

- KPFT Houston.

- The ground war begins in the Persian Gulf. This is the Pacifica Network News. I'm Don Rush with Leon Collins in Washington. US forces have launched a massive ground offensive against the Iraqis, and the first word from Baghdad radio declare just minutes ago that the Iraqi Army would bring disgrace on the US and its allies. We'll have more on that in a moment.

Meanwhile, the president did announce the invasion late Saturday night.

- The liberation of Kuwait has now entered a final phase. I have complete confidence in the ability of the coalition forces, swiftly and decisively, to accomplish their mission.

- And at the Pentagon, a lid was placed on the information coming out of Saudi Arabia on the war. There will be a 48-hour delay and all footage of the war, coming from the area. Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney.

- I will not say anything tonight about the operation that is currently underway. We will have nothing to say about it for many more hours. When it is safe to begin discussing the operation, we will do so in as much detail as we prudently can. But for now, our regular briefing schedule here at the Pentagon and in Riyadh is suspended until further notice.

- Just before the lid was placed on reporting from the area, there are reports of operations against [? Kofja, ?] as well as several oil fields by the US-led forces, and there's also a Naval contingent, some 17,000 Marines off the Kuwaiti coast who are expected to make an amphibious assault sometime during this operation. That to bring you up to date on the events that are happening inside the Persian Gulf.

We also want to take a look at some of the reaction around the world, including reaction in the country that was probably most pivotal in trying to keep the war from happening, that is, of course, the Soviet Union, which carried out a series of diplomatic initiatives, which, of course, finally failed late this afternoon. And reporting from that capital is Sue Jameson. Sue, are you there?

- Hello. Yes.

- What is the reaction there to the events that have been unfolding?

- Well, so far, there is little official reaction, although, of course, there has been a flurry of diplomatic activity all the way through the last 48 hours, particularly. Some of the first reactions have been trying to distance, perhaps, the Soviet position now from Iraq, as it's become inevitable that a ground war was going to take place. And certainly, I have the feeling that President Gorbachev has known about this for at least 48 hours, and perhaps, the continual efforts for finding a diplomatic solution has been not quite paper over the top, but he must have known what was going to happen. Because there have been very intensive phone calls between not only Bush and Gorbachev, but Gorbachev and many other coalition leaders as well.

So I think now, we have a feeling of disappointment that the Soviet plan didn't work. Certainly, last night, we were hearing that the two plans were not very far apart, according to a Kremlin spokesman. But perhaps, that was really more wishful thinking than anything else.

- So this is Leon Collins. Both Bush and Gorbachev have their political futures at stake, as a result of this war. Since the peace initiative was rejected, what fallout will that have for Gorbachev in the Soviet Union?

- I think President Gorbachev's position is still going to be quite strong. He's got a lot of hard-line pressure at home, but it's vocal pressure rather than, perhaps, political pressure as far as the Gulf is concerned. It's certainly there. I was at the Army demonstration yesterday, for National Army Day, and some of the slogans being carried by people included things like Bush, do not exterminate the Iraqi people. And there was another one which said, the Soviet Union and Iraq are friends.

So you get that sort of pressure, but at the same time, by making such an intensive, diplomatic effort to search for a peace initiative that would, in the end work, he has, in fact, been able to stave off much of that criticism, while keeping himself friends in the outside world as well. And I would have thought that by his efforts, he has secured himself, if not a driving position in the post-war world, but at least a backseat position. Because it will be hard for Bush to turn around and say, well, the Soviets can have no part in this peace process at all after they worked so hard to try and avert the escalation of the war.

- And that, of course, is Sue Jameson, reporting from Moscow on the Soviet reaction and fate, as it were, in this Persian Gulf conflict. We now turn to Paul Kent, who is based in Nicosia, has been monitoring the events in the Persian Gulf, including Baghdad Radio. Paul, what do you hear so far from the Iraqis? I understand they have broadcast at least of first word now, talking about bringing disgrace on the US-led forces arrayed against Iraq.

