

Rosenblatt discussed religion, race, and gender as reason some people may pass, but not one word was said about gays and lesbians. And Rosenblatt passes as a reporter.

- That's *NewsWrap* for the week ending July 20, 1991, compiled from publications and broadcast 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.
- Many activists say that August 2 represents high noon for the future of International AIDS conferences in the US. From the award-winning program *AIDS in Focus*, here's Mike Alcalay.
- The deadline that decides if next year's International AIDS Conference takes place in the US, if at all, is coming up fast. Boston is on the verge of canceling the 8th International AIDS Conference, which ironically is subtitled A World United Against AIDS. As Melanie Berzon reports, only a quick and rational public response can change the Bush administration's mind.

- Back in 1987, archconservative North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms maneuvered HIV infection onto the list of medical conditions which can bar entry of foreigners to the United States. That policy continues today according to Michael Lempres, executive commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- Regulations that are out there now find specifically that there are some diseases that present. And the term of art is they are communicable diseases of public health significance. There is a policy that persons who test HIV positive fit into that category, that AIDS is a communicable disease of public health significance. That means that persons with AIDS or persons who test HIV positive will not be permitted in the United States as immigrants.

And that's something that the administration I know took some time coming to grips with, and looked at, and has struggled with. But the policy of the United States is right now, that is a disease of public health significance, and that's where it stands.

- This policy is also affecting those who have lived in this country for more than nine years and were eligible to apply for amnesty under the immigration program for undocumented US residents. Cecilia Muñoz is an immigration analyst for the Washington-based National Council of La Raza.
- There are people in the United States who are living with their family members, who we were trying to adjust their status, who, if they are HIV positive, probably became HIV positive in the United States. If we prevent these people from adjusting their status, they get pushed further underground.

They are less likely to seek medical treatment. They're less likely to receive counseling. The policy currently in place is actually a disaster for our public health. And some of the discussion of this policy promote the notion, unfortunately, that you can get AIDS by being in the same room with people, which is not true.

It promotes the notion that there are more people coming from outside of the country who want to get into the United States to take advantage of our health care system, which is not true. The rhetoric alone on this issue is very, very dangerous.

- Earlier this year, spurred on by a more enlightened congressional environment, the Department of Health and Human Services requested that only active tuberculosis be left on the INS list. But on June 1, the department suddenly suspended all plans for changing the immigration entry rules. As the well-known AIDS physician Marcus Conant points out, the present standoff has been manipulated by right wing politics.
- Sullivan, the secretary of Health and Human Services, had signed off on changing the policy and allowing HIV-positive people to come to the States. It was changed because Thornburgh, the attorney general, was going to run for office in Pennsylvania and wanted that among other issues.

And so the health officials were overridden by the legal officials. We are told that they received 40,000 letters stimulated by Southern California and Southern United States evangelical ministers protesting the change of the policy. And so if-- well, don't hiss. Take out your pen and write a letter.

- That's AIDS physician Marcus Conant. In San Francisco, I'm Melanie Berzon.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- The following message comes from Glen Winters, a volunteer with the Harvard AIDS Institute, chief sponsor of the endangered 8th International Conference on AIDS scheduled for May 1992 in Boston. - US government policy bans people with HIV from traveling or immigrating to the United States. This policy is opposed by the American Medical Association, the World Health Organization, and public health experts, including Dr. Louis Sullivan, secretary of Health and Human Services, and Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the polio vaccine.

We, at the Harvard AIDS Institute, firmly believe that such a policy serves only to perpetuate discrimination and to spread myths about the way AIDS is transmitted. Between now and August 2, the government has asked for public comments on this policy.

Send a postcard or letter today with your opinion on entry restrictions for people with HIV to Charles McCants, Centers for Disease Control, 1600 Clifton Road, Mail Stop E-03, Atlanta, Georgia 30333. Charles McCants, Centers for Disease Control, 1,600 Clifton Road, Mail Stop E-03, Atlanta, Georgia 30333.

