

BRIAN KEEVER: But now this-- it's imperative that everybody realize that no one is safe from this. And that's what we used to think. The denial in the gay community was what allowed it get so far for us. And I just pray to God that the straight community learn from our mistake of denial.

We have got to realize that we have got to be smart, continue to educate, not just the straight general communities, but the young gay people too, now. They have to realize. We have to continually put this message across. This thing is not going away. And it's not going to go away right now. It's actually much worse than we can imagine because again, the tip of the iceberg type idea.

BRUCE COOK: It has not hit the top yet.

HOST 1: What do you want Santa Claus to bring you for Christmas?

BRIAN KEEVER: He's about 5 foot 8", dark hair, hair--

[LAUGHTER]

The same thing you wanted, right?

HOST 1: We want the same--

BRIAN KEEVER: Yeah, actually I prefer them about 6 foot 4".

HOST 1: We want the same thing.

BRIAN KEEVER: No.

BRUCE COOK: 6 foot, how many?

BRIAN KEEVER: How tall are you, Bruce?

BRUCE COOK: 5".

BRIAN KEEVER: 6 foot 5", that's pretty big.

HOST 1: We had a--

BRIAN KEEVER: How's that chest of yours? Hairy?

HOST 1: Hush. We had a--

SPEAKER 1: Very hairy.

HOST 1: We had a call--

BRIAN KEEVER: Whoa.

HOST 1: We had a call a couple of weeks ago from a guy. And he said he was dying in Twelve Oaks Hospital alone, right?

BRUCE COOK: I remember that call.

HOST 1: And his mother and dad had walked out on him when they found out that he had AIDS and that he was left alone to die. And I went down to the coalition and talked to Tess and told her about that. And you know Tess. I mean, she just turned on the searchlights.

BRUCE COOK: She's our saint.

HOST 1: What do you say to people out there who have not had the courage to come out of the closet even? But now they find out that they have something else to carry around with them?

BRIAN KEEVER: The same thing I said at the Harvey Milk rally. Harvey Milk's words about coming out being proud that you're gay to destroy every myth, every lie that exists about gay people applies to AIDS also. As I said at that rally, I have AIDS and I'm not ashamed of that.

People with AIDS need to understand that not fearing that, not fearing discussing it-- it may be difficult at first, but that's the only thing that is going to change people's minds. Come out. Come out if you have AIDS. Talk to people.

I'm constantly amazed. I'm asked to speak all the time to groups from medical students to young people to civic groups, and the response is amazing. People just sometimes have never had the opportunity to meet a real live person with AIDS. And they're amazed. It's just like gays. We're everywhere.

HOST 1: Come out and live.

BRIAN KEEVER: Come out and live.

HOST 1: Will you guys come back sometime and talk with us when you got more time?

BRIAN KEEVER: Sure. Yeah.

BRUCE COOK: Oh, we'd love to.

HOST 1: Bruce Cook, president of the PWA Coalition, and Brian Kever with the coalition what? Vice president.

BRUCE COOK: I wanted to say what I wanted for Christmas.

HOST 1: What do you want for Christmas?

BRUCE COOK: I want-- You know what I want for Christmas? I want to be able to open up *TWIT* magazine and not see one obituary in the back of it.

HOST 1: That would be nice. Thanks, guys for coming by.

BRIAN KEEVER: Thanks for inviting us.

HOST 1: The news is coming up in just a minute. And you're listening to a little radio program that we call *After Hours* on KPFT. Do you think we should open the phone lines up after we get finished with the news?

BRIAN KEEVER: Sure.

HOST 1: So we'll do that. Also, I believe that you guys are going to escape, right?

BRIAN KEEVER: We're going to make a slight flight.

HOST 1: Bart, are you leaving--

BRIAN KEEVER: We've got a Christmas party--

HOST 1: --or are you sticking around?

BRIAN KEEVER: --coming up tomorrow morning.

BRUCE COOK: Bart's going to stay around.

HOST 1: He's going to stick around. OK.

BRUCE COOK: He's the pretty one anyway.

BRIAN KEEVER: But one last shot though, if anybody is interested in contacting the PWA Coalition, we need to discuss--

HOST 1: You know, I didn't say that.

BRIAN KEEVER: Yes.

HOST 1: And we need to announce this again.

BRIAN KEEVER: Well, OK. We will. We'll announce the Christmas party tomorrow at the PWA Coalition, which is at 800 Rosine--

HOST 1: Today, today.

BRIAN KEEVER: Well I haven't been to bed yet. It's not the next day yet. Sunday, from 1:00 to 5:00, it's a Christmas party put on by the PWA Coalition. Everybody is invited to come on in. We'll have lots of food and Santa with a big bag full of surprises for everybody. So please do come. You do not have to be a PWA. We don't discriminate much like the healthy community. We love everybody whether you have HIV infections or not.

HOST 1: And if you want information about the coalition, the number's--

BRIAN KEEVER: 522-5428.

HOST 1: The AIDS information line is 524-AIDS.

BRIAN KEEVER: Right.

HOST 1: And of course, the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard is 529-3211. *Afterwards* coming up next, so stay with us.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ROB DITTO: You're listening to *After Hours* on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston, listener-sponsored Pacifica Radio. And welcome to *Afterwards* where we bring you the latest in news, viewpoints, and information you can use from the heart of our community.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Today on *Afterwards*, I'll be speaking with David Fowler about the AIDS funding crisis in Houston. Rob Hess will be talking about drug firms that are helping to ease the cost of treatments for AIDS. In the *Homophobia Report* tonight, Bruce Reeves will be talking about the shocking aftermath of the Dallas anti-gay murder trial that we have already been talking about on *After Hours* today.

