

[THEME MUSIC]

- 90.1 FM, KPFT Houston. We're here and we're-- queer! Louise is out there somewhere on the phone, so I don't know what she's doing. It was pretty interesting, John Kennedy and his inauguration speech, November 22. Several years ago, he was killed in Dallas.

And Jimmy and I were just talking, wondered what kind of world it would have been. Anyway, lots of things have happened since then. And this morning, we're just sort of like--

[CHUCKLES]

I don't know what the hell we're doing. We're sort of reminiscing, child, about the good old days and the not-so good old days and all those old days. Mm. Anyway, I just wonder, where were you when the lights went out?

[LAUGHS]

In the sauna. Oh, never mind. It's a private joke. If you've never been to the sauna, you'd never know. Of course in the old days, you wanted to go to the sauna, hmm-- those were the days, girl.

- [INAUDIBLE]

- You found it.

- Yeah.

- So what was that all about?

- Where?

- Sitting over there.

- Oh.

- Ooh, I know who this is.

- Who is this? This is--

- Donna.

[LAUGHTER]

The Donna.

- She's banging on the door, trying to get in here, girl.

- This is when we loved her and she loved us.

[LAUGHTER]

- That's right, isn't it.

- Yeah. That's before we were all going to hell?

[LAUGHTER]

- Are we all going to hell now?

- Well, that's what some people report that she has said, although she denies it. But then, her records aren't selling either. So I guess she would deny it.

[MUSIC - DONNA SUMMER, "HOT STUFF"]

- OK, what's all that?

- Oh just the things that are going on. Speaking of hot stuff.

- Yeah?

[LAUGHS]

- The Imperial Court of the Single Star presents a benefit show for the Colt 45s at Gentry's on Sunday, November 24. Now, that's next week. Can you believe we get something that early?

Rona Barrett, who is running for empress, is going to present a show called *Wussies, [? Izzies, ?] and a Wannabe*. It's always a good show by the Imperial Court. And if you want some real hot stuff, get a bag of non-perishable groceries and run over to CBC, Club Body Center, because you will get half-price lockers--

[LAUGHTER]

When you bring in a bag for their Thanksgiving food drive to Stone Soup. Between Monday and Friday noon to midnight, you'll get half price on a locker.

- Well, Mary--

- Isn't that a good deal?

- I guess.

- Plus you're doing something good for the community.

- Well, Midtown does the same thing.

- Well, I didn't see them advertise it, though.

- Well, you run down there with some food, and they'll give you a half-price locker too.

- Well, OK.

- And they got that thing in the back.

- Ooh.

[LAUGHS]

- I was down there the other day inspecting.

- I see.

- Actually, I was inspecting in Dallas, and ran into the owner. And they're building one of them down here in Houston.

- Yeah.

- Girl.

- Well.

- Well!

- What was Coronation doing?

- Oh, they were reporting there's going to be some controversy between who the gay and lesbian community should support because--

- Support for what?

- Mayor.

- Oh, OK.

- Because the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, of course, is supporting Turner.

- Mm-hmm.

- And I suppose that's based on what Turner had to say recently, and then what Lanier had to say originally. But Coronation's had some problems getting to meet with Turner. He does not want to meet with Coronation, although Coronation and Nancy Rodriguez, who is Paul Broussard's mother, has met with Bob Lanier. And he has answered some questions for those folks, but they can't seem to get Turner to have a meeting with him. So they're a little upset on that.

- So they're going to endorse Lanier because of that?

- Well, there'll be more updates on that.

[CHUCKLES]

You can rest assured. But that was an update from Scott Lewis, who is working with Diane on that sort of thing. I saw Diane that the Venture Inn last week.

- Well, tell me more about this half-price locker business. Where do you get that at?

- Oh, that's at Club Body Center. Now there are restrictions. It's Monday through Friday.

- There always are.

- Noon to midnight.

- Well.

- But if everybody's doing that, there should be a whole lot of stuff running around.
- If everybody is doing what?
- Bringing in bags of groceries? There's going to be lots of stuff for Stone Soup and-- all this music is on, I guess I should explain something.
- Yeah.
- Because I have the feeling that I sound funny tonight.
- Actually, you sound and look funny.
- OK.
- Thank God it's not TV.
- Well, there's a reason for that. I'm having dental work done.
- Yeah. What's this song got to do with your dental work.
- Well, while the song is on.