Be sure to include your full name and address. Or for more information, call the Harvard AIDS Institute at 617-495-0478, 617-495-0478.

- That message from Glen Winters of the Harvard AIDS Institute.
- You've tuned in to This Way Out, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. With Lucia Chappelle, I'm Greg Gordon.

Over 50,000 people participated in this year's 18th annual Gay Day Parade in Seattle, Washington, including the city's mayor Norm Rice. During his remarks after the two-hour parade, the mayor said that in Seattle, we must not be afraid of diversity, and we will not tolerate gay bashing in this city.

60 miles to the south and the day before Seattle's parade, Lesbian and Gay Pride made its first appearance in Olympia, Washington. Over 200 gays and lesbians and their supporters marched through downtown Olympia to the state capitol for a speak-out. Dana Schuerholz, Sarah Wright, and Judith Samuels covered the premiere of Pride in Olympia.

- March organizer Vicki Marinelli says that after seeing the huge contingent of Olympia residents in last year's Seattle Gay Pride Parade, she and her friends decided Olympia needed to have its own march.
- It became obvious to us that, like, the mainstream culture can easily hide from Lesbian and Gay Pride marches that are happening in the urban centers. And they can sit there and believe that gay people only exist in San Francisco, in Seattle, in Minneapolis, in New York City, and in larger places. And we just decided that we had to wake up the town a little bit.
- Although in the week leading up to the event the Pride committee headquarters received threatening phone calls, the parade went off without problems. During the march and at the speak-out, participants told us why they had come out for Olympia's first gay and lesbian Pride event.
- My name is Adele, and I am 48 years old. I've been a lesbian for over 20 years. And I've been in and out of the closet, in and out of the closet, in and out closet. I'm tired of it. So I'm here and I'm queer. So here I am.
- To promote queer visibility. Let people know that-- let the general public see what all queers look like, that they're white, they're Black, they're Asian like myself, that we have long hair, short hair, and that we just look normal. All right, excuse me, not normal, but human.
- Oh, I've been out for a while.
- This isn't new to you, huh?
- No, no, no, this is as great in Olympia, though.

- But let's not forget the women and the men throughout in history who have been burned at the stake for being gays and lesbians or who have suffered a very profound isolation because they could not safely have their identities known.
- Why do we march?
- I'm a dyke, and I want to feel good about myself.
- I'm facing the possibility of losing my job for being here. I am facing the possibility of losing my son for being here, the custody thing that I'm going through right now. There are a lot of very ugly reasons that people can't come out, and that's the reason that we're here.

We're taking a big risk. We're really standing up for people. And if it doesn't seem like that big a deal to you, this is a big deal. I have lived in Olympia, Washington, for 15 years. This is a big deal. Trust me.

- Unfortunately, in the past, many transsexuals considered that their safest route was to go through transition and then blend back into straight society. And I've talked to many transsexuals who've tried to do that and said, you're making a big mistake. If you try to do that, all you're doing is affirming your invisibility.

And all you're doing is reinforcing a society that sees the two sexes as being just male, female, nothing in between. And everyone knows who sleeps with who. And the only way that we're going to get out of that is to come out and express solidarity with you folks. And you folks includes us because I'm lesbian identified.

- I have nothing to say. I don't know much about it. I'm sorry.
- Do you know any lesbians and gays in your life?
- No.
- Well, you're looking at about 500 of us right now.
- It's the first gay Pride March in Olympia. And even 20 years from now, I can raise my hand and say, I was at the first gay and lesbian march in Olympia, Washington.
- Yeah.
- Yeah, that's right.
- Yeah.
- Yeah.
- For This Way Out in Olympia, with Dana Schuerholz and Sarah Wright, I'm Judith Samuels.
- Singer and songwriter Steven Grossman, whose *Caravan Tonight* was the first album by an openly gay man ever released on a major record label, died at his San Francisco home on June 23 of complications due to AIDS. *Caravan Tonight* released by Mercury Records in 1974 was described by *Rolling Stone* magazine as, quote, "one of the most auspicious singer-songwriter debuts of the '70s."

