

**NARRATOR:** Following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

**MARTIN** Well I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me  
**LUTHER KING** now because I've been to the mountaintop.

**JR:**

[CHEERING]

**MARTIN** I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about  
**LUTHER KING** that now. I just want to do God's will and He's allowed me to go up to the mountain.

**JR.:**

And I've looked over and I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

I have a dream this afternoon.

**HARRY BRITT:** I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me had not something in my life in this state prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us.

I am here tonight because it is time that all of us who love this state that gave us life and has nurtured us and taught us our values, to stand up and claim the history of the state for freedom and justice and human respect away from the forces of narrow mindedness and bigotry that too often dominate the politics of the state of Texas.

**MARTIN** I have a dream today.

**LUTHER KING**

**JR:**

**SLOGANEER:** What do we want?

**CROWD:** Gay rights.

**SLOGANEER:** When do we want it?

**CROWD:** Now.

**SLOGANEER:** What do we want?

**CROWD:** Gay rights.

**SLOGANEER:** When do we want it?



**SLOGANEER:** What do we want?

**ROBIN TYLER:** They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something, we are not talking about crotch politics. This is not a movement from the waist-down. We are talking about our right to love and to choose and to live. And I don't care about straight politics and I don't care about straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding-- we are demanding our civil rights.

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

**HARVEY MILK:** Come on out.

[LAUGHTER]

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. We must destroy the myths once and for all, shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

[CHEERING]

As difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family, you must tell your relatives, you must tell your friends, if indeed they are your friends. You must tell your neighbors, you must tell the people you work with, you must tell the people in the stores you shop in. You--

[CHEERING]

Once they realize that we are indeed their children and we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all. And once you do, you will feel so much better.

[CHEERING]

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

**JIMMY CARPER:** Those are the words.

**BUDDY** Isn't that marvelous? Well we had Dr. King again this morning.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** He fits right in, you know?

**BUDDY** Well, see, he was killed 21 years ago last Tuesday. So I've always enjoyed listening to everything he ever said. So

**JOHNSTON:** we just kind of want to drop that in there.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Because the message is the same.

**BUDDY** That's right. We're all looking for freedom and--

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** None of us are free until we're all free.

**BUDDY** That's right. And this morning, we're going to talk about freedom and how you can get free. We have a letter that  
**JOHNSTON:** we're going to read to you from a young man that just cannot-- he tells me that we cannot understand, even begin to understand, what it's like being gay in today's world.

**JIMMY CARPER:** What do you mean?

**BUDDY** I'll read you the letter in a minute. But anyway, the art festival is going on.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, it is.

**BUDDY** Today's the gumbo cook-off.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Cajun gumbo cook-off.

**BUDDY** Give me a bowl of that gumbo.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I know that's right.

**BUDDY** And we're also going to be talking about Pride Week and all those folks. It seems like they're a little upset

**JOHNSTON:** because we've been-- what's the word? What's the word that--

**JIMMY CARPER:** What have we been doing to them?

**BUDDY** Oh I don't know, making light of what they're not doing.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh. Oh.

**BUDDY** And they don't like it. They seem to think we're biased. But I think they should turn the televisions on and watch

**JOHNSTON:** the Saturday Night Live crew go after the president or the Congress sometime. This is called America.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right.

**BUDDY** And this is called free speech. And right now you're listening to *After Hours* on what we call Pacifica Radio, KPFT

**JOHNSTON:** Houston, 90.1 FM. My name's Buddy. I used to say Buddy Johnston when I worked for the police department, but nobody really-- well the cops all know me. You know what?

**JIMMY CARPER:** What?

**BUDDY** I was at the stop and go last night-- two nights ago. I'd been to the bookstore down at Walden's to check out a

**JOHNSTON:** book--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hmm, yes.

**BUDDY** And when had stopped on my way home for some refreshments, after I'd been refreshed I stopped in there and  
**JOHNSTON:** one of the Houston's finest was standing out in front of the store with his friend, another cop.

And I didn't say anything. I didn't say hello, how are you, whatever. I went into the store, got my soda and started out. And he said, what are you going to talk about on the radio in the morning.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You're kidding.

**BUDDY** I said, the police.

**JOHNSTON:**

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** They know you.

**BUDDY** Anyway, I don't know what they know. But this is a year of anniversaries. KPFT and Pacifica Radio are going to  
**JOHNSTON:** celebrate their 40th anniversary of broadcasting free speech to you. And this year, the gay and lesbian community celebrate the 20th anniversary of what we call Stonewall.

And to my young little friend that wrote that letter, stay tuned because we're going to tell you all about what it's all about. The number here is 526-4000. We need you to get a pencil and a piece of paper out, because you've got a lot of writing to do.

There will be a quiz at the end of the show. What do we need to do now? Play this song? We've been playing it like every show from now on.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's a great song.

