

- The disorders began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar the Stonewall on Christopher Street.

[PROTESTERS CHANTING]

- We take great pride in what's happened in the gay community and what's going to happen.

- People of Dade County have said enough, enough, enough.

[PROTESTERS CHANTING]

- There would be no question in my mind that the people of California don't want homosexuals teaching in the classroom.

- State Senator John Briggs has just conceded the election.

- Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk had been shot and killed.

- Dan White has been found guilty of one count each of voluntary manslaughter.

[PROTESTERS CHANTING]

- It has now broken loose. Cops are now bashing heads.

- And here comes the national march on Washington for lesbian and gay rights.

- These are gay politics. That's what this report is about.

- There are gay and lesbian people singing out here. What's your reaction to that?

- I think it's terrible. If I had a rock, I'd throw it at them.

- The real message of these gay games is that every one of us are winners.

- Today, we are marching as are others across America. And we shouldn't have to be.

- Come on and say it so they can hear you in the Capitol. 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.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- What we were faced with was no place to have the conference, no police protection whatsoever. And we'd have to have the conference in the closet.

- It's very hard for them to take AID seriously. It's something that happens to older guys.

- Do you know anything about the Stonewall riots.

- I don't know a thing about them.

- What's the gay parade about?

- I knew it was Stonewall, but I didn't know why they call it that. Maybe I don't know enough about my culture.

- 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 Greg Gordon.

- And I'm Cyndy Friedman. Homophobia shuts down international conference.

- ACT UP can't agree on how to act.

- And who was this Christopher Street? And what's the Stonewall?

- All that and more because you've discovered *This Way Out*.

- 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 June 15, 1991. The 13th Annual Conference of ILGA, the International Lesbian and Gay Association, scheduled for the first week in July in Guadalajara, Mexico, has been canceled. The local organizing committee has for months been trying to overcome the outspoken homophobia of the city's mayor Gabriel Covarrubias Ibarra.

Even though Mexican law guarantees freedom of assembly, recent public statements by Mayor Ibarra have made it impossible for the organizing committee to find a secure location for the conference or to guarantee the safety of participants. Robert Bray is director of public information for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the US media spokesperson for ILGA.

- The chairman of the Mexican Commission on Human Rights supported the conference. And that gentleman reports directly to President Salinas. The problem is the mayor of Guadalajara and the governor of the state of Jalisco in which Guadalajara exists we were aware that there was a homophobic climate for some time now, but it primarily was huffing and puffing.

As the conference drew closer, it became apparent that Mayor Ibarra found it inconceivable that his city would host gay and lesbian activists. The mayor announced that any hotel that signed a contract with the International Lesbian and Gay Association Conference would be shut down immediately. He publicly announced that there would be no police protection whatsoever for delegates to the conference even though organizers have received repeated death threats from right wing parliamentary Mexican organizations.

The mayor announced that delegates to the conference would be arrested for, quote, "immoral behavior," end quote. We took that to mean being openly gay or lesbian, having a visibility action, a rally, a candlelight vigil, walking around holding the hands of same sex delegates. In other words, being ourselves.

So what we were faced with was no place to have the conference at the last minute, no police protection whatsoever. And we'd have to have the conference in the closet. We found all those conditions unacceptable and regretfully canceled the conference.

- This is the first time an ILGA conference has had to be canceled. Since the decision to cancel the conference was made just this week, Bray said that discussions were still underway to determine the most effective ways to respond to this unprecedented situation.

- There are many things, in fact, that gays and lesbians can do. The first thing, the most important, is not to ignore this. We urge gays and lesbians to join the International lesbian and Gay Association. They can contact me here in Washington to do that at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force phone number 202-332-6483. We urge gays and lesbians around the world to pressure their local Mexican embassy, organize a demonstration, a vigil, formally present a letter of condemnation to the ambassador of Mexico in your country.

- As with so many other setbacks in the lesbian and gay rights movement, Bray said the controversy in Guadalajara has provided some positive results.

- If there's a silver lining to this ordeal for the gay and lesbian Mexicans in Guadalajara, it is that they have a newfound and respected visibility. The front pages of the local respectable press has carried this story. Local gay and lesbian issues have come off the crime pages. And now, we're in the news section, garnering widespread visibility. And we understand increasing support.

