

[THEME MUSIC]

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[MUSIC PLAYING]

- I'm Mark Saccomanno.

- 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 July 6, 1991.

California's anti-discrimination legislation cleared its first hurdle without discussion, passing in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee with the minimum 12 votes required. The vote left professional homophobe Lou Sheldon with egg on his face, and not only because he predicted the outcome incorrectly.

After telling the press that the absence of Assemblywoman Teresa Hughes the day before was a result of his lobbying against AB 101, she turned up to cast her yes vote, having been attending the birth of her grandchild. Assemblywoman Bev Hansen told Sheldon she changed from voting against the bill to abstaining because she didn't like him, quote, getting in her face. If AB 101 passes in the full assembly, it will then be considered by the State Senate.

- Meanwhile, Lou Sheldon has filed a California initiative which could wipe out all existing state, county, and local anti-discrimination legislation. If passed, the initiative would amend the state Constitution so that, quote, no statute or ordinance may take effect or remain in effect, which either makes homosexuality or bisexuality a civil right or prohibits discriminatory conduct based upon homosexuality or bisexuality, unless it is submitted and approved by a 2/3 vote of the electors on the question, end quote. Among those joining Sheldon in proposing the measure are an Asian-American minister and an African-American televangelist.

The initiative must first go through a series of reviews, and once it has passed through the Secretary of State's office, it will have to receive the signatures of over 600,000 California voters before being placed on the November ballot. San Francisco

District Attorney Arlo Smith described the initiative as, unprecedented in American constitutional law since the days of legalized slavery. Smith has asked for a legal opinion from the state attorney general on the initiative's potential impact on San Francisco's gay and lesbian rights laws, and has promised to file suit immediately if the initiative qualifies for the state ballot.

The Concord, California branch of Sheldon's Traditional Values Coalition is using the same approach in an attempt to annul recent anti-discrimination legislation there, having petitioned the city government with 8,200 signatures for an essentially identical local initiative to amend the municipal code.

- June 30 was the date of some of the oldest and largest US lesbian and gay Pride observances, including those in San Francisco, New York, and Chicago. In New York, the 22nd Annual Lesbian and Gay Pride March drew more than half a million marchers and onlookers as over 400 units with 30 floats and 125 cars follow the Lavender Center Line from Central Park down Fifth Avenue to Greenwich Village. The Empire State Building was lighted in lavender for the second consecutive year, and the festival in the village ended with a fireworks display.

On June 23, 600 people marched past about 1,000 onlookers in the first Lesbian and Gay Pride parade to be held in Sonoma County, California, but they did so without the official county proclamation of Gay Pride Week we reported last week. Apparently, even the County Board of Supervisors thought they'd approved it by a vote of 2 to 1, but a technicality regarding quorum rules required unanimous approval for the proclamation to take effect.

- Fat Lesbians in San Francisco had a Pride Celebration of their own on June 22 as an estimated 400 people turned out for the Castro's third Annual Let It All Hang Out Day. In 1989, a letter to the gay and lesbian newspaper, *The Bay Area Reporter*, complained about the appearance of fat dykes in the Castro, sparking lesbians of size to organize as Fat Dykes from Hell to create the first Let It All Hang Out Day. Fat activists used the occasion to distribute literature on fat oppression and fat liberation, as well as to enjoy singing, dancing, and comedy.

Reports on Lesbian and Gay Pride events are still coming in, so stay tuned.

- Lesbians are making strides on campus. In Canada, two lesbians won the co-presidency of the Undergraduate Student Association at Montreal's Concordia University, running under the slogan, feminism works. The office carries a \$22,000 a year salary, which the two will split.

In Newark, New Jersey, lesbian Kathleen Conkey was elected by her classmates to deliver the commencement address at Rutgers Law School, as she graduated with highest honors last month. At Osborne High School in Northern Virginia, a lesbian couple attended the prom without incident. And at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, the threat of a discrimination lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union scared the campus administration out of its plan to evict same gender live-in partners of dormitory residential directors.

- In Massachusetts, the state chair of the Republican Party wrote an open letter to the gay and lesbian newspaper *Bay Windows*, as part of what appears to be a special outreach to gays and lesbians by the Conservative Party there. The letter denied that Republicans view gays and lesbians as a special interest group, a charge often leveled by more Conservative Party members, but, quote, as individuals who deserve the same basic civil rights as all Americans.

A Massachusetts Republican candidate lost out to Lesbian and Gay Rights supporter John Olver in a special election last month for a seat in the US House of Representatives.