Two months before his death, lifelong friend Judith Casselberry of the well-known singing duo Castleberry and Dupreé had completed production of the vocal tracks for 14 new Steven Grossman compositions. The collection is scheduled to be released on compact disc early next year, pioneering openly gay singer-songwriter Steven Grossman, dead in San Francisco on June 23, yet another casualty of the AIDS epidemic. For *This Way Out*, I'm Lucia Chappelle.

[MUSIC - STEVEN GROSSMAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE ASHAMED"]

- Thanks for choosing *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Mark Saccomano, Melanie Berzon, Dana Schuerholz, Sarah Wright, and Judith Samuels contributed program material. Thanks also to Mike Alcalay, Julie Clark, and Pamela Burton of Pacifica Program Service.
- Judy Small, Faith Nolan, and Steven Grossman performed some of the music you heard. And Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.
- This Way Out is brought to you each week by a staff of community volunteers and is sustained by financial support from the community. Satellite distribution and some operational expenses have been underwritten by generous grants from the Paul Rapoport Foundation and the funding exchange.
- Audio cassettes of *This Way Out* programs are available by mail individually or by subscription. Write to us for more information.
- We'd also like to hear from you if you've got any comments, suggestions, or questions, or just to let us know you're out there listening. Write to *This Way Out*, Post Office Box 38327, Los Angeles, California 90038.
- This Way Out is produced by Greg Gordon.
- And Lucia Chappelle. And we thank you for listening on WHPK Chicago.
- KOPN Columbia.
- And WYSO Yellow Springs.
- Among others.
- And for supporting your local community radio stations.
- Now, y'all please stay tuned.
- Every Saturday night at midnight on After Hours, we play music. After Hours every Saturday night at midnight right here on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- And we'll be doing that here in a minute.
- Ooh, yeah.
- Girl, I was on TV.
- I know. I saw you with your little short hair and your outfit.
- I know. I know.

- Rebecca and I went camping. We made camp. We spent some time eating. We were laying down by a stream. And all of a sudden, there were shocks. My arm exploded. Rebecca was hit twice and started to bleed to death. Attempted to carry her, but I was unsuccessful. The entire walk out of the woods, I believe myself to be hunted.

My name is Claudia Brenner. We were identified as lesbians by a stranger with whom we had no connection. He will spend the rest of his life in prison, but Rebecca, who was 28 years old, is gone.

- 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.
- I want to tell you about a revolutionary new hair color. It's for lesbians only. You can choose the look you desire. Whether you want that mature, politically correct, salt and pepper look or the matted, sweaty act of style, Sexual Preference by L'Oreal has your number. I let the straight girls be nice and easy. For me, it's strictly Sexual Preference by L'Oreal. Because without it, I'm worthless.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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

[MUSIC - JIMMY SOMERVILLE, "READ MY LIPS (ENOUGH IS ENOUGH)"]

(CROWD CHANTING) What do we want? Gay rights. When do we want it? Now. What do we want? Gay rights. When do we want it?

- Well.
- What?
- Enough is enough. Read my lips.
- Yeah, it is. Oh.
- Hello.
- How are you?
- Well, now that you're a TV star--
- Oh, I don't want to hear that. That's all I heard from the cops today.
- Oh.
- At work, they would say, hey.
- That's a nice uniform.
- Really?