**BUDDY** OK we'll do this and we'll wait for that first phone call. We'll read this letter when we get back.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**BUDDY** 526-4000. That's the number to call. It's 10 minutes after two and you're tuned to *After Hours* on KPFT Houston,  
**JOHNSTON:** 90.1 FM--

[MUSIC - YAZZ, "STAND UP FOR YOUR LOVE RIGHTS"]

**YAZZ:** (SINGING) Stand up for your love--

--where we're telling the gay and lesbian community that it's time we stood up for our love rights.

**YAZZ:** (SINGING) Stand up for your love rights.

Supervisor Harry Britt from the city of San Francisco on the steps of Houston's City Hall.

**HARRY BRITT:** I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me had not something in my life and this state prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us.

I am here tonight because it is time that all of us who love this state that gave us life and has nurtured us and taught us our values, to stand up and claim the history of this state for freedom and justice and human respect, away from the forces of narrow mindedness and bigotry that too often dominate the politics of the state of Texas.

[CHEERING]

**PROTESTER:** Say it so they can hear you in the Capitol. For love and for life, we're not going back.

**YAZZ:** (SINGING) Now don't be afraid, don't let things stand in the way. Now you've reached a time in your life when you just can't take no more. Are you ready to leave, cause you can no longer breathe? You can't hide or disguise what it is that you want to change. Don't hold back, make up your mind. Don't hold back. Stand up for you love rights.

**ROBIN TYLER:** --got to understand something. They've got to understand something, we are not talking about crotch politics. This is not a movement from the waist-down. We are talking about our right to love and to choose and to live. And I don't care about straight politics and I don't care about straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding-- we are demanding our civil rights.

**YAZZ:** (SINGING) It's your right, don't be frightened to fight. Take your time to choose. Yeah, and when you ready to leave, make up your mind and believe. Don't you run from the truth, it's no use, 'cause it's all you'll need. Don't hold back, make up your mind. Don't hold back, stand up for your love rights. And don't you feel ashamed, stand up for your love rights. Hey, hey. And do it, do it, do it, do it. Stand up for your love rights. And don't you feel ashamed. Stand up for your love rights. And do it, do it.

**PROTESTER:** Say it so they can hear you in the Capitol. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back.

We must destroy the myths once and for all, shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

[CHEERING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(CROWD CHANTING) What do we want? Gay rights! When do we want it? Now! What do we want? Gay rights! When do we want it? Now!

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

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

[MUSIC -YAZZ, "STAND UP FOR YOUR LOVE RIGHTS"]

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

**HARVEY:** Come on out, join us.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(CROWD CHANTING) What do we want? Gay rights! When do we want it? Now! What do we want? Gay rights!  
When do we want it? Now!

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

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(CROWD CHANTING) When do we want it? Now! What do we want? Gay rights!

**JIMMY CARPER:** There we go.

**BUDDY** I think they get the message.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**BUDDY** Oh lord, I want to go home.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** What do you mean? We just got here.

**BUDDY** OK, never mind. We'll stay.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Listen, I'm interested in this letter.

**BUDDY** Are you really?

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, because parts of it really make me mad.

**BUDDY** Whoa, wait, wait, hang on a minute. OK. Let's see, where are we?

**JOHNSTON:**

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Look at this. I don't know, who is that? Let's see, K.P. of Tea.

**CALLER:** Yes, I have some questions.

**BUDDY** Uh-huh?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** What organizations can I join to protect my civil rights as being a gay?

**BUDDY** What organizations can you join?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Well, any information.

**BUDDY** To protect your civil rights? We don't have any civil rights, baby.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Why not?

**BUDDY** And here's what you-- here's-- well, because the country's being run by a bunch of people that don't think we deserve any. But here's what you do. You get involved, you register to vote, that's the most powerful thing you can do. And then on election day when you go to the polls you vote for politicians that support the way we believe, the things that we believe in.

**JOHNSTON:**

You vote for people that are going to vote for human rights and human respect and life, and not people that don't give us funding for AIDS. And you don't vote for people that want to get up and say that all gay people are bad people. You listen to what the politicians are saying and you vote them and you get rid of them. There are 20 to 40 million gay and lesbian people in this country, and if we can just get them all to register and vote we could change the way things are happening to us.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And don't forget Glen Maxey's group in Austin.

**BUDDY** Yes, so there's a lot of things you can do. You can call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard at 529-3211 and they can give you information on all kinds of groups. All right?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** OK.

**BUDDY** Thanks for calling. KPFT, you're on the air. Hello?

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIDGET:** Hello?

**BUDDY** Yeah.

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIDGET:** Yeah, Buddy?

**BUDDY** Yeah.

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIDGET:** This is Bridget.

