

MODERATOR: Hi.

PARTICIPANT: Hi, right now I'm trying to-- well, I'm hoping that within the next year or so many people in the gay community will start realizing that the gay-- probably the majority of the gay community is still in the closet. And that as mentioned before, queer pride doesn't necessarily have anything to do with putting yourself at risk to be arrested or-- it doesn't necessarily-- that's kind of fun too sometimes.

But it does-- it's not necessarily the most important thing queer pride is, what it's about to me is. As I said before, being completely happy with yourself. And that sounds very simple. It sounds like just easy basic words, and it's a line that we've heard over and over again from many people and many sources in the past. But that's not easy. And the majority of people on this planet today are not absolutely happy with themselves.

And queer pride, what I'm working with right now. And what I suspect I will be working with more intensely in the next few months is trying to stir up some type of a response, positive response or sign, from the queer Asian community in Houston. Which we know you're all out there. What would be encouraging would be to see a sign. And a perfect time to show yourself, to give a sign would be tomorrow. And then the day after that, and the day after that.

So anyway that's what I'm going to be doing in the next few months. It's-- I'm keeping it kind of vague right now because there is still some things up in the air but--

MODERATOR: Sounds good to me I think that over the next I don't six months to a year. I'm going to be focusing on gay and lesbian Americans, which of course, you can reach at 8664007.

PARTICIPANT: What's that what's that number?

MODERATOR: 8664007. And it's the local chapter of a National grassroots organization dedicated to civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people, and to a cure for AIDS. And Sarah and I, and Vivian Lee are trying to get the Houston group off the ground.

And we're going to be having-- actually, we're going to be doing a lot of work around the AIDS cure act, which we're going to talk about a little later.

PARTICIPANT: Oh, right.

MODERATOR: And also I want to stir up interest in more of taking more of a grassroots approach towards repeal of the sodomy law. Because right now it's still in existence, it still criminalizes us, and frankly I don't think that's very sexy. Yeah, it makes it so that's the kind of stuff I want to do.

And actually shortly after we returned from New York, from the anniversary of Stonewall. I'm going to be organizing a people of color, kind of get together meeting to discuss ways of fighting racism in the gay community, and homophobia among our straight communities of color, with Hartaj Aziz.

PARTICIPANT: Oh, great.

MODERATOR: So you guys are going to be hearing more about that later. And Aaron by the way, you're going to be involved.

PARTICIPANT: Oh, well. Of course.

MODERATOR: OK, great. Everybody else seems to have deserted us. But if you'd like to call us up and tell us what you're going to be doing over the next year to help strengthen the lesbian and gay community, we'd love to hear from you. And the number is 526-5738-526 KPFT. And why don't we go to a song now. It's a piece of new music cool video, that I watched on *MTV Jams*.

PARTICIPANT: Over and over again.

MODERATOR: I love it though.

PARTICIPANT: OK.

MODERATOR: And it's from the above the rim soundtrack. And it's Warren G and Nate Dogg, doing *Regulate*.

PARTICIPANT: Cool.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

OK, that was Warren G and Nate Dogg. With the song *Regulate*, from the above the rim soundtrack. And you're listening to KPFK in Houston, it's 1:03. And now I'm going to play a totally slam a new song. It's by the Beastie Boys from the New album *III communication*. This is a new single *Sabotage*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

OK, that was the new Beastie Boys single, *Sabotage*, from the album *III Communication*. And we're going to play another song from that album, which is actually probably going to surprise you when we do play it, because it's totally different from the stuff that they usually do.

Now we're going to have a whole-- wait did you have something you want to say? Aaron.

Very excited about this music, I just wanted to let you know that.

Oh, thank you. And the person who called up, and requested Pet Shop Boys, we are going to be playing a Pet Shop Boys song later. You did bring the CD, right?

PARTICIPANT 2: Yeah.

MODERATOR: OK, great. OK.

PARTICIPANT 2: Anybody else wants to make requests for the QMZ, we're taking them at 526-5738--

MODERATOR: 526 KPFT. OK, what are we going to do now. Let's see we got a lot of things cued up. Queer music. OK, let's go to another homo on the street interview conducted by Michael Crawford and Sarah Gee.