[LAUGHTER]

- I want to explain this because this is going to be going on for about a month. I've got some dental work going on. And so I'm going to sound funny for a little while.

But it's strange. In *The TWiT* this week, there was an article on dental AIDS. And for me, it was very important. I knew I had to have some extensive dental work done, and I wanted a dentist who wasn't going to be upset because I'm HIV-positive

- Yeah?
- And there aren't that many dentists in this town that are willing to take HIV-positive people. So I asked around, and finally got old Bruce Smith over here in the Montrose.
- Uh-huh.
- Dr. Smith.
- So she pulled all your teeth out.
- Well, just about.
- No, no, no. But she has pulled a few, as you can tell.
- If she could pull some more, you'd be very popular at the French Quarter.

[LAUGHS]

- That's what I'm hoping for. Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

- Dr. Smith--

- Oh, I see,

- --has been working with HIV positive people ever since HIV has been around.

- So that's why you wanted to talk about your toothless face.

- I just want to get it over with and out in the open, because--

- She wants you to line up at the French Quarter.

[LAUGHS]

Just gum this.

[LAUGHS]

- Girl!

[LAUGHTER]

- Actually, though, I've heard that--

- It is. It's true.

[LAUGHTER]

- What's true, Jimmy?

[LAUGHTER]

*After Hours* radio, celebrating life from the heart of Montrose, 90.1 FM. And if you haven't figured it out by now, we're here and we are queer.

- Yes, sir.

[LAUGHS]

- Hang on. To your hat that is.

- Oh, yeah.

[MUSIC - FRANKIE GOES HOLLYWOOD, "RELAX"]

- They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about crotch politics.

- Oh yes we are.

- Oh yes, honey.

- This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love and to do and to live. And I don't care about straight politics. And I don't care about straight understanding.

You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding. We are demanding our civil rights.

[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 straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding. We are demanding our civil rights.

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 straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding. We are demanding our civil rights.

- OK.

- Mm-hmm.

- Are we going to do *This Way Out*?

- Yeah, coming up at 1:30--

- Oh, we are?

- Yeah,

- OK.

- Oh.

- I better get it ready then.

- Oh, OK.

- Because I haven't done that yet.

- Well, I have a couple of things to talk about while you're doing that.

- Oh, do you?

- I do.

- Well, what are they go ahead?

- Well, coming up today-- that's Sunday, November 17 at 7:30, is one of your two chances only to see the Montrose Singers in concert. Montrose singers will be at the Briar Patch this evening at 7:30 PM.

- Do we have that tape?

- No. Not yet. I talked with Lawrence Jackson. He's going to bring it by.

- Oh, I see. OK.

- OK. Also, they will be appearing at the tree lighting ceremony at the multipurpose center on December 1. That's the body positive thing that's going on. That's the only two times you're going to be able to get to hear them the end of this year. So we'll be talking about the December 1 thing in weeks to come.

Now, if you are interested in joining the singers, you can stop by during the rehearsals every Tuesday night at Bering Memorial. See Lawrence Jackson. He's the membership chair.

And also, Montrose singers will be going to Denver in '92 for the GALA Choruses. That's the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses. So if you want to get involved with that group, and go on to Denver and see all the other choruses, it's really great. If you've read *The Advocate* in the last one that came out, there's all kinds of ads because the Seattle Men's Chorus has put out a Christmas album, New York City Men's--

- A Christmas album?

- Yeah, the New York City Gay Men's Chorus has put out a Christmas album.

- The Dallas group has a Christmas album?

- Yeah. Turtle Creek chorale has one out. And the Windy City--

- Maybe our good friend--

- Chicago has one.

- Bill Travis in Dallas might send us that.

- Well, that would be nice, wouldn't it? Sure would. And some of you may have been lucky enough to have received this. did you get one of these?

- No.

- A lot of people have received them.

- I don't get anything for the community except-- grief!

- Well, don't we all, honey? But there is something new out called the *Houston Gay Yellow Pages*. It's a telephone directory for this year, and it's a *Yellow Pages* of gay-oriented businesses.

It's certainly not totally comprehensive, but it's people who probably paid money to be in it. So there's not too many of the bars. But even though it's not totally comprehensive, it's still a real good deal.

And if I can find-- ah, here we go. Published by Villa Graphics. So if you want your copy, give them a call at 621-0929.

