

And the Penthouse Club-- I haven't been to the newest incantation, but I remembered it from the '60s because it started out as a gay club.

That's right.

And boy, it was like the most classy gay club that was ever in Houston with these great view of downtown. And I'm sure the great view is still there. I don't know what it looks like on the inside.

My life partner and I have been there to have dinner. The service was good, the food was good, the people were friendly. And here they are-- they're a fairly new business really. They're under new ownership-- trying to assimilate themselves into the community by giving back. Here's a new business already saying, let's give back.

Cool. Hey, we need to--

So I think those are the kind of communities and businesses-- we need to support that.

Sure. You bet. You bet. You bet. Have you two been to the club yet?

No.

No?

No, but I hear it's really nice.

OK. I have to talk that up.

[LAUGHTER]

What else you got? Oh. Oh. A little self-promotion here. I see Binet.

Yes. Well, this is Gigi again. And I just wanted to remind you all that we are having a meeting this Wednesday night. Our topic's going to be on religion and bisexuality. And the way we do our meetings-- we have the first part where people can check in with where they're at. And it's a good time--

--sort of.

Yeah. It's a good time to kind of come out and discuss what's going on in your life. And then the second part, we usually focus in on a topic. All our meetings are kept confidential. And you can use your name or if you want to make up a name, that's fine with us. So do come. It's at the MCCR 1919 Decatur Street.

OK. Now for those of you-- I know how to get there. But for those of you who don't, it's like you go on Washington Avenue, and then you cross over on-- what's the street?

Silver.

Silver? OK.

Yeah. It's right at what-- the corner of Silver and Decatur.

OK. OK.

It's kind of hard to miss. Big old church right there.

It's just that you don't see it from Washington Avenue. And Silver is a good place to turn because that's where the light is, right?

There's no light--

There's no light? I think there's a light there.

You're thinking is straight before Silver.

Oh, I'm sorry.

[LAUGHTER]

I'm trying to make this easier.

--I'm turning OK?

But if you need the phone number or get lost on the way, the number is 861-9149.

OK, cool.

And it's Wednesday night, 7 o'clock.

I was going to ask you what happened in a meeting.

Ah.

And it's way cool.

Because I've seen people walk in. I've been to a Binet meeting. Yes. And I've seen people walk in, and they're really nervous because they don't know what to expect. And before you know it, they're just telling you their life history. It's really great.

And one good thing-- we do have a few people that come cross dressed once in a while.

We do?

Yes. Even Gigi comes once in a while.

[LAUGHTER]

And one L the things I find interesting--

Yeah, Jim?

One of the things I find interesting in the checking in and all this is they go around the room, you talk about stuff, and it's like, oh, my God, I've thought this, I've done that, I do this. And it's your life being told by all these different people. And it's really bizarre.

A lot of good connection goes on at--

Yeah.

You get a lot of good feedback. A lot of good, I would say, connection and discussions going on.

OK. What else we got?

OK.

Well, I want to say something about Q Patrol.

Yes. We can never say enough about Q Patrol, really.

Yeah!

It's an organization that they patrol the streets of Montrose and kind of keep the streets safe so to speak. I have a couple of phone number here if you want to join Q Patrol. You can call 871-8519 or call 643-0029. And I don't have any names for those, but--

Shoot. If you just want to send the money too--

Yeah, send them money. If you don't feel you have the time to go out every-- I think it's, what, every Friday and Saturday they patrol the streets. If you don't have the time--

Yeah, I think they only ask for one night a month or something like that.

--once a month bare minimum or you can donate your time, talent, or money. They need radios right now. They have walkie talkies and radios. Yeah, they really need radios at the moment. They also have a hate crimes hotline. If you or someone you know is the victim of a hate crime, you can call at 526-9615--

OK. Actually, I hate to disagree with you, but that number is operated by the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard.

Oh.

We're working closely with Q Patrol because we've set up this number about-- I'm a member of the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard. That's what I mean when I say we. We set this number up about a year ago with the generous financial help from Charles Armstrong to set it up. And we wanted to work with Q Patrol because we figured, hey, they're out there when people get bashed or something. And let's work together so that we can get all of this documented. That's the whole idea behind it. Unfortunately, the Switchboard is only open with live people there from like 6:00 in the evening till midnight.

