

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Satellite distribution of the BBC World Service is supported by a grant from the Capital Group. KPFT has access to the BBC World Service through affiliation with American Public Radio. KPFT receives no financial remuneration for its broadcast. This is Lucia Chappelle--

- And Greg Gordon.

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

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[SHOUTING]

- Thousands of people have come here just to stand in lines in front of this building, not to let the soldiers occupy the place, not to let them arrest the leaders of the Russian Republic. So we have come here to protect our government, to protect our lawfully elected president. And we are absolutely horrified of everything that is going on in the country, because this new [INAUDIBLE] anything, and we are going to do just to stand here, if necessary, for days and night to protect our government and to preserve all the freedoms that we have been moving to.

- We're here just to support and protect Russian government. Because all the people around Russia voted for that government, and that is why we are here.

- We want democracy. But two, three months ago people [INAUDIBLE] say Bush, help me. Bush say no, no. And now we have this situation. It's bad.

Now, we say, America, help us. Bush, help us. If Bush will stand and not go for us, it's democracy finished here.

[SHOUTING]

- [INAUDIBLE]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Any Arab driver had access to the roads that we traveled to get over there. And without my ammunition I was defenseless. They let me keep my rifle, but it's no good without ammunition.

- I think the whole community is very pleased with the position that the police commission took here today. It strongly affirms the lives of the gay and lesbian officers who have been very bravely coming out on this issue on their own without any support from the department.

- The issue really is Black homosexuality. That's what the attempt of silencing is about.
- They use these other kinds of notions about community standards, and language, and homoerotic imagery. I mean, some cited men kissing as being totally abominable.
- This is Lucia Chappelle--
- And Greg Gordon. And you're listening to *This Way Out*, the international Lesbian and Gay Radio Magazine on *After Hours*.
- Right here on Pacifica Radio 90.1 FM, KPFT, Houston. Welcome to *This Way Out*, the International Lesbian and Gay Radio Magazine. I'm Lucia Chappelle--
- And I'm Greg Gordon. Gulf forces made a gay soldier odd man out.
- Recruiters climb over gates to lure gay and lesbian cops.
- And controversy suggests some tongues should stay tied.
- All that and more, because you've discovered *This Way Out*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- I'm Cindy Friedman--
- And I'm Donald Herman--
- With News Wrap, a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending August 10, 1991. The International Lesbian and Gay Youth organization held its eighth annual conference from July 27 through August 2 in Gothenburg, Sweden, hosted by the youth group there, RFSLU. The central theme of the conference was role reversal, as discussion sessions encouraged participants to identify with the community's many differing cultural and political perspectives. The worldwide mission of the Washington DC based organization is to end discrimination against young lesbians, gays, and bisexuals and to support the emancipation of youth in general.
- Last month's tour of five European cities by the Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus found large, enthusiastic audiences. Not only in Copenhagen and Berlin but also beyond what was recently the Iron Curtain. In Prague and Budapest, their concerts were thought to be the largest and most open gatherings of gays and lesbians ever. Their appearance at the University of Vienna was technically illegal under prohibitions against promoting homosexuality. But nowhere on the tour was there any protest or interference.
- In the US, there's bad news for lesbians bearing children by artificial insemination, as a Davis, California sperm donor has won joint custody of a boy now 16 months old. Co-parent Mary Northrop told the press, "We consider ourselves a married couple with a fertility problem." It took three years and medical treatment for infertility for Andrew Northrup, who took Mary's last name, to become pregnant in 1989. With the advice of a physician that fresh sperm offered a better chance of pregnancy than frozen, the inseminations were performed in private homes through the use of a syringe and fresh donations from acquaintances.

Steven Whitman participated over an eight-month period and according to blood tests is almost certainly the father, although another donor's name appears on the birth certificate. The women claim they told donors they didn't want a third parent and that Whitman did not express interest in parenting at the time. Whitman claims he always insisted he be involved with the child, although he did not file for paternity until six months after the birth.