- The New York City Council passed a Human Rights Bill last month that is being hailed as one of the strongest in the US. Gays and lesbians, and those perceived to be or to be associated with them, are included as a protected class. The bill covers housing, public accommodations, services, and employment, with employers carrying the burden of proof if a protected group disproportionately fails an employment test. Mayor David Dinkins is expected to sign the bill into law.

- The Harvard AIDS Institute has joined the wave of protest against US policy barring people with HIV from entering the country. The Institute, a co-sponsor of next year's scheduled International AIDS Conference in Boston, is organizing a letter writing campaign with a goal of 100,000 letters of protest being received before August 3 at the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia.

- The Parliament of Unified Germany has chosen to adopt East Germany's more liberal criminal code over West Germany's anti-gay and lesbian statutes. The victory has been attributed to an international letter writing campaign led by German gays and lesbians and the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

- The Vatican and the Bishop of Cremona, Italy have formally condemned Father Don Goffredo Crema, calling his support of gays and lesbians incompatible with his being a priest. Crema had spoken about the problems of lesbian and gay Catholics on national television, and for five months wrote a regular column in the gay and lesbian monthly *Babylonia*. Crema had not criticized the Church, but suggested that it was possible within its framework to believe that acting on a homosexual urge was indeed natural for a homosexual.

- In the USSR, the gay and lesbian organization Banks of the Nava is appealing a recent court decision upholding the city of Leningrad's refusal to register the group. The city had based its decision on the Russian Republic's Penal Code criminalizing sodomy. Banks of the Nava's attorney told the press it had been a victory to bring the case to court at all.

- Singapore's controller of undesirable publications has banned sales and distribution of the gay and lesbian travel magazine *Our World*. Editor Wayne Winston is calling for a tourism boycott of the Malaysian city in retaliation.

- And finally, the US magazine *Washington Monthly* featured an article by Katherine Boo about what non-gays can learn from the gay community's response to AIDS. The article has received praise, and its headlines certainly grabbed readers' attention-- What Mother Teresa Could Learn in a Leather Bar.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- That's *NewsWrap* for the week ending July 6, 1991. Remember, an informed community is a strong community. Find out what's happening in your area by monitoring your local gay and lesbian media.

- *NewsWrap* is compiled from publications and broadcasts throughout the world, and was written by Cindy Friedman. For this way out, I'm Mark Saccomanno.

- And I'm Cindy Friedman.

- As we hope you know by now, the month of June overflows with lesbian and gay Pride parades, picnics, rallies, and festivals, all commemorating the June 1969 rebellion by drag queens, queers of color, and other gays and lesbians during a routine police raid at the Stonewall Inn, a seedy gay bar on Christopher Street in New York City's West Village. It was the first in modern times. Gays and lesbians actually fought back very publicly and very militantly. We honor the courage of those pioneering activists each year through various celebrations of Pride around the world.

- We've got two more Pride event stories for you this week, sort of a US bicoastal tale of two cities. Our first report comes from the recently liberated state of Massachusetts, as Jill Strauss offers a sound portrait of the June 23 record breaking Pride Celebration in Boston.

- (SINGING) We're going to keep on walking forward. Keep on walking forward. Keep on walking forward. Never turning back. Never turning back. We're going to keep on walking proudly. Keep on walking proudly. Keep on walking proudly. Never turning back. Never turning back.

- Welcome to Gay and Lesbian Pride, everybody!

[CHEERS]

We're going to start off today like we usually do, with the raising of the Gay and Lesbian Pride flag, accompanied by this wonderful drum roll from the Freedom Trail Band. So here we go!

[DRUM ROLL]

- The crowd of 94,000 has grown since 1970, when 84 brave individuals decided to publicly proclaim their sexual identity. Since the passage of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Bill and the support of powerful politicians, public proclamations are not as frightening as they once were.

- I've got a proclamation here from the mayor. We also received a proclamation from the governor this year proclaiming June as Gay Pride Month.

- Pride committee chair, Janet Kyle.

- We also receive a resolution from City Council, and we've been receiving these kinds of things for years. The only thing that's new is a proclamation from the governor. This is the first year we've ever had a governor officially recognize the fact that these events do go on.

- We now have our keynote speaker, the most powerful lesbian in the country, the only gay, lesbian, or progressive person to stand up to George Bush, the most outspoken advocate for our issues anywhere in the country, a woman from Boston who did a couple days at GCM and [INAUDIBLE], ladies and gentlemen, the leader of our national community, Ms. Urvashi Vaid.