[CHUCKLES]

Or you might I got mine at the *TWIT* office.

- Oh really?

- I stopped by. They had, like, a carton of them. So you might--

- Well, bring me one.

- Well, OK, girlfriend. I'll be more than happy to do that.

- OK, what are we doing now?

- Oh, we've got, what, four or five minutes to go?

- Oh god. Yeah.

[CHUCKLES]

- I just want to remind everybody that the Switchboard of Houston will start the gay and lesbian hate crimes reporting on December 1. A phoon-- a new phone number will be activated on that date. Yeah, I know. I messed up. It's the teeth. Get over it.

[LAUGHTER]

But we've got a new phone number that will be activated on that date for hate crimes reporting. And all switchboard members are being educated now on the new system. There will be advertising going on. Lobos is going to have an ad towards the 1st. And we've got already money from benefits that have been put on by Charles Armstrong to operate and to advertise the new phone number. We think it's important because, since gay and lesbian hate crimes need to be reported, we think it should be done by our own people, and not by any other outside group.

- Did the teeth fall out again?

- Yes. Thank you.

[LAUGHS]

You are a hateful bitch, OK?

- Wait till the bar is closed. Then we really get ugly.

- OK.

- Do we--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- --because they turn the lights on, you can see them.

- Ew, god

- Oh!

- I know. That is so sad.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]



- That's so sad.
- You see that guy standing in the corner for, like, two hours--
- And you think, oh, boy, he is so hot. And they turn--
- And you're sending drinks over there all night.
- Oh my god. It's your grandfather.

[LAUGHTER]

- Oh!
- And I'm one to talk.
- And you can't go to the tubs anymore because they got the goddamn lights up so bright. You can see the pimples on their ass.
- Woo!

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- There are a great many new drugs in trial at various early stages. And with expedited approval, that makes an enormous difference in terms of people with HIV.
- We're going to be targeting a whole range of groups-- health care professionals, teenagers, and gays and lesbians. We're going to be working with Soviet groups there. It's not like we're just going in and setting up whatever we want to set up.
- One of the things is to become educated theologically, so that I can't be lied to, especially for women who have been kept out of the theological world. And now, in fact, we are here. We know what we're talking about. And the content that we come up with is based on the experience of people who have been oppressed. But it's new voices being heard.
- 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 Lucy Chappelle.

- And I'm Greg Gordon. Queer has progressed in public perception polls.
- Soviets utilize foreign aid to combat AIDS.
- And lesbian theologian offers new keys to unlock the church.
- All that and more, because you've discovered *This Way Out*.

[THEME MUSIC]

- I'm Cindy Friedman.

- And I'm Mark Saccomano.

--with *News Wrap*, a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending, November 2, 1991. In England, a major Gallup poll has found progress in public acceptance of lesbians and gays. Of 937 respondents, 53% considered homosexuality an acceptable alternative lifestyle, up 11% from 1986. Military service by gays and lesbians was acceptable to 55% of those surveyed, up 10% from 1986.

The news from the survey is not all good, however. Three-fourths of respondents want to keep the gay age of consent at 21, compared to 16% who would lower it to match the heterosexual age of 16. Two-fifths of respondents still want to deny lesbians and gays adoption rights, with only one-fifth favoring them. 49% of respondents also believe there are more gays and lesbians now than there were 20 years ago.

- In Norway, a survey by the University of Trondheim has also found a small increase in the public acceptance of gays and lesbians. Responses rated same gender, sexual behavior on a 10-point scale, with 10 as completely acceptable and 1 as completely unacceptable. In 1982, the average response was 3.5. In the current survey, the average was up to 4.2.

- International protest has won visitation rights for a Belgian gay couple jailed while awaiting trial in Antwerp. They had been placed in separate wards, and denied the right to see each other that is routinely granted to heterosexual couples. The visitation was granted after a letter-writing campaign initiated at the Acapulco annual conference of ILGA, the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

- The man known as the face of AIDS in Portugal, Jose, Costa Ferreira, died October 15. Ferreira founded the Friendship Project to serve support and welcome people with AIDS and was an active public campaigner for social acceptance of PWAs. Costa Ferreira believed that tens of thousands of Portuguese were infected with HIV. The medical establishment listed only 676 AIDS cases as of June.