Kay will be here with the community bulletin board. And I'll be presenting the first installment of our occasional commentary feature which is called *Afterthought*. In tonight's *Afterthought*, why *Midnight Caller* may not have been as bad as people thought it would be. And John Bourdeaux will be bringing us another new feature called *Youth Beat*. All this and more so stay tuned. My name is Rob Ditto, and you're listening to *Afterwards*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

First up in our news today. In the wake of the Houston Health and Human Services announcement that AIDS is the number one killer of city men ages 25 to 44, attention has returned to the severe lack of funding for AIDS programs in the city. Recently, I spoke to David Fowler, an organizer for ACT UP here in Houston about the problem.

DAVID FOWLER: The problem I feel, in Houston has gotten so bad because there's been a lack of response from the city and the county. And I think now, people are really realizing it. And ACT UP, a group out of New York, was formed and started and came to Houston. And we visited with them. They told us you need to have one in Houston. We've got them in LA, San Francisco, all the major cities in the country have them.

We are strictly a nonviolent, diversified, non-partisan group of people. And our main purpose is to make the communities and the cities aware of what is being done, or what is not being done, by government officials to help with this disease.

ROB DITTO: You singled out two government officials, Mayor Kathy Whitmire and County Judge Jon Lindsay. Can you tell us a little bit about how they've contributed to the problem?

DAVID FOWLER: Well, they really haven't. I mean, they formed this Harris County AIDS Task Panel, OK, a year and a half ago, leave off political gay people. They left off PWAs. And they put on people that knew nothing about the AIDS issue in this city.

ROB DITTO: Who's on this committee?

DAVID FOWLER: Well, there's the director of the AIDS foundation was on the committee. He resigned. There was a friend of mine on the committee-- and I cannot mention his name-- that resigned because came and told me. He said I really do feel they're waiting to see how many people in this town can die this off before some real action is going to be taken.

So you had 800 dead in 1986. Now we have over 2000. And now we have over 4,000 or 5,000 cases in this city.

ROB DITTO: What has this committee done in all this time?

DAVID FOWLER: The committee has-- the committee was a good panel. But every time the committee would take a proposal to the mayor or Jon Lindsay-- and the reason why I mentioned them, the county judge, is because they were in charge of this panel. It was thrown back into their faces saying no, we don't have the money to give. No, that's not a good idea to do that. OK?

So you had people getting very angry, and you had people on the panel saying, what are we doing here if every time we turn in a proposal it's denied? So what the conclusion has come to that it's a fight now between the county and the city of who's going to get the federal funding. I believe the city wants it, and I believe the county wants it.

Judge Jon Lindsay is aware of the cost that's going to cost the hospital districts in three more years with this disease. And I actually do feel that he might be trying to come around and work to do something. But I actually do feel that he has to fight with the city to get done what he wants to do. It's like pushing the one problem onto the other problem which causes the red tape.

ROB DITTO: And meanwhile, through this red tape important deadlines are getting missed.

DAVID FOWLER: There's more grants in this city in the last three years than any other city in the United States. The federal government is funding Orange County, counties in San Diego, which have less cases, less diagnosed cases, less drug abuse than Houston, Texas does. And they say they will not fund Houston until you people start to learn together. We're not the problem.

ROB DITTO: ACT UP and the gay community that supported this.

DAVID FOWLER: Exactly. And the straight people that support an end to AIDS because this disease is no longer affecting just gays. It's affecting children. How do you tell children you're going to die in six months? It's affecting women. It's affecting the people that use drugs. You have to help these people.

There's a sign inside this building right here at City Hall that says, the people are the city. And our leaders should be compassionate when it comes to such a devastating epidemic like this in the fourth largest city of the country with the fourth most cases.

We're not here to knock the mayor or knock John Lindsay. We want to see where the compassion lies. Why can't they get on television and say please donate to your nearest AIDS Foundation that these people need help? We're not asking for billions of dollars. We're asking for support for the citizens in this city that voted for those people for office. And the ones that hung their door hangers for county judge and for mayor eight years ago are the ones that are dying.

And I truly believe that something is owed back to us without even having to ask for it. Something should be paid back. And all we're asking for is some compassion and some conversation and some good reasoning on what the situation is, is why they're holding back and holding back and holding back.

ROB DITTO: That was David Fowler, organizer for ACT UP here in Houston. Coming up next on *Afterwards, AIDS News Today* with Robert Hess.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ROBERT HESS: Hello. This is Robert Hess with *AIDS News Today*. The FDA has authorized the start of human trials at Carrington Laboratories' Carrisyn, the active ingredient in Vera Juice. The results of Carrington's study in Belgium have been accumulated and were used to verify the results of the United States trials, which should take about eight weeks. The results won't be available four months.

Carrisyn has been shown in anecdotal situations to greatly benefit those with low T4 counts. The state of Maryland's Medicaid system is paying for pentamidine for those patients with PCP because Blue Cross and Blue Shield has declined such payments. Blue Cross says since the FDA hasn't approved the drug's use in aerosol form, they won't pay for it.

In *Science* magazine this month, University of Texas researchers reported that CD4 has been effective in killing HIV-infected cells in the body without harming adjacent healthy cells in vitro. They'll now begin testing in vivo.

The Journal of the American Medical Association confirms that zidovudine, which we used to call AZT, improves the survival rate in AIDS patients with a 25% higher survival rate one year after beginning treatment than without treatment. Beginning treatment very soon after the AIDS diagnosis had a lot of impact on the success of the treatment. Zidovudine has also been shown to help those with decreased platelet counts.

Schering Corporation, which manufactures Intron A has said that those patients which currently use the drug for Kaposi's sarcoma will have a cap on payments. Patients using the drug, which is the best treatment available for KS will pay a maximum of \$9,800 per year. Additionally, financially indigent patients will still be given Intron A. Richard Kogan, president and CEO of Schering said no patient, regardless of ability to pay will be forced to go without treatment. The drug which was recently approved by the FDA for marketing the first KS drug in the US.

