

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Hi, this is Craig Washington, reminding you that none of us are free until all of us are free. So keep listening to "After Hours" KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.

- Now, that is a politician who came to see us and stayed for two hours.

- It was wonderful.

- Couldn't get rid of him.

- It was great.

- And he came back. And that's kind of why Vince Ryan isn't here. And I'll tell you why, that after-- I'll tell you that story. After you get elected on Tuesday, we want to invite you to come in on a regular basis, whatever that is, and inform your district about what's going on at City Hall.

Now, we started in 1987 and we went down to City Hall and talked to George Greanias. And George was such a ham. He came in every week and did a little 5-minute spiel or whatever it was. And we ran that forever until he got elected to controller.

In fact, he wanted to continue to do that as controller, and I thought nah, we're just District C and all that. But anyway, when Mr. Ryan was elected, we went down and told him the same thing, and he said, oh, I love it. And he came, like, once and we haven't seen him again.

And then a couple of months ago while we were marching down the street complaining about the Paul Broussard killing and the way it was handled by the police, he walked up to me and said, oh buddy, we've got to do radio. And I'm like, well, where have you been for the last two years? So that's sort of like why he's not here.

Also, I was really disappointed in the fact that he conveniently sliced us out of the pie and tried to move Montrose into Cab Callaway.

- Al Callaway. Al Callaway.

- Cab Callaway. We got to [STATIC].

- Yes, we do.

- What did you think about all that, Annise?

- I don't want to just single out Vince. Obviously I think he--

- No, no, no. We don't want to just Vince bash.

- Yeah, he--

- I'll do that after you leave.

- Yeah. He voted to move Montrose out of the district, but we have had an absolute circus on redistricting. There was no leadership down there. Everyone was trying to-- it was incumbent protection time and they scrambled around

- Well, you don't-- you don't really think that they're going to give up their lifelong jobs, do you?
- Well, I think on Tuesday we're going to make it so that they're not lifelong jobs anymore.
- Well, it sure has been confusing for the voters.
- It's been confusing for the candidates too. On one day I, had a certain seat and the next day I didn't have it. And then the next day I had it again.
- I only want to ask you two questions about the election on Tuesday. First of all, who are you going to vote for District C city councilperson?
- I'm going to vote for myself for District C, Annise Parker.
- OK, that's going to be my first vote. I'll tell you that right now. Also, you don't have to tell me how you're going to vote, but does Texas need a lottery and do you think we're going to get it, whether we need it or not?
- I think we're going to get a lottery. I'll be happy to tell you that I am going to vote against the lottery. I very much believe in having that on the ballot so that the citizens of Texas have a choice, but I'm going to vote against it. I think lottery is a tax on the poor. That's who buys lottery tickets.
- It's going to be like a quick fix. It's not really going to work, so.
- Yeah. Yeah.
- But I think we're going to get it.
- Oh, I'm absolutely positive that we're going to get it.
- I just hope they hire someone at 7-Eleven that speaks English so you can go in there and you're not buying a \$20 ticket.  
[MUMBLING]
- Yeah, buddy.
- Nope. I'm not a gambler. I don't know anything about any of that.
- So you won't buy lottery tickets at least?
- No, no.
- OK, enough of that. We're talking to Annise Parker, who is a candidate for Houston City Council District C, which includes Montrose and beyond. And we've also been joined by Robert Bridges, who's been here before. But this morning is here as--
- My campaign coordinator.
- A-ha.
- OK. So--
- Of course, he is not dressed as my campaign coordinator right now.
- Well they can't see that.

- Well, it's radio, they're not supposed tell.

- We can describe in detail what Robert's wearing.

- No, no, no, no, no. We'll talk about that after he leaves.

- Yes we will.

- Robert you said you had a funny story to share with us about the campaign trail?

- Yeah, I do. I've got a couple of campaign war stories. When I arrived here, Annise was talking about the lesbian factor and how it affects the campaign and the way she's been received in various areas of the district. And for people out there who may not be aware, District C goes all the way out to Fort Bend County, and takes in Braes Heights, Westbury, Meyerland, Windsor Village.

And this past week, we sent out a mailing to the southern edge of the district. And when that mailing hit, we got a variety [STATIC]. And to give you an idea of the different spectrum, one woman called in and she said, "I just want you to know that I'm a Christian and I'm voting for Vince Ryan. And I don't think we need any lesbians running this city."