SARAH GEE: That's me.

PARTICIPANT: I love her.

PARTICIPANT 2: I loved her first.

SARAH GEE: Michael and I were dating.

MODERATOR: Yes, this is our dating career, don't ask questions.

PARTICIPANT: These secrets are too much

MODERATOR: OK, so we're going to go to that now, and let's hope everything works.

PARTICIPANT: OK.

SUBJECT: Gay pride means to me-- it means being proud of what you are, regardless of what your family think or what other people think. In other words, me, I am satisfied with my lifestyle. If my family don't like it, then they can get over it.

But thank goodness, my family accept me as I am. And I thank God for that because my family accept me for who I am. But I'm proud of who I am. That's what gay pride mean to me, having pride in what you are and not being ashamed of it.

INTERVIEWER: OK, are you out of the closet? And do you think being out is a part of expressing gay pride?

SUBJECT: Yes, I'm out of the closet. And it's a big part of expressing gay pride.

INTERVIEWER: OK, how do you plan to celebrate Gay Pride Day?

SUBJECT: Like I say, I will be back in Chicago for that. But I will be at the parade. Hopefully, if I can, I will be in the parade. And [? aftermath ?], in Chicago, we call it The Rocks. It's like the largest gay beach in Chicago, so I will be out there doing my thing also.

INTERVIEWER: OK, how do you express your pride in being gay on days other than Gay Pride Day?

SUBJECT: Well, I'm a nurse, and I volunteer at Omega House. Two days out of a week, I volunteer as an RN at Omega House. So that's a big part of expressing myself, helping others.

INTERVIEWER: OK, and the final question is, what do you see yourself doing over the course of the next year to promote the values of queer pride and to help strengthen the lesbian and gay community?

SUBJECT: Over the next year, when I go back to Chicago, I will continue to, as far as volunteer-- in Chicago, we have a facility for AIDS patients. It's called Bonaventure House. It's out of the Alexian Brothers. When I go back there, I will volunteer again. And also, I volunteer for Horizon Hospice also. And so I don't think it can get any better than that.

INTERVIEWER: Great, thank you.

SUBJECT: All right.

HOST 1: OK, that was another on-the-street interview conducted by Sarah Gutierrez and Michael Crawford OK, and I think one of the things he pointed out that was really good is that one way to express your pride in being queer is by volunteering. That particular person volunteers to help people with AIDS. You can do that. You can volunteer to help queer teenagers. Maybe tutor them.

And something that the queer community never talks about, but we should pay more attention to, is elderly lesbian and gay people, because have you ever thought about what happens-- I mean, we know that some heterosexual people, when they're elderly and they're unable to take care of themselves, and their families are unable to take care of them, they go to retirement homes. But what about lesbian and gay elderly people? What do we do about them? Why haven't we discussed what happens to them?

So one way to express your pride in being queer is by volunteering. And you can find out about opportunities to volunteer, to get politically active, and so on, and so forth, by calling the Lesbian and Gay Switchboard. And that number is 529-3211. OK, and they're going to be in the parade tomorrow, so look out for them.

HOST 3: Number 71.

HOST 1: Number 71 is going to be the Lesbian and Gay Switchboard. Did you have something to say about that?

HOST 2: Well, no, I wanted to-- you were talking about the Switchboard, and I wanted to tell people that there's going to be a fundraiser for the Switchboard Sunday. Is that next Sunday? What is today?

HOST 3: The 19th.

HOST 2: The 19th. Sunday the 19th at Gentry's, there's going to be a big fundraiser.

HOST 3: It's Father's Day.

HOST 2: Virgil [? Berk ?] from TGRA is putting on a show there from, I believe, 9:00 till midnight. And the Switchboard will be there. We'll be looking for volunteers. And we'll be taking donations. And we'll be acting the fool. So come by and see us.

HOST 3: If you want to put on a dress, and a wig, and pantomime a song, come on down.

HOST 2: That's right. We need all the help we can get.

HOST 1: OK, and since you're not going to be spending all your money on liquor at the parade rally tomorrow, you can spend it on the Switchboard.

