

MAN 1: After I got elected, I got the phone call I knew I'd eventually get. And I got quite a few of them.

[TELEPHONE RINGS]

One was from a 17-year-old child in a small town in Minnesota. And the boy is handicapped. And the boy's parents found out he's gay, and they want to put him in an insane asylum. And that boy needs help. And the gay mood is about the letter I got from southwest Africa, when you read about a gay person getting elected here. And that person has hope.

And that 17-year-old kid in Minnesota has hope. And we have gay leaders not understanding that and are more worried about their own personal power. They're not gay leaders. They're offensive.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN 2: The disorders began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar, the Stonewall on Christopher Street, in the heart of the West Village.

MAN 3: I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me, had not something in my life and this state prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us.

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

MAN 4: All right. Say it so that they can hear you in the Capitol!

CROWD: (CHANTING) For love and for life, we're not going back! For love and for life, we're not going back! For love and for life, we're not going back! For love and for life, we're not going back!

WOMAN 1: It's all right. You may all come out.

WOMAN 2: They've got to understand something! They got to understand something! We are not talking about [INAUDIBLE] politics! This is not a movement from the waist down! We are talking about our right to love, and to choose, and to live! And I don't care about straight tolerance! And I don't care about straight understanding! You better here me in Washington! We are demanding! We are demanding our civil rights!

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

HARVEY MILK: Come on out. [LAUGHS] Join us. Bring your friend.

REPORTER: What do you think about the turnout so far?

HARVEY MILK: Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.

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

[CHEERING]

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

PROTESTER: I want you to savor this next moment. I have the proud task of telling you that the official count of the Lesbian and Gay Rights March, the official count is over 500,000 strong.

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

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

HOST 1: Wow, come on out.

HOST 2: Let's go home.

HOST 1: That's not what we mean by coming out.

HOST 2: Why don't we always start with, come on out, let's go home.

HOST 1: No. Good morning!

HOST 2: Hi, baby. How are you?

HOST 1: Great.

HOST 2: Hey, it's another Sunday. It's another gay day.

HOST 1: It's always the gay day.

HOST 2: Is it?

HOST 1: For me.

HOST 2: Oh, yeah. I have this boil on the side of my face.

CREW: Oh, thanks for sharing--

HOST 1: It's just--

CREW: --that with us. We feel so much closer to you now.

HOST 2: Well, we have to tell everything. I also have a boil on my-- never mind.

HOST 1: I didn't see that one.

HOST 2: You want to?

HOST 1: No.

HOST 2: Oh.

[LAUGHTER]

No. I was shaving yesterday or Friday, and just about-- I was trying to-- no, I wasn't-- I don't know. Oh, shut up. We already did that.

HOST 1: You did them differently tonight.

HOST 2: Yeah, well.

HOST 1: Yeah, you made it sound like Harry Britt was at Stonewall.

HOST 2: Hey, there's Larry Rodriguez.

HOST 1: I like that.

HOST 2: Huh?

HOST 1: Hey. Hi, Larry.

HOST 2: We made it sound like what?

HOST 1: Made it sound like Harry Britt was at Stonewall. You kind of put him in first.

HOST 2: Well, it was nice. Harry Britt probably was in spirit, in Stonewall. But anyway, we've got-- speaking of Harry Britt-- not Harry Britt, but speaking of fighters, we've got a fighter that's going to be here tonight.

HOST 1: We sure do.

HOST 2: He's been involved in the Gay Lesbian Pride Week. He was involved in ACT UP, Houston in getting that off the ground. And now he's running--

HOST 1: The NAMES Project.

HOST 2: Yeah. Real involved in the NAMES Project. He dedicated many, many hours to that. And now he's running for City Council, Houston City Council.

HOST 1: District G.

HOST 2: And he just happens to be openly gay.

HOST 1: Ta-da.

HOST 2: And we'll be talking to him and taking your phone calls later on. By the way, this is *After Hours* on KPFT. This is Houston. Now you got to say KPFT Houston to make it legal.

HOST 1: OK.

HOST 2: And this is not 90.1 FM Pacifica Radio for Texas. The phone number's 526-4000, 526-KPFT. We want to hear from you. And let us know what's on your mind this morning. 526-4000. 526-KPFT. Are we going to give anything away today--

HOST 1: We can.

