

- What else do we do?

- Lots of stuff.

- Lots of stuff.

[LAUGHTER]

- They do!

- [INAUDIBLE] social things.

- Yeah.

- We have a potluck scheduled now for later this month.

- It sounds like fun.

- A group of us are planning on going to the bowling night next week.

- Well, good luck with the merger. I think that's wonderfully exciting, because it shows that we can work together. And the more of us that get together, the stronger we're going to become. That's the only thing [? there ?].

- It's amazing how many gay fathers there really are out there.

- Oh, yeah. That's true.

- That's true.

- Listen, thanks for coming by.

- Thank you.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- And we'll see you guys soon. And Mary will do the news and then be back.

- All right.

- Right? OK. OK, girl.

- Ooh, here we are!

- [LAUGH] Now we're moving some things around.

- That's true. That's true. *After Hours* is changing.

- Well, just a little bit, because we're going to have the BBC News at midnight.

- Mhm?

- And then, at 12:15, *This Way Out* with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle.

- Which runs for a half hour.

- And it'll be moving.

- Yeah.

- Used to be at some time, and now it's on at 12:15--

- 12:15.

- --immediately following the BBC. And then Frank will be here, with the local gay and lesbian news.

- Yeah!

- Right? All on *After Hours*, beginning-- when?

- Soon.

- Soon. [LAUGH]

- So stay with us.

- Coming to a theater near you. Yes.

- Every Saturday night at midnight, on KPFT, the BBC News at midnight, *This Way Out* with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle at 12:15, and then Frank with local news. And then we'll be here to scream "we're here"--

- And we're queer!

- --Saturday nights at midnight, on KPFT *After Hours*. Tune in, and hear what you've been missing, girl.

- I know that's right.

- Bye.

- Bye.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- This community radio station thanks you for your pledge. You should have received a statement in the mail by now. Please pay your pledge as soon as you can, so you won't forget. You can call 526-KPFT to charge your pledge by phone, if you wish. This broadcast is made possible by you.

- Imagine a world in which millions of people are at the mercy of a small band of extremists, in which works of art are subjected to government censorship and freedom of expression is a crime. Now stop imagining. Welcome to America 1990.

This is Colleen Dewhurst. As an actress, I am terrified by what is happening in our country today. Extremists like Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, and Senator Jesse Helms are trying to destroy freedom of expression for their own political and personal needs. And since this freedom is so powerfully demonstrated in the arts, they especially want to silence the artist. That's why they're determined to restrict the National Endowment for the Arts, an organization that supports artists all across America.

We must fight back. Please call or write to your member of Congress today, because silence for the arts is silence for America.

- Sponsored by the People for the American Way Action Fund.
- And the news, coming up with Frank White in just a minute. So stay with us.
- Yeah.
- I was telling you about this guy I met.
- Yeah?
- Girl--
- Is he hot?
- Well, let's put it this way. All I need--
- Your chest hair is singed, girl! He must be hot.
- Girl. You should be nice. We're going to send a copy of this to a friend of his.
- Oh!
- I was going to say-- what was I going to say?
- [LAUGH]
- I was going to say, all we need is a miracle, baby. Hang on. We'll be back with the news.
- [MUSIC PLAYING]
- [LAUGH] I thought you were doing the news.
- Well, I'm waiting on Frank. She's out there with a hot story.
- Oh, yeah!
- Something about the first openly gay representative. Is that right?
- First openly gay elected official in the state of Texas.
- Girl!
- Mr. Glen Maxey. And he's going to have some particulars on just what went on there.
- Well, Mary, where is she?
- [MUSIC PLAYING]
- Thank you. This is hot off the wire. Huh! State representative legislative district number 51--
- Yeah?
- --Glen Maxey. We're taking over the world. Well, not really. We've always been here.

- Yeah? We're just here-- And we're queer.

- Yeah. So, tell me why in the hell aren't you out of the closet, Mary? Oh, not you, girl. She tore that closet to hell one day.

- Uh-huh?

