

- We're here.

- And we're queer. Get used to it.

- So get used to it, man.

- [LAUGHS]

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

[MUSIC CONTINUES UNDER VOICEOVER]

- Say it so they can hear you in the capital! For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back!

- They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about crotch politics. This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love and to choose and to live.

And I don't care about straight politics. And I don't care about great understanding. You better hear me in Washington! We are demanding! We are demanding our civil rights!

- Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

- Come on out. [LAUGHS] Join us. Bring a friend.

- What do you think about the turnout so far?

- Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.

We must destroy the myths once and for all. Shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

[CHEERING]

As difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family. You must tell your relatives. You must tell your friends, if indeed they are your friends. You must tell your neighbors. You must tell the people you work with. You must tell the people in the stores you shop in. You--

[CHEERING]

And once they realize that we are indeed their children, that we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all. And once-- once you do, you will feel so much better.

[CHEERING]

- They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about crotch politics. This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love and to choose and to live.

And I don't care about straight politics. And I don't care about great understanding. You better hear me in Washington! We are demanding! We are demanding our civil rights!

CRAIG Hi. This is Craig Washington, reminding you that none of us are free until all of us are free. So keep listening to
WASHINGTON: *After Hours*, KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC FADES]

[EASY LISTENING MUSIC]

- This is *Afterwords* for the week of February 10. I'm Frank White.

Today in Austin, Glen Maxey, the candidate for legislative district 51's seat, received 25.6% of the total vote. Glen Maxey was top vote-getter in this race. He will be in a runoff with Rodriguez or Flores. They need to do a coin toss to see who will be filling that spot because they tied for the second position, with 18.3% of the vote.

Glen Maxey is the first openly gay candidate to a statewide-- a state seat in the state of Texas. This is very exciting news.

[MUSIC CONTINUES]

[EASY LISTENING MUSIC FADES]

[PIANO MUSIC]

Church services were canceled last Sunday at the First Congregational Methodist Church because the news of a planned protest by local AIDS activists reached church members. The action was organized to protest the church's involvement in the production of a controversial videotape entitled *Todd's Greatest Regret*. The videotape has been airing on Warner Cable community access channel.

25 people joined the ACT UP Houston-sponsored protest. Dee Cruz, the evangelist responsible for bringing the film to Houston, was present during the protest. At one point during the demonstration, the protesters chanted "We are Todd's revenge" and surrounded the Bible-carrying evangelist.

A satirical response to *Todd's Revenge* was prepared by Mike Morrow. The *Minister Mike* show was aired on Access Houston, and was also heard right here on *After Hours*.

The Audette Center has announced the addition of an HIV case manager for the hearing impaired. This position is made possible by a grant from the Texas Department of Health through the Greater Houston AIDS Alliance.

Ralph Lasher, executive director of the Audette Center, said meeting the need for HIV services for the hearing impaired is long overdue in Houston. Due to communications problems, this group has had great difficulty in gaining access to needed services to manage their HIV infection. The center has hired Sue Carver, VSW, to fill this important position. It is estimated that there are over 80 cases of AIDS within the deaf community of Houston.

The president of Uganda has urged all Ugandans to use condoms. This new order came after the president was shown reports which project the number of deaths related to AIDS at nearly 16 million by the year 2015. Ugandan president Museveni has opposed the use of condoms as an AIDS prevention because he believed their use promoted promiscuity.

Since 1985, only 10 million condoms were available in Uganda. It is estimated that 650,000 to 2 million acts of sexual intercourse take place each day in Uganda. The major problem for condom manufacturers will be educating the general population on the proper use of condoms.

Sherri Weaver has been hired as a research nurse by the Houston Clinical Research Network. Her efforts will be concentrated on recruiting new patients for research protocols and assisting them in enrolling in the studies.

Sherri is a nurse and an HIV counselor, and has been involved in HIV research for the last four years with Baylor College of Medicine, Harris County Health Department, and the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services. Weaver is a past officer of the Colt 45s and has worked with the AIDS Trouble Fund. She has also volunteered for the Texas Gay Rodeo, Montrose Clinic, Stone Soup Pantry, and Body Positive. She's really busy.