- Is that what you wear to work?
- A basic white, yeah.
- I've missed the pearls.
- And those basic blue. Oh, did you see the diamond earrings?
- God, it looked like a headlight in your ear.
- Good. I've never been on TV before, and I was scared to death. But anyway, we were there, weren't we, Tony?
- That's right, buddy.
- Whoa, Tony.
- Tony Knight, president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, is here with us to talk about redistricting. Oh, you don't know what that is.
- Yeah.
- We don't. So what is it? Tell us, and tell us why it's important to the Houston gay and lesbian community.
- We need to back this up a little bit. Buddy, aren't all your listeners registered to vote?
- They better be.
- Yeah, you talk to them about that all the time, huh?
- We do.
- Good. We'll give them all a good fairy button, right? I'm telling you. Craig was talking earlier in the soundboard, but none of us are free till we're all free. And as we all know, each person has to be willing to do their part in the political process.
- That's true.
- Not everyone can come out. Not everyone's on the radio station.
- Well, why not?
- But everybody can pull that
- Come on, Buddy.
or do whatever it is they do in that voting booth.
- That's exactly right. And just like your time is going to be your time is going to be supported on the radio station. And that's why so many people, especially the youth in the gay and lesbian community you're the only voice that they get to hear because there's no services for the gay and lesbian community to use.
- Boy, that's scary.
- Well, you know.

- No, well, that's true. There are no organizations for gay and lesbian teens.
- Wait a minute. How come everybody can't come out of the closet?
- Come on. Come on. Let's not switch it.
- Not really.
- Let's not switch it.
- OK, we'll talk about that some other day.
- Because we're negating discrimination.
- Well, they could if they wanted to.
- Hmm.
- Yeah.
- I know this.
- 30 million people come out of the closet tomorrow, this country would, like, have heart seizures everywhere.
- That's right, but
- But it's not going to happen. So what's this redistricting
- Well, everyone can vote. We need everybody on August 10, which is not today but next Saturday, to come out and vote yes on Proposition 35, which is the city's favorable redistricting program, which is 16-6-1. Now, don't you go to sleep now, folks.
- OK.
- OK. I know we're going to get into which is 16 districts in council, and then 6 at large, and 1 counts as our mayor.
- Oh.
- OK, I know that's fascinating. Basically, what this boils down to
- There are going to be 23
- We have 9-5-1.
or 25 seats. Is that right?
- Exactly.
- We have 9-5-1?
- Right.

- Well, now, see, that's the argument against it. Now, that's a hokey argument, Buddy. I'm sorry. I know that they're going to have to make a new table for them, but the advantage of it, OK?

And also, there's another deficit you'll hear. To have a better representation on our city council members, represent 80,000 less people a year. On an average, it will cost each person \$0.75.

Well, there's the arguments against it. People are worried about longer council meetings and also the \$0.75. Well, I'm telling you, this would be the happiest money. Thank you. We've got that out of the way. It would be the happiest money that we can see spent.

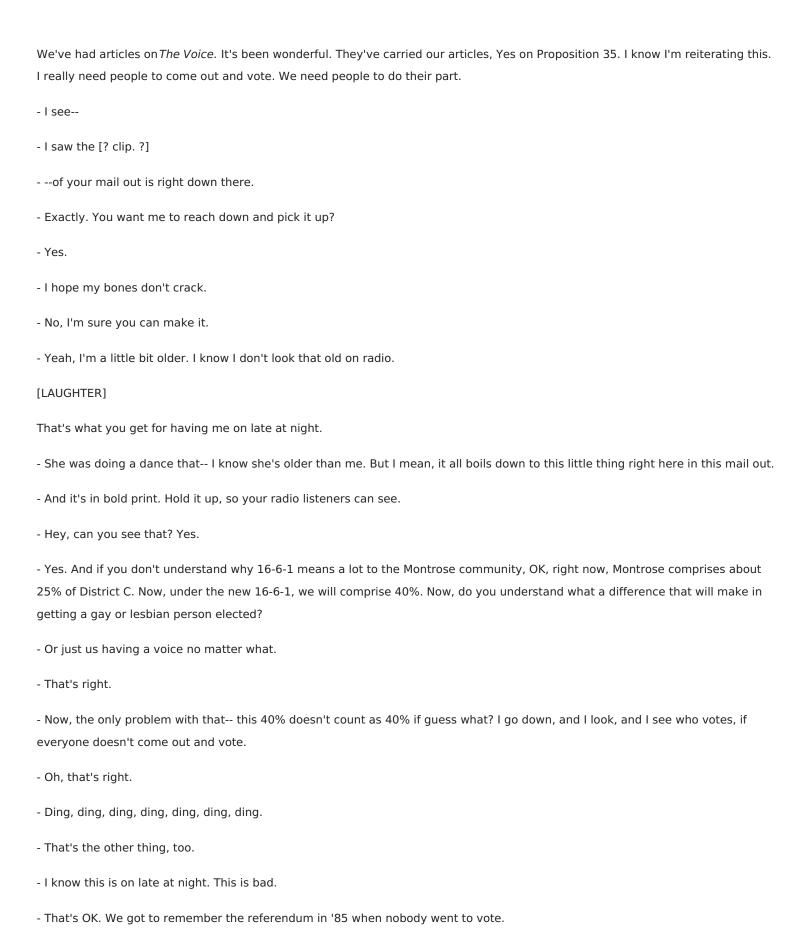
- So that it takes longer. Hey, we got problems in this town.
- That's right. And it will make representation more available to all kinds of people and also what it will do for the first time. And the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus is so proud to support this. It will set up a redistricting plan where there can be Asian representation.