- Yes. Hours after the offensive began, Baghdad Radio informed its people, most of whom had already heard this on shortwave radios and foreign broadcasts like the BBC, Monte Carlo, and VOA, and that it had begun. Typically, it was a defiant commentary, not too many details, but saying that the Allies would be disgraced, that Iraq would never surrender. Very much a morale-boosting speech. As I speak to you now, details of it were coming into me here, so I can't give you the full picture yet.

I think the ironic thing is that we're going to be relying on Baghdad Radio because the news blackout on the Allied side for much of the news in the early hours now of this offensive. And I must say I don't think we can expect too much objective reporting. In fact, I think that most of it will be disinformation and trying desperately to get the Iraqis to fight on those frontline conscripts. Many of them just 17, 18, 19-year-olds have been pounded now for 5 and 1/2 weeks from the air. Morale, we do know is fairly low amongst some of those troops.

- And that is Paul Kent, who is based in Nicosia and has been monitoring Baghdad Radio and the events in the Persian Gulf. We now want to turn to someone who has been a long-time, anti-war activist, Dr. Daniel Ellsberg. Originally came to, of course, national attention during the Pentagon Papers fame, but has been a long-time, anti-war activist.

Dr. Ellsberg, you've been speaking out against this war for quite some time now. As a matter of fact, I believe you spoke out this afternoon when the deadline passed. What is your own sense about the immediacy of this ground war taking place?

- The immediacy? It's happening.

- It has been immediate, yes.

- I mean, I'm not sure that's the word you wanted. We're witnessing a catastrophe. We're watching officials, we're watching media people describing enthusiastically a process here that seems to reflect their belief that they're reporting a sports event in which there's going to be a clear victor, and the victor is going to be our team.

What we're seeing is a conflagration. It's like winning a forest fire. It's a process that must be stopped as quickly as possible before it consumes more and more humans and gets out of control.

- How does all of this compare to the experience that we had during the Vietnam era in terms of how the press is reporting and so on? Because there's a good deal has been made, particularly, from the administration, a lot of commentators about breaking the Vietnam syndrome. And a lot of people pointed this war as George Bush's effort to, quote, "break that syndrome."

- The truth was that for many years into the Vietnam War, the media reporters were as committed to the war as those of us, including me, who were officials. They were supportive. We were Cold Warriors. They were supporting the war. They were very largely conduits, most of them for government handouts, and this went on for years until there was a general public disillusionment with the facts of the stalemate and the facts of the bodies coming back.

But there was hardly a period when there was the kind of enthusiasm for that war. That was also true in Korea, by the way, which is to say that since the Second World War, in my adult lifetime, and I was 14 when the Second World War ended, I don't recall a time when there has been this kind of wild, enthusiastic support for war. And of course, we didn't used to have television. Now, we're watching these media people on television really reporting this with, as I say, all the excitement of sports announcers reporting on the home team to a small town, let's say.

- Why do you think that is? I mean, why do you think that there is so much enthusiasm for this, as opposed to say, even a Grenada, which was very, very short or even a Panama?

- I don't really understand it entirely. I'm trying to understand it, but part of it seems to be that the public has revealed, in polls, the impression that the war is, if not short, is going to be low in casualties. A majority of the public, I think, thinks that the total American dead will be under 5,000, and a near majority thinks it will be under 1,000. And of course, they've been encouraged in that by officials like Les Aspen in this town.

And the media people seem to have talked to Robert Novak-- I noticed his mentioning this tonight on the air-- saying that although the officials are being carefully cautious and conservative when they make their official statements on camera or with their names use, that in private, they're conveying to reporters a very high confidence that the war will be very short and quick. And I think that those backgrounders are being conveyed to the public and through the media without any attribution to the officials.