HOST 2: --later on?

HOST 1: But you forgot something.

HOST 2: What?

HOST 1: What we are.

HOST 2: We're here and we're queer?

HOST 1: We're that.

HOST 2: Should we let Alan do it?

HOST 1: We're also *After Hours*, celebrating life from the heart of Montrose.

HOST 2: Yeah. And we're criminals in this state.

HOST 1: Tell us about it, Alan.

HOST 2: Homosexual criminals. Alan would always say we're queer.

[MUSIC - MARLY DUFFY, JOE JONAS, "I'M GAY"]

HOST 1: You know you're amazing?

HOST 2: What?

HOST 1: As long as I've been here, and as long as I've been listening to this show, you always manage every week to pull out some sort of gay music I've never heard.

HOST 2: What about something else you've never heard?

HOST 1: Like what?

[GRUNTS]

I haven't heard that.

HOST 2: OK, listen to this. You ready?

HOST 1: Yeah.

HOST 2: OK.

[GUITAR MUSIC PLAYING]

ANNOUNCER 1: Here they come in their [INAUDIBLE] and leather [INAUDIBLE]. The straight people, terrifying their own children, living in a world only they can understand. They'll bug you, and they'll bug your mind. The straight people, you'll see them in breakfast nooks across the country, smoking cigarettes, drinking Martinis, driving two cars.

The straight people, you'll join them hanging out at redemption centers, licking glue, making deals with total strangers. The straight people, you'll be inside their minds as they say--

ACTOR 1: Anything more from the supermarket, honey?

ACTOR 2: More sugar!

[BABY CRYING]

ANNOUNCER 1: The straight people now playing in patios and parking lots everywhere. From Paranoid Pictures, this movie has been rated X, the unknown, positively no one admitted.

HOST 2: How'd you like that?

HOST 1: Makes Freddy Krueger sound like Pollyanna.

HOST 2: Yeah, and he's coming. I can't say he's coming on gay radio.

HOST 1: Oh.

HOST 2: It's KPFT in Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

HOST 1: All right, all right, all right.

HOST 2: I didn't know you could kick that high.

HOST 1: I have--

HOST 2: Well--

HOST 1: --secret talents here. Yes.

HOST 2: --someone told me you could. That was only with-- never mind.

HOST 1: But you didn't believe them, huh?

HOST 2: Yeah, I believe everything I hear.

HOST 1: Oops.

HOST 2: Almost. Did you believe that the mayor was at the Pride Week thing last week? We must have static. We must have static.

HOST 1: Yeah, makes me gay.

HOST 2: I couldn't believe that. Well, they're going to--

HOST 1: She won't march in the parade, though, right?

HOST 2: It's an election year, Darling. Oh, speaking of elections, Bruce Reeves is here tonight he's running for District G.

HOST 1: Houston City Council.

HOST 2: He'll be joining us here in a little bit, openly gay and running for District G against Christin Hartung who's been there for quite a while. We invited Councilmember Hartung here. But we didn't hear from her. We'll probably hear from her in a couple of weeks. You know how things are at City Hall? Pretty screwed up, baby.

HOST 1: And slow.

HOST 2: Yeah. Hey, somebody called last week or the week before and said we should do personals. Do you remember that?

HOST 1: Yes.

HOST 2: I think they're right.

HOST 1: Caught me off guard.

HOST 2: Oh, really?

HOST 1: Yeah.

HOST 2: Yeah, but you've already got a husband--

HOST 1: Well.

HOST 2: --with a bank account.

HOST 1: Yes.

HOST 2: A big bank account. So don't try, girls. He's already taken. He really is. It's such a shame too. I mean-- no.

HOST 1: Yes, Stanley's been taking me for years and years.

HOST 2: Has he really? Well, anyway, I think this guy was right when he called. I think that we should have a personals. So we should start tonight.

HOST 1: Oh, you've been doing it for years.

HOST 2: I know.

HOST 1: What are you talking about?

HOST 2: So what?

HOST 1: I hear this in my sleep.

HOST 2: What do you mean we've been doing it for years?

HOST 1: I want a hairy man.

HOST 2: Listen, I went out and got it recorded. You know those little booths at the malls where you can go in and sing and you can record your own thing?