- In Buenos Aires, inmates with AIDS have been returned to prison, where they receive no medical treatment after having been chained to their beds in the AIDS Ward of Muniz Hospital. When photos of the hospital conditions were published, health authorities and legislators demanded the PWAs be returned to prison. Argentina's gay organization Comunidad Homosexual Argentina has filed a lawsuit against both the prison and the hospital, demanding care for the PWAs.

In the US, the gay and lesbian members of Kinship have won the right to publicly proclaim themselves as Seventh-Day Adventists. In an effort to disassociate itself from the organization, the 6 and 1/2 million member church filed a lawsuit in US District Court four years ago to prevent Kinship from using the trademarked words Seventh-day Adventist and the initials SDA in its name or advertising. Judge Mariana Pfaelzer agreed with kinship argument that since its gays and lesbians are members of the church, the name was a generic description. Pfaelzer noted, there is no term that adequately describes an adherent to the religion of Seventh-day Adventism other than Seventh-day Adventist.

- Another legal victory was settled out of court as authorities agreed with activists that Virginia's 60-year-old law against the licensing of gay and lesbian bars is unconstitutional. The law had long gone unenforced, but a man in Alexandria had pressured the state's alcoholic beverage control board, the ABC, to use it to close down a new gay bar in the city's Old Town area-- the French Quarter Cafe. Cafe owner Murray Greenberg filed suit against the board, feeling he had been threatened by ABC agents. He was joined in the suit by Dale Barnard, who had been thrown out of a restaurant after slow dancing with another woman, and by the College of William and Mary Gay and Lesbian Alumni, who were denied reception facilities at a local hotel until ABC approval was obtained. Lawyers for the ABC announced they will enter a formal agreement in federal court to strike down the law, believed to be the last of its kind in the United States.

- We reported last week that Rita Sussmuth of the German parliament, the Bundestag, had spoken out in favor of domestic partner rights for gays and lesbians. But her party, the Christian Democratic Union, is distressed by her remarks. CDU president Edmund Stoiber does not want Sussmuth invited to future party conferences. The CDU Youth Caucus president of Junge Union wants Sussmuth silenced, saying, every time she opens her mouth, her positive remarks about homosexuals cost us 50,000 votes.

- In Australia, the South Sydney City Council has approved plans for a unique new monument. The Stonewall Garden, to be located in Green Park in the heavily gay and lesbian Darlinghurst area, will memorialize victims of homophobia through the ages.

- The Italian magazine *Oggi* has posthumously outed the country's last king, Umberto II, who ruled briefly in 1946. Umberto's chauffeur says he ferried the monarch on numerous occasions to have sex with men, and also to many visits to openly gay film director Luchino Visconti.

- British filmmaker Derek Jarman has been canonized as Saint Derek of Dungeness by those drag nuns, the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, in recognition of Jarman's service to the gay community. Saint Derek responded with a mass blessing ceremony on the beach.

- And finally, sometimes it just doesn't pay to advertise. In California, the San Luis Obispo Gay and Lesbian Alliance tried to place an ad in their local newspapers that listed 50 local and 50 famous lesbians and gays in celebration of National Coming Out Day, October 11. Although one weekly printed the ad without a problem, the *San Luis Obispo County Telegram Tribune* was so nervous about it that they asked for signed consent forms for each of the people named. It was a little difficult to get the signatures from people like Alexander the Great, Plato, and Socrates, although one Alliance member felt his Italian background qualified him to sign for Michelangelo. At last report, the paper's attorney was still at work developing the consent forms.

- That's *News Wrap* for the week ending November 2, 1991. Find out what's happening in your area. An informed community is a strong community

- News wrap is compiled and written by Cindy Friedman. For *This Way Out* I'm Mark Saccomano.

- And I'm Cindy Friedman.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- A draft proposal by the US Food and Drug Administration, which would speed up the agency's drug approval process, was leaked to the press last week. Matt Binder has the details.

- According to the document, the FDA will soon write new regulations that would allow experimental AIDS drugs to be licensed much quicker than under current guidelines. Brad Stone, a spokesperson for the FDA, wouldn't confirm or deny the authenticity of the leaked document. But he said the idea of accelerating the approval process is being pursued by the FDA, and may soon be a reality.

- Everyone involved in this process, inside FDA and also outside the agency, is anxious to see that this concept be manifested in some way as soon as possible.

