

- And, I guess we're here.
- And that's what queer-- and I know we're queer.
- That was what around. What'd you say?
- That's what coronation does.
- Is what?
- When heterosexism strikes, strike back.
- In a big way.
- And they are making Montrose discrimination free. No, that wasn't the term they used. Forget the term they used already. I'm such a ditz tonight.
- Every night.
- Thank you.
- That's why I listen.
- [LAUGHS]
- Why do you listen? Because every Saturday night, every Saturday night at midnight, on After Hours, we play music. After Hours, every Saturday night at midnight right here on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.
- [MUSIC PLAYING]
- *Wilde 'N Stein*, a celebration of pride.
- For and by gay and lesbian people.
- I'm Bruce Reeves.
- And I'm Deborah Bell.
- And we are two of the members of the *Wilde 'N Stein Collective*.
- Coming to you every Monday evening at 9:00 PM.
- Featuring a community calendar.
- News.
- Interviews.
- Music and more.
- Help us celebrate by tuning in to KPFT, 90.1 FM.

- Mondays at 9:00 PM.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- That's very true.

- That is very, very true.

- *Wilde 'N Stein* Mondays at 9:00 o'clock.

- That other card isn't here yet?

- Nope.

- Uh-huh.

- *Breakthrough*

- *Breakthrough* with Pokey Anderson and her gang.

- At Friday mornings.

- At 9:00 to noon.

- Oh, what else? *This Way Out* with Greg Gordon and Lucius Bell.

- Coming up at 1:30.

- Yes.

- OK, this is something we haven't played in a while. It's from Lynn Lavner's album, *I'd Rather be Cute*.

- Oh, yeah, oh, yeah. I was thinking because-- I know what--

- Oh yeah.

- --subject this is about.

- No, you don't.

- Did you see the *Oprah Winfrey Show*?

- You think you do. What? What about Oprah Winfrey? Oh, you're playing something else.

She had Brian Bradley on.

- Mm-hm.

- And they were talking about AIDS discrimination. In fact, Brian's going to be on the show in the next couple of months.

- Yeah, good.

- But on Pokey's show Friday, there was a woman named Amy who works with the AIDS Foundation in Houston. She was talking about--

- I didn't hear it. I was in Dallas.

- The Kimberley Bergalis thing. And Amy brought up the point--

- Isn't that a nightmare?

- Yes, it is a nightmare, but there's so much blame being put here and there with this case. But they forget to remember that two years ago, that the CDC did AIDS testing on two of Kimberly Bergalis' lovers. And two years later, we've got the old history being rewritten because her mother is claiming that she's a virgin.

So and the only place she could have gotten it was from this dentist.

- Wait a minute.

- This is really confusing.

- Was it from the dentist instruments? Did she have sex with him?

- This hasn't been brought out either, to my knowledge.

- Because they don't know, Louise.

- That's it. And so they're--

- So stupid.

- --placing blame, placing blame.

- Well, that's what we do in this wonderful land of the free and home of the blame. We blame somebody.

- Right, and we have a president who talks about the quote unquote "innocent victims."

- Mm-hm.

- Aren't we all innocent?

- No, not in his eyes.

- It is a virus.

- Anyway, this is not what we thought I was going to play. This is off that new-- this old Lynn Lavne*'d Rather be Cute* album.

- OK.

- OK.

- It's good for a laugh. Oh,

- Oh.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Michael Callen.

- Thank you, Michael. Boy, can he hold that note.

- Longer than Streisand.

- You know how they got him to do that?

- Yeah. [LAUGHS] They didn't.

- Actually he didn't do that longer than Streisand. She holds a note for so many seconds in one of her albums, and he wanted to outdo her.

- Well, he did.

- And he did.

- And now he's dating her son. No, no, no. [LAUGHS]

- Is he?

- Oh, I just read something in one of those tabloids about her son--

- Oh, god

- --and the male model.

- Ray, I had such a wonderful time in Dallas.

- Did you now?

- Yes, I did.

- Even with those old hateful Dallas-ites?

