

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Hello, Houston. It's Jimmy with the QMZ, the Queer Music Zone, which is heard every week on *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFK Houston 90.1 FM, and happy Pride Week.

MALE RADIO Matt has an announcement here that the phones are kind of messing up.

HOST:

JIMMY CARPER: What?

MALE RADIO They like accidentally hang up on people.

HOST:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh God.

MALE RADIO For no apparent reason, so.

HOST:

JIMMY CARPER: So it's not us, folks.

MALE RADIO Mars is in line with Pluto or something.

HOST:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK, OK. Oh, bad news, bad news. Anyway, we're going to have a little abbreviated QMZ tonight, but I want to play kind of a varied set. I've got two pieces here that I want to do that are very '90s, however they're on opposite spectrums here.

I'm going to start out with the Washington DC Lesbian and Gay Chorus. And I'm going to follow that up with a Faith No More. And both of these are geared for the gay community.

If you've got a queer song that you want to hear played on the QMZ, give us a call at 526-5738.

[MUSIC - "QUEER POLICEMAN SONG"]

SINGERS: (SINGING) We shall not give up the fight. We--

[AUDIO OUT]

(SINGING) Whoops!

JIMMY CARPER: Whoops! And that was by request, the "Queer Policeman Song." It's been a favorite here on *After Hours* for years and years and years, first heard by Buddy Johnson. Then if I'm correct, Rainbow de Clown supplied that to us.

And before that we had King Missile, because Chris Xefos is so hot, doing wind up toys, something for the gay community. Before that, we had Faith No More, "We Care a Lot," and started it off with the Lesbian and Gay Chorus of Washington DC doing "We Shall Not Give up the Fight."

And now I want to play something that I don't get to play too often because, well, we're looking at like a nine-minute song, but it's the 12-inch version of a classic that you've heard on this show before. It's called "Smalltown Boy." And here it goes. And thanks for listening to the QMZ. We'll see you next week.

[MUSIC - BRONSKI BEAT, "SMALLTOWN BOY"]

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC - BRONSKI BEAT, "SMALLTOWN BOY"]

SINGERS: (SINGING) Turn away, run away, turn away, run away.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MALE RADIO HOST: OK, that was the end of the QMZ and I'm not Jimmy, but hey. The song before that was, of course, Bronski Beat from the album *Age of Consent*, "Smalltown Boy," the extended remix version. You're listening to KPFK, Houston. It's 2:01 and, well, we're going to play a couple of cards. Let's start now.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC - LIZA MINNELLI, "NEW YORK, NEW YORK"]

LIZA MINNELLI: (SINGING) My little town blues are melting away. I'll make a brand new start of it.

MALE RADIO HOST: Start making your plans to be in New York City the weekend of June 26, 1994. People from all over the world will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and participating in the largest human rights demonstration the world has ever seen, demanding human rights for all gays and lesbians worldwide. For more information, you may contact your local Stonewall 25 Houston chapter by calling Jim Ewing at 528-6835. See you in New York.

[MUSIC - LIZA MINNELLI, "NEW YORK, NEW YORK"]

Whatever. I don't know where they came up with that music, but honey, I ain't going to be marching to that song when I'm in New York.

FEMALE: Yeah.

MALE RADIO HOST: Aren't I a bitch? OK. Actually, you guys don't need to get too comfortable because we're just going to play the--

FEMALE: He told me to sit down. I'm sitting down.

MALE RADIO HOST: All right, well, I'm telling you--

FEMALE: We're going to--

MALE RADIO We're going to play the new single by Stone Temple Pilots. Yay.

HOST:

[APPLAUSE]

The new album came out on Tuesday. It's called *Purple*.

(WHISPERING) *Purple, Purple.*

MALE: Purple.

MALE RADIO And the song is entitled "Vaseline."

HOST:

[MUSIC - STONE TEMPLE PILOTS, "VASELINE"]

[AUDIO OUT]

OK, That was Stone Temple Pilots from the new album, *Purple*, which came out this week. And that song was entitled "Vaseline." Look for the video on MTV.

MALE: Purple Vaseline.

MALE RADIO I'm sure that's what you use. We're going to go to another one of our Queer on the Street interviews. This particular one, which is being conducted by myself and Sarah G. OK.

WOMAN: What does queer pride mean to you?

WOMAN: Well, gosh, actually this will probably be the first gay pride week that I will be participating in. So maybe you won't answer this question.

WOMAN: Are you in the closet?

