

- PRESENTER:** 10, so you won't forget. You can call 526-- KPFT to charge your pledge by phone, if you wish. This broadcast is made possible by you.
- MAN 1:** Under the waves, brush up against the sand where he has written both of your names with a heart around it.
- MAN 2:** You are looking at the sky burning red with the sunset. Quickly, a car drives up alongside of you.
- MAN 1:** You stop for red light. Suddenly the car is surrounded.
- MAN 2:** They circle your blanket, coming in closer.
- MAN 1:** Bottles are thrown out of car windows.
- MAN 2:** The sound of glass breaking.
- MAN 1:** Baseball bats against metal.
- MAN 2:** A hand grabs at your hair.
- MAN 1:** Glass at your feet, in your face, in your eyes.
- MAN 2:** A fist across your face again and again.
- MAN 1:** Die queer.
- MAN 1 & 2:** Kill them, kill them, kill them, kill them.
- MAN 3:** Homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting 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 at Post Office box 65603, Los Angeles, California, 90065.
- PRESENTER:** The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.
- SPEAKER:** *The Good Homosexual* by James Carroll Pickett.
- The good homosexual accommodates himself, checks fantasies, behaves properly, purchases good taste, practices impeccable hygiene, begs respect from oppressors. The good homosexual reads only what is recommended, attends all the Westwood cinema, attains season tickets to the music center, votes the straight GOP slate, retires from controversy, amasses financial security no matter the social toll, finds AIDS embarrassing, but donates bucks a year anyway. Anonymously.
- The good homosexual subscribes to GQ, laughs the loudest at fag jokes, laments the demise of After Dark, prefers porno in brown paper bags, browses Crown Books, where he purchased *After the Ball*, displays National Geographic, misses *Dynasty*. The good homosexual restrains impulse, sustains racism, objects to gay as "too frivolous," refers to himself as a bachelor, contains passion, remains invisible, maintains there is nothing amiss.

The good homosexual swallows bigotry, suppresses ecstasy, drives the family sedan just like old dad did, kisses with a dry mouth and closed lips, wears a condom on his tongue, just in case. The good homosexual nurtures propriety, derives morality from TV shrinks, believes there might be something to inanity, shushes all profanity, insists on anonymity, despises sodomy, fails to see why dykes have to be so pushy.

The good homosexual drinks Coors beer, as advertised in *Good Homosexual* publications, keeps up appearances, longs for the cops to crack down, engages a female for social occasions, relishes assimilation, irons crisp creases in casual jeans. The good homosexual quells excess, attacks radical fags, experiences madness in discrete little doses, waters down intensity, embraces mediocrity, reaps his own self-righteous vanity, does not grasp why silence necessarily equals death.

The good homosexual kills queers.

MAN: That's right, man. You had it easy. You lost your husband in a nice clean hospital. You know where I lost mine? I lost mine on the street. That's right. They killed him on the street. 27 years old, laying dead on the street, , killed by a bunch of kids with baseball bats. That's right, mom.

Kill my children. Children taught 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]

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When we do want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN 1: Hey! Say it so they can hear you in 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 going back. For love and for life we're not going back.

WOMAN 2: I think that's Robert Tyler on the stage, leading the chant. For love and for life, we're not going back.

SPEAKERS: Good afternoon. And welcome to the National March on Washington DC for Gay and Lesbian Rights, and choral reciting.

[CHEERING]

SPEAKER 1: Let's hear it out there.

[CHEERING]

I'm Lea Delaria.

SPEAKER 2: I'm Bruce Hopkins.

SPEAKER 1: I'm a dyke.

SPEAKER 2: I'm a faggot.

SPEAKERS: And we're best friends.

[CHEERING]

WOMAN 1: I want you to savor this next moment. I have the proud task of I'm telling you that the official count of the Lesbian and Gay Rights March, the official count is over 500,000 strong.

WOMAN 2: It's all right. You may all come out.

WOMAN 1: 500,000 strong. Look at you.

[CHEERING]

500,000 strong. 500,000 strong. One of the largest marches in United States history.

WOMAN 2: It's all right. You may all come out.

WOMAN 1: One of the largest marches in United States history. 500,000 strong.

MAN: We parents want to persuade society that our gay children are not acting out of defiance and self-indulgence. They're being true to their own nature. Our children are fine men and women. And we say to society, the parents and friends of lesbians and gay men, we'll support their children.

WOMAN: They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about crotch 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 if I'm straight understanding.

You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding our civil rights.

MAN 1: Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

MAN 2: Yeah. Come on out. [LAUGHS] Join us. Bring your friends.

MAN 1: What do you think about the turnout so far?

MAN 2: Well, it's never enough. Never enough. Never enough.

SPEAKER: 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 in the stores you shop in.

[CHEERING]

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.

[CHEERING]

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now

MAN: I ask people all over this country to do one thing, come out. Come out, America. Come out.

[CHEERING]

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

INTERVIEWER OK, one of these days, I'm going to play that for like four hours, girl.

1:

INTERVIEWER I think you should.

2:

INTERVIEWER [LAUGHS]

1:

INTERVIEWER Of course, your hands will fall off.

2:

INTERVIEWER No, I mean, just this.

1:

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

INTERVIEWER That part right there.

1:

INTERVIEWER I like that part.

2:

INTERVIEWER Anyway, this is *After Hours* radio, celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. 90.1 FM, KPFK Houston. We're here.

1:

INTERVIEWER And we're queer.

