

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

[MUSIC - SWING OUT SISTER, "AFTER HOURS"]

**SPEAKER:** Oh, yes. You've tuned in to *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, and music geared for gay and lesbian people.

Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common, we are out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are.

Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** OK, that was Nine Inch Nails. The song, *Dead Souls*, a remake of a Joy Division record. And this is *After Hours*. And wait. No, no, no. Wait, wait, wait, wait. Let's try that again. We're on radio. If you yell silently, no one will hear you. OK, let's do it. This is *After Hours*, and it's what? The day before Queer Pride Day.

[CHEERING]

OK, great. That was much, much better. I'm Michael Crawford and--

**JEWEL GRAY:** Oh, I'm-- [LAUGHS] [INAUDIBLE].

**CINDY:** And we're not--

**JEWEL GRAY:** Sorry, and we're not. That's right. This is Jewel Gray. I'm joining Michael tonight for a few minutes. I'm going to run out of here pretty early though. So don't count on me late here, Cindy. I'm not going to be here.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** But we're happy that you're here while you're here.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Great.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** And because usually, we don't do shows together, but here we are here now.

**JEWEL GRAY:** The luck. The luck.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** And that's right. It is the day before Queer Pride Day, which is tomorrow. As we all--

[CHEERING]

[LAUGHS] And if you don't know the parade starts at 1:00 PM at Woodhead and Westheimer. You can see us all there. Have you decided what you're wearing?

**JEWEL GRAY:** Who? Me? No, I'm not going. Well, I'm not going to-- well, I'm not wear-- I'm not marching in the parade this year. Last year, it was an awful experience for me. The pre-parade buildup was an awful experience for me, and I decided to avoid all that this year. But I will probably be down around pie on the Boulevard, watching it go by.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** I'm going to be on the sidelines too. Sarah and I are going to pretend to be activists while I pretend to be.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Cool.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** We're going-- we're going to be leafleting, and so on and so forth. But I'm going to be wearing--

**JEWEL GRAY:** So look for him. So look for him.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** I'm going to be wearing--

**SARAH:** What will the world of--

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** I'm going to be--

**SARAH:** --activists be wearing this year?

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** I'm going to be total Gap. I bought this orange, green, and yellow plaid shirt from the Gap, which I'm going to wear with a bright red T-shirt.

**JEWEL GRAY:** For the Rockets.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** [LAUGHS] Sure. Yeah, that's it.

**SARAH:** Yeah, that's it.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** And khaki workman shorts.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Cool. Cool.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** On the big program tonight, we have a whole lot of stuff going on. We're going to be talking with all the people who've been on *After Hours*, who've been hosts and guests and this, that, and the other about what queer pride is, what it means, how it feels, and how we express it, and how we can better express it. Which means that in the house, we have in addition to Jewel and myself, Jimmy.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes!

**JEWEL GRAY:** Yes!

**MICHAEL** Sarah.

**CRAWFORD:**

[CHEERING]

**JEWEL GRAY:** Sarah.

**MICHAEL** And Aaron.

**CRAWFORD:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** And Aaron is here.

[APPLAUSE]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Thank God.

**MICHAEL** And Sarah and I grunge news team that we are, we went out and we interviewed people on the street, queer

**CRAWFORD:** people on the street, of course, asking them questions about queer pride and being queer. And we're going to do some of those.

**JEWEL GRAY:** I wonder what straight people would say.

**MICHAEL** Well, OK, when we were standing in front of JR's, now we were trying to interview this one really pretty Asian

**CRAWFORD:** lesbian, but this straight white woman would not let her get a word. And she kept screaming, it's about freedom of choice, man. And we kept [INAUDIBLE]. OK, just hold it down just for a second. Let her finish. But I don't know.