- AIDS activists and clinical doctors are delighted with the FDA's seeming readiness to accept accelerated approval. Larry Tate of Project Inform in San Francisco gives credit to the new FDA Commissioner David Kessler for what Tate calls the FDA's new assertive and progressive attitude. Tate says the new approval process will assure that the drug ddC gets licensed soon. But he says the real payoff will be in the future.

- There are right now not that many drugs poised to be approved under expedited approval or anything else. ddC probably, and after that the candidates are not really clear. But there are a great many new drugs in trials at various early stages. And with the expedited approval, instead of having them in four or five years, we might have them in a year or two. And that makes an enormous difference in terms of people with HIV.

- The new FDA regulations will reportedly allow licensing of a drug after it's shown to be safe, but before the time-consuming clinical trials are done that show the drug is effective. Those efficacy trials will continue after the drug is licensed. And if the drug proves not to work, it will quickly be pulled from the market. In San Francisco, I'm Matt Binder.

- You're listening to *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. With Greg Gordon, I'm Lucia Chappelle. Christian ethics tells us to love our enemies as we would love ourselves. But what do Christian ethics say about loving our friends?

Dr. Mary E Hunt, coordinator of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual, or WATER, is a Catholic lesbian theologian who has explored the topic of friendship in religious ethics. She was a lecturer and moderator at a recent international conference on sex and religion in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Theologians and sexologists from many Western countries joined together for the first time in a full day of lectures and discussions. Jonathan [? Reeder, ?] Victor [? Aparicio, ?] and Tom [? Samaljan ?] talked with Dr. Hunt about her conference lecture "Love Your Friends as You Love Yourself: Rethinking Religious Ethics."

- First of all, it's important to say, I wrote a book called *Fierce Tenderness: A Feminist Theology of Friendship*. And the book is probably the main reason why I was invited to speak at this conference. I looked at friendship as the starting point for religious ethics not looking at heterosexual marriage, which I think is an essential mistake of patriarchal churches, simply because all of us can be friends. But not all of us can be married. And especially those of us who are gay and lesbian people who can't be married legally outside of Denmark, it seems to me that it's important for us to take a look at our own experiences, claim them as normative within church and society, and teach something on the basis of our experience-- women loving women and men loving men, and gay and lesbian people loving each other that we have something very important and valuable to teach.

What I was lecturing on here was specifically the question of how Christianity seems to get it backwards more often than getting it right. Christianity has so clearly taught people to love their enemies that it has forgotten or left aside or not emphasized the notion of loving one's friends. So you're supposed to love your enemy and love your husband or your wife, but don't love anybody else. And, of course, as lesbian and gay people, we know that there are lots of other people to love.

- As a member of the Jewish religion I can say this-- I've been taught the same thing. All your enemies are people the ones who have to pay more attention to. And the ones who love often end up being the ones who you're pushed out from by the religion.

- Right. One of the other classic reversals of Christianity, and I assume-- although I hesitate to speak for Judaism, but one of the other classic reversals is this whole question of forgiving and forgetting, another way in which we have been taught. The important thing is that these sort of ethical dictums have found their way into the culture, not only for Christians and Jews, but for other people. And they become now normative cultural assumptions, even though they're religiously based.

So what I tried to do was to lift up the question of forgive and forget, particularly in terms of survivors of incest and sexual abuse. In fact, to forgive and to forget is the absolute opposite of what one ought to do. We have many millions of people now in therapy and in all kinds of programs trying to remember the abuse that they experienced because they've been so conditioned to forget it, and once to remember it to begin to redress the problem, and to begin to confront their assailant or their father or their uncle or their cousin who perpetrated incest, or the person who raped them.

And I think this is a very important part of the healthy move toward remembering, toward retribution, and in fact, toward moving into a just society. And this becomes a very important reversal of what has become a kind of traditional Christian dictum. And so what I'm trying to do is lift up the violent dimensions of the Christian tradition. And you and others from the Jewish tradition can do the same thing.

- How does one begin to convince the church that they have it backwards? How does one even begin?

[CHUCKLES]

- Well, as you allude to, this is very difficult work. Happily, there are lots of feminists and what we call womanist Afro-American women working in as womanist theologians, and others in the line of liberation theology, who are beginning to deconstruct Christianity-- and in many instances also Judaism, on the basis not only of a feminist critique, but now a critique of violence. And one of the things one does, and which I certainly have done, is to become educated theologically, so that at the very minimum, I can't be lied to. And it's very important not to be lied to, especially for women who have been kept out of the theological world in large numbers heretofore.

