

INTERVIEWER: OK, we talked about what went on while we were there. What are you taking from the actual events? OK, now that we've we've been to New York and we're back home now, what has the events inspired you to do? What has it instilled in you? What has it strengthened in you? What do you see yourself doing maybe to push the issues of Stonewall just a little bit more? And by the way, you're listening to KPFT Houston.

SUBJECT 1: That was slick to get in the ID there. It must be the top of the hour or near it. Vivian, there were two discussions that I engaged in while there with people from whom I've been previously isolated. One of them was a discussion around the immigration and the refugee issue. And that's very dear to my heart. For years, I've been a player in what has been a gay, lesbian underground, helping people get established in this country coming from places where people have it worse even than we have it in this country, where being gay, or lesbian, or trans person is life threatening.

And so for years, I've just not talked about men involved in that issue, and I've decided now that my role is to bring some wonderful work out of the closet and allow those who remain in it to be legally secure because helping this kind of immigration, this kind of refugee problem, is illegal. And so those people have to remain anonymous. I do not have to be anonymous anymore because I'm going to step out of it and expose the need, the nature of the need.

The other meeting that I attended, and I attended that as soon as I got there. I got there late Thursday evening because of flight delays and went into a meeting of gay men, lesbians, and trans people from all over the world that are involved in prison reform. I was the only American that was not actually employed at some level or another with a prison system. And the first the resolution we passed was not to form an organization, which I think is an indication of amazing intelligence.

We decided not-- there are men and women from Europe and men and women from the United States. The head of the amnesty international in Finland with also participating in the gay games and also here for Stonewall 25. And the secretary of the Amnesty International in the Netherlands, she entered a couple of events, and she was here. So we were there talking about-- and the major problem around the world is the United States is the only industrial nation still killing people.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

SUBJECT 1: So execution is a major thing. And I want to-- now, we decided not to do an organization, but we did decide to all use email. So we're going to work with computers and communications over the next four years. We're going to get together again in Amsterdam and work on some prison reform ideas because this has gotten ridiculous. It's really embarrassing.

INTERVIEWER: OK, and what about you, Vivian.

SUBJECT 2: I really have mixed feelings about the whole thing. At one time, I was really happy and crying because you don't get this chance where I come from, from South Korea. Any time you couldn't-- you can never have a peaceful demonstration there. It seems like something always seems to go wrong with the police, and the army, and the national guard. So I mean I was very thankful I was in America, and this is what freedom is all about, standing up for my rights.

But at the same time, I was disappointed. I felt like that it was just a big celebration, and I was disappointed I expected so much more. And there's so much more that needs to be done, especially within the Asian community. In Houston, the Asian community do not support the gay and lesbian whatsoever, which is pathetic because there were store owners and vendors who were out there cheering us on. And to see that, you do not get that here at all.

And what my personal goal is that I felt like that I learned from this march that I cannot really have my expectations are dependent on the people to fight for my rights. So I just decided that I need to get myself educated, or get out of school, and work between the Asian community and the gay community and do something about it because it's not going to get any further because everybody is just so scared. They're all want to stay in the closet due to tradition and a lot of things that someone's going to have to make the choice to go ahead and do it and bring the two together.

It has to be brought together in Houston and hasn't.

SUBJECT 1: Yeah, and the Asian community in Houston deeply fascinates. One of the things I did while I was in new York is I stayed with my old activist friend Steve Ault, and he and Mark Rubin had financed bringing over a dance troupe from Thailand who teach AIDS education by using traditional Thailand dance forms in the rural sections of Thailand. The government does not approve of them, but the king loves them.

Therefore, they don't care what the government thinks about them. And they're funded from western sources, and they performed on the stage at the great lawn. And so I stayed with those folks and got some insight into the difficulties of gay and lesbian people living in the social environment. Trans people, surprisingly, in Thailand have it easier. Whereas, gay men and lesbians have it more difficult. It's an interesting twist on what we have here because of the cultural inflections involved.

