

- And that was, again, a special song from Bruce to Andre. Bruce, we thank you for listening tonight. I want to play a little more Venus Envy. I know the holidays aren't always everyone's special time. So we've got a little more Venus Envy here, where they talk about hating the holidays.
- That was Johnny Mathis from his Christmas album, *Merry Christmas*, singing "Silver Bells." And I could listen to that all night long.
- I am a big Johnny Mathis fan.
- I know that's right.
- In case you've just tuned in, you are listening to *After Hours*. My name is Bruce Reeves.
- And I'm Judy.
- And it's nice to have you listening with us tonight. We are bringing you a very special Christmas show, Winter Solstice show as well. We've got another hour and 45 minutes until Winter Solstice. So we'll be looking forward to celebrating that. We've got *This Way Out* coming up at 1:30. And a special friend from the North Pole will be with us about 2:30.
- I can't wait to see who that is.
- [SIGHS] I mean, It's going to be (SING-SONG VOICE) special.
- Yeah, I'll bet.
- And what am I doing? Oh, yes. We've got some more Christmas music coming up.
- What a surprise. I can't wait.
- I can't wait. Nat Cole--
- Nat King Cole.
- Nat King Cole.
- Thank you.
- "Caroling Caroling." Come on.
- Maybe.
- Maybe. Play.
- [MUSIC - NAT KING COLE, "CAROLING, CAROLING"]
- You're listening to *After Hours* here on KPFT 90.1 FM Houston. Of course, that last song was Elmo and Patsy singing "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer."
- I go hide in the bathroom when you play that one.

- And right before that was "Dyke the Halls." And I'm not sure who did that one. But we're having a very special *After Hours* Christmas, Winter Solstice celebration. And we hope you're having a wonderful holiday season. And we thank you for listening to us. And stay tuned. At 1:30, we've got *This Way Out* coming up. And at 2:30, we have a guest from the North Pole.

- I'm going to go pad the fireplace.

- And I wish it was cool enough to pad the fireplace. But we're just trying to play some Christmas music for you this evening and some holiday music, some Winter Solstice music, kind of cover the bases there. And we hope you're listening and having a good time.

- If you are, let us know.

- Let us know. And you're listening to *After Hours* here on KPFT. That was the Statler Brothers singing "I believe in Santa's Cause."

- Yes, certainly worth playing twice.

- From their *Christmas Card* album. Before that, we heard "What's it to You" from Venus Envy and their *I'll Be a Homo for Christmas Album*. And right before that was Justin Wilson from his *Christmas Cajun Style*, "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santy Claus."

- What a thrill.

- This is an *After Hours* Christmas evening. It's time for *This Way Out*.

[PERCUSSION MUSIC PLAYING]

- This is really a serious miscarriage and reflects the lack of information that's held by even intelligent members of our legal profession.

- What we can't have is the special privileges that heterosexuals have. It's a lot cheaper to pay for health insurance for one couple than for two single people.

- You have no choice about being homosexual. Do you have a choice about being heterosexual?

- It's sexual ignorance that's killing people. No one ever died from being offended.

- They had a reporter in Jordan's campaign headquarters. And there was a guy in the corner behind her who was mouthing the words, "no more fags."

[SOFT JAZZ MUSIC PLAYING]

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

- And I'm Greg Gordon. US federal judge gives new excuse for old military.

- President offers loophole for Argentine application.

- And now playing in San Francisco, *Here Comes Mr. Jordan*.

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

[PERCUSSION MUSIC PLAYING]

[INTENSE MUSIC PLAYING]

I'm Mark Saccomano

- And I'm Josy Catoggio.

- With *NewsWrap* a summary of some of the news and are affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending December 14, 1991. Citing a concern over the spread of AIDS, a US federal judge earlier this week upheld the ban on gays and lesbians in the military. Matt Binder has the story.