[CHEERS]

- As we gather here today on this common, the streets of Washington, DC are filled with another kind of demonstration. At a cost of \$12 million so far, our federal government is putting on what they're calling a national victory celebration. Tanks and guns are parading on Constitution Avenue. Military hardware is on display on the appropriately named Mall, the mall behind the Smithsonian, which we filled in 1987.

President Bush will talk macho and dirty to the crowd, the billion dollar stealth bomber will mock dive bomb our people, Marines will strut, and the heterosexual norm, aptly represented by Norman Schwarzkopf, will help make the horror of our war against Iraq as palatable as the death of 150,000 people can be made.

- Vaid, the Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, touched on many ironies in her speech. She noted, for example, that the Bush administration has the wallet to fund a war but lacks the will to fully fund the Ryan White AIDS Care Bill at home. Vaid was chosen as the keynote speaker for her political passion and her clout, but Pride organizer Kyle says, Pride Day is not only about politics.

- Every year, I think the biggest controversy is-- if you could call it a controversy-- the question is, is this a political event or is this a celebration? Is it a party, is it a parade, is it a march? How do you distinguish between a march and a parade? That's one of the tough ones.

[PARADE MUSIC]

- All right!

[LAUGHTER]

[CLAPS AND STOMPS]

All right!

(SINGING) Gay and you're sober and you really want to show it, if you're gay and you're sober, come on, drink!

[CLAPS AND STOMPS]

All right!

[CHEERS]

- I'm with public radio. Mind if I ask you a few questions as you walk?

- Please do.

- OK. Tell me a little bit about your organization, how it got started.

- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays?

- Yeah.

- I don't know precisely, but some parents who had gay children got together to talk about what it was like. In the beginning, I think most of us were very unhappy. Extremely unhappy. But for me, it was 14 years ago and now I'm having a wonderful time.

- What happened that changed your mind?

- Well, the minute he came out, I said, if he's gay, I'm with him, so really nothing ever changed my mind.

- But it got easier for you to accept? Is that because other people--

- No, I don't think it was any easier to accept, but I just was determined to do so. The more you read about gays and lesbians, the more you realize their-- it's a normal human condition, and I celebrate it.

[CHEERS]

- At the end of the interview, this parent proudly identified herself, Frances Pentlarge from Hallowell, Maine. Pentlarge, who was in her 60s, confessed that in Maine she doesn't exercise at all if she can help it, but every year she travels to Boston to march in support of her son. Few parents are so undeniably supportive, and according to comedian Kate Clinton, for many gays and lesbians, the hardest decision of all is to come out to their families.

- This year was a great year for me. I came out. I know a lot of gay people can't believe this, but this year I decided and I did come out to my father.

[CHEERS]

I know a lot of you are sitting there thinking, well, you travel all around the country for 10 years talking about being a big old lesbian, you didn't tell your dad, yet?

[LAUGHTER]

I forgot.

[LAUGHTER]

But I came out to my dad, I came out to my nieces and nephews this year. Whoa! This is like coming out the next generation. But I came out to them, and I came out to them because they're in high school and junior high, and there is a problem in our junior and senior high schools. There is an unacceptable suicide rate among our gay brothers and sisters in junior high and senior high school.

[APPLAUSE]

And I don't know if my nieces and nephews are gay. I hope they are because we hope the best for people.

[CHEERS]

- Clinton peppered her monologue with humorous anecdotes of family members who accepted her sexuality and friends who did not. But regardless of people's reactions, Clinton urged the audience to be bold.

- I'm very, very happy to be a stand-up lesbian feminist performer comedian. I love my job. I've been doing it for 10 years. And it's not always easy to come out. It's not easy to be a gay person in a rural area. A lot of us who live in cities forget that. We have to support people who are gay and lesbian in rural areas, even though they have those big farm equipment with the little pink triangles on them. You're like, oh, slow moving gay people. I think I could like it here.

[LAUGHTER]

It's not easy to be gay and lesbian, but I urge you to come out. It is the most liberating of experiences to come out to as many people as you can. We will change the world.

[CHEERS]

[PARADE MUSIC]

- Pride Day is a much needed inspirational event for gays and lesbians who are actively trying to change the world, in spite of the fact that intolerance towards gays is growing. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force reports that since last year, there has been a 42% increase in reported anti-gay incidents in six major cities, and Boston is one of the six. This is Joel Strauss.

- (SINGING) We're going to keep on singing loudly. Keep on singing loudly. Keep on singing loudly. Never turning back. Never turning back. We're going to keep on loving boldly. Keep on loving boldly. Keep on loving boldly. Never turning back. Never turning back.