**JEWEL GRAY:** I wonder. I wonder what straight people would say.

**SARAH:** We didn't have the time.

[LAUGHTER]

**JEWEL GRAY:** Don't bother. They're not home.

**SARAH:** Girl, they got their own radio show.

**JEWEL GRAY:** That's right.

**SARAH:** We didn't have the time.

**MICHAEL** And Sarah and I also ran into five lesbian brothers and we did an interview with them, which is hysterical because

**CRAWFORD:** it was so unexpected. And we have bunches and bunches of-- oh wait, I forgot about the speeches. We had speeches by Larry Kramer--

**JEWEL GRAY:** Which one was he giving, the one at the march?

**MICHAEL** No, it's one he did after that. I don't remember where he did it, but it's really great. We played it before, but it

**CRAWFORD:** was really good. So we're going to play it again. We have pieces by Pat Parker, Urvashi Vaid, and Phil Wolfson.

And we've got a whole bunch of new music, because yes, I went record shopping today. So we got new music from the Beastie Boys, Nine Inch Nails, Warren G and Nate Dogg, which is great. Totally cool. We got the New Stone Temple Pilots and Michelle Lee-- I forget how to say her last name, but we'll figure it.

**SARAH:** Michelle.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** Yeah, Michelle. We'll call her Michelle. So that's pretty much what's going on. But right now, we're going to go to a song. And then we'll come back and we'll discuss what exactly queer pride is, what it means, and how we can be more effective in displaying it.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

That was Morrissey, and the song was *Why Don't You Find Out For Yourself*. Cynical as usual from the album *Box Hall and I*. And Aaron, say hello.

**AARON DYE:** Hello.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** So now, we're going to start, what is our queer pride segment? And what we're going to do for us is, we're going to go to a short interview I did with the person standing in front of JR's. Sarah and I were there. And we're going to see what he had to say about what queer pride is and-- [LAUGHS] what queer pride is and what it means to him. Can you tell me, what does queer pride mean to you?

**MAN:** Most of all, queer pride means being out to me. And I think more people in the community need to come out because that way, we can be more proud of what we are and who we are, and share that with other people and give them a knowledge of who and where we are coming from.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** What can you say to help encourage people to come out of the closet and to show more queer pride?

**MAN:** Well, it's virtually painless. It's a very exciting thing to do. It gives you a lot of more respect and admiration for yourself. And it enables you to be freer in all things that you do. Coming out is a process that affects your work, your home life, your social life, your church life, if you have one. In every aspect of your life, coming out can improve it.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** How do you plan to celebrate Queer Pride Day?

**MAN:** Together with ACT UP Gulf Coast, we're going to be a member of the obligatory parade that's held every year. And then going to the rally to disseminate information about safer sex and about activism as it should be and what we envision it to be in the '90s.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** What do you do on dates other than Pride Day to show your queer pride?

**MAN:** I am a very out person I'm out. In every aspect of my life. I'm a father of two children proudly, and I'm out to them, I'm out in my workplace, I'm out in the community. And it's something I wear proudly on my sleeve. There's very few places I go, whether it's in the middle of a mall in Suburbia or whether it's in Montrose, that I'm not the exact same person in both places and very out about who I am and who I'm with.

**MICHAEL** Can you tell me, what are you-- what will you do in the next year to promote queer pride and to strengthen the  
**CRAWFORD:** gay and lesbian community?

**MAN:** Well, probably keep on-- keeping on what I've been doing for the past 12 years, and that's to try and spread the message not only about being out, but about activism and how important it is to all our brothers and sisters to get out and get involved. Because queer pride has more to do than showing up on one Sunday every year, and going to a parade, and then getting drunk at the bars. It's a 365-day occupation and it's something I think everybody needs to get involved in and be aware of.

**MICHAEL** Great. Thank you. That was the first little interview in the street we did with a person who explained to us how he  
**CRAWFORD:** felt about being queer and queer pride, and so on and so forth. Aaron, why don't you tell me what queer pride means to you.

**AARON DYE:** Queer pride-- queer pride is being proud-- actually, that's not-- I mean, that's not just it. It's being completely, utterly happy with yourself and to the point where you don't-- you're never concerned with what other people are thinking about you. That's it.