- US District Judge, Oliver Gasch, ruled that the armed forces have the right to ban homosexuals because they pose a high risk of transmitting AIDS to other soldiers. The Pentagon did not request such a ruling. They had asked that the ban on homosexuals be upheld for legal, not medical, reasons. Judge Gasch turned down a request by Joseph Steffan to reinstate him into the Navy. Steffan was forced to resign from the Naval Academy just before graduation in 1987, when his officers learned of his sexual orientation.

Three times during the legal proceedings, Judge Gasch referred to Steffan as a "homo." Gregory King of the Human Rights Campaign Fund says Gasch's ruling is based on bigotry and ignorance.

- This is really a serious miscarriage and reflects the lack of information that's held by even intelligent members of our legal profession, when he's able to make a decision such as this based on an irrational response to the AIDS epidemic. Steffan's attorneys say they'll appeal the judge's ruling. The Pentagon says it will have no comment on the ruling until all appeals are ended. In San Francisco, I'm Matt Binder.

- Some light has been shed on the current question of legal status for Comunidad Homosexual Argentina, CHA. The Supreme Court of Argentina recently denied CHA, the country's only lesbian and gay group, the right to register as a legal organization. This was only a week after Argentine President Carlos Menem told a US audience that he had guaranteed CHA's registration regardless of the court's decision.

CHA president, Rafael Freda, reports that Menem has advised CHA that a re-application to the Ministry of Justice will be granted if different signatures are used. Freda also revealed CHA's plans to apply to the Commission on Inter-American Human Rights, which could take the case to the Inter-American court in Costa Rica.

- Norway recently had its first anti-gay murder in 15 years in a park cruising area, where a number of bashings have occurred this year. Gay activists responded by holding a vigil. In Sweden, the Stockholm Gay Center was bombed in October. There was damage to the entryway, windows, and bookcases, but no one was injured. George Sved of the National Federation for Sexual Equality believes the bombing was hate motivated.

- There's happier news from the Netherlands, where Justice Minister Aad Kosto has announced that gay and lesbian refugees can become permanent residents. Five gay refugees have already completed the process. Also, the city of Best has become the 17th Netherlands municipality to legalize same-gender marriages.

- As we reported last week, Ann Arbor, Michigan recently became the 18th city in the United States to recognize same-gender domestic partnerships. But lesbian and gay couples cannot be legally married in any US city. In Oregon, the Lesbian Community Project is out to change that. Lesbian and gay couples tested the law earlier this month in the city of Portland by lining up to get marriage license applications. Katrin Snow has the story.

- Two months ago, when lesbian couples tried to file marriage license applications, the County had to scramble for a legal opinion about what to do. This time they were ready, as about 10 couples lined up. A new opinion from Multnomah County Council says Oregon statutes intend marriage to be between a man and a woman. And therefore, same-sex marriages violate the intent of the law. But that's not how Portland attorney Mark Johnson saw it, as he tried to get a marriage license application from a County official.
- But it quotes the statute here, doesn't it?
- Mhm.
- It says a civil contract entered into in person by males and females. Does that say one of each?
- It's what it intends to say.
- That's not my reading of the statute.
- You're looking at it [INAUDIBLE].
- A civil contract entered into by men-- and we're men. We want to enter into this civil contract.
- But not together. Re-read the whole thing.
- Johnson wants to marry his partner of nine years, both to be eligible for tax and legal benefits and to honor their commitment to one another before the wider community.
- Marriage is a symbol by which the community gives its support and its affirmation to a relationship. And it's a symbol that gay and lesbian people have been denied.
- Medical claims examiner, Debbie Counts, is planning to honor her love and commitment in a ceremony, whether or not it's legally recognized. But she wants equal rights with other married couples.
- What we can't have is the special privileges that heterosexuals have. It's harder to have children. And we don't have any health insurance benefits at all. I mean, and it's a lot cheaper to pay benefits-- to pay for health insurance for one couple than for two single people.
- The rallying cry for a conservative Oregon group trying to stop gay rights laws in the state is "No Special Rights." But here at the County marriage license office, one gay couple held a sign saying "No Special Rights for Heterosexuals." The Lesbian Community Project, organizer of the event, will hold a meeting with the couples to decide whether to sue the County or lobby State and County officials for changes in the law. Reporting for *This Way Out*, I'm Katrin Snow in Portland, Oregon.
- Lesbian writers are gaining recognition. The British Crime Writers Association gave an award to Barbara Wilson for *Gaudi Afternoon* in the peculiar category of Best Crime Novels set Mainly in Continental Europe. And Lillian Faderman's history of US lesbians, *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*, has been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.
- And finally, gay and lesbian activism is spreading in the Republic of Russia. 100 gay men demonstrated for their rights last month in the city of Makhachkala, located on the Caspian Sea in the Dagestan region, near Iran. Police reportedly decided not to intervene when they identified some of the marchers as sons of prominent citizens.
- That's *NewsWrap* for the week ending December 14, 1991, compiled and written by Cindy Friedman.