- And then the sun came out, and they said [INAUDIBLE]--

[MUSIC - NICK HEYWARD, "TELL ME WHY"]

- This is *Afterwards* for the week of March 3. I'm Frank White.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Glen Maxey is the first openly gay person to be elected to a state office in Texas. Today, the voters in Austin decided that the best man was Maxey, a seasoned politician and gay-rights activist. Maxey has been in politics for years and has worked as a legislative aide and a lobbyist in Austin. Glen is on the phone with us from Austin.

Congratulations, Glen.

- Thank you.

- How does it feel to be the first openly gay elected official in the state of Texas?

- Well, we're pretty ecstatic. We're having a wonderful time tonight. We had a tremendous victory party. We're, right now, sitting outside of Oilcan Harry's and the Boathouse, in Austin--

- All right.

- --making the tour of the gay bars-- probably the first elected official in Texas that's ever done that as an openly gay person.

- That's great! That is really great. Your opponent was David Rodriguez.

- Right.

- And did any more come of the allegations about him not being eligible? And do you think that possibly that had an effect on this outcome?

- Well, from the beginning, we directed our campaign very much at issues about quality education, health care, environmental concerns. In the last week, we raised the issue, as did others, about his eligibility, about some of his personal financial problems, and in so doing raised the issue with the voters of who could be most effective as state representative.

- And so the voters decided.

- Tonight we had a great victory. We won this race with 54% of the vote, a very decided victory.

- That's great.

- This district is a very progressive district in Central Austin. It is just not like the Montrose or Oak Lawn in Dallas, in that Austin doesn't have a concentrated gay community. Here, the community is very diverse and spread out throughout Austin.

So we won this election with a very strong gay and lesbian vote, with a very strong vote from the senior citizens' community. Surprisingly, tonight, we ran real strong in the rural precincts, the precincts on the outskirts of Travis County. It was a wonderful victory that we brought in-- the women's community, seniors, all ethnicities, all races, all ages. So it's a great victory for the gay and lesbian community.

- That's right. Are you going to work actively now on the repeal of 21.06, in the legislature?

- We'll hit the ground running. Representative Danburg and Cane have filed the 21.06 Repeal Bill in the House. I'll become a cosponsor, this next week, when I take the oath of office. The Secretary of State will certify this election on Wednesday morning. I spoke to Governor Richards, a couple hours. He's agreed to administer the oath of office on Wednesday evening, here in Austin, in a ceremony on the House floor. And on Thursday, I expect to become one of the lead sponsors of the repeal of 21.06.

- All right. So you're going to be off and running.

- Yes, sir.

- Great. Well, if you're ever in Houston, please stop by and visit with us. We would like talking to you more.

- Be glad to do that.

- All right, thank you very much.

- Thank you. Bye-bye.

- Bye.

[MUSIC - "FROM A DISTANCE"]

Since Glen Maxey is now one of our legislators, you'll be able to visit with him on March 18. That's Lobby Day at the state capitol. Lobby Day will follow the March on Austin for Gay and Lesbian Equal Rights. This is an exciting event that shouldn't be missed.

Some people from Houston will be helping to make the weekend in Austin a little more fun. The Montrose Singers and Heartsong will be participating in Texas Sing Out. That's on March 16 at 9 o'clock, in Bass Concert Hall on the UT campus in Austin. Also performing will be the Austin Women's Chorus, Capital City Men's Chorus, Tapestry, and Alamo City's Men's Chorus. Tickets for the concert are available in Houston at Inklings, on Richmond Avenue.

[MUSIC - PETER ALSOP, "GOTTA LOTTA LIVIN' TO DO"]

- Dad? Do you know anything about AIDS?

- Sure. Come here and sit down.

- 14 nationally acclaimed musicians have combined their talents on an album that will help efforts to eliminate AIDS and provide services for the afflicted. Artists' royalties from *Feeding the Flame-- Songs by Men to End AIDS* are being donated to the National AIDS Minority Council. All royalties normally due the performers on this album will be used by NAMC to help community-based organizations that provide services for AIDS patients of color.

The AIDS rate is presently growing fastest in those communities and populations served by NAMC-affiliated groups. The recording will also be made available to other AIDS organizations for resale as a fundraiser. The artists on feeding the flame include Pete Seeger, Josh White Jr., Fred Small, Willie Sordillo, Pete Alsop, Romanovsky & Phillips, Tom Wilson Weinberg, Michael Callen, the Flirtations, John Bucchino-- Holly Near's accompanist-- and many more.