**BUDDY** Hi, Bridget, how are you, darling?

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIDGET:** I'm fine, darling. How are you?

**BUDDY** Bridget's one of the many wonderful volunteers that help out here at KPFT. What can we do for you?

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIDGET:** I just want, since I've already read the letter--

**BUDDY** Yeah.

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIDGET:** I just want you to say to the young man that if he should need anything, there is the Youth Concern for Lesbian and Gay Issues, and if he should need any information that he can contact me at the station in the afternoon.

**BUDDY** That's sweet of you.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's great.

**BRIDGET:** And he doesn't have to [INAUDIBLE] self at all.

**BUDDY** OK, listen, thanks for calling. There's also the HATCH group, right?

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIDGET:** Right.

**BUDDY** And there are a lot of things that he can do, so he can call you-- what days are you here at the station?

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIDGET:** Monday through Friday.

**BUDDY** Oh, that's right, from like, 1:00 until?

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIDGET:** Until 5:00.

**BUDDY** OK, thanks, baby.

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIDGET:** Bye bye.

**BUDDY** Thanks for listening. That's Bridget. She's one of the volunteers that answers the phones and whatever here at

**JOHNSTON:** the station.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, I didn't know that.

**BUDDY** Yeah, she's real sweet.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**BUDDY** Anyway, we got a letter for you and it's coming up right now.

**JOHNSTON:**

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**BUDDY** It's After Hours on KPFT, 19 minutes after 2:00 in the morning. Oh god, I need to be at home in bed with a man.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ooh.

**BUDDY** Yeah, if there are any men out there that would like to be at home in bed with me, the number is-- no, we can't

**JOHNSTON:** do that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, no, no.

**BUDDY** This is a letter that we got this week. It says, "Dear Buddy and the rest of the After Hours staff, thanks for the

**JOHNSTON:** excellent programming and the work that you do. The program has been a source of strength and encouragement in a confused and insane world that is filled with people that have homophobia.

I am 17, but I have not come out of the closet yet. There are a lot of reasons I could give, but my situation is no different from the other gay people out there." I am sorry, "The other young gay people out there. I may have to listen to your program with my radio under my pillow, but this won't last for long.

There will come a time when there is the opportunity for me to tell my family and my friends, but it is not now. I hear all of the speeches urging us to come out of our closets, but the people that are doing the urging are not in the situation and the environment that we are in. We have to face a hostile world today. Not only at home, but also at school.

We have to put up with having to sit at a prom without a date because we cannot be with the person that we wanted to be with, knowing that he is setting two tables over. It is hard to constantly brush up against him in the halls or in the classrooms, wanting to tell him how we feel, wanting him to feel the same way, but knowing if we ever did, we would have to take the risk of losing his friendship forever. It is hard going out with him, even if it's going to a party with a bunch of other guys. It's even harder sitting behind him in class, wanting to run your hands through his hair.

And yet, we are constantly facing pressure, pressure from our families to go out with a quote, 'nice girl.' It's hard facing the pressure from your schoolmates, trying to be with the in-crowd or maybe just trying to fit in. And then we have to face the pressure from the gay community, the constant urging for us to come out.

Don't get me wrong, I can understand why you're constantly advocating coming out. But the pressure is difficult to live with. It's a whole lot easier for people to come out when in the evening or on the weekends they can run to the nearest gay bar and be with other gay people, but not all of us can do that. Not all of us have a way to get there, and some of us are just too damn scared to go.

We're afraid of being rejected, not only by our families and friends and schoolmates, but from the gay community as well. Some of us have a lot that we would have to give up if we came out of the closet. I would lose the respect of a lot of friends, and respect is the key to being a successful leader.

Some of us would have to give up more than that. Some of us would have to give up a secure home life and families and friends, and many of the things that we feel secure in. Please understand that I'm not against you, I'm only trying to let you know what it's like being a gay teenager in today's society. It's so hard, so confusing, and so scary.

We need someone to lean on, and someone to talk to. We need someone that is willing to support us and is willing to work with us, and help us deal with the fears and the doubts that we have. That's what we need. But we gay teens need it now more than ever." And it's signed, "the concerned gay teenager." Well, Mr. Gay Teenager, it's all right. That's all I can tell you.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Thank you for this song. It calmed me down.

**BUDDY** Don't you like that song?

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**BUDDY** Those are the Traveling Wilburys and "End of the Line." That's the group that Roy Orbison was in, Tom Petty, and

**JOHNSTON:** who else? George Harrison.

**JIMMY CARPER:** George Harrison.

**BUDDY** Oh, there's a ton of them.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** You can tell his voice in there.

**BUDDY** It's a beautiful little song, and it keeps saying that it's all right. We're going to make it to the end of the line. And

**JOHNSTON:** that's what it's all about, that's what we're talking about this morning, making it to the end of the line. Now then, to this young man, get your pencil and your paper out because we got some educating to do.