So the tone is getting through clearly that this is going to be, basically, a six-day war, in effect, a super Panama. And I think that's almost sure to be very wrong. I don't know. I take it that they are sincere in this enthusiasm, but remember, we're talking about officials who really have never been in a war largely. That's true both of the military.

The highest level military in this war, like Colin Powell, did not have a high view of Vietnam. There were battalion commanders, regimental, perhaps, a division at the most, people like Schwarzkopf and Powell. Well, they saw war, to be sure, but they were at too low a level to be able to get a good feel for why the war was as stalemated.

They were, apparently, able to absorb myths at that low level that Reagan was learning, let's say over here and Bush was learning, which was that we lost that war, or we were stalemate in that war just because there wasn't censorship or because it was the president's fault or because we didn't bomb enough. They weren't in charge of bombing. Maybe they didn't have a clear picture that we dropped 7 and 1/2 million tons of bombs on Vietnam, and that's four times the tonnage of World War II altogether.

And that's the war that's gone down in history-- and apparently in their memories-- as the war that we fought with one arm tied behind our back, and that this time with appropriate ruthlessness, we'll get it done fast. It may be very fast relatively to a Vietnam or the World War II. This is certainly the target nation doesn't compare to our adversaries in World War II.

And we're not facing in the first phase the kind of guerrilla war, which presented us with problems that we never did solve militarily. So they think they understand these problems, but it's not going to be a cheap war in human costs on either side. And beyond this first intense phase, it seems very clear-- and I think we ought to get into this-- it seems very clear to me that they're heading toward the occupation of at least a large part of Iraq and probably most of Iraq, including Baghdad. And that will present them with a Vietnam-like occupation indefinitely and not only in Iraq. Almost surely, this war will be accompanied by uprisings throughout the Middle East, which will involve us in a regional counterinsurgency conflict or a lot of little Vietnams, if you like, or not so little, that can last indefinitely until we get out.

- We've been speaking with Dr. Daniel Ellsberg, who has been out, as a matter of fact, protesting. I think you were arrested this evening?

- I came here from jail.

- From jail?

- Yes, as a matter of fact, your Pacifica reporter gave his directions to get back from jail here too. So that's why you happen to be getting me in the middle of the night.

- Well, we've been speaking with Dr. Daniel Ellsberg--

- Now, for some of the people, I get out that we were getting a ride.

- Get some sense about-- yeah. A long-time, anti-war activist, also involved with the Pentagon Papers, which first exposure of the government's actions and theories and so on, practice in the Vietnam War. This is Don Rush along with Leon Collins for the Pacifica Radio News Network, and we will have another update at the top of the next hour.

[MUSIC]

- (SINGING) After hours. After hours.

- And we're here, and we're waiting for the next update on the war. Butch will be here at 2:00. Frank will be around in about 15 minutes or so with the local news. Mary, we need to move some things around. Because the way the news is coming in at midnight now, on Saturday.

So I think what we're going to do is start running the BBC, of course, from 12:00 to 12:15. And then we'll run "This Way Out" at 12:15 until 12:45, and then Frank will do the local news. And then we'll be here from 1:00 to 3:00. And then the BBC News, again, at 3:00.

- OK.

- How does that sound?

- Well, yeah, I think that's a good idea. The other way was kind of chopped up.

- Yeah, this way, it'll be OK.

- Yeah. Well, I'll have 2 hours to scream.

- There you go. 90.1 FM, KPFT, and Frank will be here in about 15 minutes or so with the news. Hang on.

[MUSIC]

I forgot to say, if you want to call us, our number here is 526-4000. Right?

- Right.

- (SINGING) Oh, she knows. She takes his hand.

- Sorry, Mary. I was on the phone.

- Yeah, I saw that.

- Well, I had a couple of people call one woman. I just sort of like said goodbye and hung up on her. I'm sorry, ma'am. I didn't mean to do that. I didn't know we're going to run out of music so quickly. She said that she was from the country and just been visiting and listening and heard us and supported what we were saying.

