

[MUSIC PLAYING]

That's *NewsWrap* for the week ending August 3, 1991, compiled from publications and broadcasts throughout the world and written by Cindy Friedman.

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

- And I'm Mark Saccomano.

- Brother to brother, brother to brother.

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

- Tom Wilson Weinberg, a native of Syracuse, New York, has lived in the Philadelphia area for some time. Weinberg is the composer-lyricist of *Ten Percent Revue*, which has entertained heterosexuals and homosexuals alike from coast to coast since 1985. While the show seems to focus on a small segment of society, it transcends the narrow boundaries of sexual orientation to embrace the humor, heart, and soul of human experience. I'm Bert Wylen for *This Way Out*.

*Ten Percent Revue* has received strong reviews everywhere it has played, including Off-Broadway in New York, Provincetown, Boston, and San Francisco. Tom Wilson Weinberg explains how *Ten Percent Revue* got its name.

- The name is for the percentage of gay and lesbian people in the population, at least, according to most studies. Some people think that I'm shorting us by a few percentage points. But it works.

- And a few people think that you're overemphasizing.

- No doubt.

- There are others-- I've been seeing a lot of studies lately about the *Kinsey*, *Sex*, and *Fraud* actually was the name of the book. And I think the point is that if we're only about one percent of the population, it's perfectly all right to discriminate against us.

- Oh, I see.

- In today's *Daily Pennsylvanian*, I saw an editorial. And he made the case that male homosexuals-- this does not apply to female homosexuals, are just-- something went wrong. And we shouldn't be knocking these people and tormenting these people. But we shouldn't be encouraging this lifestyle either. And *Ten Percent Revue* seems an awful lot like a celebration of the homosexual lifestyle.

[LAUGHS]

- Yes, we're encouraging the lifestyle. Even mentioning it is encouraging it in many people's minds. And I'm really being tongue in cheek when I say encouraging it because I don't think it's necessary to proselytize. I just think gay people are, we exist. And so why not sing about it and make fun of it and joke about it, and deal with serious issues and just put it all out there.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- When did you first come out?

- Well, I first realized that I was gay when I was about 17, I would say, in my freshman year in college.

- And I'm sorry, but I'll have to ask you the year.

[CHUCKLES]

- Are you sure you want to know? And I think--

- Because I'm sure it was a time when it was much more difficult to be gay than it is today.

- It was pre-Stonewall.

- Before 1969 for you folks that don't know.

- And there were no gay student organizations. There was no gay newspaper. So for any one, like me, having some feelings about being gay, being attracted to other men, there was no resource at all.

- So what did you do? How did you find other gay people?

- Well, I didn't really do much about it for a few years. I think in my junior year, I actually met some other gay people. And it was just a lucky matter of meeting like-minded people.

- Junior year of high school?

- No, of college.

- Oh, OK.

- So I was about 19 or 20 that I really came out in a more social, sexual way.

- Mm-hmm. And was that process easy? Was it difficult?

- It wasn't as hard as I often hear people saying. It seemed to me like I'd been thinking about that for a few years that I had an idea that that's who I was. And so when it finally happened, it felt right to me even though it was, on some levels, upsetting. And I felt the need to be very secretive about it, which as you might guess, I've no longer feel the need to be. There was no model for being openly gay at that time.

The topic wasn't discussed. There were no negative or positive editorials about it in the *Daily Pennsylvanian*. It just didn't exist except by putdown, by insult. So certainly, a young gay kid would at that time-- and I'm afraid to some degree still. But certainly then, I wanted to be very private about it. And it took me a few years to be comfortable enough, to be more openly gay.

- Tom Wilson Weinberg earned his bachelor's degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania. Was a study of literature any help to him in coming to terms with his sexuality?

- See, that's a good question. I think, like many people, I looked into literature for gay imagery. And that's the first place that I saw gay stuff even if it was negative. It was there. And I identified with it in some way. Well, I guess the book, James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room* was one of the first gay novels that I read. Now I've read probably hundreds.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Having been around as a gay activist since before Stonewall, Tom Wilson Weinberg gives his view of how AIDS has changed the gay and lesbian community.

- I think that in a certain way, of course, it's brought a whole new generation of activists into the arena. I feel that it's more than anything, a devastating tragedy for us. And it's hard to find a silver lining. But if there is one, it has to do with a new sense of anger and pride and an enormous outpouring of activism.

- And I like the way you handle the whole ordeal of AIDS with the pathos involved that not only the sadness and the horror, but also the humor, like with "Safe Sex Slut," let's try and bear with it and do the best we can with what we've got.

- People with AIDS are the inspiration for that. Some of the great humor about AIDS has come from people with AIDS. And the People with AIDS Coalition newsletter is filled with this amazing insightful humor by people who are very sick. And I think it's a way that we get by in the world. All kinds of people who have to face different oppressions tend to find humor. And it's a very powerful way of dealing with the stuff in our lives.

- We've been speaking with Tom Wilson Weinberg, the composer-lyricist of *Ten Percent Revue*. I'm Bert Wylen for *This Way Out*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Thanks for choosing *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Mark Saccomano, Thelma Lebrecht, Matt Binder, and Bert Wylen contributed program material. Thanks also to Diane James and Mike Alcalay.

- Tom Wilson Weinberg and the cast of *Ten Percent Revue* 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 Xchange.

- Audio cassettes of *This Way Out* programs are available by mail, individually or by subscription. Write to us for more information.

- Or with any comments, suggestions, or questions you might have or just to let us know you're listening, write to *This Way Out*, Post Office Box 38327, Los Angeles, California 90038.