Syntex Corporation and the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases are initiating a controlled clinical trial of Syntex's ganciclovir, which has shown promise in treating those with CMV retinitis. The new study will include all patients with newly diagnosed retinitis that isn't immediately sight threatening.

For several years Syntex has been supplying ganciclovir to AIDS patients on a compassionate-use basis, and they'll continue to furnish the drug free of charge to patients currently receiving it. Any physician in the US may enroll a patient in the trial. The same drug has been shown to have excellent results when used for CMV pneumonia.

The Vatican says that in November of next year, 10 years after the AIDS epidemic began, an international AIDS conference will be held to discuss moral and theological aspects of the disease. The conference will include scientific and health information.

The 5th international conference on AIDS entitled The Scientific and Social Challenge will be held June 4th through 9th, 1989 in Montreal, Canada. There's a discount in effect on all registrations, which is \$400 received before January 21st. There's also a student discount. You can call the radio station and I'll be happy to give you the address where you can write for a form.

Novaferon Labs Incorporated here in Houston has shown that its antiviral compound, Novaprin, inhibits HIV replication, protects T4 lymphocytes, macrophages and monocytes, prevents the death of cells already infected, and inhibits reverse transcriptase. Novaferon plans to apply for accelerated testing and approval.

Newport Pharmaceutical International of California has completed their analysis of the first of three large-scale clinical trials of Isoprinosine, an immunomodulating drug for pre-AIDS patients. Overall, the differences between those in the trials taking Isoprinosine and those taking a placebo were not sufficient to warrant continuing with the trials. The company will not be seeking approval with the FDA to market the drug.

The CDC will begin its first trial of a National AIDS survey in Pittsburgh. A professional interviewer and a technician will visit 350 randomly selected households where one person in each will be asked to answer a questionnaire and to submit to a blood test. They report that they won't take any names.

If the survey is successful, another 2000 households will be chosen. The CDC hopes to eventually survey 50,000 names of people in the US. Religious, drug abuse prevention, health and education officials have all approved the plan.

The Journal of the AMA reports that an HIV-positive girl died due to chickenpox and HIV complications. They stressed that even the simplest of childhood diseases need to be avoided by those who are positive.

And finally, right after the failure of proposition 102 in California, a New York court has dismissed a lawsuit brought by four physician groups that sought to require the New York Department of Health to permit testing without consent of anyone suspected of carrying HIV, and to collect the names of those who test positive. The judge in the case argued that forcible testing and name reporting would do absolutely nothing to reduce the spread of the disease and would in fact be counterproductive.

And that's *AIDS News Today*, and I'm Robert Hess.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

KAY HARPER: Hi. This is Kay with the Community Bulletin Board. It's the holiday season, so there's not a whole lot going on except for parties. The PWA Coalition is having their Christmas party this afternoon from 1:00 until 5:00, which we've already heard about. And you can hop from that party to the Montrose Counseling Center's open house, which is this afternoon from 2:00 until 5:00. Theirs is at 900 Lovett. And the PWA Coalition is at 800 Rosine.

The Gay Lesbian Pride Week meeting is December 29 at 7 o'clock at Parkway Athletic Club also at 800 Rosine. They'll be discussing fundraising events among other things on that Thursday. And the Gay Lesbian Hispanic Unidos are sponsoring the [SPANISH] at 4315 North Main from 8:00 to 1:00 PM on New Year's Eve. Call 923-GLHU for tickets.

There's a meeting to organize and form the National Gay Broadcasting Service in Texas at the Arriba Cantina on Wednesday, December 21st, 1988 at 7 o'clock. For more information, call Mike Stubblefield at 783-7038 or Ray Hill at 523-6969.

On a personal note, I'd like to risk-- try that again-- wish Robin Vance a happy anniversary on Wednesday and to wish Marvin Dennis godspeed. As always, to get current information, you can call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, or if you just need someone to listen to, call.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ROB DITTO: If you've been listening to *Afterwards* the last few weeks on *After Hours*, you know that we're the up-and-coming news department of this show. And our staff is growing. With the addition of John Bourgeaux who's coming up later on today's broadcast.

But there's always room for more, so if you're interested in gathering local news, doing commentary, doing a segment on health and physical fitness, or if you do anything creative such as music, comedy, poetry, et cetera, be sure to let us know. You can call the *After Hours* hotline. And the number to call is 529-4636. If you want to work on *Afterwards*, the number to call is 529-4636.

Coming up next, Bruce with the *Homophobia Report*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BRUCE REEVES: Ah, homophobia, that wonderful double-edged sword used by people both in and out of the gay community to discriminate against us. Tonight, of course, we have our good raspberry award, which I'll give to State District Judge Jack Hampton. And I'll talk about that in a few minutes. But first, a couple of upbeat and positive notes. We'll need them.

Dear Abby, why all the fuss about women wearing men's clothing and vice versa? I am happily married to a big, burly, good-looking construction worker. We have slept together for years both wearing my nighties. Bill, not his real name, likes to wear my nylon panties under his work clothes. He says they feel soft next to his skin, and he likes that feeling.

Abby, there's only one problem. If I gained five more pounds, Bill will look better in my nighties than I do, Cozy in Pennsylvania. Dear Cozy, don't worry. If you gain five pounds, you can always wear Bill's pajamas.

Another good item of good news this week-- we reported several weeks ago about the wonderful US Congress passing an amendment to the city of Washington DC's budget, which declared that unless they did away with their gay rights clause that would not allow religious organizations to discriminate against gays, that there would not be any funding for 1989.

Well this week, a federal judge on Tuesday declared that unconstitutional. US district Judge Royce C. Lamberth held that the so-called Armstrong Amendment, named for its sponsor Senator William Armstrong, Republican from Colorado, violated the free speech rights of the DC council members.