Gays and lesbians around the world have been silenced. But we will not remain silent. We vow to go back to Mexico time and again until we can meet there in peace and with respect.

- European members of ILGA will be meeting this December in Berlin while plans are being made to hold a meeting for ILGA members in the United States this November. Members or prospective members of the International Lesbian and gay Association in the US can phone Robert Bray for more information at the offices of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington DC at 202-332-6483.

- The boycott hard against the Philip Morris company ended at the end of May. Or did it? Philip Morris's corporate support of homophobic US Senator Jesse Helms triggered the boycott in April, 1990. On May 30, Philip Morris arranged a press conference in New York where Michael Petrelis of ACT UP Washington DC asked the lesbian and gay community to start shutting down the boycott because the company promised to double its contributions to AIDS charities, perhaps as much as \$3 million.

Philip Morris did not, however, make any claims to stop supporting Helms' future election campaigns or the construction of a North Carolina Jesse Helms Library. The company's written statement indicated they would continue to support him for the sake of their tobacco business, which they said should not be seen as an endorsement of any of his positions.

While Petrelis presumably spoke for ACT UP DC, the Dallas Gay Alliance and the Human Rights Campaign Fund, which were part of the negotiations with Philip Morris executives, other groups endorsing the boycott were not ready to settle. Although a formal process had been established for groups to endorse the boycott, no such process was instituted to endorse the settlement.

Bill Dobbs of ACT UP New York stated at the press conference that his group had not been informed that a settlement was in the works and that virtually none of the 70 active groups endorsing the boycott had approved the settlement. ACT UP New York ultimately did vote June 4 to approve the settlement, but ACT UP San Francisco has voted to continue the boycott. As Dave Gilden wrote in the Bay Area reporter, "If acrimony in the community is the result of the pact with Morris, it may well turn out that the giant corporation has found a cheap way to turn a boycott to its advantage."

- Gay men in their late teens and early 20s today weren't even shaving when the AIDS epidemic began over 10 years ago. And even though the gay community safe sex campaigns have been the model for education in other communities, the message about practicing safe sex doesn't seem to have reached this newly emerging high risk group. Mary VanClay reports.

- A new survey from San Francisco's Department of Health has confirmed the worst fears of many AIDS education groups. The report suggests that gay teenagers are 40% more likely to carry HIV than gay men in their mid 20s. Teens are much more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviors than older gay men, a trend that's just the reverse of what health officials expected. Dan Wohlfeiler is the education director of Stop AIDS, an outreach group in San Francisco. He says because early AIDS education programs focused mainly on older white gay men, younger gays have trouble assessing their own risks.
- It's very hard for them to take AIDS seriously. It's something that happens to older guys. We had one young man say we thought only guys wearing leather jackets and mustaches got infected.
- Wohlfeiler says he fears the trend in San Francisco will be borne out in other areas of the country as well. Higher infection rates among young gay men have already been found in other California cities like San Diego and Los Angeles. Wohlfeiler says the findings emphasize the need for ongoing safe sex education for all young people.
- I think a lot of people and a lot of funders think that gay men have heard it all and that they've made the behavior changes. They've heard the messages. And that we need to move on to other populations. I think what these statistics really show is that we need to be continually addressing all populations, including gay men.
- That's Dan Wohlfeiler of the Stop AIDS Project in San Francisco. I'm Mary VanClay.
- A special committee tried to move US Presbyterians into the 20th century by recognizing sexuality as a gift of God even when it's expressed outside of marriage or between people of the same gender. But the rank and file weren't ready for it yet. Four years in the making, 200 pages long and a surprise bestseller, the special committee report, Keeping Body and Soul Together, Sexuality, Spirituality, and Social Justice nonetheless was overwhelmingly defeated June 10 in a vote by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. Almost five hours of debate and negative testimony from about 50 member churches went into holding the line on the sanctity of marriage and continued refusal to ordain gay and lesbian ministers.
- In England, the secretary general of the Royal College of Nursing is labeling a new handbook for nurses incorrect and misleading because it says homosexuality can be cured by intensive psychotherapy.
- Also in England, the organization OutRage! urged gays and lesbians to make their presence known in April's national census. But the government refuses to notice. Similar to an earlier campaign in the US, OutRage! asked same gender couples to check the box living together as a couple. But the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys has said the responses won't be counted because people may object, and we have to go with what the majority wish.
- In Italy according to a recent national survey, gays and lesbians are not the most hated group. Gypsies and politicians are even less popular. 31% of respondents described gays and lesbians as unpleasant.
- In response to a large number of complaints, the Canadian radio-television and telecommunications commission is considering a proposal to prohibit abusive comment or abusive pictorial representation on the basis of sexual orientation. Most of the complaints cited religious broadcasts. The commission is receiving public comments on the proposal through June 28 but has not set a date for a vote.
- And finally, in Orange County, California, ACT UP visited professional homophobe Lou Sheldon's traditional values coalition to protest his assault on the state's proposed anti-discrimination legislation. To show just what they think he's worth his weight in, they left at the door about 170 pounds of shall we say organic fertilizer?