The informal nature of the artificial insemination process was the key legal issue involved. Had the Northrop's used a sperm bank or had a doctor been present in the process, California law would have protected them from paternity claims. The women's lawyer argued unsuccessfully that their procedure qualified under the law because it was carried out under a doctor's advice.

The women plan to appeal. Still pending is their filing that the Judge, James Stevens Jr, be disqualified because, quote, "He is not disposed to think of families as being other than a father and a mother," end quote.

- A proposed initiative in Riverside, California that would have eliminated the city's AIDS anti-discrimination law deleted sexual orientation from issues considered by the city's human rights commission and denied any city funds to organizations legitimizing homosexuality has not qualified for this November's ballot. The proposition, sponsored by Riverside Citizens for Responsible Behavior, with the advice of notable homophobe Lou Sheldon, was described by city attorney John Woodhead as, "the most ineptly drafted initiative I have ever seen."

- Fan letters demanding gay and lesbian characters on the US science fiction television series *Star Trek-- The Next Generation* have paid off. Executive producer Gene Roddenberry, who also created the original '60s *Star Trek* series, announced to the press last month that the fall season would, quote, "include gay crew members in day-to-day circumstances." Roddenberry stated he'd, quote, "never found it necessary to do a special homosexual-themed story because people in the 24th century will not be labeled," but that a good script would be considered. Roddenberry's openly-gay assistant Ernest Over said more letters had been received on this issue than any other.

- And finally, a mysterious group of activists called FROCS-- Faggots Rooting Out Closeted Sexualities-- threatened to out 200 prominent Britons to provide role models for young lesbians and gays. They claimed their targets included 52 members of parliament, 12 entertainment figures, and a Royal family member. After doubtless creating a lot of perspiration among the peerage and drawing a public condemnation of outing from openly gay MP Chris Smith, FROCS held a press conference announcing it had all been a hoax. Their intention-- to publicize the homophobia of the British media.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- That's news Wrap For the week ending August 10, 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 Donald Herman--

- And I'm Cindy Friedman.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- A National Health Conference funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services broke new ground in the first weekend of August, addressing the needs of an underrepresented portion of the lesbian and gay community. Mike Alkalay has the story.

- It was an historic event as the first Latino Lesbian and Gay and Bisexual Health Conference took place in San Francisco. Over 150 people from across the US came together to share their lives, knowledge, and skills in various workshops and plenary sessions. One of the key focuses of this first conference was AIDS.

Barbara Garcia is the director of a migrant farmworker health clinic in Watsonville, California. The Clinic has developed a model AIDS outreach program aimed at a rural Latino community.

- We're not able to get the resources to our communities. And especially for the Latino gay man, I think that we need to recognize that right now they have been impacted and they continue to be impacted. And then we have the invisible Latina woman coming through, and I think we're going to be the ones to help make her more visible. And the Latina lesbian is not at the lowest risk that we always thought that she was.

- The cultural appropriateness of the AIDS messages propagated in the Latino community was on everyone's mind. Chris Sandoval is chair of the California Association of AIDS agencies.

- If you're really going to have behavior change in the Latino Lesbian and Gay Community, you're really going to have to look at cultural competency. And that means looking at Indigenous models of health care and Indigenous models for prevention education.

- One controversial speaker at the conference was a Catholic Bishop from San Antonio, Texas. Augustin Sicard.

- We have here a great evil, AIDS. And the use of condom is the lesser evil. OK? The best of the two naturally is not to engage in risk behavior that will give AIDS. In other words, abstinence. That would be-- the church will always say that.

But we have to look at the people who will still have sex. We have to save that fact. No matter how much we preach abstinence, that's going to happen. So what is the lesser of the two evils in this Great War against AIDS? It will be the use of condoms.

- The diversity of the Latino lesbian, and gay, bisexual community was one of the main themes that emerged from the two day conference. Chris Sandoval.