The Amendment imposed on city council members compelled speech that violated their First Amendment rights under the Constitution. The case appears to be the first time Congress has attempted to balance gay rights and religious freedom. The Amendment, which would have forced the city to change its Human Rights Code, was tacked under the city's 1989 budget. Congress had threatened to freeze the city's \$3.2 billion budget on January 1 if the council failed to change the law.

Armstrong had argued that the local law, which includes gay rights under the Human Rights Code, forced religious schools such as Georgetown University to go against its Roman Catholic tenets. Thank God, there's decent judges somewhere in this country.

Now on to our wonderful state of Texas. This week state district judge Jack Hampton acknowledged Thursday that the homosexuality of two murder victims played a part in his decision to sentence their 18-year-old killer to 30 years in prison instead of the maximum life sentence.

"These two guys that got killed wouldn't have been killed if they hadn't been cruising the streets picking up teenage boys," Hampton said. "I don't much care for queers cruising the streets picking up teenage boys. I've got a teenage boy."

In an interview at his office in the Dallas County Courthouse, Hampton said he rejected the prosecutor's request to sentence Richard Lee Bednarski to life imprisonment for killing two gay men last May in Reverchon Park. In part because in his opinion Bednarski's victims were not entirely blameless. "The sentence would have been much stiffer," Hampton said, "had Bednarski killed a couple of housewives out shopping not hurting anybody."

Although Hampton's comment sparked outrage among gay leaders and officials with the State Commission on Judicial Conduct which polices the state judiciary, said Hampton's reasoning in the case probably falls within the bounds of reasonable judicial discretion. Where the hell are these people's brains? "I can't write off-- think of any part of the code that might violate," said Robert Flowers, the commission's executive director. It is his discretion. "But if a complaint were filed," Flowers said, "the commission would investigate the incident."

Since this article went to press, this correspondent has learned that the Texas Human Rights Foundation has indeed filed a complaint. But as nearly as we can tell, Flowers still can't find any reasons why it would have been wrong for Hampton to do what he did.

"The judge is saying that queers are not worthy of legal protections, and you can go out and shoot them any time. Unfortunately, Dallas County will reward him with re-election," said William Waybourn, president of the Dallas Gay Alliance. "God help any other victim that gets into his court that was also at the wrong place at the wrong time."

Bednarski, a freshman at Richland College at the time of his trial, was convicted by a jury on November 19th of murdering Tommy Lee Trimble, 34, and John Lloyd Griffin, 27. According to testimony, Bednarski and a group of nine friends drove to Oak Lawn on the night of May 15th to harass gay men, a pastime the boy said they pursued when they got bored.

The boys testifying that they had been standing on a street corner jeering at passersby when Bednarski persuaded another boy to join him in a plan to beat and rob Trimble and Griffin who had invited the boys into their car. The four drove to Reverchon Park and walked to a hilltop clearing. Testimony did not reveal clearly whether Trimble and Griffin were soliciting sex from Bednarski and his friend, but Hampton said, "I think it was understood by everybody that they went into the bushes for some oral sex."

Where does this judge get off telling us what the defendants were planning on doing? When they refused, according to testimony Bednarski drew a pistol and began shooting. Trimble died immediately of gunshot wounds to the face, neck, and back. Griffin, also shot three times, died five days later at Parkland Memorial Hospital. Afterwards, the boys testified Bednarski bragged about the killings explaining that he stuck the gun in Trimble's mouth before shooting him. Griffin fell to the ground, the boys said. Bednarski explained, so he stepped on the man's leg and shot him as he tried to crawl away.

Although Bednarski's guilt was decided by a jury, his attorney elected to have Hampton decide Bednarski's punishment because he felt that Hampton would produce a lower sentence. Well, I suppose he probably did. And what a waste. To think, we have to put up with such horrendous judgments for two more years before this man comes back up for re-election because you can't impeach a Texas judge.

You've been listening to the *Homophobia Report*, and I'm Bruce Reeves on *After Hours*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JOHN

BOURGEAUX:

In *Youth Beat* this week, there are two items that link together AIDS, entertainment, and youth. From the CDC NIH bulletin board, the Public Broadcasting Corporation is sponsoring an AIDS education video competition. They're looking for high school students to produce a 1 to 5-minute video on AIDS geared to a high school audience.

Competition will be held on the local and national level. For a copy of the rules and an entry form, contact the outreach office of KUHT channel 8, Houston's PBS station. Their number is 749-2304. Best of all, there is no entry fee.

From the Houston Chronicle. On the local level, members of Houston's B'nai B'rith youth organization are performing an original rock musical called AIDS Proof, A Life Saving Spoof. Written by two mothers, Carole Wilk and Barbara Mills, the play caps off a year of AIDS awareness programs for the Jewish teen group's national organization and 11 local chapters.

The teens in the play say that it talks about AIDS and youth's behavior frankly using their language and without preaching morals. The play was endorsed without any censorship by B'nai B'rith's national organization. It depicts the typical teen gathering suddenly invaded by a mysterious stranger bearing the word AIDS in large letters across his chest. The teens talk and sing about how to avoid the disease. As the menace, AIDS leaves the stage, he states, "You slip up just once and I'll be there."

And in local youth organization news. Tonight at 6:00 PM, members of the Gay Lesbian Students Association will be Christmas caroling. They'll be visiting McAdory House, the Montrose Care Center, which is a geriatrics facility, and singing throughout the Montrose area. Beginning at the end of January, look to this space for regular news of events affecting lesbian and gay youth in the city, the state, and around the world. This has been *Youth Beat* with John Bourdeaux.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ROB DITTO:

And I'd like to once again extend an official *Afterwards* welcome to John Bourdeaux, who is doing *Youth Beat* on *Afterwards*.