She is conducting a women's outreach program for the Audette Center, which provides HIV education and HIV counseling and testing. Houston Clinical Research Network coordinates several clinical AIDS drug trials in Houston and publishes a directory of local clinical trials. For information, call 528-5554.

[LIGHT MUSIC]

Dr. George Alexander has finally resigned as chairman of the Greater Houston AIDS Alliance. He has been the focus of controversy since he was nominated to the board. Questions of conflict of interest involving his medical lab and the contracts to the same lab were raised by the AIDS Equity League.

Thomas Hillsop, head of the Harris County Hospital District, was named as the new chair replacing Alexander. Hillsop believes that the board members are anxious to separate themselves from the previous controversies that marked the Alliance.

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus voted on various committee chairs at their February 6 meeting. Dennis Spencer is the political action committee chair. Tony Knight will chair the activist committee. Tony also sits on the board of the Texas Gay Rights Lobby. I've worked with Tony and know that we can expect some exciting things from this committee. Other committee heads include Pat Gandy, Rob Bridges, Ken Davidson, Bill White, Annise Parker, and Chris Bacon.

- Disorders began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar, the Stonewall on Christopher Street, in the heart of the West Village.

[GLASS BREAKING]

[WHISTLE BLOWING]

[CROWD NOISE]

- The following is taken from an article in *Take Pride*, the newsletter of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Week. "It's time to celebrate our brothers and sisters who 22 years ago said they had had enough and decided they were not going to take anymore.

And it goes beyond that. We celebrate the steps each one of us has made in our lives. We take pride for our struggles. We celebrate for ourselves. We celebrate to let others who are not out know that there is a community here for them. We also celebrate to let the non-gay and lesbian community know that we are here, and we are not going away.

The events of Pride Week don't just happen. It takes a lot of planning and a lot of hard work. It also takes you, for Pride Week is only a success if you do your part. Get involved. If not with the organization itself, get involved with the many organizations who sponsor events during the week.

Contact 523-5263 for a list of Pride Week committees that can use your help. The next Pride Week meeting will take place on February 19 at 7 o'clock at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center on West Gray."

[LIGHT MUSIC]

The Lone Star Volleyball Association will sponsor a final open play night today, February 10, at 4:30 PM. Anyone interested in learning to play volleyball is urged to attend. The play will be held at Saint Thomas University gym. The league is scheduled to begin on February 17. The teams will be formed on the first night of the league.

[MUSIC - THEME MUSIC, "MASTERPIECE THEATRE"]

Imagine this. You're at the movies. The theater is crowded. The lights go dim.

And then you see it larger than life-- men in love with men, women kissing women. A gay teen struggles to come out. Powerful stories, happy endings.

These are the types of films the National Gay and Lesbian Tour offer. This is the first National Gay and Lesbian Film Tour, and it will visit 12 cities across the country. This nonprofit tour is dedicated to increased visibility of gay and lesbian film, and to challenge the radical right's attempt at silencing our voices.

The festival is sponsored in Houston by the Montrose Activity Center and will run from March 1 through the 10th at the Rice Media Center. Contact the Rice Media Center at 527-4853 for a schedule and times.

[MUSIC CONTINUES]

[JAZZY MUSIC]

And finally, Valentine's Day is this week. Don't forget your sweetie, their cards and flowers. And-- [CHUCKLES] let me start.

Don't forget to get your sweetie their cards and flowers. And if they don't have food issues, get them some chocolate-covered candies.

If you've been together a long time, you might express your feelings with a nice piece from I W Marks. I personally prefer a nice dinner and some live jazz music.

On Valentine's Day, I love to softly caress the hand of my Valentine at the dinner table, and later during the show, sit arm in arm. On the way home, I like to reach across to my Valentine and gently kiss his strong hand.

You know, I did this once a few years ago. But the mood was broken by the flash of blue and white lights. I thought that something terrible had happened, possibly an accident. And then to my horror, I realized that my Valentine and I were the ones being pursued by the boys in blue.

We stopped. They said, get out of your car. Where's your license? Insurance? Were you drinking this evening? What's your friend's name? The questions went on and on and on. After my now-humiliated Valentine returned to the car, the boys in blue's parting words were, leave your sex life at home.