And I really-- I tried. I was very polite and I couldn't really think of much of a comeback. And I was saved from having to come up with one because she hung up on me. And I hope she felt better after she said that.

But in contrast with that, we got several phone calls from people who were very supportive and very interested. That they had been following the campaign and they knew about Annise and wanted to know more and had called the phone number. And one woman said, "I got this piece of mail and I'm very interested in this candidate. I see here that it says that she's a past president of Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus."

And she paused and she said "Is it-- is it safe to [STATIC] that she's gay?" And I thought, God, some of these people you have to hit him over the head with a frying pan. It's only been in [STATIC].

- Did that do it? OK, KPFT Houston. Sorry, I'm not supposed to say, did that do it? We've got the other--

- We've some transmitter problems now.

- It's the other candidate throwing rocks at the tower--

- Is that what that is

- --in the parking lot.

- No, it's time to do a commercial for KPFT. Send money now.

- Oh, yeah.

- Actually, it is. I guess we've got some kind of micro link problem because of the cold weather.

- Oh.

- I just do not like this cold. That's why I left Nebraska. But anyway, you were talking about lesbians and Christians.

- Well, I hope the first half of the story got out. The second half was a woman who called--

- If it didn't, we'll edit it in and play it again.

- She called in from the lower half of the district and wanted to know more about Annise. And she said, well, I see here that it says she's past president of Houston Gay and Lesbian Political [STATIC]

- OK, KPFT Houston. Now we're here.

- Let's try that one more time.

- And we're queer.

- Yes we are.

- No, Robert, don't tell that damn story any more.

- And yet she can assume I'm a lesbian.

- Let me finish-- OK. So then she says, "Well, I'm very interested in the part here about leading inspection tours of the district. Tell me about that." And I explained how that the city goes out on inspection tours looking for high weeds and buildings that aren't up to code and dangerous structures. And that Annise, as the city councilperson for District C, would personally lead those inspections and make sure that something actually gets done when they cite violations.

And she said, "Well, Vince hasn't done anything for us down in this end of the district and it's going to pot and she's got my vote." Really made me feel great that she was able to

[STATIC]

- So did you do the [? NLA ?] thing?

- KPFT Houston. OK, sorry. Robert, you have to get the hell out of here.

- No more of that story. New story.

- I'm afraid to talk anymore.

- It's that leather stuff. Anyway, we were worried-- I was worried about having Annise here and going off the air and my worst dreams came true.

- Yes.

- Isn't that awful? Maybe I shouldn't have thought about that. But anyway, I think that it's very important that you realize that if you don't vote, it's not going to happen. And your vote does make a difference, right? Everybody's vote counts.

- Absolutely. Every vote counts. There are too many races lost by just a handful of votes. And I have to say, while I get something out of running and out of campaigning-- and I get a real charge when I go to some gay function and someone comes up to me and says, oh, I'm so proud of you. I'm so glad you're doing this. But that's not enough.

I can't keep doing this and other people can't do this. We have to have support. We all have to do it together. And if all you can do is go in and quietly, very privately cast a vote, that's important.

- Crazy.

- It's something that I need, it's something that we all need. It's something that you can do for the community.

- OK, while we're still on the air.

- Quick. Quick.

- And that'll have one more person out in the open. And maybe you being out, Annise, and in the open and in that seat at the table, you can bring some more people out.

- Well, Betty works for HPD. I work for a conservative Republican oilman. I work for [STATIC] who's the US Commerce Secretary. I work for his oil company, have for 10 years now.

And there are a lot of people in the community who are in much less conservative jobs who just break out in a cold sweat at the thought of coming out.

- I know.

[STATIC]

- That's what.

- OK, KPFT. Now-- we're having a hoot, a hootenanny, because we're going to let you say one final word while we still can.

- I want to give my campaign phone number.

- Oh, good. 522-9000. 522-9000. Tomorrow, Monday, Tuesday, there will be people there. There's an answering machine there. Someone wants campaign information, or someone just wants to find out what's going on, get a little more election information.

This is obviously not the only race on the ballot. There's a lot of other things going on. And we're happy to talk to people.

- We're experiencing technical problems and we're laughing about it. But it's very serious. And the reason it's serious is because this is a little bitty radio station that sometimes, 90% of the times, tries to tell you the truth.

