

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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- [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

- In Guadalajara, not only will the government not welcome us nor provide financial support as the Swedish government had done, but they will repress us as well.

- Take the word lesbian, I had no idea in the world what this word meant, but I knew two things for sure. One, it was every anathema, and the other, it was me.

[LAUGHTER]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- 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.

- --radio magazine. I'm Greg Gordon.

- And I'm Lucia Chappelle. Judge rules out Thompson for outing Karwoski.

- ILGA Conference and Mexican organizers won't be stopped.

- And OutWriters experience the flying anathema.

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- I'm Cindy Friedman.

- And I'm Mark Saccomano.

- With *News Wrap*, a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending May 11, 1991.

The latest phase of Karen Thompson's continuing battle to gain legal guardianship of her seriously disabled partner, Sharon Karwoski has come to a disturbing conclusion. Minnesota district court Judge Robert Campbell has denied Thompson guardianship despite his acknowledgment that Karwoski has for two years consistently indicated her wish to live with Thompson.

Even more remarkably, one stated basis for his decision was that Thompson had violated Kowalski's privacy by disclosing the sexual nature of their relationship. Patty Roberts of the National Center for Lesbian Rights described the situation as a total catch-22. Thompson herself is reported as saying, I'm stunned that a judge can use against me things like coming out. I would have stayed in the closet if not for this case.

Karwoski was hospitalized as a result of an auto accident in 1983. In 1985, her father obtained guardianship and denied Thompson access to Karwoski. That began the legal battle that regained Thompson's visiting rights, and last year, finally, led the father to resign his guardianship. Despite Thompson's unceasing efforts to stay in contact with Karwoski and Judge Campbell's own court order moving Karwoski to a rehab center in 1988, the current ruling made reference to Thompson and Karwoski as no longer being domestic partners.

Citing Thompson's involvement with other women since the accident, Campbell awarded guardianship to quote, "A neutral third party," close quote, Karen Tomberlin. Tomberlin, said to be a practicing Roman Catholic and a friend of Kowalski's since a decade before the accident, protested Thompson's suit for guardianship earlier this year.

A spokeswoman for Thompson told the press the decision would be appealed. Plans are underway for establishment of an 800 telephone number to request the governor's intervention while lesbian members of Queer Nation are said to be distributing Tomberlin's phone number. According to Thompson, on hearing the news, Karwoski was sad.

- Back in November, we reported that *Essence*, the leading us magazine aimed at African-American women, refused to print an ad promoting the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum's Annual Conference. Their reasoning, quote, "Conservative advertisers might not approve," end quote.

When conference organizers asked the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund to file a discrimination lawsuit against the magazine, *Essence* had a wonderful change of heart and agreed to run the ad. It did so however in its February issue, the same month the Annual Leadership Conference was being held, a bit late for people to make plans to attend.

In the latest, somewhat surprising development, the May issue of *Essence*, a special issue on mothers and daughters includes a lengthy article written by the magazine's senior editor, Linda Villarosa and her mother. It's called, "Coming Out," and it details the process each woman went through in coming to terms with Linda's lesbianism.

The New York chapter of GLAAD, the Gay And Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation calls the article intense, honest, and inspiring. Villarosa says the article was already in the works when the advertising side of the publication turned down the Leadership Conference ad.

- Gays and lesbians are organizing in South Africa, and they've gained support from a National Student Group. The new organizations include, Gay and Lesbian Activists of Durban, the Lesbian Group Sunday's Women, and the Black group, Society for Homosexuals on Campus at the University of Witwatersrand.

The National Union of South African students passed a motion to challenge heterosexism at its recent National Conference. In a statement described by OLGA, the Organization of Lesbian and Gay Activists as quote, "The most far reaching yet adopted by a non-gay progressive organization in South Africa." OLGA is currently protesting another statement, one made by Archbishop Desmond Tutu in a magazine interview in which Tutu came out against discrimination, but affirmed the church's stance that the only right place for sex is within opposite gender marriages.

- A 10 year breach between the two main gay and lesbian organizations in Norway is healing, Det Norske Forbundet av 1948 and Fellesradet for Homofile og Lesbiske Organisasjoner i Norge are working towards a merger, a process they say could take two years. The primary difference between the two groups was the degree to which they supported a leftist agenda beyond lesbian and gay rights.

- The Spanish government has awarded funds to an organization called Coordinator of Gays and Lesbians for seven major projects, including community centers in the cities of Barcelona, Madrid and Valencia, the pink telephone helpline in Barcelona, and two new newspapers, one in the Catalan language.