WOMAN: Well, I just I just came out not too long ago, so this will be the first one I'll have a chance to experience it.

WOMAN: Here we go.

MAN: Can you tell us what prompted you to come out and why you decided to celebrate this gay pride?

WOMAN: Why this one? Well, I guess it's special because this is my first one. And I came out because I thought it was just about time to do it, so.

[LAUGHING]

Here I am.

MAN: Who are you out to? Are you still in the process letting people know.

WOMAN: Yeah, I'm still in the process, still in the process. Just taking it one step at a time.

MAN: The people you've told, what has their reaction been to you're telling them that you're a lesbian?

WOMAN: Everybody's been pretty accepting of it. Nobody's really giving me any flak about it. They're real understanding.

MAN: Do you think it was a little more difficult for you to come out because you're Black and a lesbian? Or do you think that your being Black had no impact on your decision to come out?

WOMAN: Personally it didn't have any effect on it. It wouldn't have mattered to me one way or the other, but no, it didn't.

MAN: What are you going to be doing to celebrate this Gay Pride?

WOMAN: Well, I don't know. I'm really trying to find out more about what's going to be happening. I mean, since it's my first time, I don't really know much about the activities that are out there, but I'll find something.

MAN: Since you're right now in the process of coming out, what do you see yourself doing, say, over the next year two? Come out a little more, or maybe to express the values of Gay Pride a little more, or maybe to help strengthen the community a little bit?

WOMAN: Well, the first thing, I'd probably like to meet a lot more females, Black females. And this city is very small as far as Black lesbians are concerned, so I'm trying to expose myself to as many Black lesbians as I can.

MAN: And is there anything you can say, maybe a few words of encouragement to encourage Black lesbian and bisexual women to come out of the closet and to stand up for who they are.

WOMAN: Well, all I can say is be true to yourself. That's it.

MAN: Great, thank you.

WOMAN: Thank you.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MALE RADIO HOST: Move any mountain. Go, hey, yeah.

MALE: Move any mountain.

MALE RADIO HOST: Yeah, yeah. OK.

MALE: I can.

MALE RADIO HOST: This is Michael Crawford and the Doo Wop Girls.

MALE: Doo wop, doo wop.

MALE RADIO HOST: OK. And that was, of course, the Shaman, but not just any old Shaman record. That was the beat edit of "Move Any Mountain." And that was for the cute-sounding guy who called up and requested it.

So let's see, what are we going to do now? Now, of course, it's what 2:14, which means we're going to have to rush to complete everything that I wanted to accomplish today.

FEMALE: Hurry, hurry, hurry.

MALE RADIO HOST: OK, the next thing we're going to do is we're going to play an interview that Sarah and I did with Five Lesbian Brothers, who are performance troupe lesbians performing stupid played at DiverseWorks last weekend. They're based in New York, and--

FEMALE: It's really nice.

MALE RADIO HOST: In the fine tradition of grunge journalism that we perfected here, we just kind of happened to be standing on the street looking for lesbians, and we found five of them-- well, OK, four of them. So, take a listen, I think it's cool, because, well, we did the work, so enjoy it.

WOMAN: What does Queer Pride mean to you?

WOMAN: Take it, Mo.

WOMAN: Queer pride means just celebration of who we are and how much fun that is, to be homo.

WOMAN: Are you out of the closet? And is being out an important part of showing your queer pride?

WOMAN: OK, girls, are we out?

WOMAN: We're out!

WOMAN: Yeah! Yeah!

WOMAN: We're the Five Lesbian Brothers, so we start up and be--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

WOMAN: We can't-- right. That's right.

WOMAN: Say that again.

WOMAN: We couldn't be in even if we wanted to be.

WOMAN: No.

WOMAN: We're too far out.

WOMAN: And it's part of the career choice.

WOMAN: Yeah, it is. We've turned it into a career option.

WOMAN: Thank you.

WOMAN: It is a part of your pride, because if you ain't out, you ain't in.

WOMAN: Got that?

WOMAN: Next?

WOMAN: And what do you see yourself doing in the next year to promote your being proud and being out?

WOMAN: Well, we're doing our show off Broadway, which is *The Secretaries by the Five Lesbian Brothers* in New York at the New York Theater Workshop. We've been touring for about five months now.

WOMAN: Doing it here?

WOMAN: Pardon?

WOMAN: You're doing it here?

WOMAN: We're doing it here, yes. We're doing *The Secretaries* here this Friday, Saturday, Sunday at DiverseWorks.