HOST 1: You did that?

HOST 2: Yeah. So here it is. And I'm not going to say I want a hairy man. Well, let this do it. This is *After Hours* on KPFT radio, celebrating life from the heart of Montrose. 526-4000 and 526-KPFT. That's the number to call. What's on your mind this morning?

[MUSIC PLAYING]

HOST 1: Well, that's a good start. That's really funny.

HOST 2: Isn't that great?

HOST 1: Where did you get that one?

HOST 2: I'm not going to tell you.

HOST 1: OK.

HOST 2: I dug it out of the queer record rack. You're always--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

HOST 1: Yeah.

HOST 2: I have a whole pile of records under my bed that says "queer music." And you just reach in there and pull on it.

HOST 1: That's funny. I looked under your bed. I didn't see records.

HOST 2: 526-4000. 526-KPFT. Hey, we got a letter this week that I want to read to you from one of our friends in TDC.

HOST 1: Oh.

HOST 2: But before we read it, I want to assure him that we're not going to read your name or anything, so don't fall out of your bunk.

HOST 1: Now, you don't have to say that.

HOST 2: No. No, you don't have to turn the radio down, baby, because we're not going to give your name. I have said a lot of times that we want to say hi to the guys and girls in TDC because there are a lot of lesbians and gay men who are incarcerated for whatever. And sometimes-- I know it's lonely enough being out here where you can walk the streets of Montrose--

HOST 1: Absolutely. It must really [INAUDIBLE].

HOST 2: --without a husband. God knows what it's like locked up up there. So before we read this, I want to say to you that we would like to invite you to-- not you, if you can't. But if you're listening and you're in TDC and you would like to tell the community about your situation as a gay person incarcerated behind bars, I would like to hear from you.

And Jimmy and I would like to come up and do an interview with you and put you on *After Hours*. I think it'd be a great show. So if you're listening and you're able to-- a lot of people that are gay aren't able to. But if you're listening--

HOST 1: And we understand that.

HOST 2: Yeah. If you're listening and you're openly gay and you don't have any problem with it, I want you to write us. I'll give you the address in just a minute. And we'll make arrangements to come up to Huntsville or wherever you are and do a show with you because we would like to share your views and your feelings on what it's like to be at TDC and be a gay person.

And again, we're not going to read your name, guy, so don't worry about that. This says, hi, guys and girls, I'm an inmate in the TDC, and I listen to your radio show religiously. I've accumulated gradually much information-- oh, I'm sorry-- much important information from the program on the gay movement and gay rights. My personal opinion of the *After Hours* program is that the gay society within the area of radio reception is one of the luckiest societies in the state of Texas. That was nice.

HOST 1: That really was nice.

HOST 2: Thanks a lot. And it says, at this time, I've ordered some literature on the gay movement and gay people and hope to learn more. The gay population in TDC is overwhelming. And a great many people stay in the closet for fear of punishment from the system.

And then the writer goes on to Express his opinion about the punishment, it says, a human being with AIDS has to go through just to get to the AIDS treatment center, talking about the Thomas Street clinic. Leslie Perez, a couple of weeks ago, in here talking about that. The treatment center there in a wonderful city like Houston.

It's a disgrace that the mayor of Houston continually allows unsafe and life-threatening situations for many taxpaying people. It says in parentheses, gay people pay taxes, too.

HOST 1: A lot of it.

HOST 2: Please keep us posted as to what is planned to lessen the six-block walk for the ones with canes, crutches, or walkers, or for that matter anyone. And it goes on to say, sorry, about the misspelled words, but hell, no one is perfect.

HOST 1: I know I'm not.

HOST 2: Listen. Whether you're in-- what?

HOST 1: These letters really make it for us. And this one is really special.

HOST 2: Whether you're in TDC, or you're an attorney, or you work as a nurse, or you work as a bellboy, or you work at a gas station, or a lawyer's office, and you're gay and you're not admitting it to yourself, you are just as incarcerated as this young man as that's in TDC.

He's locked up behind bars. You're only locked up-- well, you're locked up within yourself. And I don't give a damn what you say, how you justify it, it stinks. And you don't have to live your life like that. I don't care if you're 18 or 80. You don't have to live like that. You don't have to be afraid. You don't have to be alone.