Queer Nation is attempting to make incidents like this a thing of the past. This Valentine's Day, remember that you have the right to express your love as you choose.

[MUSIC CONTINUES]

[EASY LISTENING MUSIC]

This has been *Afterwords* for the week of February 10th. I'm Frank White.

[MUSIC CONTINUES]

Stay tuned for *This Way Out* on *After Hours*. You're listening to KPFT, 90.1 FM, Houston.

[MUSIC CONTINUES]

- And remember, if you have any news for Frank, or anything that your group is doing that you'd like us to announce, please send it to *After Hours*, KPFT Houston, 419 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas, 77006. Or call us at the *After Hours* hotline at 529-4636. And we'll make sure that Frank gets it on the news.

Stay tuned for *This Way Out* with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chapelle coming up next right here on *After Hours*, radio celebrating life from the heart of Montrose.

[NEWS FANFARE]

- This is the CBS evening news, Dan Rather reporting.

- AIDS is news!

- Good evening.
- Fight AIDS, not Arabs!
- We're going to take a break for a commercial right now.

[RHYTHMIC MUSIC]

- I'm very honored and proud to be the first openly gay person that I am aware of who have gone into the military and retired. My effort now is to not be the last to ever do so.
- My advice to gays in the military on their way to the Gulf or in the Gulf is to put the Army on notice, and to honestly disclose their orientation and to say, the choice is up to you. If you keep me, I will fight. I will serve.
- But I want to go as myself. We could probably raise four or five, maybe even six battalions of completely trained, able individuals who would be willing to volunteer and go and serve, but who are not going to lie in order for the privilege to die.
- 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.

[PEPPY MUSIC]

- Welcome to *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. I'm Greg Gordon.
- And I'm Cindy Friedman. First openly gay soldier to retire gets presidential thank you.
- Lesbian and gay battalions seek their own version of glory.
- And a decade of denial leads to days of desperation.
- All that and more, because you've discovered *This Way Out*.

[RHYTHMIC MUSIC]

[INTENSE MUSIC]

- I'm Cindy Friedman.
- And I'm Mark Saccomanno.
- With *News Wrap*, a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending February 2, 1991.

The US Army has finally settled with Sergeant Perry Watkins after a November 1990 US Supreme Court ruling ordered it to do so. The Black, openly gay soldier fought an almost 10-year war against the Pentagon after it enlisted and then re-enlisted him knowing he is gay, and then kicked him out of the Army because of his sexual orientation. Kevin Wyler reports on this week's press conference in Seattle, Washington.

- Sergeant Perry Watkins will receive \$135,000 in back pay and full retirement benefits from the military. Watkins says the 10-year legal battle was well worth fighting.

- Any American who has been wrongly treated by their country should challenge those types of decisions, and challenge them to the fullest. Frequently, bringing about change is something that is a very slow and tedious process. This was definite, true testimony to that fact. I certainly plan to continue to pursue changing the policy entirely.

- The agreement also states that Watkins will voluntarily retire from the military on February 1 with an honorable discharge, and will include his promotion to Sergeant First Class retroactive to 1985. Watkins was represented by American Civil Liberties Union attorney Jim Lobsenz, who says gay soldiers now in the military should be aware of Watkins' settlement.

JIM LOBSENZ: My advice to gays in the military presently who are either on their way to the Gulf or in the Gulf is to put the Army on notice, and to honestly disclose their orientation and to say, the choice is up to you. If you keep me, I will fight. I will serve. But don't expect to keep me, and then turn around after I have served and fought, and throw me out later.

- Lobsenz, who called the Army a gracious loser, also says he's very pleased with the outcome, although the case did not change the constitutionality of the law. Watkins was holding a certificate of appreciation signed by President Bush given to people who retire from the military.

- I'm very honored and proud to be the first openly gay person that I am aware of to have gone into the military and retired. My effort now is to not be the last to ever do so.

- In Seattle, for *This Way Out*, I'm Kevin Wyler reporting.

