

[INAUDIBLE]

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

[INAUDIBLE]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Oh yes, you 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]

EVELYN: Hello, you're tuned in to *After Hours*. I'm Evelyn Carroll. And I have with me--

GIGI: I'm Gigi with BiNet.

MICHELLE: And I'm Michelle with BiNet.

EVELYN: And we're here to inform you about what's going on in the community and entertain you with gay and lesbian music. We have Jimmy, back behind us.

JIMMY: Ta-da.

MICHELLE: Ta-da.

EVELYN: As always take it away, Gigi.

GIGI: OK, well, we're glad to be with you again. I wanted to go over a little bit about the bisexual conference we just attended in North Carolina. There are close to about a hundred bisexuals at the North Carolina conference. It's like walking into a temporary gathering of the fairy people. It was full of the blending of female and male energy. Men were expressing their love for other men, women with other women, and women with men, and men with women. It was so cool to see all the freedom of expression.

The workshops covered everything from safe sex to bisexual issues to gender issues. Lorraine Hutchins, who edited *Bi Any Other Name*, was the keynote speaker. Gigi even received a whipping with a leather whip from her during the performance.

EVELYN: Oh, Gigi.

GIGI: It was quite a time. They covered everything from bisexual and the issues of monogamy versus polyamorous relationships, myths and reality. Does bisexuality mean that you have to sleep with every single thing that moves? Not for me. I have better taste in who I sleep with.

MICHELLE: OK, I'd like to read something from there's a book called *Bi Any Other Name Bisexual People Speak Out*. It was written by Lorraine Hutchins and Lonnie-- how do you say that? Ka-- Ka'ahumanu. And it was edited by them. And they have a little passage about monogamy and bisexuality by, excuse me, Lenore Norrgard.

"But can bisexuals be monogamous? It is a question we often hear. Some bisexuals, often the monogamous ones, are offended by the inquiry. This is understandable, since many people stereotype us as sexually ravenous creatures who are indiscriminately sexual with people of both genders, hopping into bed with anyone at a drop of the hat.

I've heard many bisexuals answer the question blithely. Of course, just like a straight woman can be attracted to more than one man and be sexual with only one, bisexual can be attracted to more than one woman and be sexual with only one. The answer is accurate in describing some bisexuals.

Bisexuals who have a monogamous lifestyle are evidence that at least some bisexuals can be monogamous. But can all of us be so? Is there any difference between our choices and those that lesbian, and gay, or straight people make? I've met bisexuals who feel the need to have relationships with both a man and a woman most of the time. Most of those who I've met have separate relationships with the two partners. Some choose to combine them in a true triangular relationship in which all three share a sexual and romantic bonding.

When I placed an ad in the weekly looking for a woman lover, I didn't identify myself as bi, yet I received responses from women partnered with men who were seeking special sexual friendships with a woman. These letters were not rude or offensive but seemed to be quite honest and candid with respect, and were respectful and expressing the diverse needs and interests of the writers. Different strokes for different folks.

I don't think that any particular style is superior to any other. All should be acknowledged, respected, and valued for their uniqueness. As bisexuals, we are a radical sexual minority. I'd like to see our bisexual community take a more honest look at ourselves and embrace our diversity. We've owned up to some of our other differences, such as different degrees of bisexuality, and different kinds of bisexual identities. We've even acknowledge that some of us feel more comfortable with monogamy, while some of us are more comfortable with non-monogamy.

However, I believe by answering the question, can bisexuals be monogamous with a blithe sure, we're not acknowledging that it is true for only a portion of us. And the bisexual orientation casts a different light on the monogamy question. It'd be more accurate to answer some of us are, some of us aren't. Some of us enjoy sexually exclusive relationships. Some of us like to have both a woman, or women, and a man, men, in our lives when we can.

I think that the easy sure answer is offered up in a plea, unconscious that it may be, to non bias to accept us as just folks, to make them believe that we're just like them, to ward off the uncomfortable realization that the choices we make and how we live our sexuality are different from those that are exclusively lesbian, or exclusively straight people make.