We have another new segment. This is the first installment of *Afterthought*, which is our commentary series. It's going to be appearing irregularly on *Afterwards*. And I'm going to inaugurate it with a commentary on *Midnight Caller*.

The very mention of the show's name can set blood boiling. I have friends in San Francisco who say that Lorimar Productions has on its agenda the promotion of ill will towards lesbian and gay people. Now certainly the rumors going around about a *Midnight Caller* episode dealing with lesbian child molesters, rumors which Lorimar themselves have denied, show some potential for misguidedness on the part of the production company if they are true. After all, it's not women and certainly not lesbians who are responsible for the vast majority of sexual abuse of children in this country.

But what I want to talk about tonight is the show that started all this controversy. The *Midnight Caller* episode on the promiscuous AIDS sufferer which we've been talking about today on *After Hours*. I've watched it twice through very carefully thanks to the magic of video time shifting. And this is what I think. It could have been a lot worse. And secondly, it wasn't the giant step back for the portrayal of AIDS on television that many feared and some still believe.

Now you can take the point of view, and many do, that any portrayal of a person with AIDS is irresponsible or evil in any way is completely wrong and destructive. Maybe it is. But let's examine the show on its own merits, analyze what it did right and what it did wrong. And we'll start with what it did wrong.

The single worst error that the scriptwriter, Stephen Zito who's also the show's co-producer made was to ignore that it is possible to have safer sex. Now perhaps this was dramatically inconvenient. It certainly would have been OK to talk about safe sex but instead we had Tina who was the pregnant HIV-infected character and the lover of Jack Killian, the main character. Tina was saying things like no one sleeps with a stranger anymore.

And Jack Killian implying that Michael, the presumed HIV carrier, is doing damage to others simply by having sex is another thing that we had. There's a middle ground between total abstinence and unprotected sex. And for all the show's talk about responsibility in the AIDS crisis, safer sex didn't come up once.

Another big problem was that death was presented as a foregone conclusion for somebody infected by the HIV virus, and that simply isn't true. But it is what most of the general public perceives. We don't hear much in the media about people like musician Michael Callen who survive year after year with AIDS. The character Tina says, "I feel like someone's canceled the rest of my life." What someone in the script should have said is not necessarily. It's not that hopeless.

And the last big mistake, apart from things like technical errors about the ability of health officials to deal with HIV carriers and the like, was having the hero Jack rough up Mike a little when they first meet. Now if the scriptwriter were here, I'm sure he would say he was trying to get into the character, into the mind of Jack Killian. He becomes hysterical. And later, after the attempt on Mike's life by someone who he presumably infected, Jack realizes what's going on and puts a stop to his own hysteria.

But there's a problem with showing him approaching Mike violently in that first confrontation. It's that virulent homophobes or AIDS-phobes of the sort who refuse to understand that AIDS is not a gay disease, and that gays and AIDS aren't interchangeable. Those kind of people could read into the situation shown at *Midnight Caller* that it was OK for Jack to rough up Michael or even worse, that it's OK to beat up someone who has AIDS or someone who is gay. That's a big problem. And that may be enough for many of the viewers to condemn the show is completely unacceptable.

But I want to talk about some of the good stuff that was in the show. First and foremost of which is this. This episode of *Midnight Caller* did not portray gay men in an unsympathetic light. Quite the contrary. The character of Ross, the ex-lover of Michael who was genuinely dying of AIDS, was portrayed very sensitively. And Jack showed compassion, reminding him that he didn't deserve AIDS and that nobody does. And that's absolutely right.

Another of these interesting and finely drawn characters was somebody that we mentioned before in the show, the bartender in the leather bar who talked about how the gay community takes care of its own. How often do we see someone like that in a movie or on TV? Obviously, Hollywood's come a long way from the likes of movies like *Cruising*.

Another wonderful thing, and what I'd like to call a step forward, is that not once during the show was any of the characters squeamish about being around a person with AIDS or around a gay person. Jack gives a lot of physical support, hugs and kisses to Tina and touches the bisexual Mike-- well he roughed him up, but I mean, there are other scenes where they're real close together.

And what we saw in this *Midnight Caller* was a far cry from TV movies like *An Early Frost* where you have some character played by some actor like Hal Holbrook or Martin Sheen, and he's afraid to touch his gay son or his son who's an AIDS patient. Well we didn't have this here. And I thought that was really good.

The show worked dramatically very well. And the reason why it was good drama is because most of the issues weren't painted in black and white. Instead, they were gray, I guess you could say. And the issues were left up to the viewer. I think the best example of this is what Mike, the bisexual HIV carrier says to Jack at their first confrontation.

MIKE BARNES: See, I believe that as long as hope remains, we're safe from death. It's when we give in to despair, when we allow the disease to beat us that we finally die. I don't want to die yet. Surely, some part of you can understand that.

ROB DITTO: That's absolutely right. And I've heard essentially those same words from long term AIDS survivors like Michael Callen. And the fact that you had the villain of the piece saying those words is one of the neat ironies that made this show work so well as drama.

Another irony in the show concerns the issue of AIDS hysteria. Many have criticized the show for promoting AIDS hysteria. Well what I saw in the TV last Tuesday was the main character first succumbing to and then defeating his own hysteria. At one point the person who's the owner of the radio station in which this guy has a talk show tells Jack that he's creating public hysteria, and she's right. But Jack doesn't realize this until the climax of the script, the ending where Jack saves Mike from being shot.

And this was the scene that was originally rewritten. Originally, Mike was going to be shot by the gun of one of his former sex partners. But in the ending that was actually broadcast, Jack saves Mike's life by stopping the shooting. Here's what happened.

MIKE BARNES: You saved my life. Why did you do that?

