

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- This is really nice.
- That is nice. You've got to see this book, though. I need to bring it. I should have brought it.
- I wish you did, yes.
- It's an album called *For Our Children* from the Disney Company. And it's great kids music. Well, anyway, those are nice guys.
- They are.
- From Gay Fathers and Fathers First.
- That is a wonderful group.
- It's a fabulous group.
- They always put on some sort of picnic or something during Pride Week, and it's just a blast.
- I know. That's when we went to that picnic.
- Yes, it was during Pride Week, and it's so much fun.
- Anyway, this is so much fun. It's called *After Hours*, and we'll be back in just a few minutes to talk about Judge Thomas--
- Oh, boy.
- --who doesn't want anybody in his bedroom. Well, imagine that.
- That's fun. Man.
- Yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Here it is. Become Butch or Nellie in less than a day simply by taking the little pink pill. There's no need to recruit, seduce, or rely on environmental conditions anymore. The little pink pill does it all. Just one tab before breakfast breaks the cycle of heterosexuality for a full 24 hours.

For years, heteros have been asking gays if they would take a pill if it would make them straight. Well, at last, Queersville Labs have responded to this dilemma by giving heteros a taste of their own medicine. Yes, the little pink pill does it all. The boring, cliched life of a heterosexual can vanish in one gulp. Mrs. Betty Morgan of Gresham, Oregon talks about the little pink pill.

- My life was a mess. Bridge clubs, gross husband, alcoholism-- you name it. Then, one morning, I got my act together and took the little pink pill. In an instant, my sexual orientation changed, as did my desire to be married.

Well, within a week, I ditched my old man, met a terrific woman, and got joint custody of my children. All this without water retention, headaches, or loss of appetite. Thanks, little pink pill. You made a new woman out of me.

- Results may vary, but don't consult a physician. The little pink pill-- it does it all.
- And it's available somewhere, I guess, at the drug store.
- Oh, one of those Montrose drugstores, yes.
- It is. It is. It certainly is.

[THEME MUSIC]

No I'm not going to do that.

- OK. You know, Bo was right.
- What's that?
- When he was talking about he gets phone calls and stuff from people who heard about him through different-- he's in the library right now talking to a man.
- Oh, really?
- Yeah.
- Well, it's a great group.
- It is a great group.
- And we're glad they came by.
- Speaking of groups, there's a brand-new group that's forming up.
- Is there, now?
- And I'll have to tell you all about it later because it's a big secret.
- Oh, is it?
- It will be until Tuesday. It's the Houston-area Support Your Local Police Committee.
- Well, that sounds innocent enough.
- Yeah, the Houston-area Support Your Local Police Committee. And they believe that-- this is their headline in their press release.
- Yeah?
- Jeffrey Dahmer's murders linked to gay sensitivity training says police support group.
- What? What does Jeffrey Dahmer have to do with police sensitivity courses?

- This is from the Houston-area Support Your Local Police Committee. Quote, "There is a definite connection between the fact that the Milwaukee Police had just completed, quote, 'gay sensitivity training,' end quote, and the fact that certain patrolmen ignored the pleas for help from a Laotian-American teen who they turned their backs to a grisly death-- mass murderer Jeffrey Dahmer's hands.

These patrolmen had been taught to believe--" listen to this-- "These patrolmen had been taught to believe that a bleeding, naked, young male in the streets was somehow normal-- just evidence of a homosexual law lover's quarrel. That's all." End quote.

- Well, I'd like to know who did that sensitivity training.

- Can you believe that, Mary?

- I-- no. No.

- "These patrolmen had been taught to believe that a bleeding, naked, young youth in the streets was somehow normal-- just evidence of a homosexual lover's quarrel. That's all." End quote.

- Anybody--

- This goes on to say, "And now, Mayor Cathy Whitmire and Police Chief Elizabeth Watson are attempting to foist such a program on the fine officers of the Houston Police Department, says H. Kyle Searle III, Chairman of the Houston-area Support Your Local Police Committee. Searle III, a former Houston Police patrolman and currently a commercial photographer salesman father explained, quote, "I'm concerned for the future of the city of Houston and the families that live here.