There are two things that Alita just brought up that I want to remind you of, and one is someone was asking and she read in the paper, why are there not more protest on the campuses in the country this time?

- Isn't that odd?

- Think about it. In Vietnam, young people were subject to be drafted to go fight in that war. Now, we have an all-volunteer service. So no one is personally at risk to go.

- But still--

- No buts, man.

- --if that draft is reinstated--

- Oh, if the draft is reinstated, the protests will start up again. Who are you kidding? Do you really think they won't?

- Oh, I know they will.

- Of course. But that's one way to look at it. There are no protests because nobody is going anywhere. If they want to.

- So far.

- We're all safe and secure here in our little country, and it's not getting bombed.

- So far.

- There's the key word. Have you noticed how Western Europe is not saying, hey, just go in there and bomb the hell out of them. Bomb them off the map. Just drop those bombs on them. Europe has set through bombings.

- You bet.

- The people of London can remember the bombings during the war, World War II.

- And it's not fun.

- No. This country is very, very lucky. You have not had to sit in a hole in the ground waiting to see if the house on top of you is going to be blown to bits. I think if this country had some idea, some reality as to what really is happening over there with buildings just suddenly exploding and bodies falling apart in front of you and blood running out into the street and intestines and brains pouring out at your feet, that you would stop a minute and say, wait a minute, maybe this bombing is not such a good idea. And maybe we should think of a better way.

But unfortunately, the war goes on. Why? Who knows. Oh, wait. Wait a minute. We're not going to do that. You know what we need to do, Mary?

- What do we need to do, dear?

- We need to remind them about "This Way Out."

- The change in time?

- Yeah.

- Well, of course, "This Way Out" will not be heard this evening because of the expanded news coverage.

- From Pacifica, which will be back on the top of the hour.

- Right.

- And then the BBC, which will be here at 3:00. And there will be no coverage from the United States because there is a 48 hour-- is that right, Frank? A 48-hour media blackout. The government has deemed it necessary, boys and girls, to keep you from knowing what is going on. And trust me, it has nothing to do with national security. It has nothing to do with the security of our troops.

The national media is not going to broadcast the exact, pinpoint locations of our troops and what's going on because they will not have that information. What they will be able to show you, you won't see for at least 48 hours. And then maybe in 48 hours, they can think up another excuse not to show it to you. Anyway, some woman called and complained and said, what can I do? There's no one to call? You can call the White House, if you want to. The switchboard number is 1-202-456-1414. It's probably busy--

- I'll bet.

- --in Washington, DC, the White House, and tell them how you feel, whether you do or don't support the war. It's 1 area code 202 456-1414. Just remember, our children were not drafted that went over there. We support the government. That's why we're here screaming that things just may not be right today.

Someone at work-- because I work for the police department-- said we've got to support the troops. I support the troops. Got to believe in the country? I believe in the country.

- Right.

- Have you heard that song, "I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free."

- Until I want to puke.

- Unless you're white and rich and Protestant, that song don't mean diddly to us. Because if you're an American homosexual, you don't count. If you're an American Black, well, even though we got segregation, we still don't like you niggers, and you're going to sit back there. And if you get out of line, by golly, we may just have to pass another law. That's what they say behind our Black backs. We know that.

You think Jim Westmoreland is the only man that says the word nigger at City Hall? Wake up, America? Hello. Is there anybody out there? Don't fool yourself, kids. There's racism everywhere. It's just the Black community stood up one day and said, hey, wait a minute, enough of this crap.

How many men do you know who's macho would be hurt if they found out that a woman was their boss? How about an environment like HBD? A pregnant woman is their boss? Child, you should have seen it when Elizabeth Watson, our chief of police, got up at the police Academy in December when she was as big as a billiard ball and could hardly walk, and she waddled up to the podium.