HOST 3: Yes.

HOST 1: OK, and for the person who called up wanting to hear the new "Counting Crows" single, I'm a stupid ass. I left it at home. But if you've seen the video, you know that he looks totally hot in it.

HOST 3: Really hot.

HOST 1: Yes, he does. And they're going to be in concert on the 19th. So if you can go, go.

One other way to show your queer pride is by phone-zapping Coca-Cola. And what's happening is we all know about how in Cobb County, Georgia, they passed resolutions basically saying that they hate queers.

HOST 3: Oh, yeah.

HOST 1: Yeah, and we also know that the Summer Olympics are going to be held in '96 in Atlanta. Well, some of the volleyball games are going to be held in Cobb County. And there's a group of lesbian and gay activists in Georgia called Olympics Out of Cobb County. And they and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation are urging people to call Coca-Cola and to urge Coke to speak out against such blatant homophobia.

Coca-Cola happens to be one of the primary sponsors for the '96 Summer Olympics. So you can call Coca-Cola at 1-800-GET-COKE. OK, 1-800-G-E-T-C-O-K-E. And it's pretty simple. Just demand that Coca-Cola speak out against homophobia, and that they condemn the anti-gay resolutions in Cobb County. OK, queer pride, go, go, go.

Something we're going to do now is we're going to be having a speech by Urvashi Vaid, who, of course, is a fabulous Asian lesbian and former head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. And she's my personal heroine. She sort of surpassed Larry Kramer as my favorite activist. And I think she's just really, really, truly great. So we're going to be hearing this speech by her. And we'll be back in a little bit.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

HOST 4: Lesbian and Gay Pride Month officially concluded this past weekend with the now traditional parades in New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and other major US cities. While some Pride observances are scheduled for the next few months, in most localities, the celebrations took place in May and June leading up to the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion. One such event in Hartford, Connecticut was boosted by a nationally-prominent rabble-rousing keynote speaker, the former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Urvashi Vaid. [CHEERING]

URVASHI VAID: Hello, Hartford. [CHEERING] Happy Lesbian Day, bisexual queer pride. [CHEERING] I'm really happy to be here, and particularly honored to follow such a wonderful mayor. [CHEERING]

History is our witness today in the lesbian and gay movement. At this Lesbian and Gay Pride in Hartford, we gather at an extraordinary moment in our lives as a people. A moment [? right ?] both in its promise of deliverance from the oppression we live under and ripe in the organized presence of evil that threatens our very lives.

From the first few months of 1990 when Congress passed the first-ever federal bill addressing sexual orientation, the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act, to the unprecedented visibility of gay and lesbian issues in the 1992 presidential campaign, from our ongoing and historic fight to overturn the military policy, to the elevation of lesbians to the cover of *Newsweek*, [CHEERING] none of us could have ever imagined the breathtaking scope of the cultural visibility we witnessed in this decade. Today, more states than ever, count them, eight, including Connecticut, have passed gay and lesbian civil rights laws. 42 more to go.

Today, open lesbians, gay men, and people with HIV and AIDS serve the public trust as elected and appointed officials across the land. Today, more lesbian, gay, and bisexual people live lives fully out of the closet that contained our talents for far too long. And just seven weeks ago, our national movement mounted perhaps the largest civil rights demonstration in American history at the National March in Washington. [CHEERING]

I don't have to remind you. But I think the country always needs to be reminded that lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals, and transgendered people seek the most simple of things, the guarantee of equality for all, the freedom to participate in a society as who we fully are, the creation of a new moral order which respects the humanity and dignity of people regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, religion, ability, or other human difference. [CHEERING]

For 24 years, lesbians and gay men have marked the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion. Over these 24 years, we have created a tradition. First a day, then a week, and then an entire month of activities and celebration all proclaiming our joy in who we are and our commitment to each other towards full equality. But my friends, there is a danger in tradition. A danger of false security and a danger of complacency.