And we don't have all of the money that all of the big stations do and engineers running around, keeping us going. And so we're, like, hanging on by a thread. And the gay and lesbian community in this city has been hanging on by a thread for years.

And this is our chance to send someone to that table who is really going to be there for us. Not as a gay person, but as a qualified candidate who just happens to be gay. And I think that it's wonderful and we wish you well.

And if there is someone out there listening that hasn't made up their mind and is thinking about Annise Parker, what would you say to them?

- Give me a chance. Give me a chance to do what I can on city council as a council member. Give me a chance to do what I can as a gay activist out there. Give me a vote. Give me some support.

And do it for yourself as well. I'm not I'm not the perfect candidate. I won't be right every time. Once I'm elected, I imagine there'll be some night when I'm in here and Betty's saying tacky things about something that I've done.

- I'm sure we will.

- Oh yes. Oh yes.

- But it is important to come out. It's important to elect people to office to represent us. And even when I can't directly affect something-- and council members, as we discussed, earlier don't have a lot of direct power-- just by being there, it raises issues.

I was asked by the "Houston Chronicle" when I was screened by the "Chronicle" if I had some gay agenda that I was going to take to city council. And was I going to try to push through bills or laws? And I'm not crazy. If I don't have support for something, I'm not going to stand up and immolate myself meeting after meeting. But simply by being there I raise issues.

- How many laws do we need, though, Annise? I've been doing this program for almost five years and working at HPD since 1984. How much protection do I really need other than civil service? Do you see what I'm saying?

- OK, yes, but not everyone has civil service.

- That's very true, baby, but I'm out and there.

- But are there other things--

- Do you see what I'm saying? It's exactly the same thing. We're here and we're queer.

- Yes.

- And so what.

- Yes, that's true.

- Get over it, girl.

- And they deal with it.

- Exactly.

- And people get used to it. And that is one of the-- just by being there that I'll accomplish. But there are other things. I have a full time job. I'm covered by an excellent insurance package. My lover is self-employed, does not have insurance.

What happens when I go to City Hall and then I get my city coverage and I say, OK, how about my spouse? All the other council members deal with this.

- That's right.

- It's not that great.

- Absolutely right.

- It's not that great, but by being there, when you're at the table, when they have to deal with you, even if you don't win, it raises the issue. And it makes them start trying to deal with it, having to deal with it.

- Listen, thank you very much for taking the time to come by. I know it's early for you and I'm sure you have a busy day today.

- Actually late, probably.

- And-- well, early for us.

- Actually, I'm awake now.

- Well, stick around. As long as we're on the air, we're going to play music. I'm just sitting on needles worrying about this station popping off again.

- I know.

- It's really making me nervous.

- I know.

- But this--

- You haven't been living right, buddy.

- I haven't been living right. That's very true.

- I would just like to say thanks for having me here tonight. Those periods when we've been on the air instead of being static.

- Can I ask one more question before you go? Something that you brought up in the very, very beginning when you came on and said something about being a full time councilperson. Now, I'm not a political person. I've said that many times. I'm a member of HGLPC, but.

- What can a council member do all day? Is that what you're going to ask?

- How many are not full time council persons? And what else do they do?

- The best down there are full time council members. They don't have other jobs. We have several on council who are extremely wealthy and who don't have to survive on their council salary.

- Yeah

- But I think the majority of the council members, it is their job. [STATIC] that as a job. There are few who have other employment. And Vince, for example, is an attorney and so he does do some practice of law--

- Oh. OK.

- --and draw a paycheck from that. Beverly Clark was an educator. She was a teacher. And I know she does some-- she's full time, but she does occasional consulting.

- [INAUDIBLE] a consultant for health industry.

- [INAUDIBLE] is a consultant for the health industries, different health agencies. They're--

- Do you see positions at City Council being full time jobs?

- Absolutely. Absolutely. And they pay a living wage. I mean, you can--

- What is that living wage, do you know?

- \$34,000.

- \$34,000.

- OK.

- Yeah. It is paid as a full time position.

- Well--

- The difference-- the thing about that kind of a job, I think you have to approach it as a job. This is my job.

- Well, the back of my mind, that's what I always thought. And I thought, well, [STATIC] will do city council and they don't do anything else. And--

- To do it right, I don't think you can.

- Oh.

[STATIC]

- OK, KPFT Houston.

- OK, there we go. OK, goodbye.