OK. OK, good.

We, like any other group, have problems in volunteers.

Yes. Yes. That is a problem. So we have there on that line, there's a message if you're calling at any other time. And we'll call you back as soon as we can. But that number again.

526-9615.

And if you're confused about anything else and want to find out about different groups or phone numbers that you didn't get, you can always call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard at 529-3211.

[INAUDIBLE] and we're moving right along here. There is another event coming up. And it's something on a different note. There's a sixth annual 5K run, 10K Walkathon Rollathon benefiting the AIDS Foundation in Houston on Sunday November 6th at Tranquility Park.

You can register for that. They have early registration by October 31st, and they have a late registration until November 6th. And I think if you register late, you have to pay \$20 or something. But--

Boo!

Yeah. So get those registration forms in early. And if you don't want to actually walk, you can pledge somebody or sponsor somebody who's going to walk maybe certain amount per mile or per kilometer, I should say, excuse me, or just a flat fee if they do it.

Oh, yeah. If we're all into this kilometer stuff now. We don't do miles anymore. Just our cars do miles. We do kilometers. OK. Whatever that is. It's like a sixth of a mile or something. I don't know. [CONFUSED NOISE]

[LAUGHTER]

I don't know what it is.

You can't expect a person with a college degree to know that. Come on! You had something-- excuse me. You had something to go along with that, Gigi?

No, I think that was it.

Oh, did you want to talk about this condom thing?

Yeah. I did see an article about the Vatican's signals possible shift in condoms policy. I think this is something we definitely need to support to protect lives and protect our more religious brothers and sisters.

Don't get me started on that--

[LAUGHTER]

--because I almost feel like annihilating the Pope because of his stance. It's like millions of people are now HIV positive and there are how many unwanted pregnancies because of this no condom thing.

And now it's a death warrant.

Yes, absolutely.

I recently went to Italy to meet some relatives I had not met before.

Oh, DePalma, Yeah, that is Italian.

And while I was there, we, of course, attended mass. And if you've ever attended a mass in Italy, you know it's not like mass in this country. Mass takes 9 years and 7 days or something. And as I was coming out of church, I asked my uncle about the Pope and said to him, well, you're not far from the Vatican. What do you think about the Pope? And he looked at me with a perfectly straight face and said, the Pope, he no play the game, he no maketh the rule.

Ta-daa! Boy, howdy! Yes.

So there's another view of the Vatican for you.

Good. Pass it along.

Great. What else? Is there anything else on that?

Oh, I did want to mention-- if you want to sign up for this for this walk on November 6th, you can call 26-WALK W-A-L-K and get some more information for that.

Oh, cool.

We did kind of leave people hanging there, I think. But--

OK.

Sounds really good. It's for a good cause. If you want to come out and support-- if you're like me and too lazy to walk, you can sign up and support somebody who's willing to do the walking for you.

OK. We've got somebody who wants to talk on the air. And it's Tom who usually hangs out here. He's probably calling to apologize because he isn't here tonight. Everyone will have to wear headphones to hear him. Tom, are you there?

Hello.

Hey, Tom.

Yeah, Buddy Owens. OK. Hey, look, I know you just mentioned about the Pope. I have been reading some things where the Vatican itself is-- there is a lot of change, a thought change, in the Vatican. And one of those is, believe it or not, toward homosexuality. It's going to be slow, but it's there. And nobody's really talking about it too much. But I think the thing that they're doing is they're waiting for this Pope to die.

[LAUGHTER]

That's the truth. I'm telling you the truth. And so we ought to be praying for a great funeral soon for somebody.

We're just hoping for the next Pope to be better than this one? Is that the plan?

Yeah. Well, no. There is a different thought within the Vatican itself. But the Pope is too homophobic to change himself. But there is a thought that, hey, wait a minute, there is some scientific evidence out there I think we ought to consider. And this Pope doesn't really want to. But I guess when you're queer and in the closet, you really don't want to--

Ow!