I can thoroughly agree with about 99% of what you wrote in your letter. The only thing I can't agree with is, where is it, it says na, na, na, na, na, where is it, Jimmy? Talking about how hard it is being a teenager in today's society.

**JIMMY CARPER:** When has it ever been easy?

**BUDDY** Wait a minute, here it is. "Please understand that I'm not against you. I'm only trying to let you know what it's like

**JOHNSTON:** being a teenager, a gay teen in today's society. It's so hard, so confusing, so scary. We need someone to lean on and someone to talk to. We need someone that's willing to support us and is willing to work with us and help us deal with the fears and the doubts that we have."

Baby, look out the window. Turn the radio up just a little bit more. Understand where you are. At this point in time, in life, in history, you're listening to gay and lesbian people on the radio.

90.1 FM, you can turn your radio on and we're queers. I love being queer. I can't think of anything I would rather do than get naked with a nice man.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right.

**BUDDY** We are gay people that are proud and happy and making it, and we're here. Now, if you want to talk about being

**JOHNSTON:** a teenager, you should talk about being a teenager when we were teenagers.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Even well, even more for me, because I know I'm older than you are.

**BUDDY** Not much, but the same thing. I grew up in a small town in Arkansas called Mountainburg. There were 303  
**JOHNSTON:** people in it. You talk about being lonely and confused.

My dad took me out with him one time to burn the garbage because at the end of the evening we'd take the trash out and burn it in a big 55 gallon drum. And I remember my dad taking me down to burn the trash and saying, you need to stand back and watch out for the band director, because there were rumors going around the school and in the community that the young man who was the band director, and I was in the band. I played the trumpet.

The band director was a homosexual. Now, I honest to God, wasn't really sure what all that was, but that word scared me to death. And I knew that it was something that had to be bad the way my dad was handling it, handling the whole thing.

I was 18 years old, just out of high school, and working in a miserable job making minimum wage in a little factory in Van Buren, Arkansas. And I was accused of soliciting sex from another employee. He and his wife both worked there. The three of us were very good friends, and he and his wife were having problems in their marriage, and I used to babysit their kids. I mean, we were a small town. You know everybody, right.

We went to dinner, we went everywhere together. We were just the best of friends. Well, to make a long story short, he and his wife mended their marriage by venting their anger at me. I went to them, as did all of their other friends, and say if there's anything I can do to help, let me know what it is, because you love Sharon and Steve. That's their names, I'll never forget it.

You love Sharon as much as she loves you. And you have a beautiful kid, and you need to work on your marriage and hold this thing together. And if there's anything I can do, let me know. That's exactly what I told them, basically.

Well, they twisted the words around. I was called into the office by the plant manager where we all three worked. He handed me a paycheck, slid it across the desk, and said that he had heard what had happened and his exact words, I'll never forget it as long as I live, were, "We don't need people like you working here."

**JIMMY CARPER:** How did you react?

**BUDDY** I cried all the way home. But I went out that day and got a better paying job making more money with the  
**JOHNSTON:** competition. And then the next day I came home and my dad was sitting on the front porch crying because my mother and father were real good friends of the guy that had hired me on the job that I was fired from. And they called down there to ask him what had happened and he told them.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And they believed him?

**BUDDY** Of course they did. They knew I was gay, anyway, they just didn't want to admit it. So I remember my father was  
**JOHNSTON:** sitting on the front porch crying. And I moved out shortly after that, and have been on my own doing quite well.

So, baby, let me tell you, you may lose your family. I lost what family I had. I have two brothers that are fabulous. Well, one of them is. But my mother and father, to this day, I seldom speak to them.

Because I have to look at myself when I shave every morning, and I am happy with my life. I'm sorry that my mother can't accept my homosexuality and that she wants to blame someone, but she's not blaming me anymore. That's not going to happen.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good.

**BUDDY** Because I'm a good guy, and I've had a wonderful life. And I'll be goddamned if she's going to take that away  
**JOHNSTON:** from me. She can't.

Now, you're right, you may also lose your friends. I have got over the years, some of the best friends, gay and straight, because I'm a good guy.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's exactly it.

**BUDDY** Not because I'm queer, but because I'm a good guy.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's why anybody has friends, because they're good guys, they're good women.

**BUDDY** When I started doing this radio program I was working as a dispatcher for the Houston Police Department. And  
**JOHNSTON:** we've told this story 100 times, working in the police department and wanting to do a gay radio program on a public radio station is not the greatest thing to do, two years ago even, and I was scared to death. I remember the first time we did this show I was shaking so hard I couldn't even cue records because I just knew the police were going to come down here and kill us. I did, I really felt that way.