**MICHAEL** That's it?  
**CRAWFORD:**

**AARON DYE:** Yeah. [LAUGHS]

**MICHAEL** What about you, Sarah?  
**CRAWFORD:**

**AARON DYE:** Also wearing fabulous clothes. [LAUGHS]

**MICHAEL** Well, some of us do. Needless to say all of us don't.  
**CRAWFORD:**

**SARAH:** Was that a leading question? Should I be offended with that?

**MICHAEL** No, I'm just wondering. I mean, we worked together on interviewing the people, but I never asked you. What  
**CRAWFORD:** does queer pride mean to you?

**SARAH:** It means self pride to me, being a queer and being totally, totally, totally out. There's no way I can distinguish queer pride from any other pride because I wear it on my sleeve. I've been out. I don't remember even ever being in. It's just-- but I'm really excited this year for the first time, because my lover is really, really out. So it means a lot to me right now. And I'm not well for this, Mike.

[LAUGHTER]

**MICHAEL** Is this the first-- is she going to be at the parade?  
**CRAWFORD:**

**SARAH:** Yes, she's always been at the parade. But this is really her first job that she's really been out. And I mean-- when I mean out, I mean she's telling everybody. She's telling these religious people to stop giving these homosexual literature to her. And the people who didn't know, she's over there telling them. And it's just--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good for her.

**SARAH:** It's exciting for me, especially since she's never really been into it. And now for the first time, actually this afternoon, she was talking about, everybody, come out and all this kind of stuff. And for Dora to do that, it's just-- I'm getting excited about it even more so. But the parade itself over it-- it's not what it used to be. And it's not that--

**JIMMY CARPER:** To you.

**SARAH:** --I'm really-- yes, to me. I used-- I've been out since I was in junior high school. And I'm not that old-- not like Jimmy in other words. [LAUGHS] But I've been around-- I've been around the community for a long time. And I guess I'm just going through my changes and I'm getting more activist.

And to me, queer pride should be everyday. Not just this once in a year do this. I would be excited if everybody would show their queer pride by everyone in the gay community doing at least one hour towards the community a year. If everybody in our community just did one hour, things would get done. And if you can't do an hour, give me-- not me, but give the community \$1. If everyone in the community just did something, we'd be--

**JIMMY CARPER:** We'd be in good shape.

**SARAH:** We'd be-- we'd be somewhere instead of where we are now.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** Let's go back to this thing about this--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Wait a minute. I'd like to get in here on this.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** OK, go ahead.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I guess I'm the oldest one here. And to me, gay pride is a very, very small nuance. But I think a lot of-- in my experience, a lot of the gay community feels that they are allowed to live because the straight society lets them. And I don't feel that way at all. I am equal to my straight brothers and sisters. I am just as good. And I deserve a place at the table right next to them, and I'm taking it. That's my gay pride.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** Jewel.

**JEWEL GRAY:** I was just thinking about how much superior he is to the straight version of him somewhere. You were talking about being equal. I think we're not. I don't think we're equal. I think that it's time that we started having a little more esteem.

I think that we offer a great variety of creative and talented people in our community that far-- I think in numbers, in percentage-wise is far outweighs what the straight community puts out. If we could compare numbers, I'd say more people are creative, and talented, and intelligent, and giving, supportive than the straight community can come up with. The only difference is they have so many more.

And I think if we weighed percentage-wise, I think we'd come out with-- I don't want to say a superior being. I'm a little shy of that. But I think that we come out better than equal. And that's the way I live my life.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** They not only have superior numbers, but they also have a greater field in which to display whatever their display.

**JEWEL GRAY:** They own the field. We are-- in their world, we are the visitors.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** Exactly. And I'm like really pushy and aggressive about being queer.

**SARAH:** No. Really? Stop. [LAUGHS]

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** Thank you, all of you.