And now, in fact, we are here. We know what we're talking about. And we do bring our experiences to bear. What this means, of course, is that the content that we come up with is very different. And it's based on the experience of people who have been oppressed, but it's new voices being heard.

In our particular conference on religion and sex, there were only two women speakers. And both of us brought a structural analytic critique, as well as the psychological and theological critique. We're looking at this thing in terms of structures of oppression. So we are not as quick to say let's relax and go with the flow.

I think it's important to say, too, that the only speakers, or even participants, who raised the specter of let's ride it out, being optimistic were white males. And I don't think there's any coincidence about that. I think that there's no question, but that Christianity remains a patriarchal purview. It is much more feasible for white men to imagine how it might be different than it is even for white women, and less so for many people of color.

So I think that who were, by the way, not represented in the congress in ways that I would have hoped it would have been. I understand the reasons for that. But I think we need to push ourselves even harder, especially when we're looking around the world at these questions.

- Is the church moving a little bit towards acceptance of other oppressed types of people-- women or people of color, other than sexually oppressed minorities?

- I think it will be important to say what you mean by "the church." I mean, there's a vanilla sense of church in terms of the mainstream historical Protestant and Catholic churches. I particularly come out of the Catholic tradition, living in the United States. I participate in something called the Women Church Movement, which is a non-institutional movement or anti-institutional movement of women who engage in sacrament and solidarity in feminist-based communities, like the base communities in Latin America.

But I think you're quite right that many of the mainline churches are beginning to move on some other issues. There's a little bit of movement on racism. There's a little bit of movement on economic justice. But, unfortunately, as in the case of sexuality, I think the mainline churches tend to move two steps forward and three steps back on many of these issues.

I don't look to them first and foremost for inspiration on this. I look to secular groups. I look to women's groups. I look to gay and lesbian groups, because I think we're doing in our own communities what churches used to do and what synagogues used to do.

I think particularly in terms of the AIDS crisis in our generation of gay and lesbian people and what this has meant, and how without much help and a lot of hurt from churches and other religious organizations, we have had to come up with meaning and value ourselves. We have had to do what I call theologize. We've had to figure out why this is the case, what it means, or how to live with the fact that we don't understand it, as we've lost many of our own sisters and brothers.

We have been, in a sense, church for each other, and at a time when the institutional churches couldn't be. And I think that's to our credit. And I look more to our communities than I do to the institutional churches, and then I don't get frustrated.

- There was an interesting thing posted here on the projector at the closing statements that basically said the churches, you can't live with them and you can't live without them.

- I think the question that was raised was whether it's possible to change churches on questions of sex and religion. And I think the position that I took was that for those of us who come from that background-- I come from the Catholic tradition. I'm not going to come from another one with a name like Mary Elizabeth Hunt and an Irish face. And so I have a special responsibility because I speak the language of that church.

And I understand it and those who are my ancestors. I have a special responsibility to transform it. And so I do, especially as a Catholic lesbian. But I think that at the same time, if one looks to the institutional churches-- particularly to the Vatican in this instance, that it's really looking in the wrong direction. One has to look to base communities of people, whether they are explicitly religious or not, who are ferreting out meaning and value in their own lives.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- In the conclusion of this interview, lesbian Catholic theologian Dr. Mary Hunt identifies the problem of theology and the problem of disingenuousness as the key challenges facing those who would change the traditional church.

- The problem with theology is that as long as the churches see heterosexual marriage as the relational norm for everyone, and do not understand same-sex love, then we're not going to change the fundamental position. And there will always be oppression of gay and lesbian people. And I really am very disconcerted and concerned about the fact that in a church which has an all-male homosexual leadership class, where there's an enormous amount of homosexuality, that this kind of anti-gay, anti-lesbian theology persists. Because I'm not so much worried about people with whom I disagree as people I can't trust.

- That's next time on *This Way Out*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- The NAMES Project Memorial AIDS Quilt was displayed for the first time in Moscow last week as recognition of the growing threat of the epidemic increases several US groups are helping to establish education, prevention, and support group programs in many major Soviet cities. Lisa Geduldig prepared this report.