**MALE:** And your brother was watching.

**BUDDY** Exactly, he was watching. But I come to find out that the people I worked with, that knew me for who I was, only  
**JOHNSTON:** respected me more and more and more because I stood up for myself. So I didn't really lose any friends. The people that didn't like me to begin with, they didn't like me anymore.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. They wouldn't have liked you no matter what.

**BUDDY** But the people that liked me, I gained more respect from them by just standing up for myself. Now, who did we  
**JOHNSTON:** lose? You read in the letter, "We're afraid of being rejected by our family, friends, and schoolmates, but from the gay community also." That's what hurts me.

I thought that the gay community would get all excited about this gay police dispatcher doing a gay radio show, working for the city, but they didn't give a damn. The gay community, what little there is that's organized, the leadership, they're so afraid that somebody else is going to get their goddamn picture and the Twit or the Voice that they won't let anybody do anything. So I mean, I've offered to get involved in other things over the last couple of years. They don't want any help, they really don't.

You you see one little group starts, and half the people get mad and they start a new little group. You get this group starting and that group starting and there's 10,000 different groups, and none of them get a damn thing done. So it's just like this in the other world, the straight world if you go to anything.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. I truly believe after all these years of seeing it it's human nature.

**BUDDY** It's human nature. Everybody wants to be the top dog.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Right.

**BUDDY** And our message for the past almost two years now has been that the community has got to come together as a whole and support itself, and we're not doing that. There is no gay pride. We have no pride in ourselves. There is no brotherhood and love. We don't give a damn about our brother.

**JOHNSTON:**

There are gay men in this city that have literally died with hungry bellies because there was no food at Stone Soup. And they've had fundraiser after fundraiser after fundraiser to try to raise money and get canned goods, and gay people drive by Mary's and don't even stop to put canned goods into the basket. Oh, sure, they gathered a lot of food and raised some money, but it's not enough. We're too busy going to the bars and having a good time and living our own little lives to give a damn about anybody else. And then there are some of us who use our influence in the community to bring our employees and friends to meetings and pack them and get elected into positions of power where we can push our views on other people and call it America. And that's not the way you do things.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Not at all.

**BUDDY** That's not right. And until I can't say it anymore, I will continue to say that's not right. I, god forbid that anyone should ever ask me to speak for the gay community of Houston, there are 400,000 to 500,000 gay and lesbian people in this city, in this county. I wouldn't even begin to speak for them. They're going to have to speak for themselves. Right now, they're not doing that.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** You know, Buddy, this is probably the only show where we talk back to the gay community. And wouldn't it be wonderful if one day there was not a need for After Hours, because everybody got together and everybody did the right thing, and everybody treated each other right.

**BUDDY** Exactly.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** But until that happens, we're going to get on here and we're going to bitch and we're going to carry on, and we're going to tell who the people are.

**BUDDY** That's part of what Pacifica is all about. I mean, I'm sure that Marion Coleman is a wonderful woman, and I'm sorry that she's mad because she doesn't like us playing the tape from the Pride Week thing.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Marion Coleman is a wonderful woman.

**BUDDY** We'll play it in just a minute. In fact, we'll play it now. But they have to understand that the way they're doing things at Pride Week, trying to represent what's going on for this city, are not in the best interests of the community, I don't think. I don't feel personally, I don't feel that they are. And they're more than welcome to call us and come on this show and tell the community.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Anyone is.

**BUDDY** We say that all the time.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** We want every viewpoint on here, every viewpoint.

**BUDDY** We do that all the time. At the very beginning of this program we had asked the GPC, the Houston Gay and  
**JOHNSTON:** Lesbian Political Caucus, to come down and be on the show. But because individual people did not like me, people that didn't know me, they didn't even know me, but they had heard and through other people and they didn't like me. So they would not have anything to do with this program.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Don't you love it when people don't like you through word of mouth?

**BUDDY** It wasn't until Ray Hill was elected to the presidency of the caucus that we had the caucus represented on this  
**JOHNSTON:** show. It wasn't until Ray Hill, because Ray Hill has a vision for the city and Ray Hill has a love for the gay and lesbian community. Ray Hill knows what it's like to hurt.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Daddy's been in there long years.

**BUDDY** He has been there. And I'm sure that he would agree with me when I say that the people have to speak, and  
**JOHNSTON:** that's not happening. So until that happens, we'll be kind of like John the Baptist in the wilderness. That's how I feel.

526-4000, that's the number to call. This is After Hours on KPFT. It's 2:41, about 17 minutes until news time. And we'll continue this little discussion after the news.

But I don't know, I agree with you, though, Jimmy, I wish that we didn't have to come down here every week and do this. I wish that the community would come together. I'll give you a good example, the March on Austin is coming up the last of the month. I don't even know what day it is.