- This conference is something to be celebrated in terms of a beginning. People frequently say to me, Chris, I don't know what to tell you, but I always feel guilty because society, my mother, and the church make me feel like I can't have a relationship with God because I'm gay. And I always say to them, wait a minute, [? Holden ?], young man, young woman, you've committed no sin. But it's important not to let your lifestyle disrupt your relationship with the higher power.

We can be all of these things. It's possible to be a practicing Roman Catholic. It's possible to be a gay man. It's possible to be a Latino. It's a combination guaranteed to offend somebody someplace I'm sure, but it's possible. Look, we're all doing it.

- That's Chris Sandoval, chair of the California Association of AIDS agencies, speaking at the first Latino Lesbian, and Gay, and Bisexual Health Conference. And in San Francisco, this is Mike Alkolay.

[MUSIC - THE BOBBY FULLER FOUR, "I FOUGHT THE LAW"]

- You've tuned into *This Way Out*, the International Lesbian and Gay Radio magazine, with Lucia Chappelle, I'm Greg Gordon.

Chief Daryl Gates lost another round in his battle with city officials who are attempting to firmly establish civilian control over the Los Angeles Police Department. The fight includes the implementation of the department's stated sexual orientation anti-discrimination policies. In June, department underlings okayed the participation of a volunteer uniformed openly gay and lesbian police officers in a recruitment booth at the Christopher Street West Lesbian Gay Pride Festival in West Hollywood. Gates publicly disapproved but said he would not overrule a decision made while he was out of town.

The issue surfaced again last week after the LA Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force asked that uniformed but off duty openly lesbian and gay officers be allowed to staff a police recruitment booth as unpaid volunteers at the multicultural Sunset Junction Street Festival in the city's heavily gay and lesbian Silver Lake District. Gates refused. First, in a unanimous 11 to 0 vote, the LA City Council called on the Board of Police Commissioners to order Gates to allow volunteer uniformed gay and lesbian officers to recruit at community events. Then, in a hastily called special session, the day before the weekend festival was to be held, the Los Angeles Police commission sent a strong rebuke to Gates by voting unanimously not only to allow gay and lesbian officers in uniform to staff the recruitment table but to be paid for doing so.

Pioneering gay rights activist Morris Kight, one of Mayor Tom Bradley's appointees to the county's Human Relations Commission, was one of those testifying before the police commission. He said that the idea of police recruitment in the community should have originated from the department itself.

- The Department should, in its own intelligence, have figured out that an enormous number of people in our society are gay and lesbian and should have long since engaged in inclusionary policies. It hasn't done that. So today is an advertisement of failure of the administration of justice in the city. Happily, you folk are setting out to do something about it.

- Chief Gates told the commission that the Department has a right to decide which of its officers can work as police recruiters. Otherwise, he argued, there would be a problem with officers wanting to volunteer for various events and causes and wanting to be paid for it. Gates also has previously voiced his opposition to police recruitment based upon what he calls "different lifestyles."

Police commissioner Anthony De Los Rios made the formal motion which slapped Gates down. And newly appointed and just recently elected Commission President Stanley Sheinbaum called for a vote of the five-member panel.

- The motion would be to direct the chief of police to include two volunteer openly gay and lesbian officers to participate in the recruitment booth this weekend at Sunset Junction to be on on-duty basis and to be paid.

- Second.

- Is there any discussion? No comment? All those in favor?

- Aye.

- Any opposed? So ordered. Thank you, all.

[APPLAUSE]

- After the vote, Carol Anderson, a member of Lawyers for Human Rights, commended the police commission for its unanimous support of the lesbian and gay community.

- We're very pleased. I think the whole community is very pleased at the position that the police commission took here today. It strongly affirms the lives of the gay and lesbian officers who have been very bravely coming out on this issue on their own without any support from the Department and has made a very positive statement about the attitude of the Los Angeles Police Department to the gay and lesbian community, as well as to the gay and lesbian officers in their ranks.

- That was Carol Anderson of Lawyers for Human Rights. This report was prepared by Herman Padilla. And in Los Angeles, I'm Greg Gordon.