- They were not hateful. Everyone up there was very, very nice.

- Really?

- And I mean with their clothes on.

- [LAUGHS].

- When they were naked, they were even nicer.

- I see.

- A lot nicer than these Houston queens.

- Well, that's because--

- You're just old meat here.

- Yes.

[LAUGHTER]

- Oh, she goes to the bathroom. Oh, it's her again.

- It's the same old story.

- Say you go look together with new town and your new stuff.

- I know, and they all just look at you and go, well. I love it. Who wants to hear this? *Johnny, are you Queer?*

- Everybody wants to hear it. Everybody wants to hear it.

- Well, we'll play it in a minute.

- Well, OK.

- We do have this Lynn Lavner thing that we did. We want to play this. This is from her album *I'd Rather be Cute*.

- Mm-hm.

- And it's called *Such Fine Young Men*.

- Oh, it's so good.

- And the first time that she sang this, that I remember, was at the National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights in 1987.

- Mm-hm. It's the first time I remember it.

- The first time I was sitting here pushing buttons for the whole thing.

- I heard her do it in concert first time. Anyway. And it tore me up.

- Well, I saw Doug. He buried his lover last week.

- Yeah, and my very best friend in the whole wide world, David McCain, from New Orleans. He and I did a Ray Bourbon special together that we have still yet to play.

- Oh, I have a copy of it.

- Do you really?

- Yeah.

- Well, we will play that someday, but David McCain, who's my dearest and closest friend for many, many years, called me and said that he tested HIV positive, which is not the end of the world.

- No.

- But when you hear it--
- Here I am. But Marion, when you hear it, it's the end of the world. You know what I mean?
- When it first gets told to you, it's the end of the world for about six months, and then you get over yourself and go on with life.
- David is really doing well. And he's got a real good strong group of friends in New York to support him. He's going home to tell his lover this weekend in New Orleans.
- Mm-hm. As a matter of fact, I'm house sitting this weekend, for a good friend of mine, Ron, who is taking the ashes of his lover David to Washington, DC to be buried at Arlington.
- Oh, how wonderful.
- Because David was a Vietnam vet, and that's where he wanted to be buried.
- Well, death is very much a part of life.
- It is in the last decade.
- And as little kids when we're growing up, it's the old people who died, and we don't think about it so much.
- Yeah.
- But as AIDS came along, so many of us have had to face it so much that sometimes we get sick and have to run away to Dallas and hide for the weekend. And a lot of times, I know I get in here and start yelling and screaming about how people don't support us. And it's not me that I'm really yelling and screaming about. It's the Queer Nations. It's the Act Ups. It's when you see a protest going on in there, 5 or 10 people walking the picket lines for all of us.
- Yes.
- And we're not out there walking picket lines with them. It's when you pick up the telephone to call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, and you get a recording because there aren't enough volunteers there to answer the phones.
- Yeah.
- It's when you go to Stone Soup, and they don't have the food all up on the pantry shelves because they don't have enough volunteers to take the stuff out of the bags and put it up. Or the food spoils and they have to throw it out because there's no one there to prepare it.
- Or they don't have enough.
- And it's just it makes me crazy that just a handful of us, to which we feel honored, or at least I do, very honored to be a part of this group, who volunteer our time and give so that so many can have, what I think, is so much. And I just think it's sad that so many people sit on the sidelines and watch the game.
- Yes, and what I can never understand is the reactions to a lot of non-gay and lesbian people. That, why do you want special rights? That question always irritates me. We have never asked for anything that any other American does not have.

- I know. I just get angry, and then I get crazy because this past week, I dispatch for HPD, that's no big secret, I sat at Central, where I work, it's in the Montrose area, and listened as vice made 100 arrests, I don't know how many people they arrested, down on Allen Parkway at the Bayou and that Jewish cemetery.

- Not again?

- Everybody knows about it, but some little old lady was over there putting flowers on her dead husband's grave and saw two guys off in the bushes. And it's like--

- Well, that would irritate me too.