But just now in Houston, the Asian community is beginning to get a little political clout for the first time. You've got a councilwoman. You've got several judges now in practice. So I think that there's probably a tradeoff between getting the gay and lesbian political caucus involved in giving those people some political security, tradeoffs in exchange for some understanding coming from the other direction. But that's going to have to be done by you and other Asians in the community doing the liaison work.

And I think that's an important thing, Michael, because we can use the need of people to fill positions to recruit more people to be involved.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

SUBJECT 1: And the whole idea is making enough positions available so that people that are ready to get involved have them handily made able to go to work on it. So I'm optimistic about that in the future. Now, what does the march of Stonewall 25 have to do with that? Stonewall on 25 at least telegraphed to the world that this is not a middle class, white, male American movement. This is a global movement, and we are as concerned about the conditions of lesbians in South Korea as we are those in this country.

SUBJECT 2: The sad thing is also that the Asian community at all is not involved politically across the US very much. The gay and lesbian, they are being seen with Stonewall and just a lot of things, having marches and things. And then the civil rights movement had their march, but the Asians are very politically unaware and socially very quiet. And they feel that way because they came to this land. They feel like they have to buy into the middle class and just buy into everything and not speak a word.

But this is America. You have the freedom to do that, and they don't want to interrupt, or disturb, anything, which is really sad. They're just now beginning to realize that they can have some political influence and advance themselves. At least the gays and lesbians can organize marches, and go forward, and act, and lobby. Asians have not even gotten that far in American politics.

INTERVIEWER 1: Yeah, as a community of people. How important would it be the creation of specific space for gay and lesbian Asians in Houston?

SUBJECT 1: That would be very hard, I would tell you now. For what I have known-- I've been out for about four years now within the gay community. I've been an act of inclination and such. And I [INAUDIBLE] even on campus and just generally Houston for Asians to be out is to go to bars and go bar hopping. That's the meaning of quote, unquote, "being out of the closet." And they need to get further than that, until they are ready to, it's not going to happen.

INTERVIEWER 1: But would separate space-- or do you think there would be any interest at all in separate space?

INTERVIEWER 2: I think-- OK, this is what I'm thinking. I'm not Asian, but I have an opinion on everything.

INTERVIEWER 1: OK.

SUBJECT 1: We value.

INTERVIEWER 2: I think, or what I would like to see is, there's this group called Gay Asian Pacific Alliance. Is it? OK, great. What I would like to see is a chapter of that group formed here in Houston, where Asian lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people can sit down and figure out what's important to them here in Houston, what they want, and how to go about getting it.

SUBJECT 2: There's only a social association here. There's not a political association at all, [? I would say. ?]

INTERVIEWER 2: And I wouldn't even consider that Asian, Asians and friends. I think the emphasis is on the friends. And those friends are generally the middle class white men who want to sleep with Asian boys. But we've had that discussion here before.

SUBJECT 1: Yes.

SUBJECT 2: Boy, have we?

SUBJECT 1: Let's not get into that again.

INTERVIEWER 2: Yeah, OK. And I would like to see a situation where Asian queers got together to figure out what they wanted, and then sit down and figure out a plan of action on how to get it. And I would be more than willing to do whatever I could do as a non-Asian person to help because I think it's very necessary. And while we're talking about Asian queers, I think that's also very necessary for Latino queers and for African American queers.

SUBJECT 2: I was just going to say. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER 2: Yeah, because right now queers of color are not--

SUBJECT 1: Represented.

INTERVIEWER 2: And it's not even just that we're not represented, but we're not doing what we need to do in order to be represented.

SUBJECT 1: Sure.

SUBJECT 2: What you're saying is there's a responsibility on both fronts?

INTERVIEWER 2: Exactly. We have to be willing to take a stand and say, this is who we are. This is what we want. We are of color, and we are queer. And well, everybody has to deal with us as both simultaneously. And we have a place in the society. And we will not be shunted off to the back of the gay community or to the back of our communities of color.

We have a valuable role to play in the creation of a just society. And that we will do it. And white gay and lesbian people and straight people of color have to get over themselves. I mean, straight people don't rule the world-- OK, they rule the world, but it shouldn't be that way.