JACK KILLIAN: Why did I do that? Because your life is worth something. Her life is worth something. Mike. Mike. You need help.

ROB DITTO: I think that the clear end of the hysteria, even though that was the rewritten scene, comes in this scene. And you have Jack saying that people's lives are worth something. That's a big difference from the bigots in our society who say that gay people's lives and AIDS victims' lives are worthless.

Now in the next scene, Jack admits his hysteria over the airwaves.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JACK KILLIAN: AIDS is a litmus test for all of us. A measure of our compassion at a time when too much pain has gone around. We must never lose sight of the fact that what we have to fear most is ourselves. We can't allow ourselves to give in to unreasoning fear or hatred or our desire to strikeout blindly against things that we don't understand or cannot accept.

We can't let hysteria overrule common sense. Or the desire for revenge to deny our humanity because that is the worst denial of all.

ROB DITTO: Now that doesn't sound to me like promoting AIDS hysteria or capitalizing on the grief of tens of thousands. I don't think this is sensationalism. What I think it is is good drama and for the most part, responsible television. The message came through that the response to AIDS shouldn't be hysteria. It should be thoughtfulness and responsibility.

Now to a certain extent NBC and Lorimar dropped the ball on responsibility by not introducing the idea of safe sex into the script. But the show as broadcast did address responsibility, and it did address hysteria. And it had a balanced portrayal of gay people and people with AIDS.

Mike may have been portrayed as a libertine, but he wasn't entirely unsympathetic. That speech of his that we broadcast earlier showed how he wasn't unsympathetic.

Well if you saw the show and thought about it, you can draw your own conclusion. But I offer this for your consideration. *Midnight Caller* last Tuesday did make some mistakes, but it was far from the AIDS phobic and homophobic bloodbath that we feared. Thanks to the episode being well written and especially thanks to the new ending.

I'm Rob Ditto with this week's *Afterthought*. And you're listening to *After Hours*.

HOST 1: I'm not usually doing this. Don't give me those looks.

ROB DITTO: That's right. Our regular broadcast engineer is Mike Ford, but he's ill today. So the inimitable Buddy filled in. And our correspondents this week were Rob Hess, Bruce Reeves, Kay, and our newest voice, John Bourdeaux. And you're listening to-- oh, shoot. And who did I forget? I said Kay. I'm forgetting somebody. And I can't think of who it is. Who am I forgetting? Tell me.

SPEAKER 3: Harper.

SPEAKER 4: She has a last name.

SPEAKER 3: Kay Harper.

ROB DITTO: Kay Harper. OK.

HOST 1: She's never used her last name.

ROB DITTO: Yeah, we've never used your last name. That's why.

HOST 1: I thought we weren't going to do that because of the other thing. Oh, well, live radio.

ROB DITTO: The mysterious other thing. That's right. Well you're listening to homosexual criminal radio *After Hours* on 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston.

HOST 1: Oh, yes. Jan Barlow from the Christmas album, *Dyke The Halls*. And we're going to be playing a lot more of that next Sunday for you because next Sunday is going to be Christmas Day. Christmas Day at KPFT, that should be interesting. So--

SPEAKER 2: Yes.

HOST 1: Sound like a Baptist preacher-- yes-- throwing that in there. It's going to be fun. Christmas Day, we've got a lot of surprises, of course, packed away for you. So you never know what you're going to hear on Pacifica.

SPEAKER 2: I know that's right.

HOST 1: And god, I crammed so much information in this morning. I don't even know where to start. We've got about 13 minutes left.

SPEAKER 2: Yup.

HOST 1: And Bart Lozier is still here.

BART LOZIER: Uh-huh.

HOST 1: Right?

BART LOZIER: Yeah, I'm here.

HOST 1: With the AIDS Foundation.

SPEAKER 2: He still has his clothes on.

HOST 1: Oh, he's not doing that safe sex business right now.

SPEAKER 2: Oh.

HOST 1: We were going to put a condom on the mic, but I decided not to.

SPEAKER 2: Thank God.

HOST 1: You know, seriously, there was a programmer here that didn't like to talk after I did on the mic because he was afraid he would get AIDS.

SPEAKER 2: What?

HOST 1: Yes. Right here at the 'ole Pacifica.

SPEAKER 2: Is he gone now?

HOST 1: Yeah.

SPEAKER 2: Thank God.

BART LOZIER: Well, that kind of ignorance is everywhere, so you just got to be ready to fight it with education.

HOST 1: Oh, Lord. So--

ROBERT HESS: Maybe because we're gay and we know a lot more, I guess, than the general public, it just amazes me that people don't know.

HOST 1: That mic was live too, baby. Is everybody ready for Christmas?

ROBERT HESS: Yeah.

SPEAKER 2: No.

KAY HARPER: What am I going to get Jimmy for Christmas, people?

HOST 1: What are you going to get Jimmy for Christmas?

SPEAKER 2: A gift certificate for me for the night-- hire me for the night.

KAY HARPER: Well, that's an idea.

ROBERT HESS: I thought that's what you were giving me.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, well, I can give that to you too.

HOST 1: Have you all got your decorations up?

SPEAKER 2: I sure do. Yeah.

HOST 1: Bart, have you got your decorations up?

BART LOZIER: No, actually. I planned on working on it this weekend.

HOST 1: Well, I went on a job interview-- when? Tuesday, Judy, right? And that's what I want Santa Claus to bring me for Christmas. Well, I'll let you know how that goes.

BART LOZIER: Mm-hmm.

HOST 1: So, 12 minutes till 4:00. If you have questions for us or for Bart, the AIDS Foundation-- we've thrown so much information at you. It's kind of scary to think what you might want to ask right now, but the number is 526-4000. And we will take those calls. Yes, sir.

ROB DITTO: And also if you have any comments about *Midnight Caller* if you watched it, be sure to give us a call. Maybe you'd like to talk about it with us.