- Members of ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, have been visible and vocal at the inauguration of state governors across the US. In Harrisburg, Pennsylvania about 50 ACT UP activists made themselves heard at the inauguration of Governor Robert Casey, screaming, shouting, whistling, clapping, and banging a homemade black coffin non-stop throughout the ceremony, despite being surrounded by police. In Minneapolis, Minnesota, a group organized by ACT UP appeared at the inauguration of Governor Arne Carlson, passing out condoms and other AIDS-related material.

In Sacramento, California, about 30 demonstrators interrupted Governor Pete Wilson's inaugural speech twice, leading to four arrests for disturbing a public meeting. California demonstrators were particularly incensed that homophobic comic Andrew Dice Clay was included as part of the entertainment in Wilson's inaugural celebrations. Response by public officials to all three actions was largely negative.

- A-G-F-A Compugraphic, or "Agfa," a prominent international company in the field of photography, is facing a complaint filed by a gay man with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. Gary Krolakowski, who was laid off five months ago after seven years of employment, believes he was discriminated against not only because he is gay, but because he hired three African-Americans.

- Another city in the US has passed an ordinance giving legal status to unmarried couples. Lisa Phillips has the story.

- Late last week, the Minneapolis city council passed the first domestic partnership ordinance in the state of Minnesota. The ordinance will expand sick and bereavement leave benefits for city employees to include registered non-marital relationships. The ordinance also includes the establishment of a citywide domestic partnership registry.

Benefits for domestic partners have been debated in Minneapolis since 1983. The passage of the ordinance is considered a victory for Minneapolis gays and lesbians, as well as for the thousands of unmarried heterosexuals who may benefit from the ordinance.

The original version of the ordinance included health care benefits for domestic partners of city employees. City councilmember Brian Coyle, who proposed the ordinance, removed health care benefits after it failed to even come to a vote in the council last fall. He is skeptical of councilmembers who rejected the original ordinance on the basis of cost.

- The issue of cost, although it's seized upon by some politicians and the public as something to fear, is not really the issue. And I think the real issue is more the whole discussion of the nature of the family and recognizing these partnerships. The issue of homophobia deeply underlines a lot of the discussion.

- The passage of a domestic partnership ordinance links Minneapolis to a national trend of providing for the needs of couples who cannot or have chosen not to say "I do." Five years ago, West Hollywood, California became the first city to enact domestic partnership legislation. Since then, nine more cities have followed suit. Only four of these cities have made the financial and political investment of providing health care benefits for domestic partners of city employees. I'm Lisa Phillips.

- In the Dominican Republic, nearly all gay clubs have been closed, according to the French magazine *Gai Pied*. The closures are attributed to extensive negative press response to one club's recent Mr. Gay Dominican Republic contest. A couple of coffee houses and some mixed clientele bars remain open.

- In England, gay sex is not illegal. But 15 men engaging in consensual S&M in private have been sentenced by a London judge to up to four and one-half years in prison. The charges included causing actual bodily harm, unlawful wounding, and keeping disorderly houses. Judge James Rance said that individual liberty was not to be confused with license to commit acts society regards as cruel.

- Openly gay reverend Carl Bean, founder of Los Angeles's Minority AIDS Project, has declared that he will fast until the organization has raised \$300,000. In the first three weeks after Bean announced his fast, the financially troubled agency has received \$100,000 in donations. But Bean's fast continues. The Minority AIDS Project provides for basic needs of Black and Latino people with AIDS, including undocumented immigrants who do not qualify for government benefits.

- American Indian Gays and Lesbians now have an office in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The three-year-old group offers spiritual and social support to Native American gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.

- In Oregon, hours after being sworn in as a state representative, Gail Shibley announced, "To my sisters and brothers in Oregon's lesbian and gay community, I, as a lesbian, would like to say it's nice to be here." Oregon has not previously had an open lesbian or gay in the state house. But Shibley believes the county commissioners who selected her were aware of her sexual orientation.

- At the University of California at Riverside, more than 600 students rallied against a proposal to locate a Carl's, Jr. Fast food restaurant on the campus. Parent company Karcher Enterprises has provided major financial support to anti-gay and lesbian causes. The California State University at Northridge voted Carl's off its campus earlier as a result of student protests.