SUBJECT 2: That's still a pretty tough thing to ask. Not everybody is Audre Lorde or Pat Parker or very strong-willed people that can do this.

INTERVIEWER 2: But that's why you get together with other people. I mean, you know.

SUBJECT 1: [INAUDIBLE]

SUBJECT 2: Looking at it from my minor role and experience in the gay and lesbian movement, is nobody's going to give anybody a damned thing. I mean, giving up liberty, giving up equality, giving up equal participation, that ain't going to happen.

INTERVIEWER 1: You're right.

SUBJECT 2: And so give up trying to get somebody to give you something. You have to declare what you want and begin the struggle to achieve it. Now those struggles can be won, and they can be lost. You can make allies along that effort to help your cause. And you are liable to get run over your enemies in that situation.

But first, you declare. I want this. And then you go out and you struggle for that. And I have found, after losing far more battles than I won, that people in general respect your courage. And that, at least, gets you in the room. You may not have a seat at the table. But by God, they will step out of your way and let you come into the room.

And it seems ironic to me that-- I've been out of a joint now 19 years. And I've had this much struggle for acceptance within the gay community because I came from the joint as I had for acceptance as a gay person from without the community. But the one thing that has gotten me this far is the guts.

And everything gets reduced to struggle. I know that sounds an awful lot some things we read from Marx. But everything gets reduced to the struggle. You have to [? burl ?] up for the fight. You have to get tough skin because when you get close to victory, people say some real hurtful things. And it's not coming from the enemy up front. It's coming from the friends behind. And they intend to hurt you.

And when they intend to hurt you, it hits home. But we have got to-- no matter what our situation and where-- to try to figure out of how the largest number of as possible just demand what we want, and then struggle to keep it.

INTERVIEWER Exactly.

2:

SUBJECT 1: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER OK

2:

SUBJECT 2: Can I shamelessly plug the Prison Program tomorrow.

INTERVIEWER Oh, please do.

3:

INTERVIEWER Please.

1:

SUBJECT 2: 3 o'clock to 5 o'clock. Very same station. Just don't even change the dial. You don't have anything to do in the morning. You like blues, anyway.

INTERVIEWER Oh, yeah. They are great.

3:

SUBJECT 2: Just stay right here and listen to the Prison Program, the most famous local radio program in the world.

INTERVIEWER OK, great.

2:

INTERVIEWER As opposed to after hours.

3:

SUBJECT 2: Well, I mean, I'm on Fringe television this week.

INTERVIEWER Which is the most popular--
3:

SUBJECT 2: I've been in BBC four times. That's how I can make a claim the most famous local radio program in the world.

INTERVIEWER I see, as opposed to *After Hours*, which is the most popular gay and lesbian program that no one knows about.
3:

INTERVIEWER There we go. OK, I'd like to thank both of you for being here.
2:

SUBJECT 2: Our pleasure-- my pleasure.

INTERVIEWER And I hope to see you back soon. OK. And we're going to be taking a very short musical break. We're going to be
2: hearing-- let's see-- Lush, and the song it's going to be "Sweetness and Light."

WOMAN 1: Let's try-- let's just rehearse. [INAUDIBLE]

ALL: We are the Five Lesbian Brothers. And when we're in Houston, we listen to *After Hours* on KPFT Houston.
[INAUDIBLE].
[MUSIC PLAYING]

INTERVIEWER OK. That was "Hole," featuring Courtney Love, widow of Kurt Cobain. And the song was "Miss World" from the
2: album *Lived Through This*. And if you happen to have, well, let's say, \$9 in your pocket right now, it's definitely worth purchasing. I totally loved it. So it's cool. Before that was "Sweetness and Light" by Lush from the album "Gallop." And let's see. Let's do announcements, shall we?