If this program is implemented, then our police department will become sitting ducks for every minority with a grievance. Since homosexuals are lawbreakers by definition, it would just be as logical for murderers, rapists, and drug dealers to demand their own program to sensitize our policemen to their alternative lifestyles." Now, Mary, when did murder, rape, and drug dealing become a lifestyle?

- I cannot imagine.

- It goes on to say, "Respect for law enforcement would then collapse and lawlessness would prevail." Well, my dear god, man. Where have you been? Do you not realize that, quote, "respect for law enforcement" has collapsed and lawlessness will prevail.

We have got young kids killing each other in the goddamn food lines at our high schools, you idiot! And we have got guys going over to serve in the war coming home to be burned-- gunned down in their streets!

You ignorant ass. Don't you realize that crime is on the rise, and it has nothing to do with gay people? Anyway, I don't want to get off onto this because it's not going to be a good thing.

- Well, when you read it--

- He goes on to say, "And before you know it, the federal government would step in to fix the problem by establishing a national police force-- one of the main hallmarks of modern tyranny. That's why I and other like-minded individuals in the law enforcement and business community have formed the Houston-area Support Your Local Police Committee. Our first order of business will be to combat the anti-police, pro-gay bias in the Mayor's Office that has been the local instigator behind programs like this.

Our committee is calling a press conference to announce its position, document its charges, and to lay out its action, concluded Searle. This is for Tuesday, October the 15th at 2:00 PM at Stouffer's President Hotel in Greenway Plaza." For more information, it's got a phone number here.

- Anybody with two brain cells to rub together can read this and know it's just-- it's a bunch of crap.

- It's a bunch of crap, all right.

- It doesn't make sense.

- What doesn't?

- Who believes that if you see a bleeding, naked man in the street that that's normal?

- Mary, I got news for you--

- Now, give me a break.

- This little queer, faggot dispatcher that does a gay radio show every week and works for the Houston Police Department will be damned before he will sit by on his little, gay butt and let a bunch of garbage like this be spread in this city. We will be going around the world every 30 minutes on headline news and every place else because this is crap, and it will not happen.

It may happen. I would love for them to come out and start their little Houston-area Support Your Local Police Committee. Because I want people to know that this faggot went to work for the Houston Police Department in 1984-- 1984. And I've been doing this gay radio program since 1987.

And after coming out and going back to work, I was asked by people I work with-- because I had the guts to stand up at Houston City Council and say, thank you for hiring an openly gay person-- that I was asked to run for and won the Office of President of the Houston Police Support Personnel Union. I want this idiot to know that gay people are contributing to this city and will continue to contribute to this city and will not tolerate bigotry and ignorance of this type. So Mr. Searle has got a surprise coming his way.

- Oops.

- And I have a little song I would like to play for him now and dedicate it to him and his little Houston-area Support Your Local Police Committee. Because this is one faggot that works for the Police Department that's not happy. And this is my message to you.

- Oh.

- That was nice.

- That's pretty. It wasn't the one I thought you were going to play, though.

- What did you think I was going to play?

- Well, they do this wonderful song.

- All right, we'll play that later.

- Oh, OK.

- We can play that now on the way to *This Way Out*. You wanted to say something about that?
 - I did want to say something about how absolutely, mega-faboo last night was, and that was the Queer Nation DiverseWorks Out party.
 - I wish I could have gone, I had to work.
 - Well, I know.
 - I was at work.
 - And I thought, at first, it was going to be like, well, it was at DiverseWorks, and I thought, oh, they're going to have problems getting people. It was packed.
 - Really?
 - Yeah. I left at-- I don't know-- 11:30, 12:00, and people were still arriving. It was great. And it was a fundraiser for Queer Nation Diverse Works. They had free tables for Switchboard and all of those different people who wanted to talk about their stuff.
 - Well, Mary, we should have had a table out there.
 - Actually, there was a KPFT table, but it was not staffed.
 - Are you serious?
 - Well, we'll talk about that later. But anyway--
 - Well, Mary, we should have been there talking about *After Hours*.
 - I was there for the Switchboard, and there was a couple of people there. And we were supposed to take turns at this table, but this really, really nice guy, Christopher, found himself at the table most of the night.
 - Mary--
 - And this guy is so sweet.
 - Did you hear about Jimmy Swaggart? Brother Swaggart got stopped in California yesterday.
 - Yeah, what's that got to do with Christopher?
 - Nothing. He had a hooker in the car with him. He was stopped for driving erratically.
 - I'll bet he was.
 - And the hooker said it was because he was trying to hide the porno magazines under the seat.
 - Oh.
 - Anyway, speaking of porno, let's go back to Washington and the Senate confirmation hearings of Judge Thomas.
- [MUSIC PLAYING]
- Well, he's still doing it. Well, that man can just go all night, can't he.