WOMAN: A little brain hemorrhage.

WOMAN: This sounds like a plug.

WOMAN: It sounds like-- oh, so.

WOMAN: We don't plug. This is non-commercial radio.

WOMAN: Shameless plugging here.

WOMAN: We're not really plugging. We're just telling what we're doing to be proud.

WOMAN: Right, right. This is only wider information.

WOMAN: That's right.

WOMAN: I don't know, well, we make appearances all over New York or wherever we whatever cities we happen to be in. And we're career homosexuals. So whatever we do, we're proud of it and we love it.

And in our leisure time on the road, we like to play a game that we call Supreme Court test case where you go with your girlfriend into the pool of the hotel and you make out and you see if anybody tries to stop you. And then if they do, you take them to court. So it's a little game called Supreme Court test case.

WOMAN: And used to call it in.

WOMAN: Very prideful.

WOMAN: Is there anything that you'd like to say to the people in the closet to encourage them to come out?

WOMAN: You will feel so much better.

WOMAN: You will feel better. It's a really hard place to be closeted, and it's a very painful place. And I hope that people can find the courage in themselves to be who they really are. And I know that that can be a situation which could cause you to lose some very real things in your life, but you also gain a tremendous amount of self-esteem. How was that?

WOMAN: Great.

WOMAN: That was great.

WOMAN: You said it all, Mo.

WOMAN: You really said it.

WOMAN: Where are your notes? That was too good.

[LAUGHING]

WOMAN: What's one of the things that actually made you come to Houston? I mean, it's not really the queer capital. I'd like it to be, but what drew you here?

WOMAN: There's a woman here named Loris Bradley.

WOMAN: She's really cute.

WOMAN: Total.

WOMAN: Oh my.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

WOMAN: And we couldn't resist her, all five of us.

WOMAN: We like to come to Houston mostly because DiverseWorks, which is a performance space here, asked us to come originally last year in July. And we have a really great time. They take great care of us. It's a great space. Everyone should come and support it. And then when we come here, we just have a great time. So we like cowgirls. That's why.

WOMAN: We travel all over and nobody's more friendly than the people in Houston.

WOMAN: That's the truth.

WOMAN: That's true.

WOMAN: Plug.

WOMAN: Not really. It's really true.

WOMAN: It's very true.

WOMAN: Really.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: It really is true, yeah.

WOMAN: And where exactly are you are all from?

WOMAN: Well, we're based in New York, but originally from all over the country.

WOMAN: And are you real involved, besides theater, I mean, in the gay movement up there. For me--

WOMAN: Theater is our contribution. So I mean, culturally, wherever we go that's what we do is we feel like we promote gay visibility, especially lesbian visibility-- five, big, loud lesbians.

WOMAN: Can you talk a little bit about how you think the arts, queer arts, performance arts, or whatever, helps to promote the ideas of pride and being queer and helps promote the queer movement.

WOMAN: Well, I think one really great thing it does is it gives gay people an image to look at and say, this person is gay or lesbian. And it gives them an idea that they can live in the world openly and not be condemned to some life of sorrow and hatred.

I mean, art in the queer community serves the same function as art in any community. It serves as a reflection of people's lives. It helps people to ask questions to confront issues, to have discussion about controversial issues. It helps the community to grow.

WOMAN: Also, it's not this way so much anymore, but like 10 years ago or whatever when we started performing individually and collectively, you go to a town and five people would come up to you afterwards and say, thank god you're here. I'm the only lesbian here. And you think, well, I hate to tell you but there's somebody over there, somebody over there.

And so, I mean, we were just working with these gay teenagers here. And it's really great how much things have changed and these kids have come out and they know there are other gay people. But to me, watching other lesbians perform in New York where we came from, when I first came to New York, it's really an example. If people can stand on stage and do a play about whatever, it's about all sorts of different issues.

But they tell you right up front everything about them, it's assumed I'm a lesbian and I have to do my laundry. And I have to go to the store and I have to do all these different things. Like, that's it, I'm a lesbian. Now we know that. Now I'm going to tell you all the other things about you.

Like Mo said, it's a really good example that you can do that. You can take it for granted that you're a lesbian at some point and not have to think what would it be like if I could come out to hide half of yourself, something like that.

WOMAN: Do you think lesbian artists are treated differently than, say, gay male artists by both queer press and hetero press?

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: We think it really helps us. I mean, we joke about this, but we think it helps us that we call ourselves The Five Lesbian Brothers, because sometimes people think we're men and we sort of get our foot in the door. And then they realize we're women. And then hopefully in a lot of times they find it's too late.