[LAUGHTER]

Well, I wouldn't want anybody thinking that we're going after the Catholic Church exclusively--

Oh, no, no, no, no, no. No, no, no, no, no. I wouldn't do that. Of course not. I'm a great admirer of religion. Jimmy knows that.

Oh, yeah.

You know, Tom, maybe history will repeat itself and we'll get another openly gay Pope in the Catholic Church.

Well, that would be great. History has already recorded a few of them as having male brothels in there.

I'm rooting for a female Pope myself.

There we go.

Well, that'd be all right too. Yeah.

Well, OK. Thanks for calling, Tom.

But I just thought that might be interesting to--

Yeah. Yeah. OK, take care.

Bye-bye.

Bye. Tom Richards who usually hangs out here at after hours. I like when Tom does because then, I'm not the oldest guy here.

[LAUGHTER]

OK, I'd like to go to a piece of music now, something that has gone national. It's a perfect song for this coming out show. It was put together by the originator of after hours, Buddy Johnston. And it's all kinds of little bits from Harvey Milk and March on Washington. And it's all put into a song from a local woman who had a big hit in the '70s. And I think you'll remember it. It's called "Coming Out of Hiding."

[? The orders ?] began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar, the Stonewall, on Christopher Street in the heart of the West Village.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

All right! Say it so they can hear you at the capital! 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 not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back! 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!

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]

(SINGING) Standing in the shadow too long, waiting on the sideline too long. Boy, I've been watching you. Now you're going to watch me too. I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding. It's no mystery how you missed me for so long. But that's history. You we're so wrong for so long. Boy, I've been wanting. Now you're going to want me too. I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding.

It's all right. You may all come out.

We're queer.

When do we want it?

Now!

What do we want?

Gay rights!

When do we want it?

Now!

What do we want?

(SINGING) Standing in the shadow too long, waiting on the sideline much too long watching and wanting you. Now you're going to want me too. I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding. Coming out of hiding, looking for somebody like you. Coming out of hiding, coming on the run, coming for nobody like you. Coming out of hiding. Coming out of hiding. Coming out of hiding. Coming out of hiding.

As president of the board-- as president of the Board of Supervisors, it's my duty to make this announcement. Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.

They've got to understand something! They got to understand something. We are not talking about white 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 hear me in Washington! We are demanding-- we are demanding our civil rights!

I ask people all over this country to do one thing.

(SINGING) Come out of hiding. Come out of hiding. Come out of hiding. Come out of hiding.

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.

Harry, do you have a few words for KPFA?

Come on out. Join us.

(SINGING) Coming out of hiding. Looking for somebody like you. Coming out of hiding, coming on the run, coming for nobody like you.

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 in the stores you shop in, you--

[APPLAUSE]

Once they realize that we are indeed their children and we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed and once and for all. And I ask-- I ask people all over this country to do one thing-- come out. Come out, America! Come out!

What do we want?

Gay rights!

When do we want it?

Now!

What do we want?

Gay rights!

OK. We're back with our final segment with Karen Karen who is the-- Karen, what exactly is your title? Is it president, chief cook and bottle washer of It's Time America?

No, I'm the executive director. We have an executive committee composed of three directors one is in charge of finance, one is the Secretary, and I have the great privilege of being the executive director which means that anything that isn't covered by the other two, I guess, is my job.

One of those executives, for folks who don't know, is Jane Fee. That may not be a name that rings a bell to our listeners here in Texas. But Jane Fee was instrumental in getting transgender protection written into the law of Minnesota. And for those of you who think that well, gee, I'm 45 or I'm 50 or I'm 55, gee, I'm too old or I'm over the hill or I can't do anything, I can tell you this-- Jane Fee is retired, and I hope that I have half her energy. Jane is an amazing individual. And the other director's name is Jessica Xavier. Jessica is just the opposite end. She's fairly young and energetic and just full of ideas. So the staff of ITA is-- they're well stocked.

Yeah. I might point out that Jane's in her '70s. She's a retired military person. Fairly high ranking member of the Officer Corps. And Jane has had some very good success in dealing with people of both political parties up there in Minnesota. I might also mention that it would appear that at this point in time, we're going to have Wellstone and Durenberger signing on as co-sponsors for the amended 2238, which is [INAUDIBLE]

Both senators from Minnesota?