- In the Netherlands, Dutch queen, Beatrix's son, Prince Friso has been outed by the tabloid *Prevour*, which repeatedly described his skiing companion as his boyfriend.

- Former US Naval Academy Midshipman, Joseph Steffan has filed an appeal seeking to remove US District Court Judge Oliver Gasch from his suit for reinstatement. As we previously reported, Gasch used the term, "homo" three times in a March hearing but refused to remove himself from the case when Steffan's attorneys charged the language, indicated bias. Steffan was dismissed from the Academy after admitting he is gay.

- Ever since the days of the Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis, gay men and lesbians have banded together for mutual support and social justice. When a group of beleaguered heterosexual students at Iowa State University thought they had discovered a way to be out and proud, school officials managed to pull the rug out from under them. But as *This Way Out's* Greg Hansen explains, it's a group that's bound to keep on trying.

- The anti-gay student group, Heterosexual Society crossed the line of political correctness when it required members to swear that they are in fact heterosexual. According to the campus newspaper, *Iowa State Daily*, student clubs coordinator, Carol Cordell withdrew official University recognition of Heterosexual Society because requiring such a pledge is a violation of Iowa State University's anti-discrimination policy, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The group plans to amend their Constitution to regain their school's recognition, says Heterosexual Society chairperson, Diane Backus. And in the spirit of true heterosexual goodwill, they will also be changing their name to one which will still let everyone know exactly where they stand. The name, ASAP, which stands for Allied Students Against Perversion. Reporting from Kansas City, Missouri, this is Greg Hansen for *This Way Out*.

- And finally, the US National Lesbian Conference held in late April in Atlanta, Georgia, drew more than 2,400 participants, about half as many as conference organizers had hoped. Plenary sessions of sensitivity trainings intended to combat racism and other oppressions within the lesbian community made up half the program, but reportedly drew only about one fifth of the participants, who generally appeared to be more interested in concerts, crafts booths, and a variety of workshops.

One of those workshops was presented by staff of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, who were surprised to discover that what they'd meant as a joke became its official title, one which may represent the apex of new age activism, Lobbying with Crystal's.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- That's *News Wrap* for the week ending May 11, 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.

- Later in the program, an update on the 13th Annual conference of the International Lesbian And Gay Association and an OutWrite, Kate Millett. Next up, Mary VanClay reports on the latest stories from the AIDS Front.

- The Food and Drug Administration has turned down a citizen's petition for a quick review of two promising experimental AIDS drugs, DDI and DDC. The group of nearly 200 AIDS specialists and activists had urged the FDA to make a decision on the drugs by last March. But this week, the FDA said it still needs more data from the drug manufacturers.

Barry Freehill is an AIDS treatment activist who worked on the petition to the FDA. He says the FDA is just not following its mandate to act quickly on drugs that could treat life threatening illnesses.

- We would like to see the FDA bring to bear the resources and methodology that is mandated for drugs such as DDI and DDC for AIDS, which are classified as 1AA super priority drugs, that they bring to bear the resources that would be necessary to do a very expeditious audit of the available data, which is adequate data on safety and efficacy to get these drugs approved very quickly.

- Freehill thinks the drugs should be approved within a month. The FDA's own prediction is a decision in August for DDI, followed by a decision on DDC perhaps by next spring. Freehill says some members of the consortium are thinking of suing the FDA to speed up that process.

San Francisco has become the largest city in the nation to offer health insurance to the unmarried partners of its city employees. This week, city and county supervisors voted unanimously to grant domestic partners the same health benefits that married couples enjoy. One of the objections raised to such a plan came from insurance companies, they said they couldn't afford to insure the gay men in the group who might contract HIV and develop AIDS.

Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg said advocates of the plan used statistics to quantify the risks, establish the payments needed to cover them, and convinced insurers to proceed with the plan.

- If they got rid of their homophobia, and they got rid of the notion that they couldn't do something because it had never been done, that we actually could quantify almost everything that needed to be looked at and put a price tag on it. And I think that that's what this plan demonstrates. And I think when it's been successful over a period of a year or two, other insurance companies will see that it's something that can be done. And I believe that you'll find a lot more being willing to offer this kind of coverage.

- Other cities with similar plans include, Berkeley, Santa Cruz, West Hollywood, and Seattle. Meanwhile, Washington DC, New York and Boston are considering offering benefits to domestic partners. In San Francisco, I'm Mary VanClay.