- And finally, there's a new twist on the phrase "desert shield." Michael Trygstad, president of Dynamic Concepts, says, "Many people feel Saddam Hussein is essentially a disease, and want to do anything they can to stop him. Therefore, coming soon from Dynamic Concepts to a drugstore near you is-- you guessed it-- the Saddam condom."

[INTENSE MUSIC]

- That's *News Wrap* for the week ending February 2, 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.

- *News Wrap* is compiled from publications and broadcasts throughout the world, and was written by Cindy Friedman. For *This Way Out*, I'm Mark Saccamanno.

- And I'm Cindy Friedman.

- Miriam Ben Shalom was in the Army Reserve for six years and left as a drill sergeant, not under the best of terms. Tell us about your discharge.

- Well, I went into the United States Army Reserves in 1974. In 1975, I was offered the opportunity to become one of the first two female drill sergeants ever in the 84th Division.

While I was in drill sergeant school, I was asked by a superior officer, are you a lesbian? I suppose the question came about because I had asked why they were discharging Leonard Matlovich, and if he was a good Air Force man, why were they doing this?

- Mm-hmm.

- I answered honestly because I couldn't see any reason to lie. Yes, I am a lesbian. On January 10th of 1976, the military began discharge proceedings against me. They flagged me. I did not get my drill sergeant's hat then, nor did I get my stripes.

I did, however, act as an instructor at Leadership Academy for almost a year thereafter until August of 1976. The commandant of the Leadership Academy called me into his office and said, you have done an extraordinary job. I'm putting in for an Army Achievement Medal and a commendation for you.

If I do this, they're either going to discharge you or they're going to remove the flag. What do you want? And I said, sir, do whatever you need to do.

So he put in for the commendation and the medal. And the Army immediately began a discharge hearing against me. I went in front of a board of my peers, which I find somewhat humorous, because I don't think there was a single gay man or a lesbian on that board.

- [INAUDIBLE]

- And I was awarded an honorable discharge in November of 1976.

- An honorable?

- Yes, because I was not accused of misconduct, for the simple reason that I never engaged in it. I was not accused of even looking at anybody the wrong way. The Army admitted that I was an excellent soldier. But I had admitted, by answering a truthful question, that I was gay.

- And this, of course, is the argument that Joseph Steffan, who was discharged from the Naval Academy a few years ago, that they were stepping on your First Amendment rights. Just for the words that you spoke, you were discharged.

- Yes. We went through all the administrative appeals and entered the federal court system in 1978. I won a very historic writ of mandamus in May of 1980, which ordered me immediately reinstated with all rank and privileges.

However, the Army, with its usual tact, argued for seven years through various sorts of appeals about what the word "reinstatement" meant. At one point, they attempted to offer me the monumental sum of \$996 and 30-some odd cents, which I refused to take because the issue is not money. The issue is I wanted my job back.

- Well, isn't the issue that you are incompatible with military service because you're homosexual?

- Well, that is what the Army says, although consistently throughout 16 years' worth of litigation, the Army has been forced to admit that I have been an exemplary soldier, that I was in the top 5% of the 84th Division, I was so ranked. I was ranked as being the best instructor at the Leadership Academy. And indeed, a year ago October, I was nominated for Soldier of the Year in my battalion.

- I have in my files a Navy memo that was put out just a number of months ago, saying that female homosexuals must be given as much attention as male homosexuals. They get no special treatment. And you look for them by looking at the highest ranks and your most capable people. So look there first and get rid of them.

- Vice Admiral McDowell obviously has a problem, because in that communique, you see that he thinks that we like to seduce and coerce our subordinates. And then when they threaten to go and say something about it, we will intimidate them and threaten them.

Obviously, the vice admiral has no idea about the psychology of women, much less lesbians. You might expect that type of behavior from heterosexual males.

- Right.

- But it's not the way most women that I operate. There may be one who might engage in that sort of thing. But I can't see that a woman who's at the top of her command, at the apex of her military career, is going to put it all on the line for some 18-year-old raw recruit.