It is uncomfortable to be different, and all too easy to camouflage our differences hoping to be accepted by those who are ill at ease with our nonconformist both and orientation. It is crucial that we own up to who we are and take pride in all the ways there are to be bisexual. Our reticence in admitting that some bisexuals indeed cannot be monogamous reminds me of the conservatism that set into some sectors of gay rights movement after its early radical years and can be just as dangerous.

It was drag queens, bull dykes, and gays of color who rioted at the Stonewall gay bar 20 years ago, and launched the modern radical gay rights movement that paved the way for my pride. After a few years, the White middle class males, who dubbed themselves gay leaders, sought to jettison the undesirable nonconformist from the ranks of the movement, seeking to convince middle class America that gays are just like straight people. Our men don't wear dresses and our women don't wear tuxedos. We are just folks.

If we examine how this strategy played out over the last 15 years, we can see that it led to a single issue orientation that left lesbians, gays of color, and anyone else who didn't fit into white middle class America's vision of normal out in the cold. We had been splitting among sex, race, and class lines. And only in the last few years, have we begun to acknowledge limited success in uniting among these divisions to fight the onslaught of the right wing.

How much further ahead could we be now, if from the beginning we had embraced all sectors of sexual minority community and to one radical movement for liberation. We probably wouldn't even need a bi movement because bi's could have been included. We should take to heart the hard lessons the gay movement taught us through trying to present gays as normal. Our salvation lies in taking pride in who we are, in our diversity, and educating the non bi public as honestly and proudly as we can.

In this way, the acceptance we gain will be real and deep, not superficial. We can gain acceptance in our rights by truly reaching out, person to person, to strangers, and introducing ourselves honestly. Time is sharing that we will probably not win the Mormon church to our side. But we can probably develop mutual understanding with feminists, people of color, unionists, and lesbian, and gay community.

Yes, we are human beings like all the rest. We have thoughts and feelings, difficulties and joys. It is important to communicate the full breadth of our humanity to others. We can enrich the lives of others, not only our own, by honestly sharing our similarities and differences and learning to also treasure the ways that others are different from ourselves."

EVELYN: OK, what you got going on here, Jim?

JIMMY: OK, we'll go to a piece of music and be right back.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

EVELYN: Hello, we're back. And what's happening this evening on *After Hours* is we are going to be listening to a tape about Alan Turing. There's currently a play being presented called *Breaking The Code* which is about Alan Turing. And that will lead into our guest Travis Mater-- Mater-- Mater, who is the assistant director of Theater Lab who is producing *Breaking The Code*.

We also have going on--

JIMMY: Gigi, what's going on?

EVELYN: Gigi, come on.

GIGI: Hey, basically, we're going to be going over some issues with bisexuality, a little bit of issues concerning gender identity and gender outlaws. We're also going to take a look at some things about what our group is doing in Houston, the community reforming, And what have been formed over the past year. And Michelle?

MICHELLE: And we're also-- we're also going to try and talk a little bit about some of the myths about bisexuality, and some of the issues, and a little bit more about monogamy versus polyamory. And--

EVELYN: We would like to acknowledge that Sunday is the 16th anniversary of the death of Harvey Milk. And we'll talk a little bit more about that later. Also at 1:30, we have the QMZ, which is the Queer Music Zone with Jimmy Carter, that's produced every week on *After Hours*. OK, we're going to move right in to a tape now. If you'll listen a little bit about Alan Turing, who is the subject of a new play called *Breaking The Code*.

PRESENTER 1: Do you know who Alan Turing was? And if not, why not?

PRESENTER 2: Well, you might ask and the probability that you don't know is an important part of his story. In brief, [BEEPING] Turing invented the digital computer, if anybody did. He played a major role in preventing a German invasion of Britain. And he was persecuted, arguably to death, for being gay.