The truth is that the progress we have made, while dramatic, is far from permanent. And the cultural space we enjoy today right here in Hartford is a space haunted by the specter of homophobia. Homophobia that organizes in the churches, and the Christian broadcast stations, and conservative think tanks of this nation. [CHEERING]

Ronald Reagan, if you'll pardon the expression, used to compare America to a shining city on the hill. Well, after 12 years of mean and callous White House leadership that strip-mined the working people of this country to create a new class that lives off of us and simply manages its money, after 12 years of building up weapons and then manufacturing wars in Grenada, Panama, and Iraq to use them; after 12 years of federal AIDS policies which murdered so many of our brothers and sisters and which perfected into a sophisticated technique the weapon of racism to win elections, which appointed a sexual harasser to the US Supreme Court, after all these years of hopelessness, the walls of repression surrounding the shining city built up by Reagan and Bush have come down. [CHEERING]

And just as they did in Berlin in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union, the collapse of oppression in the United States reveals the ugliness and evil that the walls hid from our sights, the mess in the economy, the resurgent racism, the stifled fear that is the source of hate. Our simple civil rights agenda of equal justice under the law remains so bitterly contested. And our enemies on the religious right have made our bodies, themselves, the battlefield on which they wage a power struggle for the control of this society.

On our bodies wages a fight about the influence and role of religion and the church in civic life. The whole nature of our secular government with its separation of church and state is up for debate. On our bodies, a cultural war has been declared by the twin Pats, Pat Robertson and Pat Buchanan. A battle of competing values in which the values of democracy and pluralism that we represent are opposed by the values of theocracy and fascism that they represent.

On our bodies, a battle has raged since 1988 for the control of artistic expression, targeting gay and lesbian artists, and sexually-explicit art, political music, and political performances. On our bodies, a disease has been allowed to vent its unchecked fury while politicians pander to the votes of people who smugly enjoy seeing us die. On our bodies, violence of the most horrific order is unleashed by bigots and thugs, most of whom beat us up to avoid their own desire for us, by families, word-- by families who abuse gay and lesbian kids, by organized hate groups who derive the meaning of their identities from what they are not.

On our bodies lie the scars of discrimination which has denied us jobs and livelihoods and held us hostage to the worst kind of sexual harassment and fear. And on our bodies, in their extraordinary difference and complexity, we often find ourselves locked in a series of convulsive internal divisions. We find ourselves polarized between people of color and white, between women and men, between HIV positive and negative, between rich and poor, between old and young, rural and urban.

Much has changed, but much more remains the same. I urge all of you and us as a people to not buy the straight media's hype. The underlying hatred and dislike which we face remains widespread. The real and daily discrimination our people face remains huge despite the progress we have made.

AIDS kills more of my friends and our brothers and sisters every day. And the presence of a few good men, gay or straight, in the White House is reassuring. But it is not the same as liberation. [CHEERING]

Dr. Martin Luther King wrote, "When a people are mired in oppression, they realize deliverance only when they have accumulated the power to enforce change." These are times that call on us to act as we have never acted before, to organize ourselves into a massive electoral and political force. I call on each and every one of you. Let that March on Washington be the first step in a sustained campaign, the goal of which is serious and dramatic social change by the year 2000.

I call on each one of you to take three steps between now and next year. First, come out to as many people as possible. There is no substitute. Just do it. Just do it. Just do it. Just do it. [CHEERING] There is no substitute, no movement, no amount of broadcasting, no amount of marching substitutes for your individual act of courage in your family, in your neighborhood, in your school system, in your church. Just do it. Do it. Do it now. [CHEERING] Thank you.

Come into your movement. Please get involved. Look at all the wonderful organizations here. And every darn one of them needs your love and energy, every last one of them. Get involved.

And third, my friends, don't be complacent and pretend that what happened in Colorado and Oregon cannot happen here. The religious right already has a foothold here. There's a state chapter of Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition. The airwaves and the [INAUDIBLE] purpose of the state are armed against us. Let us be prepared to fight back with our own moral values, the values of justice, of courage, and of kindness. Let us be prepared to meet their fear with knowledge and to meet their lives with the truth about the beauty and dignity of our lives.