You have a small group of people, the same names, the same old names that you've seen all along involved in things running the March on Austin for Houston. They get together and they say, well, we're going to have a March on Austin for gay and lesbian rights. And they just expect everybody to get all excited about it and to go to Austin.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I've noticed that.

**BUDDY** You know what's going to happen? People are going to be at Galveston and Astroworld and at the beach and at  
**JOHNSTON:** the park and at the zoo, and they're not going to be in Austin.

**JIMMY CARPER:** What I've seen mostly about the March on Austin is buy a t-shirt, buy a button, give us money. I don't quite understand all of that. If they're raising money to help send PWAs, I think that's a wonderful cause, but I haven't seen that in the literature. Have you seen those?

**BUDDY** No, October last year, National Coming Out Day, the big deal of National Coming Out Day was send us, what was  
**JOHNSTON:** it?

**JIMMY CARPER:** 12 bucks.

**BUDDY** \$12.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**BUDDY** And we'll send you a National Coming Out Day kit.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, like I need a kit to come out.

**BUDDY** I remember the first Pride Week meeting I ever attended in this city a couple of years ago, has it been that long,

**JOHNSTON:** baby, since we went to the first Pride Week meeting? A lesbian, a very well known lesbian feminist, I said something to the effect of, we need to set the example for the community to get the people out into the streets and get involved in the parade. Because we can have the greatest parade in the world, but if nobody's there to cheer it on we're just hooting and hollering and nobody cares. And her words were, "It's not our place to get them out."

**JIMMY CARPER:** What?

**BUDDY** They have got to come out on their own. It's not our place, that's not our job. Our job is to sell those buttons and

**JOHNSTON:** t-shirts and get that money. Look at the Chronicle today, there's a big article. Close Houston's Gay Bathhouses, they think that that's going to stop AIDS. There's a big article.

**JIMMY CARPER:** What?

**BUDDY** Yeah, well, I don't know. I haven't read it yet. Someone called me about it.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's never worked.

**BUDDY** So we'll close the baths and the bookstores, and then we will close-- let's see, what else can we close? We can

**JOHNSTON:** close all the bars.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, we need to do that.

**BUDDY** Because you can contribute to AIDS by lowering your immune system by drinking and drugs, so we need to close

**JOHNSTON:** all of the bars. Not just the gay bars, but the straight bars.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, all of them.

**BUDDY** We need to close all the bars. Let's close all the bars. This is to help prevent the spread of AIDS.

**JOHNSTON:**

Let's also, let's see, we could institute kind of a checkpoint person to watch people at, I don't know, supermarkets. People gather at supermarkets. There's a chance you can meet someone at a supermarket. You might spread AIDS at the supermarket. Let's see, sporting events, we need to close the door.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, absolutely.

**BUDDY** No more.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No that's too many people close together.

**BUDDY** You might accidentally meet somebody.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**BUDDY** Waterworld. You can't have all those kids running around in those bathing suits, exposing all that skin.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, no, no.

**BUDDY** Somebody might get excited and you have to close all those.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** So Galveston's out of the question.

**BUDDY** Galveston, we'll just seal that off. Let's close that up. Where else do people gather in large numbers where they

**JOHNSTON:** might accidentally get a sexual arousal? A church. Close those churches.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Absolutely.

**BUDDY** Get those churches closed down, all those people in those tight suits might get a little excited.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** You think they got the point yet?

**BUDDY** I mean, look at Jimmy Bakker and Jimmy Swaggart, all those Evangelists out there screwing anything that'll bend

**JOHNSTON:** over. Let's close those churches, get those church people. They need to be at home praying anyway for us.

**JIMMY CARPER:** We're running off on a tangent, but that's the point here.

**BUDDY** Is it ever going to end?

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, no. That's why we always need After Hours.

**BUDDY** 526-4000, that's the number to call. I want to say thanks to Patty, if she's listening. Last Sunday on a program  
**JOHNSTON:** called Crime of the Century they did a story on the crime of the century, one of the crimes of the century, the killing of Mayor Moscone and Harvey Milk in San Francisco about 11 years ago, and talking about Dan White. It was a 30 minute program on channel 39, and Patty called me just before the program came on the air at home, get your pencils and papers out. We've got phone numbers for you, get those pencils and papers. Get ready to write.

Patty called me at home and said thanks. Or she said thanks for the show, but she said you need to turn your television on channel 39. There's a Harvey Milk thing on. I said, we're already taping it, but thank you for calling. And it made me feel real good that she took the time out to call us, and that made me feel really good.

It also makes me feel good to get this letter from this concerned gay teenager, because let me tell you something, Concerned Gay Teenager, you have got it so much easier and you are much more fortunate than Jimmy and I were when we were your age. We didn't have the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard to call at 529-3211. We didn't have any switchboards to call. I don't know about where you grew up, Jimmy. Where did you grow up?