The mix is nice. You'll find folk, reggae, dance, and techno pop music, with a mood from campy to political. Most of the songs in the collection are previously unrecorded and address such topics as Gay Pride, safe sex, and redefining masculinity.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

A form of tattoo called "blue star" is being sold in Houston. The small sheet of paper contains blue 1/4-inch stars, and each star is soaked with LSD. Another series depicts Bart Simpson, Superman, clowns, butterflies, Mickey Mouse, and other Disney characters.

The problem with these sheets is that they contain strychnine and have been known to be fatal. Simply handling the blotter acid sheets could be fatal. Once again, the sheets have-- they depict Disney characters, cartoon characters, and are laced with strychnine and are fatal.

Philip Morris's traveling display of the Bill of Rights will be in Houston on March 10, and Queer Nation will be there. Phillip Morris gives freely to Jesse Helms of North Carolina. And as you know, he is the biggest threat to the Bill of Rights that this country has ever seen.

On March 10, at 4 o'clock PM, Queer Nation will gather at the Coliseum downtown to tell Houston and Philip Morris that we do not support Jesse Helms's politics and his quest to do away with the Bill of Rights in the name of decency. Jesse Helms was instrumental in denying funding to many artists by placing obscenity guidelines on the National Endowment for the Arts. Included with bestiality and pedophilia was homoeroticism. Philip Morris needs to know that homophobia and bigotry will not be tolerated. So join Queer Nation at 4:00 PM on March 10.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[MUSIC - ARTHUR FIEDLER & BOSTON POPS ORCHESTRA, "THE SYNCOPATED CLOCK"]

The city of Houston finally has some exciting cultural events coming up in the next months. The weather for the opening of the National Gay and Lesbian Film Tour was superb. The attendance should be high. If you were at the festival this evening, call us and tell us about the films and the attendance at the Rice Media Center. I understand that in Seattle 500 people showed up for every screening during this festival.

The films will run through next Sunday. *Longtime Companion* and *Desert Hearts*, as well as the Academy Award-winning documentary *Common Threads*, are some of the first-run movie titles which are part of the festival. Some of the more intriguing films are also more obscure and tend to be slightly experimental. Recently, Bruce Davison was nominated for Best Supporting Actor for his role in *Longtime Companion*.

The Rice Media Center is located on the Rice University campus. And you can phone the Media Center at 527-4853 for detailed information on all the films in the festival.

This week, *M. Butterfly* will open at Jones Hall. The play originally opened on Broadway in 1988 and ran for 777 performances and closed on January 27, 1990. *M. Butterfly* won three Tony Awards, including Best Play of 1988.

It is basically the story of a man who falls in love with a beautiful oriental woman who is actually a man. They love each other, and the story which unfolds is exciting and beautiful. It shows the stereotypes of oriental women and also depicts Western men and shows that we cannot always trust those stereotypes to be true.

Kenny Joe Spivey, a local playwright, has a new production. *Fertility Dance* will be opening on April 5 at the Heights Theatre. You may remember Kenny Joe's other plays, which included *Every Day at Dawn the Pigs Dance in Ancient Ritual. I Know. I Danced with Them. and Suck-- A Montrose Vampire Story.*

This latest production is a political satire centered around the town of Fertility, Texas. The entire town is in an uproar, due to the fact that the town twirler is retiring from that prominent position. Fertility, Texas, explodes into a frenzy of baton-twirling competitors vying for the position of town twirler-- who has absolute power. It sounds like great fun. Call Dream Cats at 526-0321 and support Houston's most innovative theatre company.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The National Leather Association will hold a bar crawl on Friday, March 8. A bus will be available to shuttle participants to seven area bars. The purpose of this bar crawl is to attract new members to this new Houston organization and to increase the organization's visibility in Houston's gay community. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month and are open to the community.

Queer Nation will be meeting at 411 West Bell in Houston today at 7:00 PM. Be there. I believe that it will discuss the action which is planned for the Bill of Rights display at the Coliseum.