[MUSIC - GRAHAM NASH, "MILITARY MADNESS"]

- The US military's anti lesbian and gay policies continue to receive mainstream media attention this week, as Secretary of defense Dick Cheney suggested that the strict prohibition against gays and lesbians in uniform may not apply to those in civilian capacities. Meanwhile, the first case of a Persian Gulf soldier being kicked out of the military for being gay has come out. Bert Wylen reports.

- While most of the troops returning home from the Persian Gulf War were met with parades and celebrations, former United States Marine Corporal Eric E. Barker was being hustled out of the corps. In a letter to President George Bush dated July 4, Barker recounted how while serving his country in the Saudi Arabian Desert, he claims he was accused by another Marine of having committed the crime of sodomy. His commanding officer fired him from his job and stripped him of his ammunition.

- Where I worked and where we stayed, there was like a half a mile of open roads that we had to walk to get from the camp to the headquarters building. And anyone, any Arab driver, had access to the roads that we traveled to get over there. And without my ammunition, I was defenseless. They let me keep my rifle, but it's no good without ammunition.

- Dr. Lawrence Korb served in the Reagan administration as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations, and Logistics. He's now with the Brookings Institution, a think tank in Washington, DC. Korb often testifies on behalf of lesbian and gay military personnel facing discharge under Department of Defense directive 1332.14. that part of the Uniform Code of Military Justice which claims that homosexuality is incompatible with military service.

- I think that a person's sexual orientation should not be a bar to military service. The research shows that people who are homosexuals are no greater security risks than heterosexuals and that a person's orientation is not necessarily related to his or her conduct. Just as heterosexual males and females can have a relationship off duty, they can't have it, for example, if they're on the front lines. And I think the same should apply to homosexuals as well.

- According to Korb, nothing in military procedure would have supported Barker's being left defenseless in a war zone. The Pentagon itself has repeatedly studied homosexuality and its impact on the military mission. Both the Crittenden Report of 1957 and the PERSEREC report of 1988 concluded that the anti-gay policy is wrong.

Major Doug Hart the Pentagon's expert on homosexuality, knew nothing of the Crittenden report and claims that the Department of Defense never endorsed the PERSEREC report, even though the cover is emblazoned with the department's seal. Because Barker was a model marine, receiving high grades for proficiency and conduct, as well as high praise for energy and self motivation, the Marines might have felt cheated for losing him to the Pentagon's discredited anti-gay policy. Major Hart explains the predicament.

- Because the policy is in place, you can't really make any exceptions to whether a person is a good homosexual or a bad homosexual. It's just simply that you must follow the rules at all time to make it legally proper. So you can't make exceptions.

- Barker accepted a general discharge, which is less than the unconditional honorable discharge given to other troops returning from the Persian Gulf War theater. Because the Marines refused to allow testimony on his behalf, Barker waived his right to what he believed would be an unfair hearing. Sandra Lowe, a lawyer with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York, a gay legal organization which handles military cases of anti-gay discrimination, says that Barker has left himself no legal recourse.

- Generally, in order to challenge an administrative action, the courts only have the ability to review the administrative action. If you waive your right to a hearing, then you have almost waived your right to a trial because there's nothing on the record. There's nothing to review.

- His military career ruined, Barker's problems with the Pentagon's anti-gay policy have not ended. Now attending college in Los Angeles, he must face the prospect of job hunting with a discharge document which contains homosexuality admission as the reason for involuntary separation from the Marine Corps. For Barker, as well as for tens of thousands of others, that means either hiding years of military service from prospective employers or closing himself to many job opportunities in a social arena where discrimination against homosexuals is still rampant. This is Bert Wylen in Philadelphia.

[MUSIC - BLACKBERRI, "WHEN WILL THE IGNORANCE END"]

Tongues Untied, the highly acclaimed film about African-American gay men, is still the subject of controversy a few weeks after its national showing on public television stations across the country. *This Way Out's* Joey Flyer spoke by phone with filmmaker Marlon Riggs and in the studio with poet Essex Hemphill, who appears in the film.