- OK. For the last time, I'm Annise Parker. I'm a candidate for city council in District C. If you're in my district, my name will be on the ballot on Tuesday. If you're not, I hope you have friends in the district that you can tell to vote for me.

But I want to give a plug for the video that I have that's running on Access.

- Please do.

- I saw it, and it was great.

- Access cable. Let's see, tomorrow it will be running at 3:00 PM. And on Monday, it will be running at 7:00 PM. There's one other candidate, Glenda Joe, who's running at large who's done a video that's running on cable Access.

If you don't have money for commercials and in big ads everywhere, the Public Access channel is a nifty medium for getting something out. And I hope people tune in.

- It's a great program.

- Let me hang on to that so we can tell people later on in the show when it's going to be.

- OK.

- And if you want to give lots of money or donate your time, which I'm sure you could use some help in the next few days--

- Desperately need volunteers tomorrow and Monday.

- --that number is 522-9000 and you can call Annise and her helpers and get involved.

- Come out, come out, come out, come out.



- Please do. Listen, this candidacy is very important to me as a Houstonian. I've been here for 10 years. I've seen a lot of people come out of the gay community who I would like to throw in the closet and lock the door and not let them speak for us and tell folks that they're representing us.

But I'm very proud of you and I look forward to hearing your victory speech on Tuesday night. And we invite you back to share your thoughts with us after you're elected.

- I will. Whether I'm elected or not, I hope I have a chance to come back--

- I'm sure you will.

- --again and again. And my victory party is going to be at Gentry on Richmond.

- 2303.

- 2303 Richmond.

- Yes, between Shepherd and Kirby.

- Well hopefully, I can run by after work and have a drink and say congratulations.

- Thanks a lot, guys.

- Good luck, Annise. And for what it's worth, it's going to be my first vote to be able to vote on Tuesday for an openly gay person who really deserves your support. So hang on, "This Way Out" with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle coming up next if we can keep this puppy on the air until then. This is Curtis-- what's his name, Mary?

- Stigers.

- And a little song called "People Like Us." This is "After Hours" on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC - CURTIS STIGERS, "PEOPLE LIKE US"]

Oh yeah, "People Like Us," gay and lesbian people. We're here--

- --and we're queer.

- And hopefully, we're going to send Annise Parker to City Hall this Tuesday.

- That's right, baby.

- Your vote is very, very crucial.

- There's no substitute for a seat at the table.

- We got Harvey Milk coming up later on to tell you about sending openly gay people to places like City Hall.

- Very important place for them to be.

- Anyway, I'm not going to tell you how to vote, but I'm sure going to cast my very first vote on Tuesday for Annise Parker. And I really wish her well.

- Me too.

- Hang on, "This Way Out" with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle coming up in just [STATIC] "After Hours" radio celebrating live from the heart of Montrose, 90.1 FM. We're here--

- --and we're queer.

- Yeah, here's Harvey Milk.

- The legislators and the executive officers, be they the local supervisor, be the 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 on top of it, insult us by not giving us our rights-- that's not motivation.

If you like being [STATIC]. Please, 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 whimpers home and says, well, I'm gay and I deserve to get beat up, fine. Otherwise, the only thing you can do is register to vote.

[CHANTING]

- In Chile, eight million people who want to vote can't. In South Africa, 25 million people who want to vote can't. In the United States, 81 million people who can vote don't. Democracy-- it can't be of the people and for the people if it's not by the people. Vote.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- There is no clear and convincing proof of the cause of the ~~lowa~~ explosion. And the Navy will not imply that a deceased individual is to blame for his own death.

- They asked me in my recruitment interview if I've engaged in any unusual sexual activity and my answer to that was "I don't believe my sexual activity to be unusual."

- I grew up in the South, and that's definitely not a topic that everyone discusses.

- Wait a minute. Gay is good and I am a good person. And I can have a life and I can have a lover, I can have a home, and I can have everything that everyone else has. And I deserve to have it.

- This is Lucia Chappelle.

- And Greg Gordon. [STATIC] to "This Way Out," the international lesbian and gay radio magazine on "After Hours."

- Right here on Pacifica Radio 90.1 FM KPFT Houston. Welcome to "This Way Out," the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. I'm Lucia Chappelle.

- And I'm Greg Gordon. Amnesty alerted to abuse of Istanbul activist.