- Oh, isn't that something? They've been talking about Long Dong Silver, his favorite video star.
- I have that video, and it's a fake.
- Every little old lady--
- It's not real.
- Every little old lady between here and Cucamonga was going, Mildred, let's go down to the video store and rent that movie.
- You can't. You can only get it by mail order.
- Oh, really? Well, then it can come to your house.
- And it's a fake. It's fake. I'm telling you.
- OK, Mary.
- It's not a real one.
- Whatever you say, girl. And I've been wasting all this time looking for a hairy man. All I need is a Coke--
- Mmm, yes.
- --with some pubic hair in it!

[LAUGHTER]

- Oh, that's terrible. That's terrible.
- Would you please bring me a Coke with some pubic hair in it? Isn't that awful?
- But that Out Party was great, absolutely great. It was fun. Good fundraiser. I mean, they had fashion queens, and they had cowboys, and they had everybody. I still want to thank Christopher. You ought to meet this guy. He is really sweet.
- Has he got hair on his chest?
- He gets off from work at midnight, and he listens to *After Hours*.
- Well, where is he, girl?
- He's in bed by himself right now.
- That's no fun.
- Well, this guy would be just like--
- How old is he?
- --wonderful to cuddle with.
- How old is he?

- He's young.
- Oh, forget it.
- Yeah, OK.
- I'm sure he's a nice guy.
- It was great. I went with Kevin from Beatbox. You remember Kevin?
- Yeah.
- Yeah, OK. We had a great time.
- Oh, really?
- Yes.
- OK, *This Way Out* with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle, coming up in just a minute. 2:00, we're going to be talking to Bart Loeser from the AIDS Foundation about our AIDS Walk, which we're going to be asking you to march with us in.
- He's in a bar right now talking about it to other folks.
- Mary, I'm going to be--
- He'll be here at 2:00.
- I'm going to be out of town on 26th, the weekend of the 26th.
- I know.
- I've got to go back to Dallas.
- Well, it doesn't look like there's going to be a debate between Anise and Vince, anyway.
- We'll talk about that, too. Anyway, this is *After Hours Radio* celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. We're here.
- And we're still queer.
- Yeah.

[THEME MUSIC]

And *This Way Out* is coming up, next.

- Boy, it sure is. It's like a minute away.
- Can you believe this bozo that's trying to start this crap?
- No, I cannot.
- That will make me crazy.

- I know it will.

- That will make me crazy. I'm not going to let this happen, girl.

- Well, OK.

- Anyway, *This Way Out* with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle, and we'll be back at 2:00, so stay with us. Our number here is 526-4000 or 526-KPFT. This is us queers, at it, again. The faggot dispatcher for the police department. I'm not a police officer.

- No.

- Don't get that wrong. I'm a queer dispatcher. 112, 112.

- And I'm just a queer faggot who kind of hangs around all day. I'm retired, girl.

- Anyway, here's *This Way Out* with Greg and Lucia. And we'll be back in a minute, so hang on.

- Yeah.

[THEME MUSIC]

- Hi. This is Craig Washington reminding you that none of us are free until all of us are free. So keep listening to *After Hours*, KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

- We agreed that, forevermore, October 11 would honor those who took their next step at that march-- 600,000 people, the largest civil rights demonstration in 25 years and that October 11, forevermore, would be Coming Out Day.

- The current plan is for a March on Hollywood that will, hopefully, involve lots of people coming in from around the country, let us direct some of the same sort of pressure on Hollywood that we have been trying to direct towards the politicians.

- 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. Lesbian family sets new legal precedent.

- US takes its fourth step out.

- And Hollywood homophobia triggers GLAAD's basic instincts.

- All that and more because 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 September 28, 1991. It took some unusual circumstances and an attorney the judge called ingenious. But for the first time in the US, a same-gender couple has succeeded in adopting each other's children.