- Sexuality obviously excites people in very literal as well as emotional ways, more than anything in our culture, because sexuality is so taboo. In particular homosexuality and combined with race, that is Black homosexuality, is even in many ways a double or triple taboo. So yes, *Tongues Untied* has created this firestorm of controversy. Not only from the right-- and that's entirely predictable-- but also from a number of so-called progressives, those people who run Public Broadcasting institutions and consider themselves enlightened, who have been very down on the work, and, of course, as you know, refuse to show it.

- Yes. Why? Who?

- Stations from Houston, Detroit, Tampa, Florida. In fact, two thirds, as I understand it now, of public television stations in the United States did not show *Tongues Untied* when it was aired nationally as part of the Point Of View, POV, series only a few weeks ago. And the reasons that were often offered was that the work was offensive to community standards. No one, of course, bothered to probe in too much detail what they meant by community and whose standards they were so-called protecting.

And the other objection to *Tongues Untied* really centered on the language. Many stations claimed that the language was too obscene, too offensive. Even some claimed it was pornographic and therefore it couldn't be broadcast. And of course no one bothered to examine or understand how the language was used as a reference to the kinds of experiences and expression of the rage and torment that Black gay men feel in the society.

- I think Marlon's hit it right on the head that the issue really is Black homosexuality. That's what's threatening. That's what the attempt of silencing is about. I think we've seen other homosexual pairings and homosexual experience on television previously. We've heard language like the language used in *Tongues Untied* on television previously as well.

- They use these other kinds of notions about community standards and language and homoerotic imagery-- I mean, some cited men kissing as being totally abominable-- in order to justify their banning this work. I know that actually three stations have had FCC obscenity actually indecency complaints filed against them, stations which broadcast *Tongues Untied*, all of them located in the Midwest. And we're still following that to see what's going to happen with that.

- The message that went out to us as Black gay artists and then to our communities, America, seemingly the America that's controlled or the America that's told what it can hear and what it can see, is not to know that Black gays and lesbians are visible.

- Among a number of us who have looked at some of the reviews, it's particularly one in the *Wall Street Journal* that sort of alluded to sexual sound effects. You know--

- What?

- I mean, we broke out and laughed and wondered, what did this critics see?

- What did they hear?
 - I'll tell you, it was clear that what she saw and heard was what was simply going on in her own mind. And all of the fears and anxieties around sexuality as such, not even Black homosexuality but sexuality, which set off all kinds of alarms, so that she was seeing and hearing things that never appeared in my film.
- My goodness.
 - What I've seen often and the homophobic diatribes against *Tongues Untied* is the really singling out of me as if I am this one lone, eccentric, silly voice crying out for justice. And that there's not a community, in fact, that is demanding a reckoning, demanding acknowledgment. And that, in fact, *Tongues Untied* itself is a collaboration of many artists of many different communities that are also making that demand. And knocking one of us down is not going to bludgeon all of us back into silence into closets. We will continue to make our lives and our voices heard and known.
- I don't know who these people are in all instances that want to keep us silent, but I think they're missing the beat if they think that they can bat any one of us down. Because there's 10 more that are going to rise up in our place.
- That was *Tongues Untied* filmmaker Marlon Riggs and poet and performer Essex Hemphill talking by phone and in a Los Angeles studio with *This Way Out*'s Joey Flyer.

[MUSIC - THE FLIRTATIONS, "BIKO"]

[MUSIC BOX PLAYING]

- Thanks for choosing *This Way Out*, the International Lesbian and Gay Radio Magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Donald Herman, Mike Alkalay, Bert Wyland, Joey Flyer, and Herman Padilla contributed program material. Thanks also to Christopher David Trentham and Garrett Gallagher.
- Joe Jackson, the Bobby Fuller Four, Graham Nash, Blackberri, and Sweet Honey and the Rock 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 really love 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 388327, Los Angeles, California, 90038.
- *This Way Out* is produced by Lucia Chappell--
- And Greg Gordon. And we Thank you for listening on KUNM Albuquerque--
- MGR Malmo--
- And WGLT Normal--
- Among others--

- And for supporting this local community radio station--

- To which we hope you'll stay tuned.