Tonight, I want to talk about letters and conversations I've seen and had this week concerning Queer Nation. Queer Nation is long overdue in Houston. Homosexuals in Houston have been in the closet too long, for my good. If seeing two men display affection-- and I mean display affection, not perform sexual acts in public-- bothers you, that's your homophobia. I want the same rights that all Americans have-- the right to express love for another human being. And if you don't want these rights, then don't exercise them, but do not try to tell me that I don't need these rights.

Homosexuals in Houston have been trying to be good boys, liked by all. And where has that gotten you? You have less power than you did 10 years ago. Being good didn't work.

The name Queer Nation certainly is working. It got your attention. One of the biggest problems that homosexuals have is shame, and the name "queer" has been used too long as a shaming technique by heterosexual society. And if the name bothers you, then you bought the shame lock, stock, and barrel.

I'm reclaiming my power and choose to say that I'm queer and proud. It made me feel very good to see the stickers and signs plastered all over the place. It made me proud and gave me hope.

Two weeks ago, at work, I was in the lunchroom when an antigay story was being told by a table of women and a man. They laughed at the joke and continued laughing. I started staring at them in disbelief. It made them really uncomfortable.

And then I said to them, the joke wasn't funny. They said, well, they didn't make up the joke. It was on TV.

I said to them again, the joke wasn't funny. Another one said, well, it was just a show. And I said, for the third time, the joke wasn't funny. Finally, an uncomfortable silence came upon that table, and they got it. The joke wasn't funny.

So then, this week, I was in the same lunch area. And I went into the kitchen, and the same group of women were sitting there. And when I returned, I overheard a comment.

The woman was telling this other person sitting at the table not to say anything because he'll come over and start accusing you of being prejudiced. You know, she was right. You know, I'm here, I'm queer, and they're starting to get used to it.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

This has been *Afterwards* for the week of March 3. I'm Frank White.

- What? What, baby?
- I was just going to say that-- I was going to tell them that *This Way Out*'s coming up next.
- Yeah, with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle. But it's going to be moving.
- Yeah.
- But what about if they have news and all that kind of stuff?
- Send it to 419 Lovett, attention *After Hours*. That's in Houston, 77006.
- Thanks, baby.
- All right.
- Great news.
- Yeah.
- Especially that interview with Glen Maxey.
- Ah, isn't that great?
- That was hot. I loved that.
- Yeah.
- We're on our way, and the gay and lesbian '90s are truly becoming ours. Hang on.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

OK, girl.

- Ooh, here we are!
- [LAUGH] Now we're moving some things around.
- That's true. That's true. *After Hours* is changing.
- Well, just a little bit, because we're going to have the BBC News at midnight.

- Mhm?
- And then, at 12:15, *This Way Out* with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle.
- Which runs for a half hour.
- And it'll be moving.
- Yeah.
- Used to be at some time, and now it's on at 12:15--
- 12:15.
- --immediately following the BBC. And then Frank will be here with local gay and lesbian news.
- Yeah!
- Right? All on *After Hours*, beginning when?
- Soon.
- Soon. [LAUGH]
- So stay with us.
- Coming to a theatre near you, yes.
- Every Saturday night at midnight on KPFT, the BBC News at midnight, *This Way Out* with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle at 12:15, and then Frank with local news. And then we'll be here to scream "we're here"--
- And we're queer.
- --Saturday nights at midnight on KPFT *After Hours*. Tune in, and hear what you've been missing, girl.
- I know that's right.
- Bye.
- Bye.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- We're not permitted the same kind of rights that heterosexual couples are, but at least this is a step in the right direction.
- I'm going to send a copy of the form and a copy of the article in the *Chronicle* to my mother.
- The conservative movement is held together by the cement of anticommunism. When that went, it all fell apart. If they want to keep existing, they have to keep their money-raising machines going, they have to find another enemy. Homosexuals, homosexuals-- terrible! That's the new enemy.
- This is Lucia Chappelle.

- And Greg Gordon. And you're listening to *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine, on *After Hours*.

- Right here on Pacifica Radio 90.1 FM, KPFT, Houston.

Welcome to *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. I'm Lucia Chappelle.

- And I'm Greg Gordon. Crucial conversion confounds conservative King.

- What happens to an ILGA deferred?