- Why in the hell are these people out doing things in public? There are too many other places to go. They can come to my house. They could go to the bars, or the baths, the bookstores. There are too many-- there's no excuse--

- There isn't.

- --for being out in public. It makes me look bad. I have to sit at the police department and make up case numbers for vice investigations from cops who are my friends knowing that I'm gay knowing that I do this radio program trying to figure out how can I explain to them that it's not the gay and lesbian community of Houston that's down there.

And then you think about it. It's society that put those people down there. If they were taught in school that it's OK to have these feelings and their feelings were nurtured, they wouldn't be so ashamed. And they wouldn't be sneaking around in places like that.

- There's another aspect to that too. Gay men are not the only people having sex in the bushes.

- That's true.

- How many straight couples get pulled downtown for having sex in their car?

- That's true.

- Hardly any.

- But I remember playing a song one time from Miriam Makeba, who is an African activist, South African activist and she said that if you see me as an alcoholic, don't blame me. Blame the country that put me here. It's just like I go to the tubs a lot. It's no big secret.

- I go to the French Quarter.

- But it's sad when you see men standing around who want to be there and want to participate.

- Mm-hmm.

- Right, and they don't because there's a society that says, [SLAPPING WRIST] don't touch that. Don't do that. You know what I mean?

- Well, I never. I just never.

- Keep that covered up.

- No, I just rejected all of that part because I enjoyed the celebration of my sexuality.

- And yes, I think it's awful that those people are down there. I don't think they should be out in public, but I think it's awful that the HISD, one of the largest school districts in the nation, does not teach openly about gay and lesbian people. I think it's sad that a certain amount of people in this city want to put together a group, and say, let's protest the cops going to sensitivity training. They don't really need that. Of course, they need that.

- I want to hear more about this new group.

- I haven't heard anything about it. It's just a rumor, just a rumor I heard, I don't know. It's just a rumor rumors, rumors, rumors. Anyway, I just think it's sad. And I don't want to blame those people who are down there, other than say, wake up, guys, you don't have to go to those parks and sneak around in the bushes. You can go to places like CBC or Midtown or the French Quarter or any adult arcade if that's what you want to do.

Or you can go to Kroger and meet a nice looking man in the frozen food section and fall in love, and take him home and live happily ever after.

- There you go.

- And I'll be at Kroger after the show if you'd like to come on down. It's just frustrating. That's the reason I took off and ran to Dallas last week to get away from all this crap. It's just it just gets depressing sometimes when you're struggling and working so hard to do something that you think is right. And it seems like we're losing. And we're not losing. We're winning.

Because I don't care how many groups they start to tell you that the cops can't go to sensitivity training. I dispatch for the Houston Police Department and have since 1984. And I host a gay radio program on KPFT every Saturday night at midnight. And nobody down there gives a damn. If they do, they keep it to themselves, like good little racists and bigots should.

- Hmm, I still say, the people who say they don't need sensitivity training, need it the most.

- Yeah, anyway, this is a song by Lynn Lavner, and I want to play this for, I don't know, for the hell of it.

- OK.

- Because it's our show.

- OK. We'll do that in a little bit.

- OK.

- Because it's almost time for *This Way Out*.

- Oh, is it?

- Yeah.

- OK. Well, say that real quick.

- From all walks of life. We talked about it last week. We've talked about it several weeks.

- The AIDS Foundation.

- This is a benefit walk for the AIDS Foundation, Houston, on Sunday, November 3rd. And we are putting together an *After Hours* and KPFT contingent.