- Follow the news in your area. An informed community is a strong community. For *This Way Out*, I'm Josy Catoggio.

- And I'm Mark Saccomano.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- This employee who's being terminated due to a violation of company policy. This employee is gay.

- Scary, isn't it? Yet it happens all the time. You're listening to *Naming Names*. Earlier this year, the corporate headquarters of Cracker Barrel, a chain of over 100 restaurants throughout the South, issued a directive instructing its managers to fire any employee on the spot who failed to demonstrate, quote, "normal heterosexual values," end quote. And the managers did just that.

Loyal, highly competent workers, when asked if they were gay were immediately fired if they said yes, or even if they just gave the appearance of being gay. Local gay communities and chapters of the direct action group Queer Nation called for a boycott and picket lines at Cracker Barrel restaurants. On November 29, the prestigious ABC-TV newsweekly *20/20* did a story on the situation called, "Whom Do You Sleep With?"

By basing their report on the stories of three gay people who were fired *20/20* gave it a generally gay positive tone and brought out several points important to gay men and lesbians beyond the immediate problem with Cracker Barrel. For example, Sam Hare, one of the gay men who was fired--

- You have no choice about being homosexual?

- I have no choice whatsoever. Do you have a choice about being heterosexual?

- Lesbians are very visible in the *20/20* story. The reporter talks with Cheryl Summerville, a fired cook, and Sandy, who's introduced as her companion and sexual partner for 10 years. They're shown not only on the picket line but also at home doing family thing-- washing the dishes, playing with the puppies. The point is stressed that Cheryl was, in effect, asked to choose between her job and her lover. And by affirming that she's a lesbian, she made the moral choice.

Queer Nation looks proud and fierce on the picket line, but Cheryl insists that they're non-violent, like Gandhi and Martin Luther King, she says. The program was an education for the reporter himself, Tom Jarriel, who tells the audience--

- Surprisingly, firing people solely because they're homosexual is not covered by federal civil rights laws. Only four states have laws banning the practice.

- With more reports like "Whom Do You Sleep With," our legislators will be pushed to enact the protection we need. If you'd like to thank the producers of *20/20* for this gay-positive view, write to Victor Neufeld-- that's N-E-U-F-E-L-D-- Victor Neufeld, executive producer, *20/20* ABC, 47 West 66th Street, New York, New York 10024. Or give him a call at 212-466-2020.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- *Naming Names* is a regular feature of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. It is produced at WBAI in New York City. If you see or hear any anti-lesbian or anti-gay defamation, please let us know. And send us copies of any letters you may write or receive in connection with *Naming Names*. Contact the GLAAD office nearest you or write to us in New York at GLAAD, 80 Varick Street, Suite 3E, New York, New York 10013. Or give us a call at 212-966-1700. This is Dr. Henry Jaeger for GLAAD. And I'll talk to you later.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- You're listening to *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. With Greg Gordon, I'm Lucia Chappelle. The Reverend Jerry Falwell, former head of the infamous Moral Majority, is apparently still suffering from nightmares as a result of his mid-'70s homophobic crusade. Falwell, whose notoriety peaked in the post-Anita Bryant period, happened to be in Los Angeles shortly after California Governor Pete Wilson vetoed employment discrimination protections for gays and lesbians. One of the nightly street actions in protest of the veto made a detour to demonstrate outside his hotel, when Falwell's presence was discovered. Although the protesters' visit was brief, the TV evangelist's latest fundraising letter claims that Falwell was barely able to escape the hotel alive.