- That's *News Wrap* for the week ending June 15, 1991, compiled from publications and broadcast throughout the world and written by Cyndy Friedman.

- Remember, an informed community is a strong community. Find out what's happening in your area by monitoring your local gay and lesbian media. For *This Way Out*, I'm Cyndy Freedman.

- And I'm Mark Saccomano.

- This is Charles Pierce as Katharine Hepburn here to remind you that you're listening to *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Gay and Lesbian Pride is traditionally celebrated during the month of June with festivals and parades in cities around the world. Because the history and culture of lesbians and gay men is still traditionally omitted in virtually all school textbooks, many in our community remain ignorant of the pivotal event which these June observances celebrate. *This Way Out* tries to remedy that situation each year. We begin with excerpts from a program originally broadcast on WBAI in New York City in January 1969, six months before the response to a routine police raid on a gay bar in the city's East Village was anything but routine.

- This is the new symposium, a program from and for the homosexual community. I'm Bert Searles and also on hand--

- Kermit Lamb.

- The discussion for tonight was what's more or less what's wrong with the homosexual culture. And when I sent out the schedule and so when I simply noted that whoever of the regular panel had want it to be on, could be on tonight-- and apparently the rest of them just don't think there's anything wrong with the homosexual culture because only Kermit showed up. And I will say that I know that Marie had a class tonight, so that's why she couldn't make it.

- I felt and I think I've changed even my thinking on this in the last three or four years. Is that homosexuals aren't proud enough to be homosexuals and get out and be militant a little bit and say I am. And it's a little like I'm glad to see now in the racial thing that negro is now just trying to get along like everybody else. They've seen beauty in their own blackness. Black is beautiful.

- It bears on what you were saying about being proud of homosexual, which, I think, even now is a little much to ask of most people. But just being open about it-- since doing this program and because of doing this program and trying to find people to do this program back at the beginning, it is come so sharply to my attention that total lack of courage that the homosexual community has and I know the reasons. Damn it. And I've been to it myself.

I think that is one thing you can really pin on all of you out there is cowardice. I know I'm going to get letters saying, OK, it's easy for you. You're not going to get fired from the station. But it hasn't been that easy. I'm feeling that I've totally lost contact with my father because of this program.

And I know that people's lives can be ruined if they open up and reveal themselves. On an idealistic plane, we all know that if every homosexual said what he was tomorrow, that the whole situation would be changed for the better. Now, this is obviously a pipe dream.

But for every homosexual that does open up and reveal himself, there are that many more people that realize that homosexuals are real breathing human beings. They are not sex maniacs or freaks. That many more young people that are given the fact that a homosexual life needn't be a disaster.

- I have a feeling I don't know why. I know a number of people who are under 25 say-- under 20 they all seem to be much more relaxed. I hope it's a sign. I don't--

- So do I.

- There's a certain feeling among many younger people of not caring who knows they have straight friends who know. And I hope this is sort of indicative of something.

[PROTESTERS CHANTING]

- June 26 and 27, 1969, as recalled in Breck Ardery's 1970 documentary.