Alan Turing's father, Julius, was in the Indian Civil Service administering most of South India. But in 1907, he was on the way home on leave when he met Ethel Stoney. She had attended Cheltenham Ladies' College, whose principals, Miss Buss and Miss Beale are still remembered in the rhyme.

WOMEN: Miss Buss and Miss Beale Cupid's darts do not feel. Oh, how different from us are Miss Beale and Miss Buss?

PRESENTER 2: Ethel did feel Cupid's dart. And she married Julius and returned to India with him the following year. They were on leave again when Alan was born in Paddington. They returned to India again. And Alan was virtually brought up by other old India hands, rather stiffly and unimaginatively.

In 1926, he began secondary schooling at Sherborne. Alec War wrote the classic gay novel *The Loom Of Youth* about Sherborne. His first, and almost his only love affair, was there with Christopher Morcom, who was one year older. The relationship was probably never consummated. They shared an interest in mathematics. And Christopher gained a scholarship to Trinity College Cambridge, while Alan failed.

But in early 1930, Christopher died of tuberculosis. Alan was heartbroken. A second attempt at Trinity also failed but he gained a scholarship to King's instead.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

In 1934, he visited Germany. He was in Hanover on June the 30th, the Night of the Long Knives when the SA was overthrown and its head, Ernst Rohm, was dragged from his lover's bed and shot as a filthy pervert. Hitler gained supreme power and it was the end of the decadent Germany that Christopher Isherwood had celebrated. Many people around the world, not yet aware of the extent of Hitler's evil, rejoiced.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

That year, aged only 22, Turing was made a Fellow of Kings. He worked on the question, what is the most general type of cipher, or code possible. And closely related, the most general kind of machine to deal with symbols. Starting from a typewriter, he developed the idea of what is now called a Turing Machine, a machine that could read and write marks on an endless paper tape and given the proper programming carry out any operation on symbols.

In 1937, he completed his major work, computable numbers, which laid the basis for computers as we know them. He also concerned himself with the practicalities, experimenting with gear wheels and electrical relays, getting his hands dirty in a way not customary to Cambridge dons.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

It became clear to the world that war was inevitable. But in October 1938, he and a friend found some escape in the new Disney film *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*. Alan was very taken with the scene in which the Wicked Witch dangled an Apple on a string into a boiling brew of poison muttering--

WICKED Dip the apple in the brew, let the sleeping death seep through.

WITCH:

PRESENTER 2: He liked to chant the couplet over and over. September 1939, and he reported the day after war was declared to the GC and CS, the Government Code and Cipher School at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire. Now Turing speculations on ciphers came into their own.

The German Navy and Air Force used a code known as Enigma. Unlike other codes of the day, Enigma was easy to use. Sender and receiver had identical, fairly simple machines with keyboards. They systematically changed one letter of the alphabet for another. Like the simple codes we played with his children. But the Enigma machines changed the code after every letter. Obviously, if your enemy also has a machine, they can read your messages, that is if they start at the same position.

To increase the number of possible starting positions, the Germans added various refinements. But they changed their starting position only once a day. The code was solved by finding a pattern in the traffic of each day that betrayed that day's starting position. This was done mechanically, at first, using punched cards carrying all possible patterns. Later, using a large number of machines that stepped through all possible positions in a short time.

In February 1941, a German trawler was captured off Norway, and the commanding officer killed before he could destroy a set of Enigma instructions. This enabled the GC and CS to read all Naval traffic for that month. And by May, they were deciphering messages within a day. By June, the same day. So Turing's work proved vital in the war in the Atlantic.

In the spring of 1941, Alan proposed to another crypto analyst, Joan Clark. He warned her he had homosexual tendencies which was less than the truth. Eventually, he decided that it couldn't work and broke it off. He was known around the park as the prof, even though, they were all academics there.

Among his eccentricities, he was unconcerned with his appearance. Heeled his pants up with whatever came to hand. Shaved with an early electric razor leaving a 5 o'clock shadow. In the hay fever season, he wore a handkerchief over his nose. He could be abrupt, not suffering fools gladly.