[MUSIC - PAUL MCCARTNEY, "UNCLE ALBERT / ADMIRAL HALSEY"]

- We're going to be targeting a whole range of groups-- health care professionals, teenagers, and gays and lesbians. We're going to be working with Soviet groups there. It's not like we're just going in and setting up whatever we want to set up.

- That's Kevin Gardner, San Francisco-based Sovietologist and AIDS educator, who returned to the Soviet Union last week to begin Project SPID Limit, an AIDS education and prevention project. SPID-- that's spelled S- P- I- D-, is the Russian acronym for AIDS. The project was born out of the Soviet Union's first International Gay and lesbian Symposium this summer. Gardner, who carried out AIDS education workshops during the conference, says Project SPID Limit's objectives include doing outreach to high-risk groups and facilitating discussion groups concerning AIDS-related issues.

- Dr. Romova, who's a Moscow AIDS researcher and doctor, has done her own analysis of gay and bisexual men in Moscow. And she claims that 59% of Russian gay and bisexual men have never used a condom for male-to-male sex. And it's probably higher.

- Official Soviet government statistics show 667 documented cases of HIV infection. But Soviet AIDS educators and activists say actual figures are at least 10 times that number. In the Soviet Union, people with AIDS face ostracism. And anyone who has had contact with someone who is HIV-positive is obligated by a January 1991 law to be tested.

All people who are HIV-positive must be under the constant surveillance of a doctor. It's against the law to put someone at risk for HIV infection. And for gay men, the fact that gay male sex is punishable by prison sentences of five to eight years keeps them from getting the AIDS test. Gardner says there is AIDS-related information available in the Soviet Union, but there are some problems.

- It's very text-heavy, and so it's not real accessible for people on the street to just pick up and look at it quickly, and figure out what AIDS is and what safe sex is and so forth. As a lot of information in America is, it's still putting out the message that AIDS threatens those who are involved with prostitution, drug use, and homosexuality-- the evil three. And then if you avoid those, you will be avoiding to a large extent the danger of getting AIDS.

- Gardner adds that in order to reach high-risk groups, one of the goals of Project SPID Limit is to devise information that's less judgmental and alienating to those groups. Soviet emigre Masha Gessen, co-founder of the Soviet publication *AIDS, Sex, and Health*, reports that the Soviet Union has perhaps one of the most enforced epidemiological surveillance networks in the world. She says that during the past three years, there have been 1,000 HIV testing centers set up throughout the country. The focus for dealing with AIDS is on the so-called anonymous testing system.

- It's not education. It's not treatment. It's identifying carriers. All of the expenditures are geared toward identifying people with HIV. People who are actually at risk know that very well, because this is the way that the Soviet Union approaches most infectious or communicable diseases.

- Several US groups working with AIDS projects in the Soviet Union are meeting to try and coordinate, and not duplicate each other's efforts. One such San Francisco Bay Area organization, the Center for Attitudinal Healing, is arranging for two Moscow AIDS clinic doctors to come to the US for training on how to set up, run, and facilitate a support group.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

In San Francisco, this is Lisa Geduldig.

[MUSIC - PAUL MCCARTNEY, "WITH A LITTLE LUCK"]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Thanks for tuning into *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Marc Saccomano, Matt Binder, Lisa Geduldig, Jonathan [? Reeder, ?] Victor [? Aparicio, ?] and Tom [? Samiljan ?] contributed program material. Thanks also to Mike [INAUDIBLE] and Mindy [INAUDIBLE].

- Paul McCartney and Bronski Beat 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. Funding for satellite distribution and some expenses has been provided by 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. 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 WOMR Provincetown--

- --KMUD Garberville--

- --and 1YC Auckland--

- --among others.

- --and for supporting your local community radio station.

- We know you'll stay tuned.

- Mm-hmm.

- 1YC Auckland?

- Yeah.

- Where the hell's that at?

- New Zealand.

- Well!

- Well is right.

- Isn't that special?

[CHUCKLES]

[INAUDIBLE] Mary.

- I like *This Way Out* a lot, because if you don't get *The Advocate* or a lot of those gay news magazines, it's hard to find out what's going on with gay life in Russia.



- Wasn't that interesting about Moscow?

- Mm-hmm.

- Did you see-- you don't watch the news.

- Hardly ever.

- This past week, they did something in Russia that they've never done before.