And Chief Colby, who in all fun, I'm sure, said, well, as the chief waddles to the front, I'll make this announcement. When the chief got up there, she said, I may waddle, but it's only because I have much more weight to throw around than you do.

- Whew.

- This world is changing, kids. They say all these homosexuals want their rights. Goddamn right we do. Jimmy and I talked about this. We're doing this show for the babies that are unborn. Baloney. I want some of this for myself. I want to be able to walk down the street somewhere with the man that I love and hold hands and not have everybody freak out.

And I want to know that I can walk in somewhere with someone who's Black and sit down and have lunch and no one really care.

- They still care? They really do care? Why?

- I want to know that I'm in a room full of men who really don't think that every woman should be barefoot and pregnant, and that's all they're good for. I'd like to live in a world where you can go out and sleep with anybody you want to and everybody really not care. Not a world where if a woman sleeps with two people, more than one, she's a slut. But a married man with three children, he can sleep around because that's what men do. Yeah, right.

Just remember, there is no draft, and if these young men and women in this country were facing having to go to the Middle East and die for that little flag they're waving around, they would start protesting. If something would hit them on the top of the head, they'd go, wow, this just may not be the answer.

Roger and I were sitting at home the other night and saw a documentary on Kent State, when the National Guard marched in there and shot into a crowd of children. We're not talking about the Russians, Mary, coming over the hill with the Chinese or those hateful Iraqis, we're talking about the National Guard, not even the Army or the Air Force or the Marines. National Guard. Guardsmen.

Those are your brothers and sisters and the people you work with, the neighbors down the street, marching on to a college campus and shooting down our young people in cold blood.

- And that's what it took to turn it around, unfortunately. We're talking about murder. That's when people finally stood up and said, enough. We're living in a country that's so, so lucky. It's nothing during the holidays in London for a shopping center to blow up and have tons of people killed. It's nothing for a car bomb to go off in Paris or somewhere in France.

If any country in this world deserves to be bombed today, it's this one. Maybe it would wake some of us up to just how lucky we have it. Do you what I mean, jelly bean? If anybody in this country now deserves to have an Astrodome or a galleria or anything else blown to bits, it's the United States of America, God bless her, because we're so fortunate, and we're so arrogant in our fortunate.

- I know it didn't make a hell of a lot of sense, but it's just really, really sad.

- But why does it have to take death for people to stand up?

- It won't. Baby, they will die, and no one will change. It will not change. It will be the same, old crap. We'll bring back a bunch of kids in caskets with flags on them, which, by the way, the media won't show you because they don't want to offend anybody.

- Why do we bother teaching history if we don't learn from it?

- And then we'll wait 20 or 30 more years, and then we'll go right into the same thing again until one day, there's nothing left. I read in the paper the other day, someone had written the editor and said, why is it that cartoon characters can speak out against the war and against homelessness and against hunger and against age? Why can't real people? Because it's not a real positive thing to say.

Earlier, and we'll play it again later, we played a song called "Give Peace a Chance," a remake of the John Lennon tune, done by a group who call themselves The Peace Choir. Everybody is in it. They got 20 million copies down at Sound Warehouse because we're too busy dropping bombs. Nobody has got time to buy a cassette singing about peace.

But you know what, really deep down, this country feels guilty. They just don't know what to say. Well, it's time to say enough is enough. It's real funny. If you watch television or listen to radio in the mainstream, you should know that Phil Collins got a Grammy the other day for the best song of the year last year.

We've played it for a long time since the day we first heard it on this show, and we've been accused of playing it because it's commercial. You shouldn't play that. But it's got a great message, and we'll listen to it just before Frank does the news.

It's like, where are you at? Don't you realize how lucky you are not to have your gas mask hanging around your neck and have to worry about how far am I from the sealed room? Don't you know how lucky we are not to have to worry about a siren going off and trying to find some place to hide?