- Oh, please.

- Oh. What was that WGAL Normal?

[LAUGHTER]

- Normal radio.

- Well.

- Well, this is certainly not it.

- No, no.

- Hey, there were two good stories in there. The first from Marlon Riggs--

- Yeah.

--who is the filmmaker that did the film *Tongues Untied*. You know, they didn't hear that on KUHF, Channel 8. But Garland Getter our program director, and Mary Helen Mursbacher-- I can't talk yet. What is it? I'm worried about this nasal thing. That was last week.

Mary Helen Mursbacher, our station manager, have told me that KPFT and our attorneys, the Pacific attorneys, are looking at the possibility of airing the audio track unedited from the movie here on Pacifica in the near future.

- No kidding.

- Possibly on a Monday night. So when we get final word from the attorneys on that, we will let you know in the interest of free speech.

- Yeah. As a sideline to that, there was a little controversy in the *TWT* about not only the *Tongue Untied* on Channel 8, but another gay and lesbian program called *Out in America* that was cancelled.

- Did they run that?

- Well, they are going to run it now, but it's going to be--

- Like at 3:00 in the morning on Sunday.

- 11:30 on a weeknight I believe it was.

- Really? When is that going to be, do you know?

- I don't know.

- Will we have time to talk about that, or is that going to happen like next week?

- Well, we'll have time. I'll look that up.

- It's not anytime this coming week or anything?

- I'm not sure. I'll check that out.

- Oh, jeez. Well, if you know, kids, call us.

- Yeah.

- Let's see. Hang on a minute. OK, sorry.

The other good story or the story that I enjoyed on there was from Los Angeles written about Chief Daryl Gates of the Los Angeles Police Department and how he was overridden by the police commissioner's office in allowing gay cops to staff the LAPD booth at the Sunset Junction Street Festival in the Pride Week activities this summer.

- Which was a great success I hear.

- How come I can't talk? What is it?

- You still have that cold from last week?

- No, I'm not-- we're not going to do this music thing like we've been doing for the last two weeks. To hell with that.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- Well, good. I enjoyed it, but I'm over it.

- I enjoyed it too, but I'm over that, girl. When I listen to those tapes, I'm like, God it sounds like 93 Rock or--

- Well, with a twist.

- Or music 107 or whatever the hell those stations--

- Sort of.

- Anyway, if you want to hear that music stuff, turn over there because we're not going to do it. We're going to play some music of course, but it's going to be all those radical faggot lesbian things that we play all the time that I guess that's why you listen. Hell, I don't know. Why do you listen?

Anyway. We're also going to be talking, of course, about what's going on this past week in Soviet Union. Isn't it incredible?

- Not since the Berlin Wall fell have I been just with my mouth hanging open looking at the news every day.

- Have you watched it?

- I have seen bits and pieces of it during the week.

- Do you get CNN.

- No, I don't get any of that.

- I have been mesmerized, is that the right word?

- I think so. You've probably been glued to the TV.

- I have watched CNN more this week than I've watched it in my entire life I think. Because the images coming out of the Soviet Union are incredible. Pictures of thousands of people cheering as they take down statues made in the likeness of the men who formed the KGB, and people like Lenin, and Stalin, and these statues are being ripped down all over the country.

- It's just absolutely amazing. People, actually hundreds of thousands of people, risking their lives. Going to the streets, building barricades--

- That's what's incredible. Today, they had funerals in Moscow of three people, three young men who were killed on Wednesday, I believe, when the army tried to move into the Russian parliament area and take what they call, the Russian White House. And these people were literally us against them standing out in the streets with just themselves. One photograph I saw in the paper was a young man lying in front of a tank to try to stop it, and it wasn't going to stop. And in the beginning on Monday, the people were shocked, to say the least, about the ousting of Gorbachev. But as the day wore on and they begin to realize what was actually happening, about how they were going to lose all they had gained, people were coming out in the streets by the thousands. And it was very moving to watch human beings respond to their fear that their freedom is going to be taken away.