**SARAH:** Thank you, critics.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** But I mean-- and I know that a lot of people have been asking me, why do you have to be so loud? Why do you have to be so pushy? Why do you have to be so visible? And I think in part it's because so many people are closeted.

And the only way we can make ourselves known, or heard, or seen, or visible is for the few people who do come out and do stuff to be loud and pushy about it. And I'm not saying that everyone has to do the stuff that I do, but it's of critical importance that we stand up and proclaim who we are, and what we do, why we are, and everything.

**SARAH:** I wanted to jump in just for a minute. Because last week, I was talking to a caller that was here for Jewel. And she called to talk to Jewel. And she was saying something about, well, I wish I could do this and I wish I could do that. And I was telling her about this new group that Michael and I are in.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** Gay and Lesbian Americans.

**SARAH:** Yes. And I was telling her, it's really important for me to go out there and scream. But if I go to the State Capitol, and it's just me and Michael that are screaming, I'm going to scream just as loud if it's just me and Michael or me and Michael and 200 other people. My voice is going to be just as loud.

And I would appreciate the other 200 showing up. But if not me and Michael or even just me if Michael can't make it, I'm going to do what I have to do. And I can only be held responsible for what I am going to do. And I'm going to go out there and try to get people to join up with us.

But if you can't be bothered, I can't be bothered with you. I'm just going to go to the next person, maybe they can do it. They don't want to do it, fine. Go to the next person, the next person, the next person. It's OK if it's not your thing, but don't knock me because I'm going to try. Just don't throw it in my face because you have to get me.

**MICHAEL** Well, I think the things we have to-- [LAUGHS] boy, she's getting sweaty.

**CRAWFORD:**

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**SARAH:** She don't talk much. But when she does, get out of the way.

**MICHAEL** Well, I mean, I think the thing that we have to realize now is that there is a range of ways of expressing your queerness, whether it's culturally or politically. And there's a range in terms of what you do politically. If some people only feel comfortable making phone calls, doing the letter things. Other people feel comfortable doing more demonstrative things.

**CRAWFORD:**

And I think the point is, we need everybody doing everything. But one thing I'd like to go back to is the dissatisfaction that seems to be prevalent among the *After Hours* crew in regards to the pride parade. What's the deal? I mean--

**JEWEL GRAY:** Well, I'll tell you what-- thank you for the opportunity to address this. Last year, a bunch of us at the switchboard got together, mostly lesbians, people who had been friends for a long time. And we started working on the float.

Before we knew it-- before I knew it, the float making grew out of hand. It grew from a very simple idea to this real elaborate costly, really out of our league idea. And other people wanted to do this. They had the vision. I said, let's go for it and back them up.

But as we went on, the commitment and the apathy set in. Nobody wanted to do anything. The commitment died away. They weren't willing to do this. They were wanting more of that. And before you knew it, it really broke down to a lot of fussing and fighting. And I was really uncomfortable with that.

And I've looked at the parade and the rally and all that all year because that was a really big time for me back then last year. And I've looked at it, and I think that the reason-- recently, I was talking with another organization I volunteer for and discussing the rally and the parade, and getting ready for it as an organization.

And I realized that we were doing this to participate for spirit and to participate in it for. We were doing it to participate because everybody else was doing it. I mean, bottom line, no one was talking about spirit and pride. Everybody was talking about what number we were going to get, what place we were, how that related to where we were at in the community. Talking about how we can outshine somebody else. And the emphasis was competition and not a spirit of--

**MICHAEL** Unity.

**CRAWFORD:**



**JEWEL GRAY:** --unity, exactly. And it's been going that way for a number of years. The first year that I recognized, it was the year that the mining company came out with the big tractor back in the middle '80s. And they had the big guys with the flags and the bucket of the tractor, and they raised the arm, and there was a big poster. That was the last time I really remember a lot of spirit-- a lot of spirit pride in the pride parade or the rally.

I'm going to many rallies because they become beer festivals. And I'm not a big drinker and I don't like to be around people who are sloshed. And that's generally the idea once you get there. And I'm not talking about everybody. But generally, that's the idea, is to get there, get drunk. And it just takes away from the spirit of the thing.