Can you imagine an incoming missile during rush hour in Houston? Think about it. Think about where you work and where your husband is while you're at work or your children are or your lover is. And you hear on the radio and the sirens go off and you know, my God, we've got less than three or four minutes, what must go through your mind?

Forget the adults in Israel or Saudi Arabia or Baghdad. Think about the children. Jesus Christ, what kind of world are we giving them kids? And here we set, well, it'll be OK. Sure, it will. Because for you and me, baby, it's just another day in paradise, and that's just how we want it.

I mean, we got tens of thousands of people eating out of garbage cans in this city, you have people dying every day from something called AIDS, and we can't find no money to fight it. All those are probably communists anyway living in the street. Those AIDS victims? Just a bunch of queers. For me, it's just another day in paradise, and I don't want to hear about it.

Well, I got news for you, kids, bad news is coming on your doorstep. I just hope this country is strong enough to stand up to it. Hang on. Frank will be here with the news in a minute, and then we'll be back to play some more music for you later on. Stay with us.

[MUSIC - PHIL COLLINS, "ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE"]

- She calls out to the man on the street.

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[MUSIC]

- (SINGING) After Hours. After Hours.

- 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.

[MUSIC]

- This is "After Words" for the week of February 24. I'm Frank White. The Houston Coalition to Stop Intervention in the Middle East will have an emergency meeting tomorrow at 5:00 PM at 1919 Smith. That's in front of the Mickey Leland Federal Building downtown.

Glen Maxey, executive director of Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, will face David Rodriguez in a runoff election called for Saturday, March 2 in Austin. If Maxey wins this election, he would become the first openly gay elected state official in Texas. Rodriguez is still under investigation. He allegedly was not a resident of the district and therefore, would be ineligible to run for this office. It seems that he voted in another East Austin district in the last general election and lists his home in East Austin as his primary residence with the Internal Revenue Service.

If he is ruled ineligible, the entire election could be thrown out, and another election would take place. Some people are saying that because of the controversy surrounding Rodriguez, Maxey has an even better chance of winning this runoff. Maxey's campaign contends that their candidate is not a shoo in. District 51 has been historically a Hispanic stronghold. The voters must turn out for this important election in numbers greater than in the special election.

We must all remember that it took Harvey Milk three attempts to win his public office. So whatever the outcome of the runoff election, we have a winner in Glen Maxey. His campaign is in need of support, and you can reach them at area code 512 472-7273. Call them today and help make gay history in Texas. There will also be a fundraiser today at Santa Fe.

The official goals have been released for the 1991 March on Austin for Gay and Lesbian Rights by the March organizing committee. The 11 goals are-- first, adoption of laws to provide for protection of equal civil rights of lesbian and gay people and specific laws banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. Second, legal recognition of lesbian and gay relationships, including parental rights in adoption, domestic partnerships, and same sex marriages. Three, support for the right of lesbian and gay people to serve without discrimination in the armed forces, National and State guard, including law enforcement agencies throughout the State.

Four, passage and enforcement of hate crimes legislation to end violence and harassment based on prejudice and hatred, especially as it applies to lesbian and gay people. Five, legislative repeal of Section 2106 of the Texas Penal Code, which criminalizes lesbian and gay people for adult consensual, homosexual conduct. Six, reproductive freedom and the right to control our own bodies.

Seven, an end to discrimination against persons living with HIV, ARP, and AIDS. Eight, substantial increases in funding for easier access to effective AIDS prevention education, funding and expansion for research and a major revision of the Texas health care delivery system, especially for the indigent. Nine, access and funding for new therapies, treatments, and drugs for HIV disease.

10, an end to all social, economic, judicial, and legal oppression of lesbian and gay people of every race, gender, ability, class, ethnicity, ideology, transgender orientation, and sexual orientation. 11, an understanding that the struggles of gay and lesbian people are affected by racism and sexism, which oppresses people of color and women.