HOST 1: Yeah, and get a pencil and paper ready because I'm going to give you some phone numbers and some addresses here in a minute. And I also want to say congratulations to Donald and Bryan. They called in earlier, and they're going to get these safe sex kits in the mail, which courtesy of the--

SPEAKER 4: The phone number of everybody in the *After Hours* staff.

ROBERT DITTO: Oh, good.

HOST 1: What?

SPEAKER 4: Comes with the home phone--

SPEAKER 3: What are they going to do with mine and Judy's?

SPEAKER 4: --number of everybody on the *After Hours* staff.

HOST 1: No, that's the dangerous sex kit that we're not going to mail out.

BART LOZIER: I just want to tell everyone that safe sex kits are available at AIDS Foundation.

HOST 1: That's right. And I will-- what are we going to do kids? Huh?

SPEAKER 4: John has a version of a "12 Days of Christmas" he'd like to sing for you a cappella.

HOST 1: Do you really, John?

SPEAKER 4: Next week, John.

JOHN Maybe. We'll see. It's called the "12 Gays of Christmas."

BOURGEAUX:

HOST 1: Is it really?

JOHN Yeah. We'll talk about it later.

BOURGEAUX:

HOST 1: OK.

SPEAKER 4: Special surprise for next week.

HOST 1: Is it? Who all is going to be here next week?

JOHN I'll be here.

BOURGEAUX:

HOST 1: Oh yeah? Are you?

JOHN Yeah.

BOURGEAUX:

HOST 1: Are you? Are you?

SPEAKER 3: I'll be back in Syracuse.

JOHN I'll be in Mississippi.

BOURGEAUX:

HOST 1: Syracuse and Mississippi. I'll be here.

JOHN I'd rather be here.

BOURGEAUX:

SPEAKER 2: I want to see Santa come down the old chimney.

HOST 1: I just want to see Santa come--

JOHN [LAUGHS]

BOURGEAUX:

HOST 1: --to my house this year. We planned that Jerry Falwell was coming to town earlier because it was a request. We also had a request from someone to play John Bourdeaux's speech from the Harvey Milk rally.

SPEAKER 2: All right. That's a good one.

HOST 1: And we'll be playing that of course. As the weeks and the month continue to roll on. 1988 has been a very wonderful year for *After Hours* and *Pacifica*. By the way, the marathon is getting ready to kick in, January marathon in about three weeks, I think. And also, the program guide is going out on Monday. That's tomorrow. Oh.

Tomorrow at 10 o'clock. If you want to be a part of the big mail out, you can come down here at KPFT. And they have-- I heard someone say yesterday they would have bagels and donuts and coffee and good conversation, whatever that means.

Also I'm going to be here at the PWA Christmas party this afternoon, today at the coalition offices 800 Rosine. It's a block West of--

ROB DITTO: Waugh.

Waugh.

HOST 1: Waugh at Allbritton's and West-- right, Waugh and Old West Dallas, right?

BART LOZIER: Mm-hmm. That's right.

HOST 1: Just a block West of Allbritton's off of Waugh Drive. Coalition office is in the-- what's the name of that place?

BART LOZIER: Parkway.

HOST 1: Parkway Athletic Club, right. That's Mark Schmidt's old business. And they're going to have food, food, food, food. And I think Bruce Cook told us Santa Claus would be there. So you can come sit on his lap.

SPEAKER 2: Say what?

HOST 1: You can go sit on Santa's lap.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, that sounds like fun.

HOST 1: And coming up-- oh God, what's coming up? Coming up, we've got a timeline, I believe. That's what we did last year on New Year's. It's a look back at about 20 years of lesbian and gay history. It's a wonderful program. We'll probably be running that on the 1st. And who knows what's going to happen after that? Stay tuned for *Paradise Lost* with Bob Huffman-- Hoffman?

SPEAKER 2: Hoffman.

HOST 1: Hoffman, coming up at 4:00 sitting in for Dr. D.*Paradise Lost* will be wonderful. What'd you say?

ROB DITTO: Can we tell people on the 8th about music?

HOST 1: Tell people about the music on the 8th?

ROB DITTO: Yeah. What are we going to do?

HOST 1: No.

ROB DITTO: No?

HOST 1: Yeah, why not?

SPEAKER 2: Oh, come on, tell us.

HOST 1: Well Rob asked to do a music thing on the 15th or the 18th because it was his birthday, right?

ROB DITTO: On the 15th, yeah.

HOST 1: How old will you be, 19?

ROB DITTO: No, 24.

SPEAKER 2: 24?

HOST 1: Because it's marathon, we're going to move that up to the 8th. And I can't remember who else is going to be here in January.

KAY HARPER: Sometimes I feel old.

HOST 1: I know that we've invited the-- well Bart's coming back, right?

BART LOZIER: Oh, yeah. I'll be here.

HOST 1: Of the AIDS Foundation. We're going to be talking about safe sex, one of my favorite subjects. If you're a nice-looking man with a lot of hair on your chest, call me and I'll-- No, never mind. That's what Santa is bringing me. If we crank this up, we might be able to hear what they're whispering about too. Also--

ROB DITTO: It's not worth it.

HOST 1: It's not?

ROB DITTO: No. It's not.

HOST 1: We have some of these*After Hours* condoms that were left over from the parade.

SPEAKER 2: You know, they're really pretty.

HOST 1: They really are. They're collector's items.

ROB DITTO: You can tape them together and string them on your Christmas tree.

SPEAKER 2: Wouldn't that look great on your tree?

HOST 1: I don't have a tree.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

ROB DITTO: We should use these.

HOST 1: Someone told me they were very good. I don't know.

ROB DITTO: They look like Hanukkah gelt, actually. I keep waiting to open one up and find chocolate.