And again, just like Craig said, none of us are free till we're all free. It will bring into effect a better representation plan for the Hispanic community. And again, none of us are free till we're all free.

- Right.
- Begin to change up the color code. And what will that do? Just like us. Let's say, for instance, that we had a lesbian or a gay person running for city council. You feel like you're more represented in government.
- You bet.
- Sure. So in the Montrose community, in the Montrose area, we, in the Montrose, are in District C. What this does is it does create better representation on-- let's say, like, if we wanted to run a gay or lesbian candidate, but we are endorsing it on both sides because it works, again, for the human rights for all people. And it's just the best plan available.
- Well, you know how we feel on this show.
- That's right.
- We're not free until everybody's free. Well, of course, everybody.
- I'm sorry. And thank you so much for asking me out tonight. Everyone's seen gay and lesbian activists in the media lately. And we've really been working hard and actually want to thank the media. I know that they've been working for us. They want to stop discrimination.

What we have to encourage people to do is to do their part in it. It feels like such, like, a grain of sand, like big deal, my vote. I want to tell you here this tonight that this is what I've done to bring you your vote. This is what the GLPC has done, all right? We had probably 40 people at least working the last weekend. A lot of people got to go to that march in the Woodlands.

And I want you to know that would be a lot more fun, OK? A lot of people got to do that. We had 40 people in there folding things, lifting, just to get out of mail out, to tell people on our mailing list. We have about 9,500 piece mailing list to get out your vote on August 10, yes on Proposition 35.



- When nobody went to vote. And that's why we have to vote this time. We have to make that right now. Make sure we are that 25% in total in District C that comes out and votes so that we can become 40% in the new District C.

- Another thing-- what's happened-- and this has been so exciting. And in about the last month-- and I know we haven't introduced him yet, but I have a friend of mine here tonight, Phillip Peters. In about the last month, people have said-- they all over the street. They came up to me, and they said, Tony, I want to do something.

I know you and I see different on this, but maybe I can't come out or, like, maybe I'll live with my family. And they pay my bills in school. I'm not ready to do that on my job or whatever. But a lot of people have been coming forward and getting involved. I want you to know that if you call the caucus office-- can I give that phone number?

- Sure.
- It's GLPC office--
- Sure, you bet. We do it all the time.
- --which is 521-1000.
- Mm-hmm.
- Next Friday night, August 9, we're going to have something really exciting going on the streets, the GLPC We're going to have people out, actually reminding folks in the neighborhood with big signs up that say, come out and vote. It'll say, Yes on Proposition 35. Vote tomorrow in GLPC.
- Good.
- Matter of fact, a couple of our council people will be out there.
- Good.