You don't have to hope that someday it's going to get better. It's better today. Look out the window. This is 1989. And as Ray Hill has said time and time again, we believe that the Constitution will protect us and guarantee us those rights that the founders of this country wanted us to have. And we're going to fight for that.

We're going to continue to tell you on this program how the so-called religious people really and truly hate us. They don't dislike us. They really hate us. And try to get from them an explanation as to how they can hate us so much when their Bible teaches them to love.

Again, if you're in TDC and you can openly speak to us about your sexuality and your predicament, I guess, I want you to write us at After Hours, care of KPFT at 419 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas, 77006. And we want to make arrangements to come up to TDC and tape a show with you. That would be fun, right?

HOST 1: It sure would.

HOST 2: And this writer, this listener said that he liked blues, blues, blues, and more blues. So Jimmy, what you got?

HOST 1: Well, I kind of like the blues my own self.

HOST 2: Yeah.

HOST 1: If you listened last week, I think Mojo was playing a little Janis Joplin, and I went crazy because I think she's probably the only white blues singer, real blues singer there ever was. I picked one out especially for tonight and especially for our gentleman and for you, buddy. It's from the *Kozmic Blues* album. And it's called "One Good Man."

HOST 2: That's all we need.

HOST 1: Yeah.

HOST 2: Bruce Reeves coming up next, so stay with us. This is *After Hours* on KPFT Houston, celebrating life from the heart of Montrose.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Is that-- that's blues, baby.

HOST 1: That's blues, baby.

HOST 3: You don't get no bluer than that.

HOST 1: "One Good Man."

HOST 2: That's all I need is one good man with hair on his chest.

HOST 1: Well, I've got one.

HOST 2: There's one right here, Darling. Right to your left.

HOST 1: Sure is. Mr. Bruce Reeves.

HOST 2: Here, that's yours.

HOST 1: Hi.

BRUCE REEVES: Hi.

HOST 2: How are you, baby?

BRUCE REEVES: I'm just fine, buddy. And yourself?

HOST 2: What's new?

BRUCE REEVES: Oh, I'm running for city council. That's about as new as it gets.

HOST 2: District G?

BRUCE REEVES: District G.

HOST 2: What do you mean? That's not funny.

BRUCE REEVES: Oh.

HOST 2: It's a lot of work?

BRUCE REEVES: It's a lot of work. I had no idea when I got into this what I was getting into. But I'm still very committed and ready.

HOST 2: Racing. You're running against Christin Hartung?

BRUCE REEVES: Well, I assume I will be when she eventually decides to announce. Right now, I'm the only announced candidate.

HOST 2: She's the current--

BRUCE REEVES: She is the incumbent.

HOST 2: What is it? What's the word? Incumbent council person.

BRUCE REEVES: Council member.

HOST 2: Council member. [MUMBLES]

HOST 1: Is that PC?

BRUCE REEVES: I'm always politically--

HOST 2: We should play that. We'll play that later. We'll play that later. We invited Ms Hartung here. But we haven't heard from her. We'll hear from her in three or four weeks.

BRUCE REEVES: Probably.

HOST 2: You know how things are in City Hall, but that's tough. We out letters. I hope you got your soon enough to make plans to be here.

BRUCE REEVES: Of course.

HOST 2: So we hope that she got hers. But I don't know whether she did or not. She may be like Whitmire. She just shows up when she feels like it.

BRUCE REEVES: Well. I mean--

HOST 2: Who knows?

BRUCE REEVES: It's not like I do many other things from 2:00 to 4 o'clock on Sunday mornings anymore.

HOST 2: Well, we invite a lot of people here, but they can't come. They say, well, our group can't stay up that late. I say, OK. And then afterwards, we go to Charlie's and wherever, and you see these people all over town. So we're glad to have you here. And we're--

BRUCE REEVES: And I'm glad to be here.

HOST 2: --really glad to have you here because it shows that you're committed to the community and you're interested in telling people what your-- agenda? No, platform. Is that what you got?

BRUCE REEVES: Agenda, platform. Yeah.

HOST 2: Politicians all have platforms. But you really don't need a platform because you're so tall. But anyway. So why? Why run for city council?