Turing's work on Enigma ended with a whimper rather than a bang. And he went to America to liaise with their crypt analysts. His security rating was the highest. In America, he worked on speech encoding. The method he used is now commonplace, digital sampling, like the code on compact disks only with mathematical operations on the digits to disguise them. The day the war ended, a friend said, now, you can tell us everything. Turing said, don't be silly. And he never did.

But his work on codes proved valuable at the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington when he worked on the automatic computer engine, or universal machine, what was known then as the electronic brain, and what we would call a computer. He showed that with a large fast memory, the hardware could be very simple. They didn't need to be a special part of the computer to add or multiply, just a set of instructions in the program to use more basic instructions as often and as necessary for addition and multiplication to occur.

In fact, a computer just needed to imitate adding or multiplying. If the symbols 1 plus 1 times 2 times 3 were always decoded as 12 that was enough. In the same way, the computer was imitating human thinking. And the Turing test is still used today in considering the unsolved question, can a machine think? Can a machine fool a human into thinking he or she is communicating with another human?

However, because of his personality, he found it hard to communicate what was so clear to him to engineers, or even lesser mathematicians. And the bureaucracy got in the way. One of Turing's superiors, cheerfully, stripped the logic functions from the proposed computer turning it into a giant calculator. And the outcome is history.

The early development of computers fell to the Americans, and by 1950, Turing was being written out of the history of the computer. Turing machine is sometimes written with an umlaut as if it were German, Türing. Turing went on with his own ideas which he called abbreviated code instructions. And we would call high level languages. He saw, as few people did then, that a computer was not confined to numbers.

[CHANGE RINGING]

One of his recreations was programming a computer to imitate that uniquely mathematical and uniquely English art form, change ringing. He wrote short stories thinly disguised autobiography. One mentions picking up another gay man, and using that word as in so much else, he was years ahead of his time. Late in 1951, Alan picked up Arnold Murray, 19, working class, but not rough trade exactly, vivacious and with a sense of humor.

On their second meeting, Alan took him home. And they spent the night together, and two more nights together. Arnold was poor but he wouldn't accept money directly. On the 23rd of January 1952, Alan's house was burgled. Arnold said, a friend Harry had done it. Alan, with typical innocence, went to the police and described Harry to them. And when they questioned him further about how he knew, he blurted out just about everything.

Alan Mathison Turing being a male and Arnold Murray being a male were convicted of one committing an act of gross indecency plus one being a party to the Commission of an act of gross indecency times two men times three nights a total of 12 sexual crimes. And that was enough. Turing wouldn't parade his war record, considering it irrelevant. If anything, his class counted against him.

Arnold was conditionally discharged. Turing was bound over not to repeat his crime and offered the choice of prison, or organo-therapeutic treatment, as the local paper put it. Turing didn't want to stop work and accepted the treatment. Female hormones, they made his breasts grow and made him impotent, although not desire free. He interpreted the instruction not to repeat his crime literally, and went overseas to Norway and Greece for sexual contact.

After a year, Alan had a doctor removed the hormone implant from his thigh. One of its effects, at least in rats, is as a cerebral depressant. The experiment wasn't repeated on many humans, so whether it produces depression in the ordinary sense is unclear. Ten months later, with no warning whatever, on June the 7th, 1954, Alan Turing dipped an apple in a brew, let the sleeping death seeped through, and bit the apple.

His mother refused to believe it was suicide. He'd often used potassium cyanide in his experiments. One was still brewing in another room. Perhaps, he arranged it this way to spare her feelings. There's no memorial, unless you count every computer in the world. One enigma remains. What would computers be like today if Alan Turing hadn't killed himself? Well, as another gay Cambridge mathematician, Ludwig Wittgenstein, said, [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH] of what we cannot speak, thereof must we be silent.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

EVELYN: Hello, we're back. And we have with us Travis Mater.