- Yeah?

- They let--

- That seems to be going on a lot lately.

- But they let the TV media-- really, the media, period, go down into Lenin's tomb--

- Really?

- --and take pictures. They had that dead queen on the news?

[CHUCKLES]

- Did you know she's down there?

- Yeah.

- Pumped up full of whatever?

- Oh, yes.

- They got her laying down there. Yeah, in what, a glass coffin or something?

- Mm-hmm. She's in there, just like she died yesterday. It is too scary.

- You go to the Vatican in Rome, and they've got a lot of these old saints and people in glass coffins--

- Where you can see them?

- --popes and-- yeah.

- Are you serious?

- Yeah. It's weird.

- Did you see them?

- Uh-huh.

- Well, Mary?

- Some of the ones that are several hundred years old are--

- Peaked, kind of like when they turn the bar lights one.

- It's kind of prunish-looking.

[CHUCKLES]

- Like when they turn the lights on at the bar.

- Oh yeah. It's like, ooh.

- Well, I don't know. They want to haul Lenin out and bury him now. A lot of people are. One of the scientists--

- Sure, he wouldn't mind.

- Well, one of the scientists who's taken care of him for years, that worked on this project for years, he said, I'm not a politician. But as a scientist, this would really be a mistake. And maybe he's right.

- Well.

- You know, who knows? There were rumors that Walt Disney was quick-frozen or something like that.

- "Cryogenics."

- Whatever.

- Yeah

- She looks bad. Lenin doesn't look good.

- Well--

- Dead all these years.

- Well, actually--

- Reminds me of my last husband-- dead.

- In an airtight coffin like that, nothing happens.

- That's what was going on in my relationship. Nothing was happening.

- I see.

- It was dead.

[LAUGHS]

That's why I threw that bitch out.

- Oh. Well.

- Well!

- A lot of that--

- Plus I caught him in bed with my best friend. And I said, well.

- Well, that's not the [? tea. ?]

[LAUGHTER]

- What's going on here? Never mind. I know what's going on.

[CHUCKLES]

- It's obvious.

- OK, what are we doing. We're not going to play any more disco.

- We're not?

- Well, we are.

- Oh, OK.

- Well, we are.

- Well, then, we'll have Mike come down here and put handcuffs on us.

- Yeah, right. I'm shaking in my shoes.

- I can't wait, actually.

[LAUGHS]

- Girl.

[LAUGHS]

- Come on down.

- What's this? You played "Give Me a Homosexual" right when my boss walked in last week. Keep up the good work.

- Yeah, Matt called in.

- Oh, really?

- That's great. We did that, like, right at 3:30.

- (SINGING) "Oh must have been drunk, [INAUDIBLE] for me to carry [? on--" ?]

- Oh, yeah. Somebody asked for that one.

- Oh, we'll play that. You want to play that?

- Yeah.

- We'll do that in just a minute.

- OK.
- Let's take a break, OK?
- Yeah.
- Well, actually we have to change the cassettes.
- Oh, OK. Do you need to do that, like, right this very red hot second?
- Yeah, because it's 2:00, and we need to say it's KPFT Houston--
- Uh-huh.
- Oh, what?
- KPFT Houston.
- What were you going to say?
- Nothing.
- Well why did you go, oh, ha?
- Well, you know.
- Did your teeth slip or something?

[LAUGHS]

- Oh, we're going to have teeth jokes now for the next month.

[LAUGHTER]

- You should not order them from Fingerhut.

- I know.

[LAUGHTER]

Should have gotten those expensive ones from Sears.

- Hey, ask Bob if I can come over. Has he got a VCR hooked up to his laserdisc player? Find out, would you?
- Yeah, I'm not sure if it's-- is that what you want to do?
- I want you to take over that disk I just bought and [INAUDIBLE] laserdisc of *Fantasia*.
- And copy it on the--
- No, I want you to record the theater trailer. That's all. I got the movie.
- Oh.

- It's got the trailer on it, the original. And I can't play it because I don't have a thing.

- Oh,

- Isn't that silly.

[LAUGHS]

- Well, come on over and watch it. He's got it set up. I don't know how exactly he's got it set up, or if it's set up to record. But he can do that.

- Well!

[CHUCKLES]

And I can do this.

- Well, do it, girl.

- Every Saturday night at midnight on *After Hours*, we play music.