At some point, I want to get down on our knees and thank the people that have gone before us, people that are no longer here. To me, that's what gay pride. It's appreciating those who are no longer here. I mean, Larry Kramer recently is gone. What's the name from the flirtations?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Michael Callan.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Michael Callan. All the great people and not so great people who aren't here to celebrate with us this year. To me, gay pride is celebrating that they were here and that whether their significance here was-- Larry Kramer writing books and reaching around the world or just Joe Guy that works the night shift over at the mining company. That everybody has that importance in our community.

And if we don't start recognizing that above the political, infighting my agenda, your agenda, no agenda bull that's been going on the, I'll slice your throat because I'm not getting what I want. I believe that what's-- I think that we're becoming a business community rather than a community of-- what's the word that I'm looking for? Community of people who are fighting for our rights. It's becoming more business, the fight for our rights.

The fight for AIDS and to cure AIDS is becoming more of a business. And as that happens, I think we're really losing touch with the spirit of what I believe gay pride is, and that is to appreciate all those things that have come before us to have gotten us here. Not necessarily to regret those things that didn't happen, but to appreciate those that got us here. What?

**AARON DYE:** I don't look at it in any way like that at all. And maybe it's because the way I look at life or something. I don't get involved. And as you know, I did not get involved in the big float routine last year of putting it together and all that.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Good thing.

[LAUGHTER]

**AARON DYE:** I remember in 1986 and 1987, I attended my first two pride parades, watching. And I was really enthralled in '86. And then '87, I vowed either the next year I would be there holding hands with my boyfriend or lover--

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** Or lovers.

**AARON DYE:** Or-- thank you, Michael. Or I would be in it, and I was in it. And the thrill of walking down Westheimer with gay people on either side cheering you on, the thrill of doing that, even though you cannot-- you can't really even comprehend it. It's all a big blur. It's just wonderful.

And that's what I-- that's the spirit I like. I don't care who's running the parade. I don't care what the rules are. I know that there's going to be a parade, and we're all going to get together, and we're going to be in it. We're going to march down the street, and that's going to be the fun part of it. I don't drink either, but--

**JEWEL GRAY:** What's the difference between doing that and going to the bar, going to the mining company and squeezing your body through the mining company once or twice? I mean, you're surrounded by gay people.

**AARON DYE:** [LAUGHS] we're all focused on the pride. Even if it's for just that one time. You go through it and you wish that could-- it's like Christmas. You wish it could be that way every day.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Every day.

**AARON DYE:** And you know it's not going to be.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** But the question is, if people only come out and are proud of being queer on Pride Day, then is that really pride? I mean, I agree with--

**AARON DYE:** It's a step. It's a step. It's like in '86 and '97 when I attended for the first time and vowed I'd be in it the next year. And I have been in it since '88 every year.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** But this is--

**AARON DYE:** It's that step.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** --this is '94. And I-- like Jewel, I'm dissatisfied with the parade and the whole way we celebrate Pride Day and so on. In part because it's lacking-- in a political perspective, it's lacking in historical context.

Jewel was talking about how we need to honor the people who came before us. But [LAUGHS] there is nothing-- I mean, if you look at the Avalanche of material that came out about gay Pride Day here in Houston, Houston, Stonewall. There was nothing about what happened, what we're commemorating, who came before us, who did the late work, and why, and what happened to those people. And it's these kind of-- I mean, and one of the really big criticisms that are made about people in my age group, and I'm 25, is that we are completely and totally clueless about queer history.

**AARON DYE:** It doesn't have to be that way.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** I know that it doesn't have to be that way, but you should also remember when we were in high school, no one told us who Harvey Milk was. No one told us about the beginning of the AIDS epidemic. No one told us about the [INAUDIBLE] society. No one told us about any of this.