- Outcomers comment on quitting the closet.

- And the US Navy is sorry.

- All that and more, because you've discovered "This Way Out."

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- I'm Mark Saccomano.

- And I'm Cindy Friedman.

- With "News Wrap," a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending October 19, 1991. Amnesty International is making good on its recent decision to recognize gays and lesbians as prisoners of conscience, demanding the immediate release of an activist gay transvestite in Istanbul, Turkey. The chief at the Beyoglu police station is said to have sworn he will clear his district of transvestites who are heavily concentrated in the Cihangir neighborhood.

The private homes of several transvestites were raided on August 10. And among the six men arrested was gay rights activist Ramazan Demet Demir. After six days of detention, Demir was released without charge.

Demir called a press conference, in which he accused the chief of police of having beaten him with a rubber covered steel hose while he was in custody. He substantiated his allegation with a forensic medical report stating that his injuries were consistent with such an attack, and certifying that he would be unable to work for five days. Police accosted Demir once again on August 20.

He says that when he asked them why he was being detained, they responded it was because he was homosexual. Demir reminded them that homosexuality is not illegal in Turkey, and they asked him what law he was referring to. Demir said he meant the legal reforms instituted in the 1920s by Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey.

On August 21, Demir was formally charged with a rarely invoked law making it a crime to insult or demean the memory of Ataturk. He's been held since then in Sagmalcilar prison with his trial, begun September 5, continuing on October 17. Because Demir did not use or advocate violence, Amnesty International considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

The organization is calling for a full independent investigation of Demir's charges of police abuse, and has issued a worldwide action alert to its membership to demand that Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz release Demir immediately and unconditionally.

- Can outrage straighten out "The Guardian" newspaper on lesbian and gay issues? British activists seem to be making progress in winning more consistent and accurate coverage of lesbian, gay, and AIDS issues in the distinguished "Liberal Daily" as a result of letter writing, direct action, and the threat of a boycott. During the Thatcher years, "The Guardian" was primarily criticized for its silence on lesbian and gay issues at a time when the community was under attack by the government and on the streets.

Then, last month, an article headlined "Gay Abandon," written by self-identified gay Rupert Haselden, sparked the community to protest. Along with false statements about the transmission of HIV, Haselden [STATIC]. "There is an in-built fatalism to being gay. Biologically maladaptive, unable to reproduce, our futures are limited to living for today because we have no tomorrow."

"Weekend Edition" editor Roger Alton at first defended the article, claiming there was a fascination around sex and death that, for gay men, is about AIDS. But more than 200 letters and outraged demonstration at "The Guardian's" London offices and the threat of a boycott won a different response. Alton admitted having sensationalized the article, promised to reconsider his policies, and proposed a regular weekly column on lesbian and gay issues to editor-in-chief Peter Preston.

Preston spoke with the demonstrators and agreed to a series of meetings to discuss their demands. Demands include apology for or space to reply to the Haselden article, a special supplement about lesbians and gays, staff training, and sweeping changes in coverage of lesbian, gay, and AIDS issues. The boycott has been postponed pending "The Guardian's" response.

- With the approval of DDI as a treatment for AIDS by both the US and Canada, Bristol-Myers Squibb company is working to ensure access to the drug, which they market under the brand name Videx. DDI is thought to slow or prevent HIV replication. The wholesale cost of a year supply will reportedly be \$1,700 a year.

Bristol-Myers Squibb has established a telephone helpline to assist callers either in obtaining third party payments for DDI or in getting the drug free of charge if necessary. Helpline service runs from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Eastern Standard Time in both English and Spanish at 1-800-78 [STATIC] -0123.

- As major demonstrations have continued every night since California Governor Pete Wilson's September 29 veto of employment protections for gays and lesbians, Los Angeles Police Chief Daryl Gates announced this week that blocking of traffic will no longer be tolerated. Gates said the department has been lenient so far, but that protesters must not violate the law. A police commissioner noted there had been a number of complaints about the illegal traffic tie ups, but Roger Coggan of the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center had a different interpretation.

He said "What was conveyed to me was with the lessened media attention, this was an opportunity for the LAPD to get tough."

- The prosecutor who took a gay man to the US Supreme Court for having consensual sex in his own home is being sued. Georgia State Attorney General Michael Bowers, whose name became famous for the case called Bowers versus Hardwick is charged with violating the constitutional rights of attorney Robin Shahr. Having offered Shahr a job in his office earlier this year, Bowers withdrew his offer in a letter stating he had learned of her plans for what he called a "purported marriage to another woman."