BRUCE REEVES: Oh. Well, buddy, I've always been interested in politics. And I guess the last year or two, I've really realized partly through your help that I needed to get back in touch with my feelings of running for political office. And of course, Harvey Milk says it better than anyone else. We have to elect gay people to office. I want to be a politician. I was a page in Congress 20 years ago.

HOST 1: Whoa!

BRUCE REEVES: 13 years ago.

HOST 1: OK.

BRUCE REEVES: Something like that. I don't know whenever that was. 1976. I can't count.

HOST 2: But you've talked about that before how much you wanted to serve.

BRUCE REEVES: Yeah. I really-- I enjoy being a leader. I've been a leader in the gay community here in Houston for about two years now.

HOST 2: Yeah.

BRUCE REEVES: And I really-- I enjoy it. But I feel like I have a lot more to give. I feel like I can do a lot more for the community. And I feel like right now, I can do a lot more for the community outside the community. We have to have gay leaders in positions of power in the city, in the county, and the state, in the country. Yeah. it has to happen that way. And it's not going to happen until people start running for office.

HOST 2: Have you had a lot of support so far?

BRUCE REEVES: I haven't had as much, I guess, as I would like to have. A lot of people know that I'm running, and they'll ask me how things are going. And that's very supporting. I need people to ask me, well, how's the campaign going? Because it helps to keep me going. And it's a lot like doing this radio show. It's something that every-- little thing you can get to keep you in touch with.

But financial support is hurting bad. And people support-- we're reaching the point in the campaign where we need to start doing a lot of walking the streets and going door to door and saying, Hi, I'm helping this guy get elected to office. And I want you to know who he is.

Because on a low budget campaign I'm running right now, you don't buy billboards, you don't buy full page ads in the newspaper, you don't even buy 15-seconds spots on the radio. It's just not there.

HOST 2: We-- "we" being me, I followed Steve Shimer around. What was it, two years ago--

BRUCE REEVES: Yeah.

HOST 2: --when he ran for District C right after that fiasco when George decided not to run? And everybody-- well, let's not get into that. They didn't want Ray Hill to run, kids. That's what happened. But anyway.

BRUCE REEVES: Ray was already running for something else, too.

HOST 2: Yeah. We followed Steve Shimer around. He had lots of money. And I don't know if he had lots of support. I was in his campaign headquarters several times. And there were lots of people in there. And I really thought he was going to do great. But the day of the election, he didn't get nothing. And I was so disappointed.

BRUCE REEVES: Yeah. Well, of course, that was a real strange election, too, from the standpoint. I mean, there were four people running. The gay community was split in four different ways on how they wanted to vote.

HOST 2: That's true.

BRUCE REEVES: Hopefully, that's not going to be the case in this race. Christin hasn't had any opposition since she was elected 10 years ago.

HOST 2: At all?

BRUCE REEVES: None. And so I'm like--

HOST 1: Bet that saved her some bucks.

BRUCE REEVES: Yeah. I'm sort of a new thing on the horizon with Christin. And I'm looking forward to giving her a run for her money because I really think that I can win this race. And I have no doubts that the gay community is going to be behind me just because-- I don't see how they could support Christin. But then I've been surprised before, too. So I'm hoping the community's behind me.

HOST 2: So we'll talk on the phone here a little bit.

BRUCE REEVES: OK.

HOST 2: We'll open the phone lines. OK. Is that all right with you?

HOST 1: Has Christian--

HOST 2: Christin.

HOST 1: --Christin. Has she ever wanted the endorsement of GLPC.

BRUCE REEVES: She has asked for and received the endorsement of GLPC once. It was several years ago. It was before the Louie Don't Shoot.

HOST 1: Fiasco? We'll be back in a minute with Bruce. And we're going to open the phone lines to take your calls. We got a little song from Michael Callen to kind of wake you up because it is a war, whether you believe it or not. And Bruce is right. We need to get gay people elected into public office. This is something that we play all the time that Harvey says about how you must register to vote.

And then Harvey Fierstein from the movie *Torch Song Trilogy* would be coming up after that, and then Michael Callen. So stay with us. The number's 526-4000. 526-KPFT. We're waiting to talk to you.