The liberation of lesbian and gay people is linked to the struggle against racism, sexism, and discrimination on the basis of ethnicity. We call for an end to these problems on all levels within the gay and lesbian community and in the larger society and support the right of self-determination for all people.

The march will be held in Austin on March 17 at 12:00 noon. Groups will gather at Palmer Auditorium and proceed up Congress to the steps of the State House. The last March on Austin attracted nearly 40,000 participants.

Four Houston area men have been arrested under Section 2106 of the Texas Penal Code. This offense is a class C misdemeanor, which carries a fine of up to \$200. Three of the defendants entered no contest pleas. The fourth is yet to be arraigned.

During the trial of *Morales, et al versus the State of Texas*, attorneys repeatedly contended that the law could not infringe upon the plaintiff's rights because it is never enforced. The implication of these arrests could affect the appeal and arguments of the State and can be seen as beneficial to the cause of gay and lesbian rights.

If San Francisco can have the Castro Country Club, it would only logically follow that Houston would have the Montrose Palace. Both places have bars, music, and a place for gay and lesbian people to socialize. However, there is a twist to this story. Although both locations sound like any other gay bar, the essential ingredient that separates them from the others is that neither place serves alcohol.

Houston, of course, couldn't be outdone by San Francisco, so Don and Ron Davis added some kick to the formula. The Montrose Palace will feature nightclub-style entertainment, including dancers, live music, and of course, drag. Don and Ron, better known in some circles as Donna Drag and Lorna Koontz-- I don't think I pronounced the last name correctly-- but I want to stay on the air. Don and Ron Davis have been professional entertainers for years and have been planning this project for about one year.

The Montrose Palace, a meeting space for the community, is located on Commonwealth and Nevada and is open on Friday nights at 8:00.

- This is one of my favorite stories coming up.

- Which one?

- The one about the-- not that announcement. That's OK. What is that announcement, anyway?

- This announcement is--

- Roger will kill me if I don't announce it.

- I got to read it. The National Leather Association, Houston, will hang its colors at the Venture Inn next Saturday, March 2, at 10:00 PM, so be there.

- And you'll probably see Roger dressed out in his leather. Anyway, this story.

- About the--

- Yes.

- --city ordinance.

- There you go.

- Yeah. Since the passage of the new city ordinance regarding sexually-oriented businesses, the Montrose Palace might be the only place to find Mr. Right. It seems that under the new ordinance, all adult bookstores and theaters in the Montrose area would have to close their doors. What is unclear about the ordinance is whether this would apply only to businesses with arcades or to businesses that only sell or rent videos and magazines.

If these businesses fall under this ordinance, First Amendment rights would be challenged. Ray Hill, in an interview in *The New Voice*, said he believed that the city of Houston was setting a censorship precedent. Does the city of Houston have its own Jesse Helms in the person of Kristin Hartung, the sexually-oriented business committee chair? People are quick to point out that this is a land use issue and is perfectly legal. What is regulated is location, not content.

In a court case involving the censorship clause of their grant acceptance form, the National Endowment of the Arts and a New York art gallery settled their differences, and the suit was dropped. The NEA agreed to eliminate the censorship clause for this particular recipient. An attorney for the government explained that this would probably happen with all grant recipients from 1990.

Since there was no court ruling, this censorship clause still stands. I have one question. Will only the people with enough money to appeal decisions or that sue the endowment be the only ones funded by this government agency?

The first National Gay and Lesbian Film Tour will visit 12 cities across the country. This non-profit tour is dedicated to increase visibility of gay and lesbian films and to challenge the radical right's attempt at silencing our voices. The festival is sponsored in Houston by the Montrose Activity Center and will run from March 1 through the 10 at the Rice Media Center. Contact the Rice Media Center at 527-4853 for a schedule and times.

Tonight, I was going to talk about all this incidental stuff, but it seems like this stuff doesn't matter when we've got all this stuff going on in the Gulf, the Persian Gulf. And we forget a lot about what's happened in the past. And I have some personal experiences that-- I wasn't a teenager when all this stuff with Vietnam happened.