**JIMMY CARPER:** In New Jersey, little small town in New Jersey. No bars.

**BUDDY** I don't know if they had a gay radio program to listen to.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No gay radio.

**BUDDY** In New Jersey.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**BUDDY** They didn't have in Arkansas. There was no gay radio.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No gay bookstores, and I mean legitimate bookstores, where you could find something out about yourself.

**BUDDY** No literature.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Like that the Gay Joy of Sex. There wasn't anything like that.

**BUDDY** There were no copies of This Week in Texas and The Voice, even as bad as I think they are for not printing news.

**JOHNSTON:** As horrible as I think they can be sometimes, there was nothing. No Voice, no This Week in Texas to pick up.

There were no gay bars.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, none at all.

**BUDDY** I remember the first time I went to a gay bar. It was called Mary's.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Whoa.

**BUDDY** No relation to Mary's here on Westheimer, but it was on Sixth Street in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and I parked the car

**JOHNSTON:** about six blocks away.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Typical.

**BUDDY** And kind of ran in.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Kind of ran in, stood in the corner for a while, about five minutes, and then zoomed back out.

**BUDDY** Oh, yeah. I don't even think I had a drink. I was so scared. I was just terrified. 526-4000, that's the number to  
**JOHNSTON:** call. I don't know what it's going to take, if we can ever wake up the community or if they even care, if they even want to wake up.

**JIMMY CARPER:** They want to wake up.

**BUDDY** There's a very dear friend of ours this morning, I don't even know if he's listening, if he's able to listen, that's at  
**JOHNSTON:** Hermann, I think, Hermann hospital.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, I think he's at Hermann.

**BUDDY** Well, I don't want to say because he may not want anybody to know he's there.  
**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**BUDDY** I just want him to know that I know that he's there, and that I'm thinking about him. He's in Hermann Hospital  
**JOHNSTON:** with pneumonia, I think that's what it is. I'm not really sure, but I just if he's listening I want him to know that we love him and we miss them and we wish him well. And we need him to get out and help us fight the fight.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Absolutely, we do miss him.

**BUDDY** And again, we don't want you to think that we're the big boys on the block because we're not. Jimmy is about the  
**JOHNSTON:** closest thing to a close friend that I've got right now, because the position that we're in you're really-- what's the word, shunned? I can't say the other words, because the FCC won't let me-- by the gay community. And for some reason they feel so threatened by us. If they could only understand what we're trying to do, if they could only understand.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I live in the shadows. They don't know my face. They know yours.

**BUDDY** Oh god, do they know me. There are thousands and thousands and thousands of gay and lesbian people out  
**JOHNSTON:** there just waiting to come forward. But to you, we've got to tell you, you're the one that has to do it. Nobody's going to do it for you. We will get to the promised land.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Are you talking about coming out, like, with the big brass band and telling everybody in the world or something?

**BUDDY** No. I'm talking about picking up a pencil and writing to Buddy at KPFT, just as this concerned teenager did. And  
**JOHNSTON:** say, I'm going to make a difference in my life. It's not always marching in parades and getting involved in meetings. It's just taking that first step. That's the hardest part.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, it's just being yourself. I worked at Tenneco for 19 years. And obviously, after that length of time not being married, people had to have known I was gay. But I had a lot of friends there, because they knew me first before, I guess, they sensed my gayness. And it didn't make a matter at all, and that's part of coming out.

**BUDDY** We're all in the same boat, and believe it or not, we've all been there. The very first program we had on this show  
**JOHNSTON:** we had a young woman. Her name was Mary. And Mary had called the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard in Houston one day. She finally heard about it somehow.

She called the switchboard. When the voice on the other end of the line said Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, may I help you, Mary cried for 45 minutes. She didn't ever say a word. And the people on the other end of the line listened and maybe cried with her.

And Mary was on our show several weeks later, maybe even months. I'm not sure what time span was there from the time she first picked up the phone and called the switchboard until she was on our program, but Mary was on our program representing Houston as the coordinator taking the community to Washington DC for the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

So Mary had come from picking up the phone and crying for 45 minutes to leading the community to Washington, to what was the largest demonstration in the history of this country, 750,000, 850,000 people. There's going to be a big demonstration in Washington today. The pro-abortion people are marching, and they say it's going to be a big march. But it's not going to be anything like the pro-choice people are marching, it's not going to be anything like it was in October of 1987 when the community marched.

**JIMMY CARPER:** There hasn't ever been anything like that.

**BUDDY** And there won't be either until we go to Washington again. And we will go to Washington again, and maybe this  
**JOHNSTON:** concerned gay teenager will be there with us. Now, I don't know if--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Speaking about a concerned gay teenager, we know of one.

**BUDDY** We do?  
**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That has come a long way, and we talk about them a lot on that show.