- You've tuned in to *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. With Lucia Chappelle, I'm Greg Gordon.

[NON-ENGLISH SINGING]

- This year, the 13th Annual conference of ILGA, the International Lesbian and Gay Association will take place in Guadalajara, Mexico. Conference organizers say although it is not easy putting together a gay and lesbian event in Mexico, they will be ready when participants from all over the world begin to arrive during the last days of June. Reporter Judith Samuels was in Guadalajara recently and files this report.

- Ana Isabelle Garcia, one of the conference directors says she was surprised at last year's International Lesbian and Gay Conference in Sweden when a government official gave a welcoming address.

- [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

- We told people at the conference that in Guadalajara, they wouldn't see this. Not only will the government not welcome us nor provide financial support as the Swedish government had done, but they will repress us as well. Ana Isabel Garcia says many Europeans were afraid to have the conference in Guadalajara.

- [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH].

- But we told them that the gay rights movement in Europe is more advanced, and you need to help us advance our movement here in Latin America. Garcia says it's important to have the International Conference in Mexico because it has never taken place in a Latin American country.

She says the Mexican Gay and Lesbian Movement will be strengthened by hosting the international event, and this conference will be more accessible to Latin American gays and lesbians, who for economic reasons find it difficult to attend conferences in Europe.

This spring, it was rumored in Guadalajara that the conference would not happen. The municipal president of Guadalajara, Gabriel Covarrubias Ibarra was quoted in the *City's Daily* as saying he would never allow the conference to take place. But Ana Isabelle Garcia says the municipal president has no legal basis to prevent it, and that both the federal and state governments have assured them that there is nothing in the Constitution that could deny them the right to hold it.

Garcia says, although there have been the usual anti-gay pressures from the Catholic Church and right wing groups, they haven't experienced any extreme repression while organizing the event. Garcia says they have had strong support from Human Rights groups, women's organizations, and intellectuals in Mexico. A mini conference focusing on Latin American gays and lesbians is scheduled in Guadalajara just prior to the International Conference that will run June 30 to July 6. For *This Way Out*, I'm Judith Samuels.

- For more information on the conference, write to ILGA 13th Annual Conference, post office box, 12497. Postal code, 44100, Guadalajara, Mexico.

- OutWrite 91 brought together almost 2000 gay and lesbian novelists, poets, journalists, and publishers. One of the distinguished keynote speakers was Kate Millett, author of *Sexual Politics*, *Flying*, *Sita*, *The Loony Bin Trip*, and numerous articles and essays.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- First let me say how honored and flattered I am, and surprised. When you think of it, gay and lesbian writers? I mean, come on, this many people?

[LAUGHTER]

They're probably not all gay and lesbian writers, but if they were readers--

[LAUGHTER]

Truly if I look back with the idea of being here at all is very unlikely, a conference of gay and lesbian writers. Take the word lesbian for example, the first time I heard the word lesbian, I was 13-years-old, and my big sister Sally's beau, whose name was Ed Raneer said to mother because he heard me blabbing on with my dear, dear, convent school friend Mary Quinn for-- we used to talk for hours.

And we were, of course, madly in love with each other. We announced it in fact to the nuns and the seniors and everyone but we didn't know that it was lesbianism. And Ed Raneer told mother, I heard him telling her, and I had no idea in the world what this word meant, none whatsoever. But I knew two things for sure. One, it was every anathema, and the other, it was me.

[LAUGHTER]

[APPLAUSE]

See that word, that thing, that lesbianism. When I was doing *Flying*, I informed my mother in a really at the top of my bed very carried away with myself, I had just written this PhD thesis and I decided I could be a writer, wow. So I informed my mother I was dedicating the book to her. And she said, oh, no, not if it has that lesbianism in it. And actually, it was that lesbianism, which inspired my elder sister again and mother to hospitalize me and begin *The Loony Bin Trip*.

When I handed in *Sita* to my agent and my agent scolded me about that lesbianism in it. She said that if I insisted about writing about that sort of thing, I'd have trouble finding publishers and we'd both make less money.

There were other troubles, however. Troubles pertinent just to being a writer, the difficulty of forming a language, forging a language. How do you describe these acts even if you are willing to admit to these feelings? There was a whole sea of shame to overcome, every cultural inhibition one felt as a woman writer compounded now as a lesbian. You thought you had troubles?