- And if your partner is ticking, don't call the FBI.

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[MUSIC - LAURIE ANDERSON, "SHARKEY'S DAY"]

- I'm Cindy Friedman--

- And I'm Mark Saccamano--

- --with *News Wrap*, a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community, for the week ending February 16, 1991.

Arab nations have blocked a bid for United Nations recognition by the International Lesbian and Gay Association, or ILGA, which includes groups from 50 countries and every continent. ILGA applied for consultant status with the UN as an official nongovernmental organization, which would authorize the association to attend and speak before meetings of bodies and to bring proposals to them. The Committee on nongovernmental organizations of the UN's Economic and Social Council is composed of delegates from more than a dozen countries, any one of whom can veto a decision.

Although ILGA's application received majority support, objections by three Arab nations and the Philippines led the committee to defer consideration until the council's 1993 session. The opposition was led by Libyan delegate Abdussalam Serguwa, who quoted the Koran and referred to homosexuality as "sexually immoral practices" which he blamed for the spread of AIDS. Oman and Sudan also opposed ILGA's admission. Homosexual acts are a capital crime in all three Arab nations.

Support for ILGA's recognition came from Burundi, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Ireland, Lesotho, Nicaragua, and Sweden. Among the nations taking no stand were Cuba, Iraq, and the Soviet Union.

- The status of lesbians and gays in the United States armed forces remains controversial as fighting in the Gulf enters its second month. Dozens of gays and lesbians in uniform are telling advocacy groups that, despite denials from the military, a so-called stop-loss policy is operating, which delays what would otherwise be immediate discharges until the war is over.

Maria Gil de la Madrid of the National Center for Lesbian Rights reported the case of a lesbian whose orientation was discovered after her arrival in Saudi Arabia. According to the woman's lover, her captain delayed signing her discharge for some weeks. "We're not doing any discharge proceedings until the war is over," he said.

In one of the stranger cases, National Gay Rights Advocates, or NGRA, reported one lesbian who came out to her commander, only to receive a letter saying that she should prepare to be deployed unless she had a marriage certificate showing she was legally married to another woman. There is, of course no legal marriage for same-gender couples in the US.

- NGRA is representing two lesbian army sergeants who've filed claims for conscientious-objector status after coming out to their respective military commands. Since each would now be deployed as an open lesbian, they are requesting a guarantee of equal rights during and after their military service. Sergeant Linda [NON-ENGLISH], after four years of active duty and two in the reserves, said "because the military considers homosexuality incompatible with military service, I found myself in a difficult position. Either I remain closeted and forever fearful of discovery and its consequences, or I reveal my sexuality and confront the consequences of that action."

Sergeant Amy Stewart of the Army National Guard remarked "the military's ban on gays and lesbians is truly absurd. My service record is what it is-- excellent. My sexual orientation has nothing to do with performance issues."

Meanwhile, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has taken a formal position in opposition to the war. The position is based on the military's discriminatory policies as well as on fears that the war will divert resources from AIDS and other domestic issues.

- Britain appears to be relaxing its rules against gays and lesbians in the military, which in the past have included rejection from enlistment, discharge after identification, and court-martial for having sex even with civilians. The move to ease peacetime standards, now that lives are at stake, is not being welcomed by some gays and lesbians, however. Tim Barnett of the Stonewall Group told the London newspaper *Capital Gay* "They can't suspend discrimination merely because there is a war on."

- Also in Britain, film actress Glenda Jackson, campaigning for a seat in parliament, has urged repeal of antigay statutes. *Capital Gay* quoted her as saying "I would take my hat off to those members of the gay community who show affection in public."

- Newly knighted British actor Ian McKellen has been criticized by gays and lesbians for accepting the honor from a repressive government. Sir Ian responded on a BBC program by noting "In British theater, gays are protected from the harsh winds that prevail in the film industry. In the United States, there isn't a single famous actor of either sex who has come out."

- In Australia, the Sydney *Star Observer* reports that the minister of police for Tasmania has dropped his proposal to outlaw public gatherings which "promote or encourage unnatural sexual activity." The withdrawal gave the go-ahead to this month's annual gay-and-lesbian Mardi Gras.