Shahr was married in a Jewish ceremony in July to her lesbian partner of five years. The American Civil Liberties Union is assisting Shahr in seeking both damages and the job, charging her religious freedom and right of association were violated. Shahr's alma mater, Emory University, has refused to allow Bowers to recruit on campus because of its anti-discrimination policy.

- The Ancient Order of Hibernians, sponsors of New York City's annual Saint Patrick's Day parade, had voted to expel their division 7, which took the controversial step of inviting the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization to participate this year. Now, division 7 has received a reinstatement notice without any reasons being given. However, it seems that the expulsion process may have violated the Hibernians' constitution.

- And finally, in Washington DC, about 100 protesters sent a clear message of "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" to a conference on Healing for the Homosexual. The October meeting on so-called "reparative therapy" was attended by about 75 people, including representatives from East Coast churches of a half dozen Christian sects. Chip Aldridge, a gay man attending as a student doing research, said "I felt like the one Jew at a Ku Klux Klan rally."

Washington area activists had warmed up this week by greeting the annual convention of the right wing Concerned Women for America in the guise of Concerned Ladies for America, gay men in church lady drag.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Isn't that special?

[STATIC]

- KPFT Houston.

- And implicated to Clayton M. Hartwig USN, and that opinion was interpreted by many as a conclusive finding of wrongdoing. For this, on behalf of the US Navy, I extend my sincere regret to the family of GM2 Hartwig. There is no clear and convincing proof of the cause of the *Iowa* explosion, and the Navy will not imply that a deceased individual is to blame for his own death or the deaths of others without such clear and convincing proof.

- Admiral Kelso said if there was ever any conclusive evidence, it was probably destroyed in the aftermath of the explosion when crews were taking care of the dying sailors. After the first Navy report on the *Iowa*, civilian scientists looked into the explosion. Their report concluded that the explosion might have been caused by powder bags being rammed too quickly into the chamber of the gun. Reporters questioned the Navy about the original investigation.

- The tests that caused you to reopen your investigation last year was done by Sandia at the request of the GAO. At the request of Congress, which acted at the request of Hartwig's family. If Kathy [? Kubicina ?] and Hartwig's family hadn't raised Cain in the wake of your initial investigation, would the Navy still be standing [STATIC] conclusion?

- I can't speculate on that. All I can tell you is what I'm telling you today based on what evidence available to me since that--

[STATIC]

- KPFT Houston.

- --weapon against bigotry.

- Which is why the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project wanted you to hear and think about this message. For more information, write US Post Office Box 65603 Los Angeles, California 90065.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- This is Aaron Fricke, author of *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*. You've tuned into "This Way Out," the international lesbian and gay radio news magazine.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- The well-known motto of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is "The Mounties always get their man." In a story involving misplaced trust, betrayal, charges of AIDS phobia and homophobia and double standards, Rob Atkinson talks with one man the Mounties have tried very hard not to get.

[MUSIC - BOBBY FULLER FOUR, "I FOUGHT THE LAW"]

- I think I was the RCMP's worst nightmare. Not only was I AIDS positive, but I also was gay on top of that. And I think that was just too much for them to handle.

- You've just heard what Art [? Nuosi ?] thinks about his former employer, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the country's national police force. He claims he was fired because he was HIV positive. The RCMP says he was discharged because of disgraceful conduct, namely making a false allegation that another officer had broken the law.

The story begins four years ago when [? Nuosi ?] found out he carried the virus associated with AIDS.

- I confided in a coworker at that time, someone whom I built a very trusting relationship with and friendship. And unfortunately, he breached my confidentiality and passed on my health status to my superiors.

- Even though [? Nuosi ?] assured his superiors that his health would not preclude him from carrying out his regular duties, he was, nevertheless, reassigned to a job in the mail room. Officially, the RCMP cannot ask recruits about their sexual orientation. Nevertheless, the force tries to find out.

- They asked me in my recruitment interview if I've engaged in any unusual sexual activity. My answer to that was "I don't believe my sexual activity to be unusual." So I don't believe that at the time they thought I was gay. But certainly, once you expose yourself as being HIV, the perception is that you are gay whether you are or not.