- Yep, because we're going to be walking down there to help raise money for the AIDS Foundation.
- And I think it'd be fun.
- And you talked to Stanley today.
- Yeah,
- And the Seattle group raised over--
- \$1.2 million.
- \$1.2 million.
- In the Seattle walkathon.
- So if you'd like to March with Jimmy and I and the other folks from KPFT who support *After Hours* and what we do here, call us at 526-4000 or 526-KPFT, and we'll sign you up tonight.
- You bet.
- It'll be fun.
- That's Sunday,
- Sunday, November the third.
- November the third. And it'll be great. And we'll tell you all about it. After you call up, we'll send you all the paperwork.
- You bet/.
- Call us and walk with us and hang on. *This Way Out* with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle will be coming up next. Here's Lynn Lavner on *After Hours*.
- OK.
- None of us are free until all of us are free. So keep listening to *After Hours* KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- The unique ability of this meeting to bring together scientists from different disciplines and from different parts of the world will be seriously compromised.
 - My arms are empty In those photos too. So empty they would break around a lover.
 - The closet has been the biggest stumbling block to positive gay or lesbian images because people who are gay or lesbian who are in positions of power, have been afraid to say, let's do this gay and lesbian project.
 - PS if you have already submitted your payment, please disregard this notice or pass it along to a friend who may benefit from it.
- 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 Lucia Chappelle. AIDS conference goes Dutch.

- Knesset says discrimination isn't kosher.

- And American TV season has something to be glad about.

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- 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 September 21st, 1991. The Israeli parliament, the Knesset, has passed a bill prohibiting employment discrimination against gays and lesbians. A court ruling last year had already banned discrimination in business transactions and further anti-discrimination legislation is pending in the Knesset.

The young guard of the Liberal Labor Party, placed an ad in the Israeli gay magazine *Magaim*, encouraging lesbians and gays to join the party to fight for their rights. The first time a mainstream Israeli political group has made such an outreach effort. These advances are a pleasant surprise for the 400 members of Israel's gay and lesbian organization, the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights, who have described the country as being 20 years behind Europe and North America. Same gender sex there was decriminalized only in 1988.

- British Columbia Supreme Court justice Anne Rawls has issued a ruling extending common law marriage status to the Canadian province's same gender couples. Nurse Timothy Nodle filed the lawsuit in 1988 when his lover, Ray Garno was denied spousal medical benefits. Garno died of AIDS-related illness the following year.

Rawls ruled that the evidence is overwhelming that they met the requirements of a couple. Viewing their exchange of rings in a 1984 commitment ceremony as equivalent to a heterosexual wedding. Although the province can still appeal the ruling to the Canadian Supreme Court, there is speculation that it may choose to let the precedent-setting decision stand.

- Civil and military penal codes in Switzerland now treat homosexual and heterosexual acts identically. The Swiss parliament has removed the last distinction by lowering the same-gender age of consent law to 16, matching the heterosexual age of consent. 14- and 15-year-olds can also legally consent, as long as their partners are no more than three years older than they are.

- British police Sergeant Keith Donovan is proposing the legalization of prostitution and lowering of the age of consent for gay male sex from 21 to 18. With a grant from the British Home Office, Donovan conducted interviews with so-called rent boys and developed a report called, *Hidden From View*.

Donovan believes licensed brothels would protect rent boys from abuse on the streets and free police to deal with more serious offenses, but government officials have indicated little chance for his proposed reforms.

- The Royal Bank of Scotland, threatened with a boycott by the National Union of Students, has had a change of heart. A bank manager had refused to open an account for the Leeds' lesbian and gay youth group, on the grounds that the bank might be aiding and abetting an underage person who has taken part in an illegal act. The prospect of losing students' personal accounts seems to have stimulated the bank to recant. Blaming the manager for misrepresenting its policy, the bank opened the account.
- Censorship battles are raging in the courts of Denmark. A stop AIDS television ad featuring two men kissing was canceled when a viewer complained. And two gay men have filed suit against TV2 demanding the ads reinstatement. And the National Association for Gays and Lesbians has lost its defamation lawsuit against a woman who called homosexuality an abomination in a letter to the editor. The Danish court ruled she did not commit libel.
- A celebrity lesbian couple in Germany has filed a civil lawsuit after being denied a marriage license. The couple are Cornelia Scheel, daughter of former German president Walter Scheel, and Hella von Sinnen a television talk show host.
- Sweden's national lesbian organization, Lesbisk Ny, is opposing that nation's plans to enter the European community. Members believe they have a better chance for gains in marriage, adoption, and inheritance rights with the Swedish government than they would with more conservative European community member nations.
- In US news, New Jersey Governor Jim Florio has issued an executive order prohibiting discrimination against gays and lesbians in all state employment practices and in the state's provision of services and benefits. New Jersey is the 10th US State with an executive order protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination.
- Sometimes homophobes are just as fearful of publicity as any closeted lesbian or gay, and that's good news for activists in Massachusetts. The state attorney general has announced that four proposed anti-gay and lesbian initiatives will not appear on the 1992 ballot rejecting them on technical rather than constitutional grounds.