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

[PROTESTERS CHANTING]

Almost every homosexual who was in New York at the time of the Stonewall Rebellion has his own private memory of what took place. One of the longtime leaders of the gay rights movement Craig Rodwell remembers it this way.

- The first night was Friday. And I was on the way home from the friend's house. The raid was just starting at that time. And we noticed the crowds. We went over there. And a crowd was gathering out in front. And there was a paddy wagon pulled up. And a few people being taken out.

It started with the few coins and pebbles being thrown at the police. And then the police retreated into the Stonewall. And then after the police barricaded themselves inside, it was like half an hour later. The riot police started moving up Christopher breaking up the crowd, which had really become a very angry crowd.

Hundreds of bottles and rock. There wasn't one window left in the whole place after about 10 minutes. And they broke the crowd up into small groups. And this went on for like two or three hours back and forth in the whole area. I think they felt that people would just go home or run especially since they were gay people and not used to gay people standing up at all, especially in front of police.

But they would chase people away. And they would go around the block and come in another way. And sort of tug of war went on all evening. And then on Saturday night, it was much the same thing. Starting about 9:00, crowd started to gather in the area. And then around 11:00 or 12:00, they started taking over the street and stopping cars from coming through unless there were gay people in them.

Few fires were set. But generally it was an angry mood, a lot of chanting, a lot of hand-holding, a lot of assertion of being gay. It was a way of saying we're tired of hiding, tired of waiting too long, tired of denying our basic identity, denying ourselves a newfound pride, really a collective pride in their identity.

- Another important outgrowth of the riots was the formation of numerous action oriented homosexual groups in New York and around the country. They are composed for the most part of younger and more militant homosexuals.

- It's still a relatively small minority of gay people who do reflect this new spirit whatever you want to call it. But, I think, it's going to affect the masses of gay people in the coming years.

- The Stonewall Rebellion served notice on the heterosexual majority that a growing number of gays were not afraid anymore and were not content to continue living out their lives in fear and oppression.

- Guys, power is here to stay and nobody, nobody is going to ignore us any longer.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- This is Gabrielle Antolovich reporting from West Hollywood for *This Way Out*. Do you know what the Stonewall riots were about?

- I'm not real clear. I'll be honest with you. I never have read about it as far as what exactly happened there, the purpose of it.

- They were riots in New York. And they were famous because they were the first time they say that gays uprising.

- Why did they uprising?

- Because the police were bashing on them.

- Do you know what the Stonewall riots were about?

- I've never heard anything about it.

- No, I don't know nothing about it.

- Do you know anything about the gay parade?

- Yes, of course, I do. Yeah.

- Well, what's the gay parade about?

- Boy, it's about gay people, their rights and everything. They deserve it.

- Do you know what the Stonewall riots were about?

- I know a little bit about them.

- What do you know?

- Well, supposedly some cops came into a bar and some Long Beach cops and--

- New York.

- Oh, New York, OK. Well, anyway whatever city. But anyway, they came into the bar, and they were trying to break up the gays or whatever. And then the gays kicked their butts. That's what I heard.

- I just heard like a whole bunch of drag queens just sort of like barricaded the whole half of the city and just took over for about a few days.

- You know that it wasn't just fags or drag queens. It was leather boys and lesbians. And they were mainly people of color too.

- Yeah.

- Do you know anything about the Stonewall riots?

- I don't know a thing about them.

- Uh, me.

- Well, what's the gay parade about?

- I guess to celebrate the gay life where you can touch in public and it doesn't, I guess, offend anybody or you could just be yourself.

- You know that it's a yearly event to commemorate the Stonewall riots that happened in New York?

- No.

- [INAUDIBLE]. Did you know that?

- No, I knew it was Stonewall, but I didn't know why they called it that.

- Maybe I don't know enough about my culture.

- Thanks for choosing *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Mark Saccomano, Mary VanClay, and Gabriella Antolovich contributed program material.

- The Tom Robinson band And Age of Consent performed some of the music you heard. 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.

- Or if you have any comments, questions, or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you. Write to *This Way Out* post office box 38327 Los Angeles, California, 90038.