**BUDDY** Who is that?  
**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Our good friend Larry.

**BUDDY** Yeah, the story of Larry Rodriguez. Larry called one morning and said, I love your show, but I can't be on the air  
**JOHNSTON:** because nobody can know that I'm gay. And we watched Larry grow from that to getting up between the major speakers at the Harvey Milk rally down in front of City Hall last year, and people like Ray Hill and Supervisor Harry Britt from San Francisco. And Gay Concerned Teenager, you need to know who Harvey Milk was.

The speeches that we play, the people that are encouraging you to come out, that's Harvey Milk. The voice of, "I'm proud to be a Texan, I'm going to say some good things about Texas," that's Harry Britt. Harry Britt's the president of the Board of the San Francisco Supervisors. Harry Brit, openly gay politician, you need to know who those people are.

You need to know that Barney Frank and Gary Studds sat in the Congress of this country, openly gay congressmen representing our interest. Those are the things you need to know. You need to know that you can register and vote, and your little vote can help us change the world.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Very important part. We're not saying you have to go out on a soapbox and scream to the world that you're gay, but what you're comfortable doing in showing people that gay is good.

**BUDDY** We'll be back with more of the show after the news.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, is it news time already?

**BUDDY** Yeah, KPFT.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Yes, how are you doing?

**BUDDY** Fine, how are you?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** I can empathize with what you talking about.

**BUDDY** How so?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Because you were talking away. Because I'm a Californian, and I didn't never have to go through the things that you were talking about. Since I was young, you know, being raised in Los Angeles, I didn't never have to go through. I never had to hide. My mother didn't deny me.

**BUDDY** Are you gay?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Uh-huh.

**BUDDY** Are you Black?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Yes.

**BUDDY** So not only did you have to deal with that, you had to deal with being Black?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Yeah, but about me being raised in Los Angeles and I come through in the 60s, and like, Sunset [INAUDIBLE].

**BUDDY** Oh, yeah.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** I was going to Berkeley during that time, [INAUDIBLE] and all that, they didn't deny me. My mother didn't deny me.

**BUDDY** But we were lucky, right?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's it.

**CALLER:** [INAUDIBLE] love me when I came out of service, and I heard you talk about when you used to work for the police department. And I work for LAPD.

**BUDDY** Oh, really?  
**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Yes, I work for LAPD 10 years.

**BUDDY** There's a sergeant in Los Angeles that's filed a lawsuit against LA for discrimination, \$5 million lawsuit pending.  
**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Yeah, but I work the 77th precinct.

**BUDDY** He's pending in court right now. And there's a Houston Police officer, a very dear friend of ours, Mark Timmers  
**JOHNSTON:** that was just cleared of a charge.

**CALLER:** Yeah, I've heard them talking, and I've been here about eight months.

**BUDDY** Yeah, well, Mark was just cleared, and all that's going to be coming to a courthouse near you soon. We're not  
**JOHNSTON:** finished with that either.

**JIMMY CARPER:** What do you say to people listening that weren't as fortunate as you are? What would you say to them, like this kid with the letter?

**CALLER:** What would I say to them? Don't stay in the closet. You know what he said, and I like what you said last year, [INAUDIBLE] get talking, come out the closet. Be for real. I don't deny myself, just be for real.

**BUDDY** That's right.  
**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Yourself, that's all you can be. And I'm 45 years old, and I've never had to deny myself.

**BUDDY** That's the key.  
**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Yeah, I've never had to do that.

**BUDDY** That's the key.  
**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Yeah, and I know, I don't have to deny what I am.

**BUDDY** We're all in the same boat together. Listen, thanks for calling.  
**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** OK.

**BUDDY** Have a good morning.  
**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** All right.

**BUDDY** I like that guy, because he not only understands what it was like being gay, but he has that dark skin. It would  
**JOHNSTON:** be-- someone asked me one time, what would you do for the community if you could do something? I would wish that every gay and lesbian person would turn purple or pink or blue or something overnight.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I think that's a wonderful idea. I would be proud to do that.

**BUDDY** That way the world--

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** There's no denying.

**BUDDY** No. That way the world would see just how many of us there are.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And we could not be denied.

**BUDDY** And they would stop all of this crap and all of this harassment and all of this garbage. Damn, I wish the FCC

**JOHNSTON:** would get off my butt so I can say what's on my mind.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, you can say what's on your mind, just not so visciously.

**BUDDY** Anyway, it's news time, and we're going to listen to the Wilburys, the Traveling Wilburys once again. They're  
**JOHNSTON:** going to get us to the news. And we'll be back after the news, so stay with us. One way or the other, kids, one way or the other, we're going to get to the end of the line. This is After Hours on KPFT in Houston, and the news is coming up next.

[MUSIC PLAYING]