- According to the Swedish gay-and-lesbian newspaper *Reporter*, in Soviet labor camps gays form a distinct lower, untouchable caste, apart from the other prisoners. Gay prisoners are not allowed to eat with other prisoners, are segregated into separate gay barracks, and are subject to the most horrible forms of persecution and degradation at the hands of other camp inmates. Soviet activists believe as many as 800 gay men each year are sent to the camps for up to five years for sodomy.

- The Swedish gay newspaper *Kom Ut* reports that 70 Iranians were executed by authorities in the early 1980s for forming a gay-and-lesbian organization. Iran's Voice of the Islamic Republic radio station has reported executions of persons convicted of engaging in homosexual acts in the past year. A gay Iranian who emigrated to Sweden in 1986 told the paper that the ayatollahs, quote, "do not merely condemn homosexuality. They are doing their utmost to root it out of Iran totally."

- In the United States, an annual survey of first-year college students by the American Council on Education indicates the future may hold an uphill battle for lesbian-and-gay rights. Of almost 200,000 responding, about 45% affirmed a belief that "it is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships."

- A survey by the Gay and Lesbian Council of Utah found that 90% of gay men and 74% of lesbians responding had been harassed because of their sexual orientation. Of 377 incidents reported, 38 were violent physical attacks.

- Also in the state of Utah, at the Sundance Film Festival, a gathering of independent filmmakers founded by Robert Redford, openly gay-and-lesbian directors won both the Dramatic and Documentary categories with films including gay material. Todd Haynes won for *Poison*, a film based on stories by Jean Genet, and Jennie Livingston for *Paris Is Burning*, which explores the era of Harlem drag balls.

- In Iowa, Blue Cross Blue Shield, the state's largest private insurance carrier, has refused to provide family health insurance coverage to partners of gays and lesbians, even when employers foot the bill, on the grounds that state law doesn't recognize same-gender marriages.

- In Oregon, the Portland group of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, ACT UP, has disbanded. According to the mainstream newspaper *Willamette Week*, two white, gay, HIV-positive men were so upset by the group's increasing activities against sexism, racism, and homophobia that they were threatening physical harm to other members. Some members plan to start new ACT UP groups.

- In Maine, the state Ethics Commission has ruled that two men broke the law by printing and distributing an antigay flier which may have helped to defeat an openly gay state-senate candidate. The men, who face fines of \$1,100 each, are appealing the decision.

- The University of Virginia has established a policy prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation against students, faculty, and staff. The policy allows individual schools of the university to deny use of its facilities to organizations that do discriminate.

- The Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago reported that all seven of the area's law schools will be denying the US military use of their placement facilities, because of its discriminatory policies.

- And finally, in San Francisco, what was thought to be an explosive situation has bombed out. [NON-ENGLISH] was arrested in October on suspicion of forging a prescription. Following routine procedure, officers searched his car, finding an electrical device in the glove compartment which they were unable to identify. Going by the book, they turned it over to the bomb squad, which used explosive powder to blow it up. The remains were then sent to the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, which detected the residue of the bomb squad's explosive powder and believed it indicated the device had (EMPHASIS) been a bomb.

Meanwhile, [NON-ENGLISH] posted bail on the forgery charge but failed to appear on two court dates. Unfortunately for the Iraqi-born US resident, the Gulf crisis was heating up and what would have been a routine statewide police bulletin escalated into front-page news about a terrorist on the loose.

[NON-ENGLISH] was arrested near his home last month. The Federal Bureau of Investigation searched a storage locker he kept and found several similar devices. The find led the investigator handling the case to recommend that the bomb charges be dropped, saying "it's a good study in national paranoia." If you haven't guessed it yet, the unidentified electrical device proved to be a vibrating sexual aid.

[MUSIC - LAURIE ANDERSON, "SHARKEY'S DAY"]

- That's News Wrap for the week ending February 16, 1991. Remember, an informed community is a strong community. Find out what's happening in your area by monitoring your local gay-and-lesbian media.

- *News Wrap* is compiled from publications and broadcasts throughout the world and was written by Cindy Friedman. *For This Way Out*, I'm Mark Saccomano.

- And I'm Cindy Friedman.