- I wonder if that would ever happen here, if such a situation--

- It made me very angry, because I don't think it would. Our people are so arrogant. And I've said this before, so smug in themselves, so secure in their little America, that I don't really think that we have-- I don't think we have that, Jimmy. I don't think we have what it would take.

- I don't--

- If it would come to that. Of course, it's not going to, because no one's able to come over here on the Americans and roll over on us.

- That's true. We have the flag-waving patriotism, but do we have the love for our country that would have us out in the streets?

- Last week I was bitching about the city council complaining about this redistricting thing and how we lost. And some of the council said, well, the city voted it down. Less than 20% of the people in this city voted.

- Yeah.

- So how can they say that the people voted. That 20% of the people may-- have less than 20%. That means that over 80% of the people didn't really give a damn enough to go vote.

- That's the only way you can interpret it. People did not give a damn.

- And it's sad. Being queer and being out, especially I've been so damn angry this past couple of weeks because of this channel 13 thing. I went to do that channel 13 thing, and all of my so-called friends at HPD aren't friends anymore. It's the queer on TV now. He's not just on the radio in the middle of the night, he's on television where we have to see him.

So they're not friends anymore, and I was very disappointed in a lot of people. And still am and will continue to be until they come to their senses.

- Oh, I know you will be.

- And I thought, well, rather than go on and just bitch and complain, we'll just play music. But that's not why we're here. I've got a letter right here that we're going to read later from a 15-year-old kid. That's why we're here.

- Yeah.

- We're here because there are tens of thousands of gay people in Houston that are afraid to come out. They don't even say the word gay in their language. We talked earlier about people in their 60s, and 70s, and even older that have never come out.

I remember one night a woman said had called and sounded really, really old. And she said she was in her 70s and had never told anyone that she was a lesbian and wanted to call and say that she enjoyed the program and hung up. How do you follow something like that?

- It's incredible. I never--

- That's why I'm so crazy.

- At the switchboard we get those same things. It's amazing that there are older people in the older generation, 50s, 60s, 70s who are not out as much as 15-year-olds who write us.

- Anyway. It just really-- there's so much emotion right now about what's going on. Because today, in case you haven't heard-- I'm sure you have by now-- Mikhail Gorbachev resigned as head of the Communist Party, which is like cutting the head off the Communist Party.

- So what happens now? It's very confusing.

- I don't know. It's very scary also, because they have nothing in place to take place of what they had. Does that make any sense? So they have to be very careful not to throw out the baby with the bathwater, and the tub, and the living room, and everything. Because they're throwing everything out.

They're so angry. There's so much frustration pinned up inside them they're just ready to oust everybody. But six months from now people are going to be hungry.

- Yeah.

- There's not going to-- you know what I'm saying?

- Well, yeah.

- It's just scary.

- Just like this coup. They took over, but they didn't have a plan.

- They had a plan, it just kind of backfired.

- It failed. And to dissolve the Communist Party, just--

- I don't know.

- What happens to the economics? What happens to any of it?

- After watching that for the last few days, there's no way in hell that I can come in here and play, you know, Madonna. We'll play Madonna someday. But to do that for four hours, we're wasting our time.

We've got just a little over three hours on a Sunday morning to tell people that it's OK to be gay and lesbian. And yeah, we get angry and we get happy. But just like you said, there's a lot of anger in being gay.

- Yeah.

- I mean, I've never had an association with my family, and that angers me. I can't tell you how much that angers me because the FCC won't let me. Because we live in free America. We live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. You just have to keep your mouth shut and don't say the wrong thing. You might make somebody mad. And

- That's what a lot of the anger comes from. We cannot be openly gay and lesbian people. Even you and I, there are situations where we think before we do things.

- Just like at HPD.

- Yeah.

- It is just incredible. I'm so disappointed. God, I'm disappointed in my job. I really am.