But there's one thing that I remember most about that war and that was, I was in eighth grade, at a parochial school, and we were sitting there in class, and the cars pulled up out front, these military cars. And these guys got out of the car, and they went into the school, and before you knew it, you heard this blood-curdling scream throughout the whole school. They were there to tell the woman who headed the cafeteria that her son had just been killed in Vietnam. And that sound is burned into my memory. And I hope that nobody has to have those people come and deliver that kind of news to them.

Buddy brought up earlier Kent State. That's what it took. I remember the day that it happened. I grew up about 40 miles from Kent State, and I attended school there. And we were sitting at the dinner table, and the news had come that they had killed four people at Kent.

And I remember all along my parents had been, yeah, the war, the war, it's good. We need to be there. We're fighting for democracy and freedom for these people. And at that moment, my mother looked at my father and she said, what's this come to? She says, now, we're killing our own children.

I hope that this war doesn't reach that point either. But you know what, people's children are already being killed. As we speak right now, there's people being killed in the Persian Gulf, and what's it for? We have to seriously look at that.

The government won't allow us to look at that. We are now in a blackout, and we're going to be in that blackout for 48 hours. And then we will have the opportunity to get information from government-censored press pools. We're not going to see the photos of the bodies that Buddy was talking about, the bodies that are dismembered. We're not going to see that because the government is not going to allow it.

What we will see are nice, clean pictures.

- Isn't it such a beautiful war?

- Oh, it's horrible.

- Those planes taking off into the sunset.

- They've romanticized it, and this has been coming. We've seen it coming in the media. All the films in the past two years, these ones with Rob Lowe and those guys that fly around.

- *Top Gun*.

- *Top Gun* and all that. Yeah, exactly. We've seen it. They've romanticized war. They don't show you what it's like to have your head blown off or to watch your friend be just burned to death with napalm. We're still using napalm. It's horrible. It's horrible. But our government will let us see the pretty pictures, you know?

- So we're kind of stuck.

- We're stuck.

- Oh, well.

- All we can do is go down to the federal building tomorrow at 5:00, and that's it. This has been "After Words" for the week of February 24. I'm Frank White. You're listening--

- Go ahead.

- You're listening to "After Hours," 90.1 KPFT, Houston.

- And we want to remind you that starting soon, we haven't decided yet, we're going to have a big planning session, probably while "This Way Out." No, See, "This Way Out" won't be on. Now, we began the news from the BBC at midnight, and immediately following the BBC News at 12:15, we'll run "This Way Out" with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chapelle. And then Frank will be in after that at 12:45 with the local news. And then around 1:00 or so, Jimmy and I will come in and start screaming.

- Right. That's the tentative schedule coming up.

- That probably won't start next week, but it'll start the week after. Because we want to make sure everybody that enjoys "This Way Out" knows that it's not gone, it's just moved.

- You bet. You bet. And the guests that we had scheduled for tonight will be here next week.

- And that's who?

- Michael, from a brand new group, support group for gay Black men, he's also a member of Queer Nation, so he wants to talk about both.

- OK, we've got a news update from Pacifica coming up at 2:00, and we'll be back after that, so stay with us. This is KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM in a very watered-down "After Hours," but what can I say? There's a war going on, people, and kids are dying. And I don't like it one bit.

- It seems a bit more important right now.

- Yeah, we'll be back. Hang on.

[MUSIC]

- (SINGING) After Hours. After Hours.

- 90.1 FM, KPFT Houston, and a really watered-down "After Hours," but there's a ground war going on in the Gulf, as you know. So stay with us. News update from the Pacific news desk coming up in about 20 seconds, and we'll be back after that with a little radical homosexual wartime radio. So stay with us. 90.1 FM. KPFT, Houston.

[MUSIC]