MAN 4: The legislators and the executive officers, be they the local supervisor, be they statewide run your life. They run your life, and they spend your money. When they collect tax money from gay people and don't give us anything back in return, take it for their golf courses, take our tax money for their pet projects, and give us-- and on top of it insult us by not giving us our rights, that's not motivation.

If you like being harassed by the police, if you like being a third-class citizen, if you like being beat up by pugs, if you like the church yelling at you, don't register, don't vote, but don't complain, if you want to be shoved back in your closet, if you want to be the traditional gay person who gets beat up, and limp home, and say, well, I'm gay, and I deserve to get beat up, fine. Otherwise, the only thing you can do is register to vote.

MAN 5: Blood on the street. That's right. They killed him on the street. 27 years old laying dead out on the street killed by a bunch of kids with baseball bats. That's my [INAUDIBLE] killed by children [INAUDIBLE] by people like you because everybody knows that queers don't matter. Queers don't love, and those that do deserve what they get!

[MUSIC PLAYING]

HOST 2: It certainly is.

HOST 1: It certainly is. Yes, yes, yes.

HOST 2: I'm so tired. I have a message. No, I can't do that. I shouldn't read that over the air. Garland said Friday that he used to listen to KPFT when he was in high school. And they didn't have--

HOST 1: Oh, were they around then?

HOST 2: Yeah. Years ago, forever. He's like a baby baby. But he said they didn't have a receptionist, and they had a real bad phone system. So people would call in and they'd answer the phone down here, (STRAINED VOICE) KPFT. Yeah. Hang on just a minute. And they'd say, Jean, you have a telephone call on line one. Jean, line one.

HOST 1: It would come over the air?

HOST 2: Yeah, they just paged him right over the air. They'd go, yeah, hang on just a minute. What do you want? A program guide? Yeah. Hang on. Let me see if he's here. Pretty incredible stuff. But that's KPFT.

HOST 1: Pioneer days.

HOST 2: Anyway, pioneer days.

HOST 1: Yes, we're very sophisticated now.

HOST 2: Yeah, well. Pioneer-- being openly gay politicians not exactly pioneer now, but in Houston it is.

HOST 1: It sure is in Houston.

BRUCE REEVES: It really is.

HOST 1: The only one I know of is Ray Hill and Steve Shimer.

BRUCE REEVES: Right. We've had a couple of candidates. But Houston's never had an openly gay anyone. Now, that's not to say there haven't been gay people in office.

HOST 2: I think there's one down there now. I wish he'd come out. We don't want to mention any names, but the initials are--

BRUCE REEVES: Just a him or her, too.

HOST 2: Yeah, well, both. Hey, you said earlier that-- oh, by the way, the phone number is 526-4000, 526-4000, 526-KPFT if you've got questions for Bruce Reeves, who's running for District G, which stands for gay-- I didn't think about that till just now.

BRUCE REEVES: I'm running for a District Gay now.

HOST 2: District G, 526-4000, 526-KPFT. You said earlier that financial support wasn't just pouring in. If Shimer did it with the money that he had because of the business that he's in and didn't get so far, what do you have? Have you got an ace in the hole somewhere that--

BRUCE REEVES: The big thing, you can't win the race with money. If I had a million dollars and I never went out and met the people in the district, I couldn't win. There's no way. The way you win, you win an election in the city by getting 15,000 votes. So if I can go out and knock on 20,000 doors and get 15,000 of those people that I find in those 20,000 homes to vote for me, I can get elected.

HOST 1: I don't understand what you mean by that. 15,000 votes?

BRUCE REEVES: Well, basically, 15,000 votes of-- 15,000 votes is your typical number of votes that it would take to win an election in a district. If you figure this, probably 29,000 people in my district, which is conceivably a tenth of the city of Houston, which, therefore, should have 400,000 people in it. 29,000 of those may go to the polls.

HOST 2: Why did you decide on District G?

BRUCE REEVES: Well, it's the district I live in. My other choice would have been to run citywide, to run in one of the At-large council districts. Obviously, it's a lot harder to reach 200,000 people than it is to reach 20,000 people. There's no doubt that eventually, maybe, someday down the road I'd like to be mayor or senator, or I don't know what.