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

- And Cyndy Friedman, a special greeting to listeners of KKFI Kansas City's The 10th Voice on their second annual gay and lesbian radio day. And thanks for also listening on WSUY Iowa City.

- KNON, Dallas.

- And WUSB Stony Brook.

- Among others.

- And for supporting your local community radio stations.

- Stay tuned.

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

- This is *Afterwards* for the week of June 30. I'm Frank White. In San Antonio, civilian police are assisting military police in checking for armed forces personnel at local homosexual bars and other businesses. The military has proclaimed off limits, which some nightclub owners say is tantamount to a homosexual witch hunt.

This is an example of the Nazi mentality that still exists towards the lesbian and gay community. Kay Ford, an owner of a lounge with homosexual patrons, told the San Antonio Light in Friday's editions. Ford also said, "This is a witch hunt. And once it begins, it affects everybody.

"There is no witch hunt. We don't do witch hunts," said Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Whitaker, spokesman for Lackland Air Force base where the area armed forces disciplinary control board is based. He said military police periodically check homosexual bars and other off limits establishments for military personnel.

Dr. Jonas Salk said on Tuesday that he would be the first non-infected person to receive his experimental AIDS vaccine. "I want to ask the implicit question, would you take it yourself?" Salk said he would inject himself before the end of the year in hopes that he can show that it is safe for the next set of volunteers, celibate nuns, and priests.

Four years ago, critics tried to discourage Salk from his experiments with deactivated whole HIV virus. Last year, he was one of the first researchers given permission by the federal government for large scale testing of his AIDS vaccine. Salk also tested an influenza vaccine in the '40s and his famous polio vaccine in the '50s on himself. The Salk Institute has funded his latest work on HIV.

Out Week, the gay and lesbian magazine known for outing public figures, won't be out this week or any other week. The magazine closed its doors for financial reasons. Since the editorial content was so sensitive, it was very hard to attract advertisers. The magazine would list people who were gay, whether they were out or not.

20,000 people felt the music last Sunday at the Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade. The parade started on time at 5:30 PM under threatening skies. Floats representing all aspects of Houston's gay and lesbian community snaked West on Westheimer past many gay owned businesses. The garden party float was surreal with its translucent animals. It was a dreamlike quality or nightmare.

A person nearby quipped referring to one of the many six feet drag queens mounted on the float. Sober and free, a group of clean and sober gay and lesbians created their first float ever entitled "party on the wagon," The throngs watching the parade were having as much fun as those riding or walking.

Annise Parker was in the parade passing out buttons for her upcoming political race. Parker as well as council member Beverley Clark addressed the rally, which followed the parade. Starnight 91 continued into the night with music and dancing. The weather was wet, but it didn't dampen the spirit of gay and lesbian pride in Houston.

"Newly adopted requirements of the National Credit Union Administration combined with other developments in the credit union industry may have put the Montrose Activity Center application for a credit union charter on indefinite hold," said Rob Bridges, the president of the proposed Credit Unions Board this week. MAC had submitted its application, that's the Montrose Activity Center, had submitted its application last January to the NCUA for review and approval.

Recently, MAC had received correspondence from both the NCUA and the Texas Credit Union League indicating that the NCUA would require MAC to submit a great deal more material to adhere to the new more stringent guidelines. Complicating matters is a move this year to require-- excuse me-- all the state chartered credit unions in Texas to convert their share insurance from state guaranteed insurance to federally guaranteed insurance. All new applications for charters will be put on hold until all of the conversions have been completed.

This may create a backlog of many months duration. Even when the NCUA is ready to review the MAC application, the process will be long and drawn out. Last year the NCUA only approved 12 new charter applications nationwide. However, Bridges said the MAC will continue to press its case as the MAC board feels that the project is sound and the community interest and support remains high.

Recent articles in Houston's major dailies and weekly publications have all shown the Houston Gay and Lesbian Community in favorable light and have actually shown a sensitivity not seen in the recent past. We have to let the guys at the Houston Press post and Chronicle know that we're out there and that we approve of the positive coverage. And for all the people who claim were so negative, here's your chance to write positive letters. We all know that positive reinforcement works best.

Tonight, we have a special guest. Annise Parker is not new to Houston's gay community. She's a past president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Was a member of the Police Advisory Board and is an avid environmentalist. Welcome, Annise.