- By a margin of less than 7,000 votes over incumbent Art Agnos, former police chief Frank Jordan was elected mayor of San Francisco on December 10. For some insights on how the election of the city's former top cop as mayor will affect the political fortunes of San Francisco's substantial lesbian and gay community, we talked with Keith Clark, a nationally syndicated journalist based in San Francisco.

[MUSIC - SCOTT MCKENZIE, "IF YOU'RE GOING TO SAN FRANCISCO"]

- The problem in that election was, first, there were lots of candidates. There were 10 candidates in the field. And there were three progressive liberal candidates. And it was very much an anyone-but-Agnos election. Gays and lesbians lined up very strongly behind supervisor Angela Alioto and assessor Dick Hongisto, both of whom are liberals to progressives. And it was very much a disenchantment with and a dislike of Agnos' four years of administration here in the city.

It wasn't that Agnos has been homophobic. It's that a lot of people did not like his administrative style. They found him abrasive, aloof, and vindictive. Those are common adjectives to describe Agnos' first four years. So the idea, I think, was, well, let's get somebody to replace him who's more accessible and more workable.

And Jordan had put together, quietly while everybody was bickering over who was the most progressive of the three-- quietly put together a very effective, efficient machine that went out into the streets, out into the neighborhoods that he was likely to have a good constituency, and got those people excited that they, for the first time, had a shot at the mayor in a long time.

- It sounds like the same thing could-- what was said about former supervisor Dan White.

- Before Jordan became, actually, the police chief, he used to regularly attend luncheon meetings of the Cops for Christ, the same group that Dan White belonged to. And that negative piece of information, almost by itself, ought to be enough to have raised lots of red flags for us. In addition, many of Jordan's supporters were caught making pretty homophobic remarks. And Jordan's only defense was that he couldn't control what his supporters were saying.

It's not as if Jordan didn't even have gay supporters. There are, in fact, that he was endorsed by the Log Cabin Club of San Francisco.

- Which is the gay and lesbian Republican club.

- Right. The Log Cabin Club has, in fact, been very successful at recruiting gay and lesbian Republicans. And the man who headed Jordan's campaign was Jack Davis. And Jack Davis is gay. San Francisco has, for the first time in its history, and has for a couple of years, a gay and lesbian Republican-- essentially Republican newspaper, in the sense that the publisher and the political editor and the powers that be at the paper, *The Sentinel*, are, in fact, card-carrying conservatives. And they argue that position editorially and take that position journalistically.

Well, that's almost unthinkable for that to have happened 10 years ago. And yet here it is. I think we've held on to this illusion that we are the gay Mecca of the world and that we are the paragon of progressive politics and have failed to see that there have been serious cracks in all of that propaganda and that much of that is no longer true.

- Are there issues that might come up in the next four years during the Jordan administration for the gay and lesbian community, where having Jordan as mayor is going to have an impact?

- Well, politically I'm not sure what we can expect to gain. The board of supervisors now has one gay man and two lesbians on it. What will actually begin to sink in in the next election will be if a conservative runs for the board of supervisors, for one of the seats on the board of supervisors. If we, in fact, begin to see more and more conservatives going on to the board of supervisors, then I think there will be real panic because I think the perception is between us and Frank Jordan at this point is going to be nothing more than the board of supervisors. And we can't afford to lose that.