This strange new experience without precedent, without the closed ranks of Jane Austen and the Brontes, George Eliot and Virginia Woolf, with only sajo and a lacuna of two millennium until the well of loneliness. Then that is a very terrifying vertical of literary tradition. Fortunately, there was Viollet-le-Duc, and there are really-- I think, the French help us out a great deal here. We must keep our Francophile roots and not be swallowed up by Anglo-Saxon writing or feeling.

Good. I'm glad to know that a few of you feel this way. Fortunately, in Viollet-le-Duc, I felt that someone had preceded me and thought of ways to say the unspeakable. And at first, it was sort of merely a matter of finding the courage to blurt all this out, the reckless on fire, just out of the closet effrontery to put this on paper, to record these wildly revolutionary shenanigans. That was all one could hope for, confessing, bragging, confronting, daring to be.

And there was a wonderful rush about that, and we had that for maybe 10 years. We have also now come to live with the tragic with AIDS, with living with death. With the danger of censorship, with the possibility of a censorship that could go further into silence. But we have already shaped what we were going to make. Slowly a culture and a literature is being born. Slowly a conscious tradition is being improvised.

Slowly there comes the construction of a new social being, the writer as lesbian or gay. The consciousness of a lesbian speaking to an audience. Which audience? What audience? Was there one? Was it gay? Was it lesbian? Was it straight? Was it women? Men? I'm still working on all that mystery.

And we are probably too not only outlining and giving to readers everywhere what any new group who come to literature do, and that is a fresh account of human experience that was specifically there, our own. But we are also probably providing a special layer of wisdom and expressing a certain sensibility that is particularly our own.

Maybe if I am lucky, we can add to our pile of treasure a few grains. We have a great good fortune, we are here at the beginning. That's great luck. Into this treasure, a few grains, some more stories. And this is what I hope to do with what remains of my life, further accounts of this love and its moments truthfully rendered. Very hard to do. Hard to perceive truly, hard to record accurately.

I have aspired to be a kind of scribe for us. To be honored so is to be treated as such, and therefore, this is a kind of summit moment for me. It also scares me to death. I am sure to let you down. Do I have responsibilities? Do you have expectations? Probably what saves us both is that it is all so new, such an adventure. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

- That was Kate Millett speaking at OutWrite 91. Almost 60 tapes covering the three day conference are available from Conference Recording Service. For information in the US, you can phone, 1-800-345-2010.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Thanks for choosing *This Way Out*, the international gay and lesbian radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Mark Saccomano, Mary VanClay, Judith Samuels, and Conference Recording Service contributed program material. Thanks also to Mike Alclay.

- Water Bronco, Meg Christian and Holly Near performed some of the music you heard, and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.

- *This Way Out* is brought to you by a staff of community volunteers, and is sustained by financial support from the community. Audio cassettes of our programs are available by mail, individually, or by subscription. Write to us for more information.

- We'd also like to hear from you 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 Lucia Chappelle.

- And Greg Gordon. And we thank you for listening on WEVL Memphis.

- WRUW Cleveland.

- And WHUS stores.

- Among many others.

- And for supporting this local community radio station.

- To which we ask you to please stay tuned.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- This is *Afterwards* for the week of May 19. I'm Frank White. The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus elected a new president at their meeting on Wednesday night at the Multi Service Center. Toni Knight and Ray Hill were the only two candidates seeking the position vacated by the resignation of President Larry Lingle. Toni Knight won the position with 34 votes. Ray Hill received 30 votes.

In the speeches which preceded the vote, Ray Hill asked the entire Caucus to stand and take a pledge for gay rights. He also told the Caucus that they needed leadership that could deal with the media effectively. And reminded the members of his years of experience in politics.

Ms Knight took a low key approach in her speech and told of her strong belief in building the Caucus from the grassroots, and that this will ensure growth. She also unveiled the Buddy System, a plan which she believes will increase participation of both the new member and the veteran Caucus member.

Toni Knight was the dark horse in this election. Knight has worked on many campaigns and has been active with the Texas Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby, Gay Democrats, and has attended state conventions as a delegate. The Caucus was obviously ready for a change. Toni Knight can help the Caucus achieve their goals. When I asked Knight what she was planning to do with the Caucus, she said, I'm not. She said, we are.

She says that she believes that the Caucus can be a powerful force for human rights, and she also believes that building coalitions within the gay community will be vital.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The redistricting of Houston City Council is not over yet. Two weeks ago, the council approved the 16-6-1 plan with 16 district seats and 6 at large seats and the mayor. What will be decided in the very near future is how these districts will shape up. The GLPC is asking the council to consider a plan which would make Montrose area a non-encumbered position. As it stands now in the plan, they are considering leaving Montrose intact but with Vince Ryan as the incumbent.