The unnamed Washington, DC lesbian couple have been together for eight years. One had born a child via artificial insemination by an anonymous donor five years ago. The other had adopted a child, now two years old, who was abandoned at birth in Nicaragua.

With the help of attorney Nancy Polikoff, they appeared before Judge Geoffrey Alprin to both become legal parents of both children. At first, the capital city's Department of Human Services advised the judge that the law prevented a joint adoption. After the mayor's office intervened at the request of Polikoff, the Department was persuaded to issue a new report.

DC adoption law requires the birth parent to give up all rights to the child, but Judge Alprin accepted Polikoff's plan to have the birth mother adopt her own child along with the co-parent. Alprin's nine-page decision found that joint adoptions, quote, "would serve the best interests of each child." End quote.

Alprin's ruling does not directly affect decisions in any other court but offers what Polikoff called a strong, persuasive precedent. Attorney Paula Ettelbrick, of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, told the press the case, quote, "really is an astounding step forward for the legal integrity of lesbian and gay families."

- The committee of Roman Catholic bishops developing the new standard Bible may be changing the word sodomite to read "practicing homosexual." The 4,000 us gay and lesbian catholic members of Dignity are protesting the proposal. Their national president, Kevin Caligari, told the press that the change distorts the meaning and text of the scripture to suit a political viewpoint.

- In New York City's hotly-contested Democratic primary elections, openly gay, openly HIV positive activist Tom Duane prevailed by a large margin over open lesbian Liz Abzug for the Greenwich Village District seat on the City Council. Duane is expected to become New York City's first openly-gay council member in the November balloting.

- The public learned earlier this month that the police in the French city of Amion were starting a file with the names and addresses of gays cruising the square Le Mercier, though none had broken any laws. The chief of police had responded to public concerns about a rising delinquency rate with a memo asking officers to record details on homosexuals, drug addicts, and suspects in the square.

Although the Department had planned to send the list of names on to the National Police, activists believed they would remain in the Amion archives because homosexuality is not a crime in France. In response to public concerns, the memo was rescinded.

- A Paris court has found in favor of rock star Johnny Hallyday in his lawsuit resulting from the use of his name in a poster promoting condom use. Hallyday's producer had sued to ban the poster and to seek 1 million francs in damages. Although the court is not expected to grant a large damage award, in a strange twist, Hallyday has publicly pledged to contribute any cash award in the case to AIDS research at the Pasteur Institute.

- Over 18,000 participants in the seventh annual Los Angeles AIDS Walk raised \$2.5 million last weekend. The funds go to AIDS Project Los Angeles, the second-largest AIDS service provider in the world.

- The teenage assailant in San Jose California's highly-publicized, videotaped, gay bashing case has been sentenced to 10 months in the county juvenile facility. Joshua Huff is expected to actually serve little more than seven months, even though his three felony convictions for the bashing could have led to a sentence of up to seven years.

Although some gay and lesbian activists felt the sentence was too lenient, victim William Kiley told the press, "The Court knows best. What is important to me is that a hate crime was brought and prosecuted."

- A judge in Hawaii has dismissed the discrimination lawsuit of three same-gender couples who were denied marriage licenses. The couples intend to appeal that decision to the state's Supreme Court.

- The Georgia State Supreme Court is hearing arguments in a property dispute between a separated lesbian couple. Mary Gilden and Florence Crooke signed a joint ownership agreement in 1982, and Crooke legally deeded half her property to Gilden in 1984.

But when the pair separated in 1989, Gilden sued to get her share. And Crooke filed a countersuit claiming the deed was invalid because the relationship was immoral and illegal under Georgia law. A lower court let the deed stand, declared the agreement invalid, and refused to settle the property dispute because, quote, "The courts of this state will not assist the parties to an illegal or immoral relationship." End quote. Martina Navratilova may be interested to hear what the Georgia State Supreme Court will have to say about this case.

- A campaign by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation-- GLAAD-- has won the US public the chance to use the word lesbian on greeting cards personalized with Hallmark's new computer system. Initially, Hallmark had set up the system to refuse the L word, along with others that it feared might be used as insults.

With the confusing effect that customers entering the L word got a printout reading, "gay." GLAAD's letter-writing campaign won an admission from Hallmark that the problem was an oversight and that the L word should not have been included in the restricted word list. It's a timely decision for Hallmark, as US gays and lesbians will be celebrating National Coming Out Day on October 11.