INTERVIEWER Sure.
3:

INTERVIEWER OK, great. We'll have to find one for you. Here you go.
2:

INTERVIEWER Oh, I can deal with this.
3:

INTERVIEWER OK, I'll be the first one. OK, fight back!
2:

INTERVIEWER Whoa.
3:

INTERVIEWER Act up. Fight-- no, not act up. Let's see this is for the Q-Patrol. It says, "Do something constructive about the
2: bashing, harassment, threats, and taunts aimed at us in our own neighborhood. Walk with us once a month or donate your time, talent, or money to help us maintain a visible presence on the streets. We need fresh leadership, new ideas, and people willing to take responsibility. We're out here for you, but we can't do it without you."

So if you're interested in joining Q-Patrol-- and you should be because it's a most definitely a worthwhile effort.

INTERVIEWER Oh, no. Yeah. And we're not-- we're talking about any type of sexual orientation. We're here to protect the
3: streets.

INTERVIEWER Yeah. To stop the bashing.

2:

INTERVIEWER That's right.

3:

INTERVIEWER You don't have to be gay to be gay bashed.

2:

INTERVIEWER Yeah, that's right. As police found out-- remember, right after the Broussard thing?

3:

INTERVIEWER Well, I think they've forgotten about that now. But if you want to join Q-Patrol, just want more information, please
2: call 871-8519 or 643-0029. And if you miss those numbers, of course, you can call us here at the station at 526-5738. Or you can call the switchboard at--

INTERVIEWER 529-3211.

3:

INTERVIEWER OK. Just wanted to see if you were awake

2:

INTERVIEWER I was awake. I was reading something else. I was reading about the Women's Network, which is a support group
3: established to serve the lesbian and bisexual women's community of Houston. And the 13th, all you wanted to know about sexually transmitted diseases and HIV and lesbians.

Yes, lesbians can get sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. As [? Tonight's ?] [? Network ?] [? Tina ?] [? Biddick, ?] president of the Women's HIV Coalition will talk with us about STDs, HIV, and how we can have sex safely. And to be part of that, contact the Montrose Counseling Center at 529-0037. That'll be July the 13th, 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

INTERVIEWER OK. This is like a really cool-sounding event.

2:

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

3:

INTERVIEWER And actually, I like the flyer better than this little announcement in This Week in Texas-- also known as--

2:

INTERVIEWER Twit.

3:

INTERVIEWER --for a good reason. The flyer basically said, why are fags still blanking without condoms?

2:

INTERVIEWER Why are they?

3:

INTERVIEWER Well, no, that's what we're going to talk about.

2:

INTERVIEWER Oh.

3:

INTERVIEWER OK, great. OK. OK. Are you going to be there? Well, wait, you don't know what it is yet. OK, it says, "We know the rhetoric. We've been to the safe sex classes. We even tell our mother we use them. So why are we still having sex without condoms. Find out at the next meeting of the Men's Network on Wednesday, July 20th at 7:00 PM at the Montrose Counseling Center at 701 Richmond Avenue."

2:

INTERVIEWER Oh, cool. Yeah.

3:

INTERVIEWER Yep. "This will be a frank discussion of what men are really doing and why. The Gay Men's Network for gay and bisexual men meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month. For more information call 529-0037."

2:

INTERVIEWER Cool.

3:

INTERVIEWER So I'm going to be there. And you can hear me talk about my sex life, as if you haven't heard it enough on the air, talking about safer sex, what we do, why we do it, and what we don't do when we say we're doing it because you know sometimes we don't do it safely.

2:

INTERVIEWER That's right. We don't.

3:

INTERVIEWER So here are my personal confessions along with a whole bunch of other people. I think this would be a great opportunity for gay and bisexual men to sit around and talk about safer sex, and how it's affected our lives, and how we can support one another in making really positive changes, and that kind of thing.

2:

INTERVIEWER Absolutely, absolutely. I'm all for that, being HIV-positive my own self. Here's something. Drop-in support group for HIV positive teens. I'm not a teen, but I am HIV-positive. So I feel that I can talk about this. It's an ongoing drop-in support group to discuss concerns with other teenagers. You're not going to talk with old fogies like me. You're going to talk with other people your own age.