While Vince Ryan is doing a good job for us, he would not be hurt by shifting his district to the West, and thus creating a new inner city district. Call your council member and let them know that you support a non-incumbent district for the Montrose.

Lee Harrington pointed out that this opportunity comes once every 10 years, and that it doesn't necessarily have to happen in 10 years. He said the last time Houston was redistricted was 12 years ago. If we don't tell them what we want now, it could be a very long time before we have the opportunity to get what we need.

Houston's gay and lesbian community has many qualified candidates who could fill such a position. Let council and especially the mayor's office know that you favor a non-incumbent district for Montrose.

Federal government baffles me. The Houston Clinical Research Network was under IRS scrutiny because most of the nonprofit corporation's capital came from pharmaceutical companies. The IRS felt that the pharmaceutical companies would benefit from this research.

Last week, Burroughs Wellcome was in court trying to defend its monopoly on the life extending drug, AZT. The federal government worked in concert with Burroughs on the development of this drug. It would seem to me that if it's OK one time to assist the drug companies that it should be OK all the time.

The Adeth Clinic came to the aid of the Houston Clinical Research Network and took it under its wing. The clinic receives income from a variety of grants. Houston Clinical Research was looking forward to bad financial times, and by becoming part of the clinic, it will be able to stave off financial hard times.

Well, a Federal Appeals Court on Friday struck down the government's tentative 24 hour ban on indecent broadcast saying the prohibition violates constitutional protections of free speech. This is from an article which ran in *The Chronicle* today.

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia also ordered the Federal Communications Commission to identify some reasonable time during which indecent material may be broadcast. The FCC defines broadcast indecency as language or material that depicts or describes in terms patently offensive as measured by contemporary community standards for the broadcast medium, sexual or excretory activities or organs.

There was no immediate response from the FCC on the court's ruling, and there was no indication from government attorneys whether they would appeal the decision to the Supreme Court. The commission was following orders from Congress when it drew up the 24 hour ban in 1988. The ban was never implemented however pending the outcome of the legal challenge.

Chris Jimerson of the Houston Clinical Research Network will present an update on current HIV research discussing how new drug trials work and how you can access them. Exploring Experimental Therapies is the name of Jimerson's Workshop and will be held at the Montrose library next Saturday, May 25 at noon. For more information on this workshop, call, 528-5554.

The Baring Foundation had planned to raise \$100,000 during Gay Pride Week this year, now that doesn't seem like it's going to happen. The estate of the late Cole Porter has sued the producers of *Anything Goes* because of casting. One of the characters, traditionally cast as a female was cast as a male. Homophobia is running rampant at the Cole Porter Estate. What they don't realize is that this benefit would provide life giving services to thousands of Houstonians.

Once again, the legal system in the United States will be where this battle is won. I just hope that this battle will be won quickly and without unnecessary suffering of the innocent clients of the Baring Care Facility.

The AIDS Foundation Houston will be sponsoring Crossroads 91, a Memorial Day tribute to loved ones who have died from AIDS. The Esplanade of Montrose between Westheimer and West Gray will be lined with crosses and other symbols marked with the names of those to be remembered.

This project intends to remind those passing that people who die with AIDS are not just a statistic but are people we loved. The Memorial will also help raise funds for the AIDS Foundation Houston. The crosses, stars of David, and other symbols are available by calling the AIDS Foundation Houston at 623-6796.

Sensuality and sexuality class will be held at the AIDS Foundation Houston on Tuesday, May 28. This workshop teaches you how to put the fun back into your sex life, and to take the fear out using factual information, games and discussion. Explore the fun and excitement of safer sensuous sex. For more on this workshop, call, 623-6796.

Michael Wilson, who has been a guest on *After Hours* has been holding a series of classes on self-healing. The first class was entitled AIDS and the Healer Within, A Message of Hope, Healing, and Recovery. The next class is on May 22, and the subject is, Grief Recovery, A Program For Moving Beyond Loss.

Everyone in the gay and lesbian community should be at this one since we have had an overwhelming amount of loss to process. These classes are free of charge, and will be held at the Spectrum Center on Audubon. For more information, call 523-4241.

This has been *Afterwards* for the week of May 19, I'm Frank White. And you're listening to *After Hours* here on KPFT 90.1 Houston. Stay tuned for the Wither Bimboette and Buddy.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- 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.

- When do we want it?

- Now.

- What do we want?

- Gay rights.

- When do we want them?

- Now.