TRAVIS: That's right.

EVELYN: And he is the assistant director for Theater Lab Houston. And he's got-- the current project with Theater Lab is this play, *Breaking The Code*, about the life of Alan Turing. Can you tell me a little bit about the play?

TRAVIS: Well, as you heard in the last segment, basically, *Breaking The Code* is about the life of Alan Turing. It's based upon *Alan Turing: the Enigma* by Andrew Hodges. It's a biography that came out in the early '80s.

And it basically traces his early childhood, when he was first discovering his sexuality. And also, I mean, it's actually multilayered. It traces both that and his intellectual development and involvement with a Nazi Enigma code and breaking that code, all the way until the betrayal his government had on him at the end.

EVELYN: OK, and what makes this pertinent today is several issues, I understand. It deals with issues of don't ask, don't tell rules.

TRAVIS: Yes, it's kind of that double standard and the military where it's as if you-- actually, there's one scene of the play where the British official was saying to him we need to keep a watch on you, you ever assure me that you might not reveal the nature of your work to a sexual partner.

And it's almost as if just because that partner might be another man, and that might be a stigma, that they could use that as a blackmail excuse, whereas, if the stigma didn't exist there wouldn't be any reason for blackmail. So it's that same don't ask, don't tell perpetuating the bigotry because it's a way of controlling people.

EVELYN: And very good. And we know that we have that going on in the military even today, and this is decades later. Also it deals with the issue of big brother.

TRAVIS: Yeah, actually, it's kind of interesting that the 1984, the George Orwell novel which talks about big brother. And it was actually written in 1948, which is very close to the time that World War II was going on. And Orwell was of course, English so it all kind of ties in with the general attitude at the time where big brother really was present.

And it seemed like, for instance, like character who was mentioning whether he would reveal something of his work to a sexual partner, he was a big brother like character. He just didn't have much of a name. He just kind of hovered in the shadows. And it's that same sort of situation.

EVELYN: All right. And does this deal with Turing's coming out at all?

TRAVIS: Yeah, actually it does. When Turing, well, the whole play basically is centered around a burglary that occurred to Turing's a house or apartment. And when he tells a policeman about this and the character that he thinks might be involved, the policeman starts asking him about his relationship with this other character. And it comes out that Turing has been having an affair with this man.

And when this happens, the policeman wants to press charges of gross indecency on Turing. And it turns out to be this big scandal. And he ends up having to tell his mother because they're going to put him in jail. And he ends up having to tell a friend of his who had been in love with him, this woman. So on many levels, it's sort of a coming out to your parents and to friends, and the different kinds of reactions they have.

EVELYN: And so basically, this man's entire world is broken to pieces over a burglary.

TRAVIS: Yeah, exactly. I mean, he was trying to have justice done for him and he kind of got shafted in the end.

EVELYN: Well, said. So tell me a little bit about the actors in the play.

TRAVIS: Well, Alan Turing is played by Jerry Miller, who interestingly enough works at NASA as an astronaut trainer. So he's kind of familiar with a scientific world and it's a good match. He's a great actor.

EVELYN: A great actor. Are most of the-- are most of the actors local?

TRAVIS: Yes.

EVELYN: Yes, they are local. And who's directing this one? I'm sorry, I didn't--

TRAVIS: It was directed by Ron-- Ron Jones.

EVELYN: Ron Jones.

TRAVIS: Who's also directed *The Kathy and Mo Show*. Some of you might be familiar with that.

JIMMY: Oh yeah.

EVELYN: OK, well, it sounds really-- it sounds really interesting. I'm looking forward to being able to see this production. This will be playing at Theater Lab Houston.

TRAVIS: That's right. And if you want tickets, you can call 868-7516.

EVELYN: And it's going to be a-- let's see, it's going to be showing from now until December 18. Is it showing now?

TRAVIS: Yeah, we had a performance tonight. Basically, it's every Friday and Saturday night at 8 o'clock. And we have two Sunday matinees--

EVELYN: On December 11 and 18.