Yeah. And we're working right now with quite a number of representatives, and we're in hopes that we're going to get the same language changes made in the House version. And God willing and the creeks don't rise, next year, it'll get passed. It doesn't look very good for it ever getting to the floor this year. But in a way, that's fortunate for us. We'll be able to get the language straightened out so that it protects all of the gender community. And that's really good because that language will be there next year. And when it goes to the floor, hopefully, we'll see the whole of the gender community covered.

I would like to mention one thing that I think is kind of interesting along these non-partisan lines that ITA is pursuing-- we're very much in hope that some of these very prejudicial people who are in Congress can be persuaded to take a walk when it goes to the floor for a vote. Many of you know that we've got a few rather prominent senators of the Southern conservative variety who are somewhat opposed to us and who have done a wonderful job in the Americans with Disabilities Act among others of making sure that we were excluded and lumped in with pedophiles and similar other unsavory folks.

We're very much in hopes that by approaching these people with some folks that got some real genuine credentials in politics, that we'll be able to persuade them to at least take a walk. We don't really expect that we're going to get them to vote for it. But if we can keep them from voting against it, there's a very good chance that we can get this legislation passed through. If we can get everybody to start singing from that same sheet of music, I think the gender community could benefit greatly.

Well, that leads right into the next question. I'm the new girl on the block. And I'm sure that there are many people in our audience, gay and lesbian and bisexual, who are wondering what a transgendered person is doing here and why two transgender people would be talking about a law which currently has only language for gays and lesbians? But as we've already discussed, we are attempting to get changed. If you would, talk a little bit about the relationship between the transgendered and the gay, lesbian community and explain why you think we should be working together on this?

Well, we're all in kind of the same sinking boat here. The problems that we have or many of them are very much in common. As I think I've said before on one of your earlier programs, for transsexual people, there's no way we can go back into our closets. Our closets don't have the wardrobe for it, our documents are now, at some point in time as would myself, indicative of being in another sexual role. That makes it rather difficult to retreat into the closet. We actually live out of the closet. That does distinguish it somewhat from the gay and lesbian community, but it doesn't distinguish us tremendously.

The bi-gendered community-- which apparently is a little bit of confusing here to many people. I think the word bisexual, in fact, probably means bi-gendered. That's people who has one personality, have both a male and a female facet to it. And at the law conference, we were treated to a very good friend of mine standing up and telling us about it. It's interesting that bisexuals are incorporated and included into the gay and lesbian community.

And I suspect that most members of the gay, lesbian community probably don't have much of a clue what a bi-gendered person is. So they very conveniently just call them bisexual. And maybe that's not such a bad idea, maybe it's a good idea. I don't know. But it's an educational thing to start thinking about a little bit at least.

It's been an interesting thing for me. I've been a member of ACT UP and a member of Queer Nation. And any time I've heard the word bisexual mentioned, it has usually been in a negative connotation. I was a member of Queer Nation at the time that I started my transition. And I can tell you from my own experience that people were confused and also very angry. And there were a fair number of people who came up to me and said that I was a deserter, that by doing this, that I was turning my back on the gay and lesbian community. And they really didn't understand it.

And to the credit of a person that would be familiar to the folks here at KPFT-- her name is Diane Williams-- Diane Williams really stuck up for me and just really-- bless her heart. She really made it clear why the gay and lesbian community needed to stay together. And her answer was very simple. She said, we all have the same boot on our neck. It made sense to me.

Well, I'll tell you. It's kind of interesting. I try when I can to get to the PFLAG meetings here. And it was quite interesting for me to discover that they had never met a transsexual person and that they didn't know what a bisexual person was. It was a very interesting experience getting to know the folks there and for them to get to know me. My understanding is that in the near future, I guess I'm going to have an opportunity to be a featured speaker for that group.

We don't have a lot of people in Vermont. Vermont is a rather sparsely populated state. There's only about 3/4 of a million people in the entire state. So consequently, of course, there's not a huge gendered community. There are a few pockets where there's substantial percentages of the community that are gay and lesbian. But the transgendered community, I can count on the fingers of my two hands in this entire state. So it's not a very big community that I belong to. It does not, by the way, deter me because thanks to modern electronics and solid state technology, I can reach out across the world.