Two media-shy originators withdrew their signatures leaving the Committee to Restore Traditional Morality without the minimum 10 signatures required. The state attorney general has denied the committee's request to stop the signers from withdrawing. And it's believed that the Committee cannot afford to appeal his decision to the state Supreme Court.

- The California Senate has passed a hate crimes bill, including sexual orientation, unanimously and without debate. Since the bill had earlier passed the assembly by a 2/3 majority, it joins AB 101, which prohibits employment discrimination against gays and lesbians, on the desk of Governor Pete Wilson. Wilson came under fire this week at the Republican Party's state convention, which passed a resolution demanding that he veto AB 101.
- The Wisconsin Supreme Court has denied that Wendy Sporleder has any visitation rights to her former lover's adopted child despite a three-page contract the couple signed at the time of the adoption. The court affirmed a lower-court decision that custody and visitation rights quote "are controlled by statutory and case law and cannot be determined by contract." End quote.
- The Washington DC Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men has decided not to apply for organizational membership in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. The coalition's decision was hotly debated but was determined by the NAACP's failure to take a position on lesbian and gay rights.
- Michigan is getting its first openly gay fraternity as a new chapter of Delta Lambda Phi opens at the East Lansing campus of Michigan State University. National Delta Lambda Phi was founded in 1987 in Washington DC and now has 500 members in 19 chapters across the country. Michigan State chapter president, Doug Scheidemantel, and co-founder John Fulmer, told the press they started the group because the campus lacked a place where gay men could feel comfortable getting together.

- And finally, earlier this year, the northern German city of Kiel was the site of the first International Drag Races, but anyone who came expecting to see fast cars would have been disappointed. This occasion was a sort of Olympics for drag queens featuring competitions such as the teabag throw. The most popular event was a race in which the voguing participants pushed vacuum cleaners for a distance of 987.35 meters. Maybe this was as far as the electrical cords could reach? All entrants were required to wear sensible shoes.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- That's news wrap for the week ending September 21st, 1991 compiled and written by Cindy Friedman.

- Find out what's happening in your area. An informed community is a strong community. For *This Way Out*, I'm Cindy Friedman.

- And I'm Mark Saccomano.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Next year's International AIDS Conference is on again, but instead of Boston, the site is being moved to Amsterdam. The commotion over moving the annual AIDS summit arose over US policy that restricts travel into the country by anyone who is HIV positive.

The Harvard AIDS Institute, the main sponsor of next year's meeting, held firm in their decision to keep the conference out of the US if the Bush administration didn't change its immigration and travel policy. The Netherlands has no such HIV-related restrictions for entry into the country. Both the World Health Organization and the International AIDS Society are praising the decision made by the Institute. Jon Greenberg has more.

- Where the International AIDS Conference would be held and if it would be held at all, were in doubt following the decision last month by Harvard University not to hold the conference in Boston as originally planned. Harvard officials said that US immigration rules made the cancellation necessary. Under current law, people who test positive for the virus that causes AIDS are not allowed into the country. Such people usually attend the International Conferences.

- The unique ability of this meeting to bring together scientists from different disciplines and from different parts of the world will be seriously compromised.

- Dr. Paul Volberding is the president of the International AIDS Society and a researcher at the University of California in San Francisco.

- Many scientists simply can't afford to go to a meeting that's held in Europe. It's much more expensive than going to a US meeting. So important US science, that would otherwise be presented if the meeting were held here, won't be presented.