And we all know that they don't teach-- straight people don't teach us about this in schools, whether in high school or on college campuses. And the point is that our queer elders should be teaching us this stuff. And the Stonewall celebrations are a primary opportunity to do that. But what's being done instead is another party. And that's part of my problem with the whole thing. It's just a party.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Another party.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** And wait, wait, wait. And listen-- wait, I haven't finished yet. And my first pride parade, I marched-- the first one I went to I was marching in, and that was all great. But it's the same thing that's been happening for years.

And we are at a different point in our political history and we have to face the fact that we are a political movement, that Pride Day has political connotations, even if we don't want to admit that. We have to face that reality. And that just everybody knows that there are queers in the Montrose. So why do we simply stay in the Montrose?

I mean, I personally think that we should move the parade to Main Street, Houston because the Main Street is the symbolic heart of America. And that's pretty much what we're going after, saying that we're here, we're queer, we're American, and we're going to exist in all our fabulousness, and America is going to have to deal with us.

And if we're going-- and if this is what we're saying, and what we're saying we want is to be full participants in American society, then we're going to have to be willing to take the risk to make those realities-- to make that a reality. And we can't just stay in the Montrose drinking beer. And the clubs, the clubs open at 6:00 on those days.

**AARON DYE:** I don't go to any.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** Well, I'm not going to any. And this is really funny. Because when you look at the pride guide for this time and you see everything that Charles Armstrong's bars are doing, having the mining company cheer us, it's nothing relating to lesbian and gay pride. Nothing whatsoever.

**JEWEL GRAY:** No one is showing the life and times of Harvey Milk. Nowhere in town. I was shocked when I found out that no one nowhere was showing this. It's easy to put your hands on, easy to set up a system where you could show it, easy to offer that. No one is showing life and times of Harvey Milk.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** And there are no queer history 101 kind of thing. There was one. But I mean, one of the things that the group Sarah and I are working in, Gay and Lesbian Americans-- and you can call us at 4066-- no, sorry, 866-4007.

One of the things that's coming up is the idea of pushing for a lesbian and gay Pride Month, which like Black Pride Month. I don't think Asian people you have your own Pride Month yet, but you'll get-- you're getting there, honey. Yeah, you're getting there.

And it would be in October. And that time, the emphasis would be on pushing queer history, which I think is a great idea. Actually, we have someone on the line. So Jimmy, technical wiz that you are, get us prepared.

**JEWEL GRAY:** I want to say quickly that I want to amend something. We were talking about it being just a party. I know a lot of people go in there with a lot of spirit, but it still ends up being just a big party.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh gosh, yes. But if you're on the sidelines during the parade, when you see groups like the PWA Coalition come down the street, HATCH, HIPPIE, and especially the Gay Aggies, that's when you get the biggest cheers.

**MICHAEL CRAWFORD:** But then that's also the point at which you see how much we have to do, because--

**JEWEL GRAY:** Where are they the rest of the year?

**MICHAEL** And quite frankly, I'm looking forward to the day when we don't have to have PWA people contingents in the  
**CRAWFORD:** parade because we have done away with AIDS.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, I would like that. Being HIV positive, I would really like that.

**MICHAEL** And times when we don't have queer kids killing themselves because they feel like they are isolated and  
**CRAWFORD:** depressed and stuff. And we're not going to be able to do that by sitting on the sidelines or only coming out one Sunday a year. So we're going to go to Buddy Johnson who's on the line. OK, wait. Hello, Buddy.

**BUDDY** Yes, how are you?  
**JOHNSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hey, Buddy.

**SARAH:** Hey, Buddy.

**BUDDY** This is the second time I listened to this show. Last week, I won't tell you what I thought. I was real-- I was-- well,  
**JOHNSON:** never mind. Hey, I was really excited about what that young lady just said. And y'all better be careful because those are the same things I said for four-and-a-half years and they kicked me out of there.

But here's what happens. I'm still working for the Police Department. They promoted people within our division to position, a supervisor. Everybody that got promoted that-- everybody that wanted to take the test rather got promoted, except for one person down there.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I wonder who that is.