Can you imagine how a lesbian officer in the Navy, or somebody who's enlisted who's doing a good job, who is now serving in the Persian Gulf, must feel knowing that this sort of communique has been put out? What is it, you have to lie in order to die?

If you take Kinsey statistics alone, there are about 500,000 US forces over there now. That means there are, if you use Kinsey, 50,000 lesbians and gay men.

- Mm-hmm.

- However, if you include bisexuals, and you acknowledge the fact that, for some reason or another, the population in the US military of lesbians and gay men and bisexuals seems to be a little bit higher than the average, I say that an educated estimate would be around 80,000 to 100,000 lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals who are currently in uniform, currently willing to put everything on the line for the United States of America.

And that's really rather horrifying, because these individuals do not have the same right of access to their loved ones as do heterosexuals. They can't communicate as freely as heterosexuals. And what's even more shocking is their significant others, their partners, do not have access to the same benefits and support systems that heterosexuals do.

- Right.

- The reason being-- it must be fairly obvious to your audience-- that if indeed they were discovered, they would be discharged. I was a chronic overachiever when I was in the military because I kept thinking to myself, if I do really well and I do the very best job and I really shine, they aren't going to take my lesbianism into account. It will all end. They'll see I'm a good soldier, that I'm fit to serve. And it will all go away.

Well, it didn't all go away. I guess in my heart of hearts I knew it. But a lot of us are chronic overachievers. And it seems to be across the board. Every gay vet and lesbian vet I know, they've got awards and commendations down to Louisiana and back again, you know?

And it's a crying shame. I mean, I have over 230 lesbian and gay veterans right now who are willing to volunteer for service in the Persian Gulf.

- In your special gay and lesbian battalion.

- Yeah, well, I don't want to call it a segregated, but let us call it an openly integrated battalion, OK, which would accept lesbian and gay and bisexual military personnel.

- Very similar to the Black battalion that fought in the Civil War.

- Yeah. Yeah. And in fact, it would have to be an openly integrated battalion, because I've had inquiries from heterosexuals who want to serve with us, who understand the issue and who say, hell, we'd be proud.

- And how many people make up a battalion? Pardon my ignorance.

- Oh, about a thousand.

- Oh.

- And I think that if the Pentagon would only change its policy right now, that I feel real secure in saying that we could probably raise four or five, maybe even six battalions of completely trained, able individuals who would be willing to volunteer and go and serve, but who are not going to feel they have to lie in order for the privilege to die.

I would like to encourage active duty personnel stateside and reservists stateside to come out of their closets and not refuse to serve, but say, yes, I'm willing to go. But I want to go as myself. Either allow me to serve as the lesbian or gay man or bisexual that I am, or to heck with you.

I'm ready to volunteer, to serve on the front line. And I can be gone in 36 hours. I speak Arabic, and I lived in that area for over four years. We're not talking about being pro-war, anti-war. We're talking about freedom of choice for individuals to seek jobs wherever they see fit, even in the military.

- We've been talking with Miriam Ben Shalom from Milwaukee, who has been trying for 16 years to be reinstated in the Army Reserve after having been discharged for homosexuality. Miriam, thank you very much for being with us. And good luck.

- Well, thank you very much.

- For *This Way Out* in Philadelphia, I'm Bert Wylan.

[MUSIC - MICHAEL CALLEN, "LIVING IN WARTIME"]

- With the war in the Persian Gulf overwhelming the news these past few weeks, members of ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, decided to make their own news last week in cities across the US, trying to get out their message of "fight AIDS, not war." One of the largest actions took place in New York City in a well-orchestrated series of events called "Day of Desperation." David Sears has the story.

- Demonstrators from ACT UP invaded the set of the CBS evening news as the program went on the air live.

[NEWS FANFARE]

- This is the CBS evening news, Dan Rather reporting.

- AIDS is news!

- Good evening.

- Fight AIDS, not Arabs!

- We're going to take a break for a commercial break.

- Fight AIDS, not Arabs!

- We'll break for a commercial. Thank you very much.

- A similar scene took place at the PBS studios, where demonstrators handcuffed themselves to the set of *The MacNeil/Lehrer Report*. And at NBC, more protesters got as far as the studio door before being stopped by security. Several people were arrested for these actions, actions that were just a prelude to a day of protest.