[CHEERS]

- Sunny skies greeted the estimated 500 to 600,000 people attending the June 30 Lesbian and Gay Freedom Day parade and festival in San Francisco-- some say the largest in the city's history. It took over four hours for the parade to wind its way from the Embarcadero down Market Street, to the rally and festival in Civic Center Plaza. Fortunately, there were two reporters on the scene, Peter Clem and Christopher Billy.

[CHEERS]

- That's the sound of Dykes on Bikes in what is historically the largest annual Lesbian and Gay Pride celebration in the world. The mood of today's march was upbeat and celebratory.

- Bye, Paul!

- What are you doing here at the Gay Parade?
- Well, just checking out the sights and having a good time, seeing friends.
- So what does the Gay Parade mean to you? What does today mean to you?
- Freedom of expression. I think that's the most important thing.

[CHEERS]

- It's fantastic to see gay and lesbians and all people of all color and races and kinds and shapes and sizes out together enjoying the day and trying to make it happen for everybody.
- People are having a ball. People are relating to everybody. It's really beautiful to see.

[PARADE MUSIC]

- Political speakers, comedians, musicians, and other entertainers held forth at four separate stages. Newly-elected San Francisco supervisor and longtime lesbian activist Carol Migden set the political tone for the gathering.
- We've just passed AB 101, the lesbian and gay non-discrimination ordinance in the assembly. Let's be happy. We've got to clear the Senate, and we have to get the governor to sign it. We've been here before. You've been here before for 10 years. But the fact is this time we have a good prospect of winning, and that depends upon you.

I just got through coming down Market Street. It was a fabulous reception from lesbians and gays for the newly elected Lesbian and Gay Supervisors. It feels great. I thank you so much for all you did to help put us in office, and I promise you you won't be disappointed.

[CHEERS]

- One new development since last year's event was the vastly increased visibility of buttons and signs affirming bisexuality. The acceptance of bisexuals by established gay and lesbian groups is currently a hot topic of debate.

Among the hundreds of political groups and gay businesses with booths at the Civic Center Festival was the San Francisco Log Cabin Club, a libertarian-oriented gay Republican caucus attempting to register gay people as Republicans in order to defeat the 1992 senatorial bid of Southern California Congressman William Dannemeyer, who is perhaps America's foremost anti-gay bigot. Chris Bowen is a past president of the group.

- Dannemeyer is recruiting all these fundamentalist Christians for Democrats and non-Republicans to register Republican, so we're going to do him one better and register as many gays as Republican. Now, mind you, there's gay Republicans to begin with, but there's a lot of Democrats who see the practicality of and the need to defeat Dannemeyer in the primary.
- The importance of the San Francisco gay community to lesbians and gay men around the world was emphasized by Dallas, Texas activist Jim Richards who urged that gay people who have successfully come out and been accepted by society at large not abandon what he called the fringe members of the community, such as the leather and S&M enthusiasts.

- Being from Texas and traveling the Midwest in the South, I realize that a lot of people think of San Francisco as the heart of the gay and lesbian movement, as well as the heart of the human rights movement. To people in the state of Georgia where there is still a sodomy law, to the people in Dallas, Texas where I come from, where the Ku Klux Klan still comes into the lesbian and gay places of worship in full robes to terrorize us, you pump knowledge, you pump courage to us. I ask you to keep on pumping, to let us know that you're there, because the way San Francisco goes, the way the rest of the country goes.
- Along with the success of today's event, the lesbian gay community continues to focus on issues within its movement, as well as battling increased levels of hate crimes and other forms of homophobia.
- People, and I'm not just talking about white people, but people, if they have progressive views, automatically kind of think that they don't have any racist feelings left over.
- David [? Piaz, ?] a member of Queer Nation, feels that people of color are demanding and obtaining more visibility in the movement.
- Everybody, no matter how enlightened you are, you still have racist feelings in you, and people have to be made conscious of the fact that they do have those feelings and that they have to deal with them.
- How do you recommend that they do that?
- To be more inclusive. And if you belong to an organization, make sure that people of color feel like they're being included, or they're not being condescended to or patronized, that you really listen when somebody stands up and says that they have an issue, rather than rolling your eyes in the back of your head and saying that, oh, here they go again, diluting the queer rights movement by bringing in their issues. Actually, what happens when other people bring in their issues, it expands the movement, rather than dilutes it.
- We are all uniting behind the passage of AB 101.
- Linda Lopez, co-chair of the San Francisco Lesbian Gay Freedom Day Committee, sees the community working together to make changes.
- We are all uniting behind a fair HIV positive immigration policy that will not allow for testing in order to enter the United States, and we are uniting to defeat gay bashing to help our people really be one people. Brandi Moore used the best term-- it's the various tribes of the lesbian and gay nation, and we are becoming one people again.
- This is Peter Clem--
- And Christopher Billy reporting.
- (SINGING) Going to work for change together. Work for change together. Work for change together. Never turning back. Never turning back. We're going to keep on walking forward. Keep on walking forward. Keep on walking forward. Never turning back. Never turning back.
- [MUSIC PLAYING]
- Thanks for choosing *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Mark Saccomanno, Jill Strauss, Christopher Billy, and Peter Clem contributed program material. Thanks also to Western Public Radio.