But right now, I feel very much like I can do some things for the city of Houston. I can help everyone in my district, I feel. More importantly, I can bring some new blood, some new ideas, some new information into the city. And you have to do that. If you stay with the same leadership day in and day out, things never change. They atrophy. And it's just you get the same thing every day, day in and day out. And you have to constantly change things to make progress.

HOST 1: Do you have anything you could share with us as to what you could do for the city of Houston that's not being done now?

BRUCE REEVES: Well, buddy, I guess the main portion of really of my platform is I would like to see the city of Houston bring some kind of quality program into the city. I currently work for Texaco. And at Texaco, they instituted a quality program about five years ago, which is just really starting to kick in, and the results are really starting to get noticed.

But basically, what it boils down to is that you have every person in the city looking for ways to improve their job. If I'm a garbage collector and I know that maybe if I did my route in a reverse order, I could do it better, I could do it faster, it would be easier on me, or whatever, I make that suggestion. And I make it in such a way through a quality team so that I'm not just going to my supervisor and saying, hey, this is what I think should be done.

I'm doing something that's more broad-based than that. I can feel very free to speak up and say, you know, hey, I need to turn my route around. It would work better that way, and say it in a situation where I don't have to worry about my supervisor killing me because maybe he's taking some money under the table that's going to go away if we do what I want to do.

HOST 2: Is somebody's taking money under the table?

BRUCE REEVES: Well, there are always cases of people taking money under the table. And just recently, there was a case. I don't remember the exact specifics of it right now. And it's still being investigated as to what is going on in that. But it's like, politics is not on the up and up. It's very rarely on the up and up.

And the longer someone is in office, the more likely it is that they can be bribed into doing something else. And I'm not saying that anyone down there now is doing that. But there has to be cases. But in any case, like the US government paying \$100 for a hammer. Surely, that happens in the city of Houston somewhere.

HOST 2: So what would be your message to the voters?

BRUCE REEVES: My main message to the voters is, I feel like I have the leadership qualities to do this job. I'm capable. I do 110% of everything I do. I don't ever do a half anything job. And I really feel like it's time the District G had some new leadership. It's time we had some new leadership in the city on council. And I feel like I'm the person to do that.

HOST 2: 526-4000. 526-KPFT. That's the number to call. We're talking to Bruce Reeves, candidate for District G for the upcoming election. Yeah?

HOST 1: Bruce, are you aligning yourself with either Whitmire or Hofheinz?

BRUCE REEVES: No, Jimmy, I'm really not. I guess if truth be told, I probably wish there was someone else running that I felt like had the support to be elected. There are a number of peripheral, I guess, candidates that are running for mayor of the city of Houston. But right now, I really don't feel like there's any one person I could throw my support behind.

And I haven't really decided who I'm going to vote for yet. I'm trying to stay out of the mayor's race. But at the same time, when I look at voterships, I have to kind of sit there and say, well, most of the people that vote for Fred Hofheinz may have a better chance of voting for Bruce Reeves than the people that vote for Kathy Whitmire do because the people that are going to vote for Fred are voting that they want to change.

They're not happy with the way things are going right now. So I would have to say that probably I'm going to get more Fred's votes than Kathy's votes. But I really am not supporting any one candidate for mayor.

HOST 1: I see. How long has Christin been in office? And just off the top of my head, it seems as though she's been in office about as long as Whitmire.

HOST 2: Luckily, we've all been down there forever.

HOST 1: Yeah, well, it seems like she and Whitmire headed at the same time. Is there a connection there?

BRUCE REEVES: Kathy was elected eight years ago, I think. Christin was elected 10 years ago. 10 years ago, the city of Houston went from a situation where all of the district-- from where all the council members were at-large to a district system. So 10 years ago, they created the districts.

And when they created the district, Christin was one of 13 people who came out to run for District G. And she was elected in a subsequent runoff election and has been, to the best of my knowledge, unopposed since then. She hasn't had any opposition since then.

HOST 1: You don't hear a lot of about her. You hear a lot about Vance, and Eleanor, and all the others. But I don't recall reading anything about Christin lately.

BRUCE REEVES: If you really want to find Christin's name in the newspaper, read the social page. That's where I see it more than I see it anywhere else. Now, I've noticed in the last couple of months that that's starting to change. And so my guess is, maybe, Christin may be taking me somewhat seriously. But in the past, I've found that Christin really-- she primarily votes with the majority of council.