- He couldn't be fired because of his HIV status thanks to Canadian Human Rights legislation so, he asserts, the RCMP would have to find another way. They did so when they accused [? Nuosi ?] of falsely discrediting a fellow officer, the kind of accusation which, if substantiated, could get him expelled from the force. And that's exactly what happened.

- The same coworker in which I confided about my HIV status, some few months prior to that, he approached me and requested [STATIC] reference to join another police force. And I provided that character reference to him. So after I had confided my HIV status to him in June, in the first week of July of '87, he contacted me and asked me if I was willing to meet with him for a few drinks at a local bar to discuss the progression of his application with the other police force to become an officer.

- OK.

- And it was on that evening in which this member offers me marijuana. I became totally upset about the whole matter. I had no idea that he was involved in this behavior.

- [? Nuosi ?] reported his discovery of his friend's illegal drug use to the RCMP brass.

- In a [STATIC], this other coworker admitted under oath that he uses marijuana, that I had no previous knowledge that he was a marijuana user, that he will lie when it's to his benefit. He lied to the RCMP to become an RCMP officer regarding substance use because he feared if he told the truth, he would not be hired. The trial officer convicted me in service court saying that he believed the other coworker that he didn't offer me marijuana because he was so honest about all his lies in the past about substance use, so therefore, he must be telling the truth today.

- Three years later, Art [? Nuosi ?] still thinks he was the victim of a frame up motivated by the revenge of both his coworker and the RCMP hierarchy. And he's still fighting to clear his reputation and prove the real reason for his dismissal is homophobia and AIDS phobia. He might be successful.

The Federal Court of Canada has agreed to consider holding a judicial review into the circumstances of his dismissal. Meanwhile, the Canadian Human Rights Commission is investigating his claim that the RCMP illegally dismissed him on the grounds of having a disability.

- I will be exonerated.

- Would you like to go back into the force?

- Oh, most definitely. It's what I've always wanted. And I don't believe that the RCMP should decide when Art [? Nuosi ?] is finished as an RCMP officer. It will be Art [? Nuosi ?] who decides that he's no longer able to function as an officer to the interest of all the people of Canada.

- I'm Rob Atkinson in Vancouver, BC.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- My name is Brian. I came out to myself about two years ago. But now that I look back on it, I realize that I'd known, like, for a period much longer before then. It was kind of just dealing with all the conflicting feelings. Because I grew up in the South and that's definitely not a topic that everyone discusses.

And I found some gay friends at the time that I still didn't know. And we just talked about it, basically. And I talked about the things that I was feeling about women and about men. And that's what really helped me realize that it wasn't like this moment everybody seems to talk about. This moment, it's like when you come out, like, a bolt of lightning hits you from the sky and all of a sudden you say "I'm gay."

It's really not like that. It's more of a-- you just kind of gradually realize and then you gradually accept it.

- My name is Kelly and I'm 27 years old and I'm a college student. And I knew at a very early age that I was more attracted to women than men, but I didn't really that was anything bad or anything not normal. I just knew that that's what I was.

And I think the hardest part for me was the fact that I was always very ambitious and very much a kind of person who wanted to have a life later on and a house and a home and a garden and all those kind of things and going through with my life. And I was in this floundering state of confusion that, well, I can't have everything I thought I could have now because I'm not what I'm supposed to be. I went through a real struggle with that.

And now, I feel like I'm in a wonderful state. Being in this environment, with the LGBSU and the college atmosphere, I've been able to regain so much that I had lost during that period. And I'm like, wait a minute, Gay is good and I am a good person.

And I can have a life and I can have a lover, a partner. I can have a home and I can have a garden and I can have everything that everyone else has. And I should have it. And I deserve to have it.

- I came out to myself at the age of 13. I'm 16 now. When I first found out that my feelings for men were more intense than they were for women is when I first went on my first date with a female. She was coming on to me and it was like nothing really happened. It's like I didn't want anything to do with it.

And it's kind of rough being a teenager and being a homosexual because there's not a lot that we can do. And I see a lot more about being a homosexual. There's a lot more to it than just the sex.

And it's just like sometimes it tears families apart, sometimes it brings them closer together. And with me, I guess I'm lucky because it's brought my mom and I closer together.

- I had a commitment ceremony with my lover. And my parents came and they gave us gifts and they cried and did the whole parent kind of thing. And they came to a party the night before with all of my friends.