- Several lesbian, gay, and unmarried heterosexual couples celebrated a very special Valentine's Day this year in San Francisco, the first day a new law took effect allowing them to register their relationships as vested partnerships. Lisa Geduldig has the story.

- Couples must live or work in San Francisco in order to register their domestic partnership with the county clerk at San Francisco City Hall. Within the first two hours of domestic-partner registration, an estimated 70 couples-- all but a few same-sex couples-- filed into the registrar's office.

- It means that we can declare to society in general that we are a couple and we want to be recognized as a couple.

- Wearing matching tuxedos, Richard and his partner Wally were the third couple to register.

- We're not permitted the same kind of rights that heterosexual couples are, but at least this is a step in the right direction, so we can start working towards equal rights for gay people as well.

- Tanise and Gail talked to Pacifica while they filled out their registration form.

- I'm sort of making public what has been, for us, six years together something legal-- which it wasn't, before. And I'm going to send a copy of the form and a copy of the article in the *Chronicle* to my mother.

- The Domestic Partners Legislation, or Proposition K, was passed by 54% of San Francisco's voters on last November's ballot.

- We're doing it because it's Valentine's Day.

- And we're here in solidarity with them-- and also to participate in part of history.

- James and Alyssa were one of the few heterosexual couples who registered their relationship.

- We really like the idea of Proposition K. It lets everybody declare their love for whoever is important in their life.

- Matt Coles, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California, drafted the proposition. He says the legislation counteracts the myth that lesbians and gay men don't form meaningful relationships.

- They won't automatically get any benefits [INAUDIBLE] this doesn't make anybody recognize relationships for insurance, for leave plans-- that sort of thing. It makes it possible for institutions to do that. It's a system that could be used for health insurance, for bereavement leave, for any of those things. But I think, more important, what couples will realize through this-- which is something with lots of couples really want-- is a recognition on some level that, although they're not married, either because they choose not to be or because, in the case of lesbian and gay couples, they can't be, that their relationships are important. They're an important part of the fabric of our society.

- This is Lisa Geduldig, reporting from San Francisco.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[MUSIC - THE POZO-SECO SINGERS, "TIME"]

- You're listening to *This Way Out*, the international lesbian-and-gay radio magazine.

[MUSIC - THE POZO-SECO SINGERS, "TIME"]

- For *This Way Out*, I'm Bert Wylen. Marvin Liebman is one of the major architects of the conservative revolution that's dominated the American agenda for the past decade. Liebman, who is 67, helped found the American Conservative Union back in the '60s and pushed Ronald Reagan for president as early as the 1968 Miami Convention. Liebman is also the best friend of William F. Buckley, Jr.-- not necessarily perceived as a friend of the gay community.

Liebman came out of the closet in July of 1990. He was a member, as a youth, of the Young Communist League.

- When I was very young, before I was in high school, I knew I was different. I had no friends. I was a sissy. I didn't play ball. I was miserable.

When I got into high school, there was a group called the American Student Union which was the front for the Communist Party. I joined that, then joined the Young Communist League, then went to war, got thrown out of the army, came back. I thought I was a communist.

And then they expelled Earl Browder, who was the chairman of the American Communist Party, and I thought that was unfair and I quit the party. But I didn't quit being a Marxist or a "progressive," as we called them in those days.

It took me really from the time I quit the party, which was 1945, until 1951 to really get rid of all the extraneous junk and baggage you carry when you're a left-wing American. I stopped being a socialist. I stopped being a Marxist, certainly. And most of all, I became a big believer, which I believe to this very day, in the sanctity of the individual against the state. And if you believe the individual against the state, you can't very well be a left-winger anymore.

- You were raised a Jew. You became a Roman Catholic, with William F. Buckley as your godfather.

- Well, I was born a Jew, I am a Jew, and I love being a Jew. I love, as we say, the Yiddishkeit. I love that.

But being a Jew was never really spiritually satisfying, in one way or the other. It wasn't dissatisfying. And when I got older, I wanted very much to have love in my life. I wasn't able to do it, because when I was in the closet I was a lover but I could never be loved. And I felt that God loved me, finally, and I started to figure out just from where that came. And I went to all the religions I could think of, and I ended up with the first one was started by Jesus Christ.