**BUDDY** Yeah, guess, Jimmy.  
**JOHNSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** You.

**BUDDY** Exactly. And everybody knows why. Nobody said anything. I can't fight them because I don't have any money. I  
**JOHNSON:** can't hire an attorney and take the Police Department in the city to court. Everybody knows that I was qualified for the job because I'm an outstanding employee.

This month, I've been with the Police Department for 10 years. But because I'm out and a very outspoken queer, even today at HPD, they decided that they're not going to promote me. And you guys are right. We cannot accept that. And this one day a year crap has got to stop. And I don't know what it's going to take to get it to stop.

But I just wanted to call and say, I'm really excited about what you said so far. And I know the kids listening are excited too. And I just want to thank you for letting me throw my little piece out.

**MICHAEL** Well, thank you.  
**CRAWFORD:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** Thanks, Buddy.

**BUDDY** I saw in the paper that Mike Wilson died the first of the month. So if y'all get a song-- or get a chance later, play a song for me from Michael. He was a wonderful, wonderful man and a tremendous spirit.

And it's for people like him that I can't just sit at the back of the bus and keep my little faggot mouth shut. You have to keep screaming and you have to stand up and say, look, we're here, we're queer. Get over it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** There you go.

**MICHAEL** Thank you.

**CRAWFORD:**

**BUDDY** Anyway, I can I give one little plug for my little super business. Jimmy knows what I'm talking about. Do you have your--

**MICHAEL** Yeah, go ahead.

**CRAWFORD:**

**BUDDY** Do you have your beads on, Mary?

**JOHNSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, I didn't-- I'm saving them for tomorrow. [LAUGHS]

**MICHAEL** He wore them yesterday though. I saw him.

**CRAWFORD:**

**BUDDY** Did you see him, Michael?

**JOHNSON:**

**MICHAEL** Yes.

**CRAWFORD:**

**BUDDY** What'd you think?

**JOHNSON:**

**MICHAEL** I thought they were wonderful.

**CRAWFORD:**

**BUDDY** Well, come by tomorrow and I'll give you something just like that. But we've made pride jewelry, and we're going to be at the corner of Commonwealth and West Harbor tomorrow at Jack's parking lot across from McDonald's. So come by and say hi, and look at what we got to sell you. Anyway, happy gay pride.

**MICHAEL** Same to you.

**CRAWFORD:**

**BUDDY** You guys are doing a great job.

**JOHNSON:**

**MICHAEL** Thank you.

**CRAWFORD:**

**BUDDY** I don't know about the folks last week. But hey, that's life.

**JOHNSON:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** That's life.

**BUDDY** Take care.

**JOHNSON:**

**MICHAEL** Bye, bye.

**CRAWFORD:**

**BUDDY** Bye.

**JOHNSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That was Buddy Johnson, the originator of *After Hours*, a show that premiere-- this show, which premiered on September 6th, 1987. And it was all Buddy's brainchild.

**JEWEL GRAY:** Thanks, Buddy.

**JIMMY CARPER:** The whole community thanks you for that, Bud.

**MICHAEL** Well, I wouldn't say the whole community.

**CRAWFORD:**

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

Quite a few people. [LAUGHS]

**JEWEL GRAY:** Tie down and sit on it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** When you talk about folks, they get mad at you. But some folks just need talking about.

**MICHAEL** Hi, Tom. Boy, people are just come in-- coming to the station.

**CRAWFORD:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** People are just coming in all over the place.

**JEWEL GRAY:** All over the place. My favorite thing is about being an actor is you look up, you never know who you're going to see. One day it's Ray Hill, the next day it's Annise Parker. [INAUDIBLE].

**MICHAEL** Well, we've been complaining a lot, which we tend to do. And I've been thinking about this in terms of my own  
**CRAWFORD:** personal activism. But let's try to put a little bit of more of a positive spin on things and talk about what we can do to make things better.