HOST 1: When we threw them at the parade last year people thought they were chocolate.

ROB DITTO: I would have milked it.

HOST 1: Also, an update on our idea that we had last week. We were talking about getting a site to show videos and read poetry, and have speakers come and talk to us. Something that *After Hours* wants to do for you and we were going to do it at the library, but the Montrose library closes on weeknights early except for Tuesdays and Thursdays.

ROB DITTO: Mondays.

HOST 1: Mondays and Thursdays. And they would not allow us to have the building on a regular basis because of the short hours. And I can understand that. I mean, if there are a million people in the city wanting to use it and they give it to one group every Friday night or every Thursday night, that means that nobody else can use it.

So we're looking right now for another location in the Montrose area. And we ask you to get your pen and pencil ready because we're going to give you some phone numbers here in just a second. What else?

ROB DITTO: You can use my house. I have a room for about six people.

HOST 1: For a safe sex workshop? Or what are you talking about?

ROB DITTO: That too.

HOST 1: Well I won't-- I shouldn't say that. I'm not going to say that.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, go ahead.

ROB DITTO: I don't know what's stopping you.

HOST 1: No. I don't either. I'm tired. I'm really tired tonight. I don't know why.

SPEAKER 2: You look it.

HOST 1: I'd look worse than this, believe me. So what, it's-- we've got to kill five minutes. No one called to get on the air, huh? Does anyone want these condoms 526-4000?

SPEAKER 2: Not even Rainbow?

HOST 1: Not even Rainbow. The clown must be out somewhere doing somebody.

KAY HARPER: It's a cold night.

HOST 1: It's a cold night.

ROB DITTO: I know that's right.

HOST 1: Well, what about 1989? What's that going to bring us?

ROB DITTO: Another year of homophobia.

SPEAKER 2: Good things.

HOST 1: Another year of Bush. Head for the mountains, it's Bush.

SPEAKER 2: But now we just have to fight harder. That's all.

HOST 1: OK. Now that you've had time to get your pen and paper-- are those people whining on the air? Now that you've had time to get your pen and paper, write or call us to get involved with this insanity. The telephone number at the *After Hours* hotline is 526-- oops. Thank you.

The number is 529-- see, I almost did what Channel 2 did, give out the wrong number. The phone number is 529-4636. And that's the number for the *After Hours* hotline. Or you can call us here at the station while we're here. And it's almost time to go home. But before we do that, I have to say, hello?

SPEAKER 5: Hello, I'll take them. I'll take them.

HOST 1: Who's this?

SPEAKER 5: It's Rainbow.

HOST 1: Is this Rainbow The Clown?

SPEAKER 5: Yeah, I heard you guys saying, not even Rainbow wants them? I'll take them.

ROB DITTO: That's right.

HOST 1: Listen, Rainbow.

SPEAKER 5: What's happening?

HOST 1: What's Santa Claus going to bring you?

SPEAKER 5: Hey, I was going to come by tonight. But your program was really serious. I was in a red and white outfit.

HOST 1: Well, you should've came by anyway.

SPEAKER 5: Well, your program was so serious, so I didn't want to break up--

HOST 1: Come by and see us.

SPEAKER 5: --that part of it.

HOST 1: Come by and see us next week.

SPEAKER 5: Oh, yes.

ROB DITTO: Yeah.

SPEAKER 5: I'm not busy that-- well, I'm going to be really busy that night with my beard and--

ROB DITTO: You're doing Santa Claus this week?

SPEAKER 5: --my red and white outfit. Yeah, I'd take those condoms.

HOST 1: Oh, honey, I'll give you more than a condom.

SPEAKER 5: [LAUGHS]

HOST 1: Bye, Rainbow.

SPEAKER 5: [INAUDIBLE]. Let's see. Did you know that children are in shock? Santa's been Xeroxed, and there's one on every block.

HOST 1: What? What'd you say?

SPEAKER 5: The children are-- the children are in shock. Santa's been Xeroxed. And there's one on every block.

HOST 1: Oh, Santa has been Xeroxed. And there's one on every-- say goodbye, Rainbow.

SPEAKER 5: Goodbye, Rainbow.

HOST 1: Yeah.

ROBERT HESS: I'd like to just remind everybody real quick to please write the State Commission on Judicial Conduct concerning Judge Jack Hampton's whatever you want to call it.

ROB DITTO: Stupidity?

HOST 1: Stupidity. Can we say that?

ROBERT HESS: And that's Robert Flowers at Post Office Box 12265 Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

HOST 1: Right. Thanks, Bart.

BART LOZIER: Thank you a lot.

HOST 1: And thanks to everybody for contributing in that, especially Bill Travis in Dallas, and the folks in Mobile at the Mobile register from the homophobic folks out there that hate us. We'll see you next Sunday on Christmas Day. Stay tuned for *Paradise Lost* coming up next.

REPORTER: Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

HARVEY MILK: Come on out. [LAUGHS] Join us. Bring your friends.

REPORTER: What do you think about the turnout so far?

HARVEY MILK: Well, it's never enough. Never enough. Never enough. And I asked people all over this country to do one thing. Come out. Come out, America. Come out.

[CHEERING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NARRATOR: 'Twas the month before Christmas. And through KPFT's old house, all the staff are stirring and whirling about. With Winterthon plans already in motion, the Christmas party is the next notion. So these are the wishes from KPFT for small gifts to be placed under the tree.

Mary Helen wants small binder clips, computer paper, make it tractor feed. Postage meter labels and floppy disk, 2S and 2D. Scotch tape, Q-tips, rubbing alcohol, 91 proof. Single-edge razor blades and more pairs of good headphones gives programming a new angle. A typing table with a part-time typist, says Daryl with a twinkle. Karen's wishes are basic and simple-- pens, a sponge mop, liquid paper, and a--