- Now, Marvin, you were a closeted homosexual for 63 years. You were kicked out of the army for being gay and humiliated publicly there, brutally, by your commanding officer. And you also were in the closet, all these years, because obviously you were aware that if you were openly homosexual it would mean some severe penalties and terrible problems for you. What happened, to change your mind?

- Well, I lived a double life, as most closeted homosexuals do. A lot of my good friends knew I was gay, but we didn't talk about it. But nobody in my family or my professional life knew it. Or if they did know it, we certainly didn't talk about it.

Then, the conservative movement was held together-- the edifice was held together by the cement of anticommunism. When that went, it all fell apart. Communism was defeated. The conservative organizations were looking for a new enemy.

You have any number of organizations that have existed with hatred of communism as their base. If they want to keep existing, they have to keep their money-raising machines going, have their own bureaucracies, and so forth, they have to find another enemy. Over the United States, there are hundreds of thousands, or millions, of rather sad, older people who are ignored by their children and have nothing to do each day but go to their mailbox and pick out the letters.

And the direct-mail people who raise money for these organizations-- direct mail which I helped found and start-- go to these people, and they make them feel a part. These people want to feel a part of the world. They're out. And they want to hate something, because it gets their juices running.

So who do they hate? Jews? That's too vulgar. So yes, gay people, they're easy to beat up on-- homosexuals, homosexuals-- terrible! That's the new enemy.

And so I figured maybe it was time for me to come out and do something to help stop it. And it wasn't only a noble thing, because the bottom line was me. It was good for me to come out at last-- I mean, after all those years. And so that's why I did it-- hopefully, to stop the bigotry that is growing and growing rapidly in the American right-- not the American conservative movement, which doesn't even exist anymore, but the American right wing.

- So what's the difference between the right wing and the conservative movement?

- In the right wing, you have religious fundamentalists, religious nuts, medicine men, and so forth. American conservatism, to me, is typified 95% by William Buckley and his whole crowd at *National Review*. That's the way I define conservatism. And the bottom line on that is the sanctity of the individual, which I believe, over the state. Buckley has some weird ideas which are the ideas of our church [LAUGH] on homosexuality.

- Does Bill think that you are intrinsically evil, like the Roman Catholic Church does?

- No. Because, thank god, I'm 67. He figures I can't do it anymore.

- [LAUGH]

- [LAUGH]

- But he does hold the attitude that if you are homosexual then you need to be celibate. Is that right?

- Yes. Yeah. It's the old phrase-- "love the sinner, hate the sin." But I still consider Bill one of my closest friends. And if I ever got into any real difficulty, I know he'd be at my side. There's no question about it-- and vice versa.

- How do you see a conservative movement in the gay-and-lesbian community benefiting our community?

- Because nothing can be achieved in a two-party system without both parties. The Democrat Party has been welcoming, if not openly, sort of more welcoming than the Republican Party, for gay people. And so, you have to get into Conservative Party-- I mean, to the Republican Party, whether they want you or not. And that's the key.

And conservative gay people find their natural home in the Republican Party, and that's where they should go. And there's a group called the Log Cabin clubs, which are gay Republican clubs. And they're going to go national now.

The gay movement, I would guess, is financed well over 50% by Republican gay people. The most important PAC in the gay movement is the Human Rights Campaign Fund-- a very good operation. They give mostly to Democrats. Most of their money comes from Republicans, I'm convinced-- I would guess 60% or 70%. Republicans are in--

- How do you get that figure?

- I made it up. But it sounds good. But I really think so. Because Republicans are richer than Democrats, [LAUGH] easily.

But they're really in the closet. I want them to get more active in the Republican Party. But above all, I'd like more and more people to come out. They're just so stupid to hide in the closet. It wrecks your life-- as you would know, and anybody who's come out. And it's so wonderful, for yourself, to come out and admit proudly what you are. There's nothing you can do about it, so why hide it?

- Marvin Liebman, thank you for being with us.

- Thank you.

- For *This Way Out*, in Philadelphia, I'm Bert Wylen.

[MUSIC - STYX, "I'M OK"]

- 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.

[MUSIC - STYX, "I'M OK"]