- It's great to be here.

- Wow, I'm glad you could make it at such a late hour. I know it's past your bedtime but--

- Actually it is.

- Yeah. Well, you have some exciting things going on in your life, don't you?

- Lots of exciting things and some rather daunting things too. I think anyone who chooses to run for public office needs to take that very seriously. It's exciting, but it's a lot of work, and it's a lot of responsibility.

- So you're running for city council?

- Yes, I am seeking the District C city council seat, which is the seat that includes Montrose. Like other district seats in Houston, it's a huge district. It stretches from Montrose through Meyerland Westbury and out into Fort Bend County.

- So it's outside the loop into Fort Bend County? That's huge.

- Yes, it is.

- So how many votes do you need to get?

- I think I need to get 20,000 votes.

- Yeah, all right. I forgot one really important thing on when I was introducing you. And that is you're really active in the gay community. You're a part owner of a bookstore.

- I'm half owner of Inklings, which is a Lesbian Gay feminist bookstore that my business partner Pokey Anderson and I opened two and a half years ago. It's on Richmond and Hazard. It's a labor of love. You don't get rich selling books, but you get a lot of wonderful community contact. And we saw a need for it. And we haven't regretted it. It's been wonderful.

- That's great. That's not your prime source of income?

- Income, fortunately not.

- OK.

- So I have a full time job. I am employed by Mosbacher Energy Company. I work for an oil company. I put on my corporate drag every day and go downtown and--

- Do they know that you're running?

- Yes. They were among the first people I talked to, my immediate boss and the powers that be in the company.

- That's great that you're obviously out at work because-- I mean, they know your name, and they read the papers. And there's been articles in The Chronicle about your running in the post. So our audience is a young audience, people that aren't out that are trying to come out. Do you have anything to say to them about that? How has it affected your life being an openly gay now candidate for public office?

- It hasn't always been positive. But I have to say that most of the things that I feared were in my head. I've been coming out for 20 years now. And each step proved to be easier than I thought it would be. And I've actually had no problems at my job at all, which is maybe somewhat surprising considering that I work for a very conservative Republican oilman.

On the other hand, that very conservative Republican oilman and commerce secretary has an openly lesbian daughter. And, I think, we fail to realize those family connections and the people that we may fear and who can economically hurt us they know and love gay people too. They may not always realize it but often they do.

- Yeah, we're everywhere.

- We're everywhere.

- Yeah. We're going to-- we've got a long road ahead with the campaign starting this early. This is really early to start.

- I feel like I'm going to need it. I'm running against a two-term incumbent. And any time you take on an incumbent even if he's just absolutely awful, if he's Jesse Helms, you still face an uphill battle in getting name recognition and getting people excited about your race. And while I won't characterize the current incumbent as being so, so terrible, I still have a lot to do to defeat him.

- Yeah, he's very well known. They were talking last week, and they didn't pass the-- they didn't allow the referendum on the term limitation. I have a personal feeling on that. And, I think, that you offer the alternative to term limitation. And that is if you don't like who's in office, vote them out.

- That is I happen to believe in term limitation. But the ultimate term limitation is voting for someone new. The problem is that we so seldom have a real choice. We have column A and column B. And they look just the same.

And you might as well go with column A who's been there for a while. And, I think, that we do that over and over again. I do think that I offer a real choice for the voters in District C. The one obvious difference between me and the incumbent is that I am proudly and openly gay and have been for a long time.

- That's not your only issue, though?

- That is not my only issue. I think I'm qualified to represent all the interests of District C. I'm a homeowner in Montrose. I have to deal with crime and with city services. I'm a proud feminist. I'm a proud environmentalist. Houston has an absolutely atrocious environmental record. And the current incumbent has not been one to address that issue.

- Well, good. So you're going to be addressing the environment, which is very important?

- I think if you asked citizens the issues that really concern them as residents of Houston, as residents of the world really, environmental issues have to be at the top. But especially in a big city like Houston, crime is right up there too. Anyone who lives in Montrose deals with crime.

- So you have been working with the Police Advisory Board and so you have-- you already know how that system works. So it's not like you're coming into that area as a novice.