And my dad's only concern was he was afraid that we might try to kill him that night. He was afraid that everyone was, say, these ravage man-hating feminists, which was not true. And he got to speak with people and it was all very-- my whole family was very affected by all of that.

- My parents were very unaccepting and very judgmental and harsh. And at 17, I was outed to them. And when that happened, my parents were like, we have to send you to a psychiatrist because you're sick. We have to put you on hormones because obviously there's some sort of chemical imbalance and you're demented and all of this stuff.

And I left home because of that. It was real traumatic.

- The part of outing that I have problems with, particularly the celebrity movie star kind of outing, certainly, I'd like to see any lesbian or gay celebrity be open and out about their sexual identity. But it tends to lend itself to that supermarket tabloid gossip column level and never really go beyond that.

- You want any role model that you have to be healthy. If you out there before they're ready, because it was such a long process-- like for some, it was 10 years or longer-- that if you're just yanking somebody out and they're not ready for that, then they're not going to be any kind of healthy role model for you to have.

- I'd like to say to the straight people that have a gay person tell them that how you react matters so much to people. There is such a high incidence of teenage suicide among gay people. And reacting with love and acceptance is just of the utmost importance when someone comes out.

- My first person I ever told was a straight guy friend. And it was in the middle of an orchestra rehearsal. I was like, Brad, I'm gay. And he just said, "So, who cares?" I was like, whoa, that just meant so much to me.

- You have to be strong with yourself and then it makes it easier to come out to other people. Because if they see that you're adjusted, you're well-adjusted, and they see that you've accepted it that you're happy the way you are, then they're going to think, hey, this is a good person.

- Every time I try to be more comfortable in a classroom setting or something-- like, give my girlfriend a kiss or something-- I'm scared to death. But I'm trying to get over that. I'm trying to go forward. And that's what it's about. It's about bravery.

I mean when Rosa Parks like [STATIC] had to get off, that took a hell a lot of courage. I mean, and if she had gotten off--

[STATIC]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- KPFT Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Thanks for choosing "This Way Out," the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Mark Saccomano Laura [? layma, ?] Rob Atkinson, and Susan Gage contributed program material. Thanks also to Diane James, Dave [? Buell, ?] and Mike [? Alkalay. ?]

- Brenda Lee, the Bobby Fuller Four, John Rubinstein from the original Broadway cast of "Pippin" and Styx perform some of the music you heard. And Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.



- "This Way Out" is brought to you each week by a staff of community volunteers and is sustained by financial support from the community. Funding for satellite distribution and some expenses has been provided by the Paul [? Rapoport ?] [STATIC] and the funding exchange.
  - Audio cassettes of "This Way Out" programs are available by mail, individually, or by subscription. Write to us for more information.
  - We would also love to hear from you with any comments, suggestions, or questions that you might have, or just to let us know that you're out there listening. Write to "This Way Out" Post Office Box 38327 Los Angeles, California 90038.
  - "This Way Out" is produced by Lucia Chappelle--
  - --and Greg Gordon, and we thank you for listening on WCSB Cleveland--
  - KNON Dallas.
  - --and CKCU Ottawa.
  - Among others.
  - And for supporting this local community radio station.
  - Stay tuned.
  - Stay tuned. Now Mary, if we go off the air again, I'm leaving.
  - Well, they told me in the lobby as long as we don't mention the word lesbian, it'll be OK. Because it seemed that while Annise was here, every time we mentioned the word "lesbian," we went off the air.
  - I don't know. But if we go off again, I'm leaving and you can do this.
  - Oh, thank you.
  - OK?
  - OK, it'll be music time.
  - Oh well, that's fine. You can play music. Go ahead, would you do that? Hang on just a minute, we'll be back.
- [CHANTING]
- In Chile, eight million people who want to vote can't. In South Africa, 25 million people who want to vote can't. In the United States, 81 million people who can vote don't. Democracy, it can't be of the people and for the people if it's not by the people. Vote.
  - Every Saturday night at midnight on "After Hours" we play music.
  - KPFT Houston.
  - Hello, I'm John Hannah, your Secretary of State. There is an important election Tuesday, November the 5th. 13 [STATIC] on the ballot range from lottery to the construction of new state prisons.

[STATIC]

- This is a test. This station is conducting a test of the emergency broadcast system. This is only a test.