TRAVIS: That's right. At 4 o'clock, I believe.

EVELYN: It's going to be a total of 14 performances. Be sure and catch this one. Theater Lab Houston is located at 1706 Alamo. We will have the--

JIMMY: OK, wait a minute here, Alamo.

EVELYN: Alamo.

JIMMY: I hear Alamo, where's that?

TRAVIS: OK, Alamo is off of Houston Avenue which is just North of downtown. It's like you know where the police station is?

EVELYN: Everybody knows where the police station.

TRAVIS: Well, you just keep going North on Houston, you'll get to Alamo, you take a left.

EVELYN: OK, and we'll give you this number and address later in the show. You can call up here. I will give you the number one more time for tickets. You can call 868-7516 and the tickets are under \$15, I believe, so it's easily affordable. And I want to thank you very much for being patient with us and coming out this late at night. It's been a real pleasure.

TRAVIS: Well, thank you.

EVELYN: Thanks a lot.

JIMMY: We'll be right back.

EVELYN: Wow, you just heard Laurie Anderson singing "Love Among the Sailors" and "Wind up toys" by King Missile, who has a member Chris Xefos who is gay. And so if you girls, what are you doing over there? Now--

GIGI: Just playing around.

EVELYN: Now-- now we need to let our listeners see what's back here, behind the wonderful radio that they're tuned into. We have a whip--

GIGI: Yes

EVELYN: --dangling to the floor. Tell me, tell me about this.

GIGI: Well--

EVELYN: Is this a special toy of yours?

GIGI: Oh yes. [LAUGHTER] Me and my girlfriend play with it.

EVELYN: You do?

GIGI: Mm-hmm.

EVELYN: Well, you won't play with it after tonight, it belongs to me and Bubba Sue now.

GIGI: I already gave it the [INAUDIBLE].

EVELYN: OK, what are we going to talk about tonight?

GIGI: Well, I wanted to talk a little bit about the group.

EVELYN: OK, and the group is-- now, I know but some of our listeners may not.

GIGI: BiNet Houston.

EVELYN: BiNet Houston.

GIGI: We're here.

EVELYN: We're here. We're all clear.

GIGI: Mm-hmm

EVELYN: That's right.

MICHELLE: That's right.

GIGI: One of the things that-- you know, I kind of wanted to talk a little bit about my history because I've been bisexual since I was about 17, 18, and realized it. But there's never been a community here in Houston. There's always been the gay community, or the straight community.

And it's like for the first time in my life, this past year, I've been able to meet other bisexuals and have kind of a community base to identify with. I didn't stand alone anymore. And that was one of the hardest things for me going-- you know, I'm a little bit older now. And it's like early on, it was just real difficult to live in such isolation.

EVELYN: It is. Yeah. I've said on the air before that I really believe that of all the queer people, bisexuals get the worst rap because they face discrimination not only from the straight community but they face discrimination from the gay community as well.

MICHELLE: Yeah, that's something I'd like to talk about some. I mean, like if I'm in the straight community and you know, someone says something like, oh, you're bisexual, say why don't you just bring a girlfriend over and maybe we'll get together, or something like that. I kind of expect that from straight people.

EVELYN: Yeah.

MICHELLE: I don't know. But you know, like if a gay person says something like, oh, all bi's are promiscuous, all bi's are-- you know, they sleep with everybody, you can't trust them, they'll leave you, they'll leave you for a man, whatever. That's something that really offends me because of, I guess, all the prejudice that gays and lesbians suffer in our society. I expect them to be more tolerant, more open minded about it.

EVELYN: Not a chance, sister. Not yet. We're getting there. We're getting there. Make a plea for tolerance. I know, I know, being out in the community a lot, I know a lot of people and I know very many lesbians who absolutely will not date a woman that they think even might be bi. And there's a lot of reasons for it and some of them are valid but some of them are not, you know.