And the way you get in the newspaper in this city is you vote against the majority. You vote with a minority of council. Christin's not a noisemaker. And I'm a firm believer that if you want to make change, you've got to make noise.

HOST 1: 526-4000, 526-KPFT. That's the number to call. Going to the telephones now. KPFT, you're on the air.

CALLER (ON PHONE): Yeah. How are you doing?

HOST 1: Just fine.

CALLER (ON PHONE): Yeah. I need to ask something quick. What will you do as a councilman to help the teachers because I'm a teacher with HIV? And our pay has not been up to normal. And what will you do to help the teachers as a councilman?

BRUCE REEVES: Well, I'm obviously very concerned about any number of our city employees. All of our city employees have been a long time since they've had a raise, our teachers especially. The teachers are teaching the up-and-coming citizens of the city of Houston. And obviously, they need a quality education that I don't feel they're getting right now.

To do that, we've got to increase teachers' pay. We've got to increase a lot of pay across the board. And I'm hoping through some kind of a quality program, we can find enough cuts in the budget to make all those pay increases. Because obviously, to just go in up front and say we've got to raise teachers pay 20% to get it back to where it should be would be a phenomenal tax increase without something to back it up.

And a quality program is not something that's going to happen overnight. But I feel like through the quality program, we can make the cuts that we need to make in the budget, give some incentives to the people that help us find those cuts, and at the same time, get that extra money that we need to raise your salary, and everyone else's salary.

CALLER (ON PHONE): OK. Thank you.

BRUCE REEVES: You're welcome.

HOST 2: 526-4000, 526-KPFT. Do you think the budget's out of control?

BRUCE REEVES: Budgets are always out of control. Even now working with Texaco's budget, it's like-- well, boss, we really have to have this, and this, and this, and this, and this in the budget next year, so let's ask for all of that plus 20% more. And we'll get what we want. We have to get away from this, raise your budget over and above what you need.

Your budget should be what you need. There's only X amount of dollars. You're not going to get any more dollars, probably, if you're screaming and hollering for less. At the same time, there's got to be some way to control all of that. I haven't gotten a copy of the city budget yet. It was passed about two weeks ago.

And hopefully by this week, this next week, I can get my hands on an actual copy and see exactly where all the money's going. Budgets are one of those massive things. And I have no doubt that the city of Houston probably doesn't take volumes to print.

HOST 2: I almost said where all the money's going, but we won't talk about Pride Week.

HOST 1: I know that's right.

BRUCE REEVES: Thank you.

HOST 2: Jimmy, we'll talk about that after Bruce leaves. OK? We'll be back in a little bit. This is *After Hours* on KPFT. It's almost 3:00 in the morning on a Sunday. And we're talking to Bruce Reeves, candidate for District G in the upcoming Houston city election. We'll be back in just a little bit, so stay with us.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SHERRY WOLF: Hi. I'm Sherry Wolf.

POKEY And I'm Pokey Anderson.

ANDERSON:

SHERRY WOLF: We host a show on Friday mornings called *Breakthrough*. It's a show about women and the things we hold most dear, including our love for each other.

POKEY Tune in to *Breakthrough* every Friday morning from 8:00 to 11:00.

ANDERSON:

SHERRY WOLF: And hear what you've been missing.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

WOMAN 3: When you hear "protect yourself against AIDS," what does that mean? Ever thought about that, "protection against AIDS?" Hm. Well, a couple of things come to mind. One is bigger than a bottle cap, smaller than an inner tube. It's latex. At least, it should be for protection. And it's available in red, blue, yellow, green, and various other colors. A one-use-only little device that's been around for a long time.

Some things don't change, except AIDS, of course. That's a new one, and not a welcome addition, I might add. All right, so protection against AIDS might mean a condom that you use correctly, mind you, every time you have sex. Do you think you can do that? There's a better choice that's so easy it might not have occurred to you.

You do know what's really safe, don't you? What's really safe is not doing it. So now that I've explained protection, do I need to explain not doing it? No, I don't think so.

MAN 6: America responds to AIDS.

MAN 7: KPFT Houston.