WOMAN: One of the things that sometimes happens is that-- this hasn't really happened with us too much lately-- I think things are changing, but sometimes people can think of lesbian work as being more provincial or more community-oriented. I mean, a lot of people have biases about lesbian theater and they think that it's going to be didactic or not funny certainly and poor.

I mean, a lot of people just think lesbian theater is going to be bad. And like a bunch of folk singers.

WOMAN: Well, I like folk singers.

WOMAN: Yeah, I like folk singers too, but I mean basically when people think about lesbian performers they think of one woman standing up there with a guitar. And it's like that's it.

WOMAN: Right.

WOMAN: Or, I mean, or some kind of maudlin play about how tragic it is to be a lesbian. And a lot of our work deals directly with that myth and trying to subvert it and basically poke fun at it.

WOMAN: And now it's time for your pitch, if you want to pitch. You want to introduce yourself? Well, yeah, but I mean, we were going to edit that. No. If you want to introduce yourselves and then in a collective group say who you are.

WOMAN: OK.

WOMAN: Well, I'm Dominique Dibbell, and I'm a Five Lesbian Brother.

WOMAN: Lisa Kron, Five Lesbian Brother.

WOMAN: Maureen Angelos, I'm a Five Lesbian Brother.

WOMAN: Peg Healey, I'm a Five Lesbian Brother.

WOMAN: Well, I was counting you store.

WOMAN: And we're missing one. She's in the van, because we've had a long day and she's tired.

WOMAN: She's got cramps.

WOMAN: She's got cramps. She's menstruating.

[LAUGHING]

And her name is--

WOMAN: Good night, Houston.

WOMAN: She's got her period.

WOMAN: She's wearing Peggy's underwear. That's how close we are.

WOMAN: And her name is Babs Davy. And she's a Five Lesbian Brother.

WOMAN: And we love her.

WOMAN: You should talk two seconds about the kids.

WOMAN: Oh, Hippie and Hatch.

WOMAN: Yeah. We just finished doing a workshop with some gay and lesbian youth from Houston. It was organized through DiverseWorks and Hatch and Hippie-- I don't know what those things stand for-- but you do probably. And they're going to be culminating this whole series of workshops that they did with us and Luis Alfaro.

They're also going to work with Mary Ellen Strum and the Naming Project, which is gay and lesbian youth from New York City who are coming here. And they're going to be doing a show-- when is that-- in July at DiverseWorks. So we hope you'll all go and see it. They're wonderful.

WOMAN: They're great kids.

Vibrant, intelligent, great homosexual kids. So I hope you'll go see that.

WOMAN: Support them.

WOMAN: Yeah, support them. Come and see their work. It's going to be great, I'm sure.

WOMAN: Can I ask one more question? OK.

WOMAN: He's good.

WOMAN: What do you guys think about the images that are portrayed of lesbians sexually? Because a lot of the images that are put out of lesbian women are that they don't have sex or that the sex that they have is all touchy-feely.

WOMAN: Not real sex.

WOMAN: Non-passionate kind of real sex.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Well, we really try to deal with that in our work. We have a lot of images of lesbian sexuality. And often we try to-- it's funny because it's comic in that it's really real, especially in our first play. In this play, it has a little bit more disturbing elements to it too because of the plot of the play. But like in our first play, it's real in that it has to do with all sorts of different kinds of desire, but it also has to do with the awkwardness of sex and that you might have to change your position or you might have to, oh, your zippers caught or something.

So we really tried to-- well, we're not sex positive. We're sex negative.

WOMAN: Oh, I don't know. I mean, I don't think we're at the forefront of like promoting the sex-positive movement. I think we're like--

WOMAN: It's definitely--

WOMAN: We incorporated into our work.

WOMAN: Sex dorky or something.

WOMAN: Sex dorky. That's what we are. Sex dorky.

WOMAN: We're adolescent. We're kind of adolescent. I mean, we may look really suave on stage and stuff, but you know.

WOMAN: And in person.

WOMAN: But I don't know.

WOMAN: Oh, thank you.

WOMAN: Go on.

WOMAN: I thought Sharon Stone came off really real in *Basic Instinct*.

WOMAN: Yay.

WOMAN: Sharon, ouch.

WOMAN: I think we could use better images of--

WOMAN: [INAUDIBLE].

WOMAN: Yeah, of women doing it the way we do it.

WOMAN: Definitely.