Because one of the questions we've been asking people, Sarah and I, when we were interviewing them is, what do they see themselves doing over the next six months, the next year, or whatever to strengthen the lesbian and gay community or to help express queer pride more, and so on and so forth?

**JEWEL GRAY:** You know what I'd like to do? Sarah's chewing on ice. I'll tell you what I'd like to do.

**SARAH:** Sorry.

**JEWEL GRAY:** I saw this little thing on some offbeat channel the other day. It was talking about a gay tourist area in Key West. And they were going down the street to this little shopping, Mecca. And they were describing-- it may have been on one of the videos from *We Deliver*, the QTV or whatever it is to have. Have you seen those?

**MICHAEL** No, I haven't.

**CRAWFORD:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** I think it was one of those. I think they have four or five of them. And it's just like a 2020 magazine about gay things, which is really pretty neat. I liked it. And they had this street, and every shop on the street had a rainbow flag hanging out of it or a rainbow sticker in its window. I'd like to see the Montrose do that.

I'd like to come into this. One of the things I really like about where I live is, when I walk toward where my apartment is, there are three rainbow flags hanging out in the walkways, big, large flags. And to me, that's like I guess some of the guys in World War II, after fighting a long battle, looking up is our flag went up in the Iwo Jima.

I think maybe that's the same pride I feel when I'm looking at that flag hanging in public, in a public housing complex. I'd like to see Montrose do that. In some of the cities-- in some of the places around town, in Chinatown, they have the streets in Chinese--

**MICHAEL** That's cool.

**CRAWFORD:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** --out in alpha Bel-Air, out in that direction. They have some of the streets written in Arabic. I think we ought to-- I think we ought to get our streets decorated--

**MICHAEL** Written in queer.

**CRAWFORD:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** Really I think we ought to put flags up on all the lights or something in our community and designated Hey, not only-- I think that's a way we can shout every day without wasting-- without hurting our voices. I think that's a way we could shout. And I think that's the thing we should think about doing. It's just-- You remember when they decided to make the Montrose hate-free zone and they fought with the-- they fought with the green sheet, and everything like that?

**MICHAEL** Green Nation.

**CRAWFORD:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** Yeah, Green Nation. We did all the--

**MICHAEL** We didn't get a lot of support from the rest of the community in terms of--

**CRAWFORD:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** But you guys did a great job, man. How many times do you scoop in some place and scoop up all the green seats?

**MICHAEL** I mean, but even the idea of when we wanted to declare Montrose a bias-free zone. [LAUGHS] And that was a great idea.

**CRAWFORD:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** I think it's still a great idea. And I think that what happens is that we get a lot of apathy, and things die away because one person cannot do it. I found that in every volunteer organization I belong to, people say, sure, I'll be there. Sure, I'll help. But when it comes down to it, one or two people are doing it over and over again. But before long, they burn out.

And then they're part of the apathetic group sitting on the fringes, waiting for somebody like Michael to show up with an undying spirit and unwavering commitment to this. And then Michael does this so long that he eventually burns out because he's doing so much. And that's not criticism. That's just the way the cycle works.

And unfortunately, it would be easy if we could just start putting a little-- like Sarah said earlier, just a little bit more into our community. When you say you're going to do something, do it for people. When you say you're going to be at a meeting, go to a meeting. If you say you're going to support this group, support this group. Either volunteer for it or put some money into it. But those are the things I think that we should be doing rather than focusing six months out of a year on raising money and putting together a parade. I just think that--

**MICHAEL** Over it.

**CRAWFORD:**

**JEWEL GRAY:** Yeah, I'm just really over it. And myself, like Jimmy, I've been in the parade every year since '79. This is my first year I will not be in the parade.

**MICHAEL** Aaron, what do you see yourself doing, say, over the next year or so to help strengthen the lesbian and gay

**CRAWFORD:** community? And come closer to the mic, please. Come closer to the mic. Well, I wanted him closer to me. But OK, go ahead. No, it's OK. Go ahead.