Jordan doesn't have a mandate. Only 51.7% of the city who voted voted for him. That's not much of a mandate. But he is going to come into office, I think, with groups like ACT UP particularly, the street activists with a chip on their shoulder waiting for him and saying, OK, here we are. What are you going to do about it? And that test will probably come very quickly. And from that single litmus test will probably come the next four years of how our community deals with Frank Jordan, and perhaps how Frank Jordan deals with us for the next four years too.

He appealed to a certain constituency. And that's actually, I think, the underlying concern. When the ABC, local ABC TV station here, when they were reporting the election coverage, that night they had a reporter in Jordan's campaign headquarters. And they were celebrating in the background, and there was the reporter doing her usual shtick of, "there seems to be a party here." And I rarely pay attention to those kinds of reports because they don't say anything. But I do like to watch crowds.

And there was a guy in the corner behind her, who was dead-panning into the camera. And he was mouthing the words "no more fags." Now, those are Frank Jordan's constituents. And what does that say to me as a gay man if I have to go to the mayor for some reason, and those are the people to whom he is primarily answerable because they're the ones who elected him? To whom is Frank Jordan answerable, and whose politics is he going to bring with him?

- Well, I guess within the next couple of weeks you're going to start to find out.

- We are very close to January, aren't we?

- Yes.

- It's going to be an interesting four years. And we'll see whether I'm still a reporter based in San Francisco in four years or not.

- Well, we've been talking with Keith Clark, a nationally syndicated reporter based, at least for the time being, in San Francisco. Keith, thanks very much for your insight. It's been interesting and informative.

- It's my pleasure.

[MUSIC - TOM ROBINSON, "BETTER DECIDE WHICH SIDE YOU'RE ON"]

- (SINGING) Those women at your local women's bookstore, fat and tan and yellow, white, and brown-- if you're in pursuit of a woman who's acute, you'll find her at the bookstore in your town.

- This is Rosemary Walsh. Since its inception in 1984, *On Our Backs* and editor Susie Bright have been at the center of controversy. *On Our Backs*, a magazine of lesbian erotica, has been described, even by some feminists, as pornography because of its direct and diverse approach to sex and sexuality. Bright, who writes as Susie Sexpert, *On Our Backs*' sexual expert, has recently published a collection of her columns with Cleis press, entitled "Susie Sexpert's Lesbian Sex World."

- People have a very hard time talking about sex, especially women. Where did you start? I mean, you were raised in the same culture as all these other women. Yet, somewhere along the line, you made that break. You were able to not only just talk about it but to create this character, Susie Sexpert, and set yourself up as an authority.

- I think a big change for me came when I started working at a women's vibrator store, called Good Vibrations, in San Francisco. About 80% woman clientele come into this store. And it has sex toys and lubricants and books and a staff that is very knowledgeable about sex. And at the time I worked there, it was very small.

I would be the only person who'd work there all day. And I read everything in the store. And I went to all the San Francisco sex information workshops. And one person would come in, and I'd be all alone with them for about an hour. And their sex-life history would just pour out. We'd sit there and talk and talk and talk. And over time, I began to realize that there were about a half a dozen common concerns that men and women had about their sex lives. But each person felt like it was their burden alone and that no one else had ever heard of it.

For women, overwhelmingly the number one problem is that either they can't achieve orgasm. They don't know if they've had one or it's reliant on one particular person or one particular technique, that if that technique or person gets taken away from them, it's all over and they'll never be able to feel sexual satisfaction again. That, to me, was very telling. For me, that's like the equation of women making \$0.59 to every man's dollar.

Men don't have this problem, which is the first step of self-sexuality and self-recognition. And for women to not own their own erotic identity in that most basic of ways, that's oppression. That's what comes from women being thought of as reproductive material instead of sexual beings on their own.