- No, I've been involved in police issues for a long time. There is a group known as the Civilian Review Committee, which actually looks at-- it's the new committee that was created to look at disciplinary cases, but I'm--

- Ida Lee Delaney.

- The Ida Lee Delaney case.

- OK.

- These police advisory committee actually goes back farther than that. It was created after the José Campos Torres incident where he was throwing in Buffalo Bayou, thrown and/or jumps depending on your point of view. The committee was created to provide a forum for citizen interaction with the police. Gays were not initially included, but they were included in the coalition not long afterwards.

And I served on that committee for a number of years. And we meet on a monthly basis with the chief and members of the command staff to talk over problems. Also as president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, I had a number of occasions to meet with the police department, often the vice department and the cantina squad because every time there was a bar raid, I'd get a phone call, and we'd have to set up a meeting. And it went round and round.

I've served as a grand juror and seen some of the criminal justice system from that side as well. And it was a tremendous experience. Not very many people have the time to serve as grand jurors. But if those who can-- for someone who's retired, so he'd be absolutely perfect.

- Yeah, it's a way to become involved too with the process.

- With the process and to learn because the grand jury sees just the raw facts on all these cases. And you see the cycle of poverty that a lot of the defendants are in. And crime after crime and they just get recycled through the system.

- Well, we're going to talk to you longer next week after you officially announce. And we want to go into some of these issues a little more.

- I am running. I do have-- I filed my paperwork with the city secretary. And I have designated my campaign treasurer. I have a campaign phone number, which-- don't call it tonight. It won't be answered tonight but it's 522-9000.

And I am simply having my formal press conference with the major media here in town next Tuesday. It's going to be at 11 o'clock at City Hall. And anyone who's and interested in seeing that press conference is welcome to attend. And I hope they see it on the evening news.

- Yeah. Were you happy about the Houston Press article, the article where you had-- that you wrote one and they featured [INAUDIBLE]--

- Well, I was happy about it. I wrote it.

- I know. But, I mean, were you happy with the way it was presented, the whole article?

- Yes. I think it is a departure rather than sending one of their reporters out. And, I think, the Houston Press reporters do a great job. I enjoyed that publication. But rather than sending a reporter out to cover the story, they asked members of our community to tell it in their own words. And that is always more insightful and more valuable.

And I, of course, appreciated the opportunity to write my essay. For my campaign standpoint, I was just ecstatic that they chose to put me on the cover. But, yeah, I was very pleased. And there was such a diversity of our community displayed in the pictures and in the words.

- That's what we have to remember is that we are diverse. We're everywhere. We're not just in the Montrose. And people seem to get a mentality going where we just are in the Montrose. We're in Maryland. We're in Westbury. We're in Fort Bend County. So you know you're out there.

- We are truly everywhere.

- Yeah. You're out there. And if you want to do something, if you're not able to vote yet or whatever, you can do something. There's going to be things you can volunteer with on this campaign.

- I'm definitely going to need a lot of campaign volunteers. This will be a classic grassroots campaign, which means it'll be very people intensive. We need people to walk through their neighborhoods and put door hangers out, to call their neighbors, to talk to their friends, to talk to their relatives who might live in the district even if you don't live in the boundaries of District C. And we actually don't know where the boundaries are going to be because there's a--

- Oh, that's right. We have to vote on that again.

- There's a referendum in August, which will decide if we expand city council, if we vote to expand the number of district seats. I don't want to say the lower part of the district, the southern part of the district, gets lopped off and goes into a different district. So the district will shrink a little bit.

- OK. And that would be good. It would be a little more manageable.

- Yeah, it would. There are some negatives to expanding city council. Obviously, it'll costs more in terms of staff and just overhead.

But when you have a district that goes from Allen Parkway Village right in the shadows of downtown all the way out to Fort Bend County, that's too large for one person to adequately represent. It's a really diverse district too. I think it's one of the more diverse in the city.

- You're listening to Annise Parker on KPFT 90.1 FM Houston. Well, the vote will be coming in August on the redistricting. So do you favor the 16--

- The expansion to 16 district seats? Yes, I do. Ultimately--