- There is a happy ending also for the curious case of Houston, Texas journalist Juan Palomo who was essentially fired for outing himself. After 12 years as a columnist with *The Houston Post*, Palomo wanted to include his own sexual orientation in a July column describing a heavily-publicized, fatal gay bashing there.

When the post ordered Palomo to rewrite that column without referring to his own orientation, Palomo defied them by publicizing their censorship in another Houston paper and in interviews with the Gay and Lesbian Press, leading *The Post* to retaliate by firing him. Houston's Latino community joined gays and lesbians in protesting the firing by boycotting the paper. And the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund offered legal assistance to Palomo.

The Post responded to the pressure by offering Palomo a position on the paper's editorial board with two weekly editorial columns to replace his earlier, biweekly column. Palomo has happily accepted the offer, saying, "It didn't take me very long to realize that I'm a better columnist than I am a martyr."

- And, finally, it seems you really can't tell a book by its cover. In the past few weeks, not one but two major, mainstream, US publishing houses have discovered that newly released children's books contained excerpts from gay books by entirely different publishers. After 24 pages of Random House's new juvenile novel, *The Toby Man*, readers turning over a new leaf suddenly find themselves confronted with 30 pages about martyred San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk.

It's the Kill a Queer for Christ chapter of Reverend Troy Perry's book, *Profiles in Gay Courage*, a production of St. Martin's Press. Little, Brown was perhaps even more alarmed to find that one of its new children's books contains a section of Dennis Brown's *Closer*, a sexy, gay novel from Grove Press.

All the publishers concerned are completely mystified about the transplanted texts. Gay journalist Keith Clark suggests the situation is bringing a new meaning to the concept of crossover audience.

- That's *News Wrap* for the week ending September 28, 1991. Find out what's happening in your area. An informed community is a strong community. *News Wrap* is compiled and written by Cindy Friedman. For *This Way Out*, I'm Mark Saccomano.

And I'm Cindy Friedman.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- This just in as we go to tape this week. California Governor Pete Wilson has vetoed AB-101, the bill which would have protected the state's lesbians and gay men from employment discrimination. Wilson, the former mayor of San Diego and US Senator, ran for governor as a moderate Republican and, as a candidate, said he would probably sign such anti-discrimination legislation into law.

Pressure from the highly-vocal, right-wing element of the California Republican Party apparently caused Wilson's about face on the issue. This is the second time during the past 10 years that the state legislature has passed some form of anti-discrimination bill only to have it vetoed. Wilson's predecessor, Republican Party cohort George Deukmejian. Vetoed a similar bill during his last term in office. We'll have more on this story next week. For *This Way Out* in Los Angeles, I'm Greg Gordon.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- You're listening to *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. With Greg Gordon, I'm Lucia Chapelle.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Last week, Richard Jennings, Executive Director of the Los Angeles chapter of GLAAD-- the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation-- discussed some promising developments in the new US network TV season and the disappointing decrease in coverage of lesbian and gay issues by the Public Broadcasting System. Jennings identified television as one of the two most important media which influenced the public perception of gays and lesbians. *This Way Out's* Mark Martin continues his conversation with Richard Jennings by asking about that other most influential medium.

- How about in feature films? Will there be more positive portrayals of gays and lesbians in the feature film area?

- I wish I could say yes. We have had success in the last several months in making some changes to some scripts that had some gratuitous, anti-gay references. One of them that's coming up is *The Last Boy Scout*, a Bruce Willis film that they've changed some of the dialogue.

The villain was being portrayed as being stereotypically gay, and there were references to him being a queer and a fruit, which have been taken out. There was another recent script that was being shopped around, and it featured a lesbian as a psychotherapist who goes around killing people. And we informed a couple of studios that were thinking about it what our feelings were. One of the studios dropped it.

We understand, now, that the writer of that particular script, which was called *Sessions*, has changed the character so that it's going to be a heterosexual man who's doing the killing. And that's fine. There are plenty of other heterosexual men on screen that can balance the portrayal of a heterosexual man killing.

- There was recently a benefit dinner involving many studio executives and the gay community.