- Volberding is hopeful that US policy on immigration will change. He says there have been signs the administration would do so if it could avoid pressure from right-wing groups, but if the policy remains, he warns that in very practical ways, the prospects for curing AIDS would be diminished.

- We'll lose the ads that we have forming effective collaborative studies with researchers elsewhere. And I know the field of clinical research best, and I know that more and more drugs are being tested in early stages in Europe. American scientists need to know what's going on and what problems they're having, need to be able to talk to those scientists, and for many people, this conference is the one time of year when they can do that. And if they can't go, then the quality of our work is going to suffer.

- About 10,000 people from 120 countries are expected to attend the conference in Amsterdam. I'm John Greenberg in Washington.

- Brother to brother, brother to brother, brother to brother, brother to brother. This is Essex Hemphill reminding you that you've tuned into *This Way Out*, the international gay and lesbian radio magazine.

- (SINGING) End homophobia turn me around, keep on walking, keep on talking.

- This is called *Commitments*. And it's from the recently released anthology *Brother to Brother*. I will always be there when the silence is exhumed. When the photographs are examined, I will be pictured smiling among siblings, parents, nieces, and nephews.

In the background of the photographs, the hazy smoke of barbecue. A checkered red and white tablecloth laden with blackened chicken, glistening ribs, paper plates, bottles of beer and pop. In the photos, the smallest children are held by their parents. My arms are empty or around the shoulders of unsuspecting aunts expecting to throw rice at me someday.

Or picture tinsel, candles, ornamented imitation trees or another table, this one set for Thanksgiving. A turkey steaming the lens. My arms are empty in those photos too. So empty they would break around a lover. I am always there for critical emergencies, graduations, the middle of the night. I am the invisible son in the family photos. Nothing appears out of character. I smile as I serve my duty.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- With US commercial TV networks facing increasing competition for viewers from pay cable services and home video, many observers expected the network's new fall season to be limited to play-it-safe, traditional, family values programming. There will be some pleasant exceptions, however, as *This Way Out*'s Mark Martin discovered when he talked with Richard Jennings, executive director of the Los Angeles chapter of GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

- First of all, for those of us who are not familiar with the organization, can you tell us what GLAAD is all about.

- GLAAD is both a media watch and a media education organization. We monitor what goes on in the media as far as portrayals and coverage of gays and lesbians. And we also do seminars, sensitivity training, award shows, brochures, and training guides to help those in the media cover and understand our community better.

- How many years has GLAAD been in existence now?

- GLAAD started in New York City, in 1985 primarily directing its efforts there against the news media, initially. And we started a chapter here in Los Angeles in '88. There are now about a dozen chapters in major cities around the country with more springing up all the time.

- Approximately how many cases of defamation are reported to GLAAD each year?

- There are way too many to count. As you can imagine, there is defamation absolutely every day in this country on radio, on TV, in print, newspapers all around the country. There are so many ways in which we're being defamed sometimes subtly, sometimes extremely offensively, that there's way more than any organization can deal with at all times.

What we do is we keep files on what comes in. We keep records so that when we get around to doing a meeting with a particular media organization, we have their whole record that we've had reported in for the last few years. We target the worst offenders, And we go after them full force. And we get a lot of attention for those efforts.

And we also focus on whatever happens on TV and film because those are the two medium that get the widest dissemination that influence the most people in terms of their view of gays and lesbians.

- Well, now that the new television season is upon us, what are we about to expect?

- Well, I'm really happy to report that the new television season shows a big improvement over the portrayals of gays and lesbians last year. Last year, we began the new season with only one continuing gay or lesbian character. That was the gay brother character on the CBS show *Doctor, Doctor*.

This year, by contrast, we will have continuing gay and/or bisexual characters on both *Roseanne* and *LA Law*. Those are characters that premiered at the end of last season. *LA Law* is going to feature an episode on gay bashing that we're looking forward to.