The gay poet W.H. Auden wrote, quote, "History is the study of questions. To ask a question is to declare war." When the history of our time is written, they will note that we dared to declare war on every part of this racist, and homophobic, this sexist, and this unjust culture. They will note that we dared to ask society and ourselves the most radical of questions.

Why not? What are we waiting for? The time for our liberation is right now. It's right here. And it will come by our own hands.

What are we fighting each other about? The time for unity is right now. It's right here. And the new moral order we seek will come when we say we dare dream the same dreams in common.

What are we afraid of? The reality of our kindness and courage is present today right here in the faces of the volunteers in those booths. It's raging in our hearts.

And what are we sitting on the sidelines for? The moment to act is right now. Let us act in honor of those we love, those we have lost, and those coming up behind us. Happy Lesbian and Gay Pride. [CHEERING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ALL:

Pride.

SPEAKER:

Boots are being polished. Trumpeters clean their horns. Chains and locks forged. The crusade has begun. Once again, flags of Christ are unfurled in the dawn. And cries of soul saviors sing apocalyptic on airwaves.

Citizens, good citizens all, parade into voting booths and, in self-righteous sanctity, x-away our right to life. I do not believe as some that the vote is an end. I fear even more it is just a beginning. So I must make assessment, look to you, and ask, where will you be when they come?

They will not come a mob rolling through the streets, but quickly and quietly move into our homes to remove the evil, the queerness, the faggotry from their midst. They will not come clothed in brown and swastikas or bearing chests heavy with gleaming crosses. The time and need for such ruses are over.

They will come in business suits to buy your homes and bring bodies to fill your jobs. They will come in robes to rehabilitate and white coats to subjugate. And where will you be when they come? Where will we all be when they come? And they will come.

They will come because we are defined as opposite, perverse. And we are perverse. Every time we watch the queer hassled in the streets and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we lied about the boyfriend or girlfriend at coffee break, it was an act of perversion. [CHEERING]

Every time we heard, I don't mind gays, but why must they be blatant, and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let a lesbian mother lose her child and did not fill the courtrooms, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let straights make out in our bars while we couldn't touch because of the laws, it was an act of perversion.

Every time we put on the proper clothes to go to a family wedding and left our lovers at home, it was an act of perversion. Every time we heard, who I go to bed with is my personal choice; it's personal, not political, and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let straight relatives bury our dead and push our lovers away, it was an act of perversion.

And they will come for the perverts. And it won't matter if you're a homosexual, not a faggot; lesbian, not a dyke; gay, not queer. It won't matter if you own your own business, have a good job, or on SSI. It won't matter if you're Black, Chicano, Native American, Asian, or white. It won't matter if you're from New York, or Los Angeles, Galveston, or Sioux Falls. It won't matter if you're butch, or femme, not into roles, monogamous, non-monogamous. It won't matter if you're Catholic, Baptist, atheist, Jewish, or MCC.

They will come. They will come to the cities, and to the land, to your front rooms, and in your closets. They will come for the perverts. And where will you be when they come?

[MUSIC PLAYING]

HOST 1: And that was *Go West* by the Pet Shop Boys. And of course, that was by request.

HOST 2: For a friend of mine who called in earlier tonight.

HOST 1: Oh yeah?

HOST 2: Yeah, you know who you are.

HOST 1: Oh, cool, cool. That has been one of the most requested songs in the past few months here.

HOST 2: In my life, really. And I like it that way.

HOST 1: Oh, OK. Before we go to the QMZ, though, there is one more thing I want to do.

HOST 4: Want to get a little serious here.

HOST 1: Yeah, because we've been talking about Pride Week. And I guess everybody knows how I feel, that it's a celebration and I really enjoy it. But we do need to remember people who are not with us anymore.

And especially if you were listening earlier, and you heard Buddy Johnston call in and remind us that someone in the community has died recently, Michael Wilson who put on seminars and was made Moveable Feast what it is today. It was kind of sudden. We didn't expect-- I didn't even know Michael was sick. But I know this song is going to reflect how Buddy feels and maybe how you feel about someone who was close to you. It's by Carla [INAUDIBLE].

[MUSIC PLAYING]