- Yes, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was the beneficiary of a dinner that was put on by some people here in the entertainment industry. There's certainly been a lot of entertainment industry functions to benefit AIDS. But this was the first one explicitly for gay and lesbian rights.

Of course, we also have had an awards show for the last couple of years-- a GLAAD award show-- that has involved a lot of people in the entertainment industry. But this was heads of major studios supporting an event, and it was very exciting.

Among other things, I got a chance to talk to Barry Diller, who's the head of 20th Century Fox and Fox TV, and we've been having conversations since then. And there were other studio executives that I got a chance to speak to there. And I think it's the beginning of something good.

- We understand, too, there is about to be a March on Hollywood. Is that correct?

- Well, yes, it's been in the works for a while. The basic impetus for that was the project *Basic Instinct*, which was a film that we got involved in as soon as we got a copy of the script, which was the notorious \$3 million script that Joe Eszterhas did on spec.

And it involved not one, not two, but three lesbian or bisexual women as murderers. And all the victims, of course, were heterosexual men, which is contrary to what we see going on in society with hate crimes against gays and lesbians.

But at any rate, they thought this was exciting filmmaking. And we talked to the director as the script was being revised, and he promised certain changes were being made. He heard what some of our concerns are, particularly, the a very stereotypical portrayal of an explicitly lesbian character who is a murderer and who had killed her brother when she was age 14 because she was tired of him getting all the attention.

And then they went back to the original script about two weeks before filming, which was the original script that we had a problem with. They filmed it in San Francisco, which was a little like the Nazis deciding to march on Skokie where all the Holocaust survivors were. I mean, to pick San Francisco, of all places, which is a place where lots of gays and lesbians have gone as a retreat to get away from the discrimination they face various places-- it wasn't a good judgment choice on their part.

And there were lots of protests that GLAAD, and ACT UP, and Queer Nation, and other groups led. And arising from that was a call for, enough, already. Let us direct some of the same sort of pressure on Hollywood that we have been trying to direct towards the politicians in the past.

So the current plan is for a March on Hollywood that will hopefully involve lots of people coming in from around the country, and it will be a series of media-savvy events. It really won't be so much a march as a series of events for a weekend, which will be at the end of February of next year.

- The European film industry has been much more progressive in honest portrayals of gays and lesbians. I believe the British film *A Taste of Honey* was one of the very first to portray a positive gay character, although that character was the victim of prejudice, and he was a bit stereotyped.

He was a positive character who assisted the story's heroine. Why is it that Europe seems to be much more progressive in these matters? And do you think the United States can ever grow up and accept people as we all are?

- Well, we sure hope so. And we think the media and the changes that we can make to public opinion by getting the media to portray us more accurately will have a big impact on changing American opinion. Our films cost more here, and that's part of it.

They feel like they're taking a big risk every time they make a film, anymore. And they're unwilling to put in things that they think are going to offend large segments of the audience.

- There's a marvelous story called *Tales of the City*-- a series of books, which was supposed to have been produced. Do you think it will ever be produced because of the gay characters?

- Well, I sure hope so. It would make a marvelous TV miniseries and, certainly, the book is a much better quality than other books that have been made into miniseries. So it's something I think we'll be pushing.

- I understand it was in the slot to be produced and then because of the gay characters, they turned it around or something. And does this happen very often with a lot of gay--

- It happens a whole lot. And there are also things based on books that have gay characters that get made into films, and they get de-gayed. Of course, *The Color Purple* was an example of that. There's another film currently in the works that has a very long title. It's based on a book by Fannie Flagg that had lesbian characters. And in the film version, it's not going to have lesbian characters.

- *The Children's Hour* was one, too. That was originally de-gayed, as well.

- When that was made into the motion--

- So was *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

- Yeah. Both of those films were made under the Motion Picture Code which for over 30 years in this country absolutely forbid the mention of homosexuality or the portrayal of gay or lesbian characters. So those films that were based on plays had to have the gay aspects of them taken out for the film, which, of course, was a tragedy and, of course, helped keep a lot of us in the closet because we didn't see other gays and lesbians on the screen.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- We've been talking to Richard Jennings. And, Richard, thank you again for being with us.

- Thank you, Mark.

- This is Mark Martin wishing each and every one of you a happy week.

- On October 11, thousands of gay men and lesbians throughout the United States will observe the fourth annual National Coming Out Day by taking their next step. For a look at this year's events, we talked with the executive director of National Coming Out Day, Lynn Shepodd.