In a very exciting development for science fiction fans, *Star Trek The Next Generation* in its fifth season, has promised to include some minor crew members who it will be obvious are gay or lesbian. Then we have *Northern Exposure*, which is going to continue having both minor gay and lesbian characters, as well as, we hear, some scenes involving the founders of the town who were lesbian.

I guess we'll talk about PBS, the Public Broadcasting Service based in DC, where we don't have the same progress to report. They have done a number of things we've been very concerned about in recent years. They have done decreasing amounts of gay and lesbian and AIDS programming. They continue to feature, of course, people like Pat Buchanan on *The McLaughlin Report*, who uses that forum to make anti-gay comments.

They do relatively little coverage of gay and lesbian issues on their news programming. And that's in contrast to what we're seeing on the commercial networks, let alone the commercial network talk shows, which constantly feature gay and lesbian subjects, as we've all noticed. So we're very disappointed with PBS. We don't think PBS has been living up to their mandate to be a broadcasting service for the public. We think they're only servicing part of the public at the moment.

They are clearly concerned that they are the new target of Jesse Helms. That they are the new NEA, essentially, as the National Endowment for the Arts was under attack, a year and a half ago, for supposedly supporting homoerotic films and the like.

- Richard, how rampant is homophobia now within the entertainment industry?

- I think there's less sort of active discrimination going on than the closet syndrome that has plagued our community for so long, and particularly, in the entertainment industry, where it's a glamorous industry, where people want the jobs that are available. They want to minimize aspects of themselves that they think may keep them from getting those glamorous jobs.

And we continue to experience, in this country, as far as people who are in front of the camera, almost an absolute blockade of people coming out. This is in contrast to Britain and other countries where a lot of major stars have come out of the closet, and there's been no negative impact on their careers. We are working very hard to change the environment in the entertainment industry here. Through all the meetings that we do with studios, with production companies, we very much encourage them to help us create an environment that will be OK for people to be out in.

And sometimes after sensitivity training sessions that we've done for the creative teams of a studio, a person who is gay or lesbian has come up to us afterwards saying, thank you for being here, and now I'm going to have a lot easier time coming out. And that's thrilling for us to hear.

But basically, the problem that we've had traditionally in the entertainment industry, is the closet has been the biggest stumbling block to positive gay or lesbian images because people who are gay or lesbian who are in positions of power, have been afraid to say, let's do this gay and lesbian project for fear that they'll be identified. And it's a fear, which I think is, a long time now, overdue for being removed. And I think we're starting to see it happen.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Mark Martin continues this conversation about homophobia in Hollywood with Richard Jennings of the Los Angeles chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

- The current plan is for a march on Hollywood that will, hopefully, involve lots of people coming in from around the country. Let us direct some of the same sort of pressure on Hollywood that we have been trying to direct towards the politicians.

- Next time on *This Way Out*

[MUSIC - "MR. POSTMAN"]

- And finally this week, if you've ever had a loved one leave on an extended vacation, leaving you to mind the store and miss your honey, you'll empathize with the following lesson in correspondence etiquette by Amber Ault.

- My girlfriend goes away to a third-world country for the summer. Not being the world traveler sort, I decide to stay home and worry. During the first few weeks she's away, we talk on the phone a couple of times. We always seem to get lines specially engineered to allow two voices to travel at amazing speeds across time and space so that they may collide somewhere between the Earth and Venus and go hurtling back in the direction from which they came. Two vocal boomerangs on a star-crossed course.

Even when we cheat the system and actually manage to hear each other, the content is pretty paltry. When she calls from a public phone, the exorbitant cost prevents her from saying anything more than, pay the mortgage. And stops me from saying anything at all. When I call her guest house, the audience in the sitting room exerts some peculiar social pressure, which restricts her conversation to careful remarks about weather, food, and finances. Remarks, which frequently, directly, contradict those she makes from the public phone monitored by a different audience.

I chalked the ambiguity up to protracted jet lag and tell myself that, I bet it will be hot when I come home and hold on to the account with the highest interest rates, are really code for miss your body love you, honey. Still, every day, I wonder how she really is. What's really happening behind polite talk about mundane details. And of course, how this relationship looks to her long distance.