- Judy Small and Friends sang "Never Turning Back" from the Redwood Records album, *One Voice in the Crowd*, and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.

- *This Way Out* was brought to you each week by a staff of community volunteers and is sustained by financial support from the community. Satellite distribution is made possible through 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 with any comments, suggestions, or questions you might have, or just to let us know you're out there listening. For example--

[BEEP]

- I plan to go traveling across America. If you can, please send me a list of the stations you're on. Thank you very much.

- Write to, This Way Out, post office box 38327, Los Angeles, California, 90038.

- *This Way Out* was produced this week by Greg Gordon.

- Thank you, Josie [? Katogio ?] for co-hosting the program this week. And we thank you for listening on WORT Madison--

- KPFT Houston--

- And KAOS Olympia--

- Among others.

- And for supporting this local community radio station.

- Stay tuned.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- This community radio station thanks you for your pledge. You should have received a statement in the mail by now. Please pay your pledge as soon as you can so you won't forget. You can call 526-KPFT to charge your pledge by phone, if you wish. This broadcast is made possible by you.

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

- (SINGING) Dashing through the snow in a one-horse open sleigh! Huh! [LAUGHS] Hi, it's me, Pee-Wee Herman. Hey, seriously, everybody, during this holiday season, please don't drink and drive. Duh! [LAUGHS]

- KPFT, we're here--

- And we're queer!

[LAUGHTER]

- I love that bow in your hair. It really looks nice.

- Thank you, thank you.

- It is really nice. It's only about 99 degrees.

[LAUGHTER]

- Well, you know, Christmas in July is a big deal all over town.

- It is. Oh, it is.

- The bars are having contests.

- About what?

- About any-- you know, at the end of July, the ones who have received the most nonperishable items for Stone Soup gets a trophy.

- Oh, that's cool.

- And the BRB, today's Sunday, is having a big Christmas in July show, and I'll bet that song you just heard will be done tonight by some lovely drag queen.

[LAUGHTER]

- Who's doing it? The BRB?

- The BRB.

- Well, can we call over there and see if we can get somebody to come by after 2 and talk about it?

- Oh--

- Why not?

- Why not?

- OK, hang on a minute. We're here--

- And we're queer.

- This is *After Hours*. We're in such a good mood this week because we haven't had any awful news. We've had just good news.

- Yeah.

- And I had a lot of good calls about the show last week. Everybody said, oh, the show was so good.

- Oh!

- They said, you've been so whiny over the last few weeks. Well, that's because about 2,000 queens were marching in the streets last Saturday, screaming and yelling.

- Something wonderful finally happened.

- And it put me in a good mood.

- Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

- Although, I did see a nasty letter in the post, but we'll talk about that later.

- OK.

- We're going to do Christmas in July the *After Hours* way.

- Yeah.

- Oh-- oh. What is this? A package?

- Yeah.

- So you mean we're going to be giving away things too?

- Sure. Why not?

- Are you kidding me?

- It's Christmas, isn't it?

- We have Christmas presents for our faithful listeners?

- Ta-da!

- Oh! Well, here we go. Christmas, the *After Hours* away.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!

- Whoa! Hey!

- Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!

- Man!

- Whoa! Whoa! Whoa!

- I don't think we can play the rest of that.

- Whoa!

- [LAUGHS]

- Whoa, daddy!

- Daddy, daddy!

- Daddy Funland Santa Claus. Woo, girl! I forgot about that.

- Yeah.

- Put that aside.

- OK.

- OK.

- Well, that was fun while it was last-- while it lasted.

- Girl.

- As any fondling is.

- Here's one of my favorite Christmas songs--

- Oh!

- From one of my favorite people.

- Yeah? Yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- *After Hours*, every Saturday night at midnight, right here on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- 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 active 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]