3:

This group is open to any teenage person who is HIV-positive, whether female, male, bi, gay, straight, whatever. This group is provided free. For more information, contact, I guess, again, the Montrose Counseling Center at 701 Richmond. 529-0037. Those folks are really doing the job.

INTERVIEWER Yep. 529-0037.

2:

INTERVIEWER Yeah, yeah.

3:

INTERVIEWER OK. And this was going to be the point where we were going to play the violin music, and I was going to do something really, really sappy and talk about how we need to love ourselves and stuff. That's because I was going to play the new Uncanny Alliance single, "I'm Beautiful Dammit." Except that when I went to the record store, it was sold out.

INTERVIEWER No.

3:

INTERVIEWER So instead of doing "I'm Beautiful Dammit," we're going to do "Closer," Nine Inch Nails. And I saw the video, what, an hour and a half ago.

INTERVIEWER Is it hot?

3:

INTERVIEWER "Hot" isn't the right word.

2:

INTERVIEWER What is the right word?

3:

INTERVIEWER It's definitely cool.

2:

INTERVIEWER Oh, OK.

3:

INTERVIEWER It's just not hot.

2:

INTERVIEWER Oh. A song like that, it doesn't have a hot video?

3:

INTERVIEWER But it has a pig's head, and a big side of beef.

2:

INTERVIEWER Wait a minute, a pig's head like my head or--

3:

INTERVIEWER No.

2:

INTERVIEWER --like the animal?

3:

INTERVIEWER Like the animal because this pig heads, it's like on the stick and it's twirling around in a circle.

2:

INTERVIEWER Oh.

3:

INTERVIEWER It's an intense video. I mean, it's very Nine Inch Nails.

2:

INTERVIEWER I see.

3:

INTERVIEWER So--

2:

INTERVIEWER And we have a specially clipped version.

3:

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

2:

INTERVIEWER Say, what you can't do on radio is say seven deadly words. And we all know what those words are.

3:

INTERVIEWER Blank.

2:

INTERVIEWER But if you put something on a piece of-- on tape and then you get to that part and you take the little word and
3: you cut cut it out of the tape and turn it around so that it's backwards, you don't miss any of the musical beat.
And the word is backwards.

INTERVIEWER It kind of sounds Satanic.

2:

INTERVIEWER Yes. So when you hear that word "kcuf," try to figure out what they're talking about.

3:

INTERVIEWER OK, great. And let's be sure I'm listening to all the-- pressing all the right buttons.

2:

INTERVIEWER OK.

3:

INTERVIEWER Let's go.

2:

ANNOUNCER 1: Hello, Houston. It's Jimmy with the QMZ, the Queer Music Zone, heard every week on *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The QMZ, which brings you music by openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender artists, just for you. All the music you hear here is going to be by queer artists.

First of all, I want to say hi to Junior. He's been calling and talking to us. So howdy? How are you doing out there? Give us a call back? Matt's anxious to talk to you. And I got a request. We're going to start off the QMZ with a request. And if you would like to request some queer music during the segment, give us a call at 526-5738, and we'll play it. And here's Matt. What?

ANNOUNCER 2: Oh, just with Junior you were supposed to say hi to Edward, too. But I forgot to write that down.

ANNOUNCER 1: Oh!

ANNOUNCER 2: You can you can spank me later.

ANNOUNCER 1: You've been bad, and you need to be punished.

ANNOUNCER 2: Whip me harder, please.

ANNOUNCER 1: OK. Hi, Edward. And we have a request because it's Charlie's birthday. And it's something we have not played in a very, very long time. Coming up after this, we're going to have something new from One Dove, as a new group out of England. And they've got a queer member. And maybe some "Black Angel's Death Song."

How about some, maybe, Boy George? Whatever you request of queer music at 526-5738. But now, for Charlie, because it's his birthday, and he's legal, and he wanted to hear it. Ready?

WOMAN: Once upon a time, there was a little Black girl in the Brewster projects of Detroit, Michigan. At 15, she was spotted by an ebony fashion fair talent scout, and her modeling career took off.

MAN: You better work.

[MUSIC PLAYING]