- Act up! Fight back! Fight AIDS!

- This is the opening of 1991, a year of desperation. After nine, 10 years of desperation, it's time to let the rest of the world know that AIDS is everybody's problem.

- Despite high winds and freezing temperatures, hundreds of ACT UP demonstrators gathered in the Wall Street area of Manhattan at 7:00 in the morning to bring their message to federal, state, and local government offices.

- We went to the Department of Health. We went to Health and Hospitals Corporation and ended up here at City Hall, depositing coffins at each place, representing their apathy and their inability to deal with the AIDS crisis to this point.

- After the march downtown, the demonstration broke up into smaller affinity groups that visited local officials and institutions all over the city. Three people were arrested at the Department of Health, where they tried to deliver a bag of dirty hypodermic needles they'd collected from addicts on the street. In Harlem, where as many as one in 17 people have HIV, 18 were arrested when they handcuffed themselves to coffins and laid down in the street outside the state office building.

Eight others, members of the ACT UP Alternative and Holistic Treatment committee, stormed into the offices of the Health and Hospitals Corporation. Dr. Emilio Carrillo, head of the city agency, agreed to most of their demands.

- Act up! Fight back! Fight AIDS!

- Later in the day, ACT UP regrouped at Grand Central Station to bring their message directly to the people. At 5:00 as commuters rushed to get to their trains, hundreds of pink and red balloons were released from the center of the station. The balloons rose 80 feet to the ceiling, carrying a huge banner that read "Money for AIDS, not for war."

[CHEERING]

The chanting became a deafening roar as hundreds of demonstrators moved around the station in a well-coordinated series of actions. They covered the windows of the information booth with brown paper, blocked ticket windows, and barred access to train platforms with red tape. Another banner reading "One AIDS death every 8 minutes" was taped over the automated departure schedule board. At times, the floor literally shook as demonstrators bounced in rhythm to the chants. Though some commuters were angered by the disruption, many more were sympathetic.

SPEAKER 6: It's something that they have every right to do. And I really wish that we would get some more money behind the fight for AIDS.

- Has this interfered with your commuting plans tonight at all?

SPEAKER 6: No, not at all. The little bit of discomfort that I might suffer tonight is nothing compared to what they go through when they get sick.

- On signal, the demonstrators laid down on the floor, nearly filling half the station. By 6:00, it was clear that the police were prepared to wait them out and not make any arrests inside.

So the demonstration took to the streets. When they reached the intersection of 42nd Street and Lexington Avenue, they sat down again. Police finally moved in, and after more than four hours of snarled traffic, almost 300 had been arrested.

- This is ACT UP. This is the Day of Desperation. It doesn't end here.

- Reporting from New York, I'm David Sears.

- Fight AIDS! Act up! Fight back! Fight AIDS! Act up! Fight back! Fight AIDS!

[MUSIC - MICHAEL CALLEN, "LIVING IN WARTIME"]

[LIGHT MARIMBA MUSIC]

- Thanks for choosing *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Mark Saccomanno, David Sears, Kevin Wyler, Lisa Phillips, and Bert Wylen contributed program material. Thanks also to Pacifica Radio and Mike Elkali.

- Michael Callen wrote and performed "Living in Wartime" from his *Purple Heart* album. And 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* was produced this week by Cindy Friedman.

- And Greg Gordon. And we thank you for listening on WRFG Atlanta.

- KPFA Berkeley.

- And CKLN Toronto.

- Among others.

- And for supporting this local community radio station.

- Do stay tuned.

[QUIRKY MUSIC]

- 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.

[DRUMROLL]

[MUSIC - "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"]

[MUSIC - Nanci Griffith, "STORMS"]

- I wonder if she came out of the closet if they'd buy her records.

- Ha.

- I don't think so.

- I don't think so.

- Nanci Griffith from the album *Storm*, and that's the title cut from that. And we began with music from Freda Payne, a very, very old song called "Bring the Boys Home."

- Mm-hmm. One I remember from Vietnam.

- Yeah. Very, very old.