People are so sick of the mystiques. They're so sick of those *Cosmo* articles that promise to tell all and tell you absolutely nothing. Even the so-called sophisticated men's magazines, like *Playboy* and *Penthouse*, they continue to carry on this sort of double-standard vagueness mystery about what good sex really consists of. It's always attached to some special person or some special object that's going to change your life for you. And it's never focused on it comes from within. It starts with yourself.

That's why masturbation is the cornerstone of sexuality. That's where it all starts.

- You started the magazine back in '84. What is the biggest change that you've seen in the five years or the six years now since the magazine has been going on, especially the lesbian community? How is that changing? Do you see that there's a change in the last six years?



- Well, there's been a tremendous change. Our timing was very appropriate. It's been just like this little snowball that's just rolling across a continent, getting bigger and bigger and bigger. Certainly we've grown. We realize that, from the beginning, where I think we did have a sense of this terrible split in the women's community, as if it was 50/50. And now we realize it's more like 90% of the women out there are dying for some kind of sexual affirmation and good information and good erotica. And then there's sort of this group of dinosaurs who are roaring in the tar pits, bucking and kicking, thinking that we're wrong or we're bad.

But I can't pay so much attention to them anymore because they're really out of touch with what this movement and what this consciousness is about. People ask me, what about violence? What about abuse? Well, I have my opinions on those subjects, but I'm talking about sexuality. And sexual ignorance is abuse. And it's sexual ignorance that's killing people.

No one ever died from being offended. But prudery and hypocrisy and sexual deceit and covering up ends up costing people's lives and causing terrible, terrible problems. I never want to be a part of that.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- You're listening to an interview with Susie Bright, author of the Cleis Press publication *Susie Sexpert's Lesbian Sex World*. This is Rosemary Walsh.

- On our next program--

- I know the kind of images or words that get people excited. I mean, it's the reason why we can't say four-letter words on the radio. There are certain sort of buttons that hit people's tempers. And it's a matter of just not knowing and being frightened by the unknown.

- More with Susie Bright, next time on *This Way Out*.

- (SINGING) Don't miss the action at the bookstore.

- Thanks for choosing *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week Cindy Friedman, Josy Catoggio, Mark Saccomano, Matt Binder, Katrin Snow, Dr. Henry Jaeger, and Rosemary Walsh contributed program material. Thanks also to Mike Alcalay, Rose Gordon, and GLAAD New York.

- Scott McKenzie, the Tom Robinson Band, Jane Barlow and Ann Seal 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 love to hear from you with any comments, suggestions, or questions you might have, or just to let us know that you're out there listening. Write to *This Way Out*, Post Office Box 38327, Los Angeles, California 90038.

- *This Way Out* is produced by Lucia Chappelle--

- --and Greg Gordon. And we thank you for listening on WEOS, Geneva--

- KFAI, Minneapolis-St. Paul--

- --and MVS Amsterdam--

- Among others.

- And for supporting this local community radio station.

- Stay tuned during your happy holidays.

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

- And you're listening to KPFT 90.1 FM Houston and the *After Hours* show. And we just had an unexpected surprise visit from Santa Claus.

- Santa Clause.

- He said he wasn't giving out ho, ho hos this year, so he brought us some Twinkie Twinkies and some Ding Dongs.

- We couldn't figure out which one was for which of us.

[LAUGHTER]

- And Rainbow, we love you, and we thank you for dropping by. You always brighten up our evenings when you pop in as such. We are doing a very special Christmas show this evening. Winter Solstice is 55 minutes and one second away.

- Can't wait.

- So that's going to be real special. Also, at 2:30, we've got a special-- some visitors from the North Pole coming down. And so that should be real interesting too. We thank you for listening. And let's see. We've got some music here, some Johnny Mathis, I think.

- All kinds of music.

- We're just having a wonderful time. And here we go.