I figure my only hope for the inside scoop is through the mail. So every day, I wait by the mailbox panting. The letter carrier begins to wonder about my intentions. Every day, for three weeks, I anxiously examine my mail with that combination of hope and dread I feel every time I check my lottery numbers. Will I hit the jackpot this time? No, drat.

Just when I think I cannot take this agony anymore, just when I begin to suspect it's not the mail service but the letter writer I should blame, just when I almost decide she doesn't love me after all, it comes. A long airmail envelope with foreign stamps, and it's heavy. Love salvation this she has written and a lot. She loves me. She loves me not.

Inside the envelope our photos of my sweetheart smiling and waving from a distant land. Wrapped around the photos, is a letter of several pages. In the top right-hand corner is her return address. Above the address is her name, her full name her first name her last name, hello.

Dear Amber, reads the salutation. Dear sits stoically on the page in bold blackly xeroxed print there to stay. My name is scratched out in blue ink in the blank space after dear. My girlfriend has sent me a form letter from Africa.

Aggrieved seems to reserved a word for my initial response. I walk inside, rip my clothes off, beat my breast, and tear apart the closet rummaging for the hair shirt I haven't worn since the last woman I lived with ran off with her new girlfriend and the rent. I call my friends.

A diverse lot two dykes, a gay man, and a straight woman they surprised me by independently and unanimously generating the same recommended response. Dear blank or current resident, it begins. It seems as though a year has passed since we said goodbye at blank. How I miss you. I miss looking into your big blank eyes, running my fingers through your soft blank hair, hearing you gasp when I press my lips to that special spot on your blank, and simply holding your hand.

I miss you all the time, but especially at night, blank, when I think about wrapping my arms around your blank body, listening to the blank sounds of your breathing as you fall asleep, and the joy of waking up with your blank on my shoulder. I keep remembering that night we spent at blank. What a special night that was so intimate.

Well, blank, the hour is late, and I have several other letters to write before I turn in. Before I sign off, however, there is something I must tell you. If you ever send me another blanking form letter, your name will be blank. So unless you want to see your lover wandering around the airport holding a big sign which says, looking for blank, please do not do this again even at New Year, even as a joke. Love from your most passionate and ever faithful companion, Amber Ault, BA, MA, et cetera.

PS if you have already submitted your payment, please disregard this notice or pass it along to a friend who may benefit from it. Given the way things are going, I have a strong suspicion I'll be wearing around the shirt that says my girlfriend went to Africa and all I got was this blanking t-shirt when my sweetheart comes home. In Columbus, Ohio, this is Amber Ault with Dyke Writes for *This Way Out*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Thanks for choosing *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Marc Saccomano, John Greenberg, Essex Hemphill, Amber Ault, and Mark Martin contributed program material. Thanks also to Mike Alcala, Joey Flyer, Karen Kessler, and Christopher David Trenton.

- The cast of the original motion picture soundtrack of *West Side Story*, John Fogerty and the Marvelettes 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 out there listening. Write to *This Way Out*, post office box 38327, Los Angeles, California, 90038.

- *This Way Out* was produced by Lucia Chappelle.

- And Greg Gordon. A special welcome to those of you now discovering *This Way Out* on WPKM Bridgeport. And thanks for listening on WEFT Champaign-Urbana.

- KALW San Francisco.
- And Plains FM Christchurch.
- Among many others.
- And for supporting this local community radio station.
- To which we know you'll stay tuned.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Girl.
- Ah, another segment of *This Way Out*.
- Yes, and if you missed the address, I want to ask you to please write Greg and Lucia a letter and tell them that you listen to *This Way Out* every week on *After Hours* here at KPFT. It's *This Way Out* post office box 38327, Los Angeles, California, 90038. What else? Just write those queens.
- Write those queens. They like to hear.
- Yeah, please.
- Especially from our Houston folk.
- If you missed the address, call us here at station, and we'll get it to you. Also, we have an emergency message. What was it? Oh, yes.
- Do you have it?
- No.