- National Coming Out Day was founded by 200 lesbian and gay activists from around the country who met in early 1988 after realizing that the October 11, 1987 March on Washington had not gotten the response that we wanted from the Reagan administration with regard to any of our issues. So we agreed that, forevermore, October 11 would honor those who took their next step at that March-- 600,000 people, the largest civil rights demonstration in 25 years-- and that October 11, forevermore, would be Coming Out Day.

So Coming Out Day is in its fourth year. This is our fourth, annual. We have grown from a very small outreach of 18 states the first year and 21 states the second year to 50 states last year. And this year, 50 states, several provinces of Canada, Switzerland, Thailand, Siberia.

There's a big variety of events this year, and they keep coming in by about a dozen a day. For example, in West Virginia, little Shepard College in Shepherdstown, West Virginia is running ads about Coming Out Day, encouraging the gay and lesbian people in that school to take their next step.

In Oregon, the Right to Privacy PAC is hosting a Coming Out Day banquet. They're having Sandra Bernhard there as their speaker. In Texas, in Houston, there are going to be direct actions all over town. There's a big fundraiser for Queer Nation. In several cities there are fundraisers for Queer Nation.

In many, many, many, many, many campuses, hundreds of them across the country, students will be setting up Coming Out Day booths and having panel discussions, and rallies, and kiss-ins, and all kinds of things. I, personally, will be in Denver on Coming Out Day for a series of events. The Gay and Lesbian Employees Association of US West, called Eagle, they're holding a banquet-- co-hosting a banquet with the Denver Center.

And what I've noticed is that gay and lesbian employee associations are springing up all over the country. In Los Angeles, we're thrilled to have worked together feverishly over this summer to have hammered out an agreement between the Gay and Lesbian United Employees of the city of LA. And the city libraries-- all 62 branches of the public library during the month of October will be doing cultural diversity displays in their branch libraries, all 62 branches, three bookmobiles, and the Central Library downtown.

And they have agreed to include the coming Out Day Keith Haring poster in each branch. That is terrific. That is a wonderful next step for the city of Los Angeles to reach out to people in that very neighborhood way.

There are as many different kinds of events that are happening as there are cities, and towns, and types of folks there are. Is a real opportunity for people to individually take their next step. Gosh, I was just working in the office today, and somebody called and said, is it too late for me to get one of those sweatshirts?

I feel it's time for me to do something that can be seen from a distance. I hope the logo on that shirt is really big because I am just ready. And it was so cute. And here she is in Charlotte, North Carolina.

- You've mentioned that you've had calls, so, obviously, there's a phone number that people can call if they'd like to get some more information. You mentioned that there are various and sundry National Coming Out Day items, I guess, ranging from posters, to sweatshirts, to T-shirts, and the like.

- Right. They can call the 1-800 number, which is 1-800-445-NCOD. Real simple-- 445-NCOD. And we have handy hints about coming out, suggested ideas-- coming out to your family, and so forth. We have some religious articles, as well, that might be of use to people if they're dealing with those kind of issues.

And we have a lot of handouts that are, I think, very useful for people. So we do that. and then, of course, they can always get the Keith Haring commemoratives year-round.

- And the phone number, one more time, Lynn.

- The phone number for National Coming Out Day is 1-800-445-NCOD. We work in every profession at every level. We touch the lives of millions of people who don't think they know anyone gay or lesbian, and that's what we get for hiding. It's real important that we be a part of this because our personal involvement-- it'll make a big difference.

- Lynn Shepodd, Executive Director of National Coming Out Day.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Thanks for choosing *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Mark Saccomano, and Mark Martin contributed program material. Thanks, also, to Christopher David Trentham.
- The Knickerbockers, John Williams and the Boston Pops, Mary Watkins, and Diana Ross 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.
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- You know we'd 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 38, 327 Los Angeles, California, 90038.
- *This Way Out* is produced by Lucia Chappelle.
- And Greg Gordon. And we thank you for listening on WHBK Chicago.
- KRCL Salt Lake City.
- And CFRO Vancouver.
- Among others.
- And for supporting this local community radio station.
- Come out, and stay tuned.
- Every Saturday night at midnight on *After Hours*, we play music.