- *This Way Out* is produced by Greg Gordon--

- And Lucia Chappelle. And we thank you for listening on KVLL Central--

- KAZU Pacific Grove--

- And KDHX St. Louis.
- Among others.
- And for supporting your local community radio station.
- Please do stay tuned.

[THEME MUSIC]

- Program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.
- We hear the sounds of the waves brush up against the sand where he has written both of your names with a heart around it.
- You are looking at the sky burning red with the sunset. Quickly, a car drives up alongside of you.
- You stop for a red light. Suddenly, the car is surrounded.
- They circle your blanket, coming in closer.
- Bottles are thrown out of car windows.
- The sound of glass breaking.
- Baseball bats against metal.
- A hand grabs of your hair.
- Glass at your feet, in your face, and your eyes.
- A fist across your face again and again.
- Die queer!
- Kill them! Kill them! Kill them!
- Homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry, which is why the lesbian and gay public awareness project wanted you to hear and think about this message. For more information, write us at Post Office Box 65603, Los Angeles California, 90065.

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[MUSIC PLAYING]

[LAUGHS]

- All I can say is thank God, it's not television.
- Oh, I know.

- 90.1 FM KPFT Houston, we're here.

- And we're queer.

- Yeah, well--

- We're not real pretty tonight.

[LAUGHTER]

- We're not really pretty any night. It's 20 minutes into 1:00. And we're just going to "Radio Ga Ga" because that's what you want to hear, right?

- Yeah, that's right.

- I don't want to hear anything political. Don't talk about politics. And I won't tell you what a jerk John Goodner is. For anybody else down at City Hall, we're just going to play music. And that's what you want to hear. So stay tuned. We do have some great letters to read later on and some things to give away, so--

- Oh, good.

- Accidentally, you might win something if you stay tuned. Hang on, here's Queen. And this is *After Hours* 90.1 FM Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Say it so they can hear you at the Capitol!

- For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life--

- Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

- Come on out.

[LAUGHS]

Join us. Bring your friends.

- What do you think about the turnout so far?

- Well, it's never enough, never enough.

- When do we want it?

- Now!

- What do we want?

- Gay rights!

- When do we want it?



- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- We must destroy the myths once and for all.

We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

[CHEERING]

And I ask-- I ask people all over this country to do one thing, come out. Come out, America. Come out!

[CHEERING]

- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- What do we want?



- When do we want it?

- Now!

- That's kind of scary.

- It sure is.

[LAUGHS]

- Barbara wants to hear something fast to make love to. Well, hang on. This next song isn't it, but--

[LAUGHS]

We're talking about radio.

- We've got it coming.

[LAUGHS]

- Anyway, this is *After Hours* 90.1 FM KPFT Houston. And we're not being political anymore. We're doing backseat radio, sort of, like sit on the back of the bus and shut up. That's what all these queens want. So that's what we're going to do.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- *This is a Life?* America's most talked about program brought to you by the Wishy Washy Washing Machine Company of Walla Walla, Washington. And now here he is, Mr. *This is a Life?* himself, Elmer Fudd.

- Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha. Tonight we add another name to the long list of those we have honored. Someone here in our audience is our guest of honor. And no one knows who it will be. He is a beloved character who has made his name in motion pictures, one who is thoughtful of others.

- That's me. It's going to be me.

- A sparkling personality, generous, charitable, self-effacing.

- Oh.

[CHUCKLES]

Oh, this would be embarrassing if it weren't true.

- And what is your name, sir?

- Daffy Duck's the name as if it weren't inscribed in gold on that little old book--

[CHUCKLES]

--you master showman, you. You may precede me to the stage, sir.

- Aren't you Bugs Bunny?

- Who, me? Never mind him. We've only got a short time to do my interesting career. Let's get on with it. Read the name, good and loud, mister.

- Bugs Bunny. Well, how are you tonight, Bugs?

- Oh, no, no, not little old me.

- How do you like that? Now wouldn't that gall your sister? This is supposed to be my life! So what do they do? They take an unknown and of all things, a rabbit! Who's interested in a rabbit?

- Is this what you've been scratching around for, sister?

- Yes, it is. And now maybe you'll keep that yellow beak closed for a while. I'm trying to look at the show.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- I want to tell you about a revolutionary new hair color. It's for lesbians only. You can choose the look you desire, whether you want that mature, politically correct salt and pepper look or the matted, sweaty active style. Sexual Preference by L'Oreal has your number. I let the straight girls be nice and easy. For me, it's strictly Sexual Preference by L'Oreal because without it, I'm worthless.

- Hi, this is Ron Romanovsky.

- And this is Paul Phillips.

- We're better known as Romanovsky and Phillips. If you haven't been listening to *After Hours*, what kind of self-respecting faggot are you anyway?

- *After Hours* on KPFT 90.1 on your FM dial. Listen in, yeah.

- Oh, girl, "Why'd You Come in Here Looking Like That," Dolly Parton on *After Hours* KPFT Houston. We got more music for you coming up after this. So stay with us.

- Four, three, two, one.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- The countdown has begun. KPFT's fall fundraiser or friend-raiser, as we prefer to call them, begin September 3. Volunteers are needed to answer the pledge lines and assist with other fund drive activities. If you can spare a couple of hours some morning afternoon or evening, here's your chance to be part of community radio in Houston. Call 526-4000 during business hours to sign up for a shift during the upcoming KPFT fund drive.

Beginning September 3, KPFT needs people like you to staff the pledge lines. Call 526-4000 for more information. Here's a special way for you to support community radio, KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.

- Go thrill them.