Well, before we go from this segment, there's one thing that we haven't talked about that's kind of near and dear to my heart. A couple of weeks ago, I was invited to speak on a program here at KPFT. And afterwards, after I get off the air-- bless you-- after I got off the air, there was a caller who had been sitting at home, listening to me talk about gender communities, and said, you make it sound as if we all need to be able to go on the radio tomorrow.

And so it's kind of a near and dear subject to my heart that people understand those of you who are perhaps new to the gender community or are very fearful that we really don't need 100 people in the city of Houston to go on television. What we need is one or two people to go on television and 100 to stuff envelopes. Doesn't that sound right to you?

Oh, absolutely. The power of politics is the power of being able to get at the people who we elect as officials. And the only thing that they respond to is numbers. We can't, as a small community that we are, really affect Congress very dramatically by those means and methods. We have to do it on a much more personal and intimate level with them. The gay and lesbian community has somewhat larger numbers. And certainly, they can affect them somewhat.

I'm not sure how effectively they can really get to them because when it comes right down to it, unless we enlist the support of all of our friends who are not part of our community and get them to start writing their congresspeople and sending them faxes and telegrams and calling them up and meeting with them face to face and saying, hey, this is America, and in America, everybody is supposed to get a fair shake, that's when things will change. And we have a lot of friends out there like that. And it's very important that we cultivate those friends and that we encourage those friends to stand up for us the same as we would stand up for them. Or at least I would hope we would stand up for them.

I'd like to read from the mission statement of It's Time America. It says, the mission of It's Time America is to educate and influence the Congress, state, and local governments and other transgender and non-transgender political organizations, I would read that as anybody else, using direct action where necessary to safeguard and advance the right of transgendered people. Well, the way I read that is we will take our friends where we can get them. And especially in the gay and lesbian community where they certainly understand the meaning of discrimination, we would like to work with them and obtain their support wherever we can.

That's for sure. Let me tell you-- It's Time America is very dedicated to the proposition that we don't discriminate against anybody. We don't even discriminate against the straights. So you know doggone good and well that we don't have any hangups or prejudices.

I can hear the wrecks on the freeway now from all the straights. You mean we're not going to be discriminated against? Really?
[LAUGHS]

We're just not going to pick on them.

Karen Karen, thank you very much. I know it's getting late in Vermont as we're recording this. And I appreciate you taking out the time and talking to us. And I hope that this has been educational for some of the listeners who are not familiar with transgendered folks. And thank you very much for being with us.

You bet. Bye-bye.

Bye-bye. OK. Let me get this off the air. Hang on.

OK.

Yeah, I didn't realize we had to cut that off quite so soon. In the background, you're hearing a piece of music that was requested by a listener-- "I Am What I Am." But it's an instrumental version by Richard Od. He's queer and he does the electronic music. It's really good stuff. If you're interested, give us a call at 526-5738 and I'll tell you how to get it.

This has been the *After Hours Coming Out Show* for National Coming Out Day which is going to be held as every year on October the 11th. And special ceremonies at U of H. Just go out there at 11:30 in the morning and watch and follow other people. And I want to thank the guests and future hosts tonight, Sara DePalma, who you'll be able to hear on the second Saturday of every month starting next month.

[INAUDIBLE] plain old November. That's right.

And Gigi and Jay from Binet you'll be able to hear on the fourth Saturday of every month. But not this one because-- why?

There's going to be a bisexual conference in North--

North Carolina.

North Carolina. And it looks like there's going to be a good turnout. I went to the bisexual conference in San Diego, California last year about this time. And it was really a positive experience. Close to about 150, 200 bisexuals were at the San Diego conference. And it was just such a charge to meet. That many people who believed in the same sort of lifestyle I believe in.

Cool. OK. Well, have a good time at the conference. And let us know everything that happen.

We certainly will.

OK. And until next week, this is Jimmy with *After Hours* saying, have a great week.

[MUSIC PLAYING]