- If you met a gay officer, you would not embrace him at work.

- I would probably cry, because I've wanted for so long for someone to come up to me in uniform and say, you're right. I'm gay, and I support what you do.

- Yeah.

- I mean, we all have to stand together. That's what was so beautiful about this thing that's happened in the USSR. Everyone stood together. Because they knew if they didn't, they were doomed.

And that's what we've said for four years on this program. If every gay and lesbian person came out of the closet tonight, this country would change. They would be forced into changing their attitudes about how they look and deal with us. Of course, that's not going to happen, because most of us are cowards.

Most of us are afraid. Most of us are secure in our little closets, and it's not going to happen. And I think that's sad.

Now, you realize there are situations where people actually cannot come out of the closet. That 15-year-old that wrote you-- there are a lot of 15-year-old gay and lesbian people who may not have such secure relationships with their parents.

- That's very true.

- And it's not unusual to be thrown out of the house.

- And our school districts are not doing anything to educate our young people about the truth of homosexuality. No more than they're doing to educate our young people about the truth of drugs, or birth control, or racial violence, racial tension. Right now in New York they're fighting. The Blacks and the Jews are fighting.

- The Hasidics. Yes. Angie was telling me that.

- And you know what? You hear about how this country is so free. People are murdered in our streets every day. People are dying of drug overdoses. As we speak now we can call it Ben Taub and find out how many people they've hauled into the hospital in the last hour.

In this four hours, someone in Houston is going to be mugged, and beaten, and maybe killed. And we say that everything's fine. Everything stinks, kids. And we're going to play music and talk about it. So stay tuned. Most of what we're going to do, we're going to focus on what's happening in the USSR and continue to bitch and moan. And maybe we'll all come to our senses and come out of the closet.

- Now, right after the BBC you played a little bit of something going on in Russia.

- Yeah. It's tape of freedom happening.

- I like that.

- That's the best way to describe it.

- Maybe we'll hear that again later.

- Yeah. Hang on.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- What did you say now, girl?

- Oh, I was looking something up. One of our listeners called in about that *Out in America* program--

- Yeah?

- --and said it was going to be on when?

- October the 12th at 11:00 PM on Channel 8.

- OK.

- So we got plenty of time to talk about that.

- OK. Well, it's just that I had thought that I read it was going to be on at 11:30.

- Did you see that this week in Texas?

- So I'm confused. Either that or the voice. One or the other. I don't remember which. Oh.

- I'm choking. I think the KGB has just sent something in there. Actually, it's the CIA and the FBI. And can anybody get George Bush off the goddamn golf course long enough to do anything? We don't have to worry about him running for president, they can't get him off the golf course.

- Maybe that's the best place for him.

- You know what really hacked me off when the war was going on? We were sending our kids over to fight in the Persian Gulf, which I didn't agree with in the first place-- you remember--

- I remember that vividly.

- --those shows. And Bush, out in that damn boat floating around, on vacation--

- Oh yes. Hello, hello.

- --in Kennebunkport. There he goes. There goes Bush. He's our vacationing president.

Anyway, we're talking about what's been going on in the USSR. You were asking about that tape. This is some noise, I guess, from the past week. But there's a young woman and a couple of people who talk about democracy. It's kind of interesting, I think anyway.

We'll listen to that and then listen to the Beatles. And then we'll be back to do some more bitching, and moaning, and groaning. What we do best.

- Yeah.

[SHOUTING]

[SPEAKING RUSSIAN]

- Thousands of people have come here just to stand in lines in front of this building, not to let the soldiers occupy the place, not to let them arrest the leaders of the Russian Republic. So we have come here to protect our government, to protect our lawfully-elected president. And we are absolutely horrified of everything that is going on in the country, because this is just the end of anything. And we are going to just to stand here, if necessary, for days and night to protect our government and to preserve all the freedom that we have been moving to.

- We're here just to support and protect Russian government. Because all the people around Russia voted for the government, and that is why we are here.

- We want--