2:

INTERVIEWER We certainly are. And I'm that faggot that works for the Houston Police Department.

1:

INTERVIEWER And I'm that faggot who doesn't work at all.

2:

[LAUGHTER]

INTERVIEWER Wait a minute.

1:

INTERVIEWER [STUTTERING]

2:

INTERVIEWER I'm the faggot dispatcher, not a police officer.

1:

INTERVIEWER Right.

2:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

INTERVIEWER And this is not a paid job. This is all done for free.

1:

INTERVIEWER Really?

2:

INTERVIEWER Yeah. And next week I'll be in Florida with Mickey Mouse and all of his wonderful friends.

1:

INTERVIEWER Really? What will I be doing?

2:

INTERVIEWER You'll be pitching and begging for money.

1:

INTERVIEWER Oh yes, yes. The begging and pleading lines will be open next week.

2:

INTERVIEWER It's time for marathon, girl.

1:

INTERVIEWER Mm-hmm.

2:

INTERVIEWER Now, are you going to be OK? You guys are going to raise lots of money so I don't have to come back in a bad mood?

INTERVIEWER Well, it's not up to me. But I've been talking about this. If we don't raise a lot of money, you're just going to come back and be the last bitch--

INTERVIEWER In Montrose.

INTERVIEWER Yes.

INTERVIEWER So what else is going on tonight?

INTERVIEWER We've got some BBS.

INTERVIEWER Some what?

INTERVIEWER I don't know what that really stands for.

INTERVIEWER We'll find out.

INTERVIEWER It's in the back of The Twit. It says "BBS things."

INTERVIEWER We'll find out.

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

INTERVIEWER And now here's Alan to say--

INTERVIEWER We're queer.

INTERVIEWER Oh, we certainly are.

INTERVIEWER Oh, thank you.

INTERVIEWER 90.1 FM, KPFK *After Hours* radio, celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. Oh, girl. Can we go home yet?

INTERVIEWER No.

2:

INTERVIEWER Well, here we go.

1:

MAN: Hello? Do you know me? I've appeared in hundreds of one of the cartoons with that screwy rabbit, who always does drag. Yet whenever I travel, homophobic troublemakers are always telling me that there's no rooms in the hotels, no available seats in their Western ones, and no cars to rent. It gets downright frustrating.

At first, I wanted to cry. What's my sexual orientation got to do with my being a good customer? Then I got a gay American Express card. Now I use it everywhere, from crepes in France, to tropical fruits in Honolulu, to picking up twerks in Australia. My American Express card does it all.

Gay American Express, don't be homo without it. [LAUGHS]

INTERVIEWER Well, girl.

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah. By the way--

2:

INTERVIEWER Stop that, stop that.

1:

INTERVIEWER Happy birthday, dear.

2:

INTERVIEWER Thank you, darling.

1:

INTERVIEWER You're old now.

2:

INTERVIEWER And you're older.

1:

INTERVIEWER [LAUGHS]

2:

INTERVIEWER You're a hateful old queen.

1:

INTERVIEWER Yes, but you're catching up.

2:

INTERVIEWER Why did you say that?

1:

INTERVIEWER I don't know. [LAUGHS]

2:

[LAUGHTER]

INTERVIEWER *After Hours* radio, celebrating live from the heart of the Montrose. 90.1 FM, KPFT Houston. We're here.

1:

INTERVIEWER And we're queer.

2:

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

1:

INTERVIEWER I guess it's in defense of all those fat jokes you've been giving me lately.

2:

INTERVIEWER I'm getting the fat jokes out now.

1:

INTERVIEWER Oh.

2:

INTERVIEWER Someone tell me why I have to work with such a hateful queen every week.

1:

[LAUGHS]

Especially for free, girl.

INTERVIEWER Hmm.

2:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

INTERVIEWER 90.1 FM, KPFT Houston. *After Hours* radio celebrating live from the heart of the Montrose. We're here.

1:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Radio celebrating live from the heart of the Montrose. We're here.

INTERVIEWER And we're queer.

2:

INTERVIEWER [LAUGHS]

1:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

OK, Mary, I'm going to be gone for two weeks, right?

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

2:

INTERVIEWER And what are you guys going to be doing? Is this it?

1:

INTERVIEWER Marathon.

2:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

PRESENTER: And now a preview of our coming attractions. Down the Hall productions presents, Derek John and Tuck Hugh Farley in the South Seas saga, Buggery on the High Seas.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[BELL RINGING]

MAN 1: All right, tie that scurvy dog to the yard arm.

MAN 2: Aye, aye, Captain.

MAN 1: Yeoman bosoms.

MAN 2: Sir?

MAN 1: Read the charges.

MAN 2: Aye, aye, Captain. Seaman Kelly, you have been charged with the heinous crime of [INAUDIBLE] on the high sea. How do you plead?

MAN 3: I'm innocent. I'm innocent. I didn't do it. You got to believe me. I'm innocent.

MAN 4: He's lying.

MAN 3: I am not.

MAN 4: You are so, you big fibber.

MAN 3: Look, I'm not lying, Captain--

MAN 4: Yes, he is, Captain. He's a big liar.

MAN 3: Look, you shut up or I'm going to get you.

MAN 4: You already did. That's why you're in trouble now.

MAN 1: All right, both of you, shut up.

MAN 4: Liar, liar, pants on fire.

MAN 1: Look, I told you to shut up--

MAN 4: But he's a big fibber, Captain. He's lying.

MAN 1: Look. You either shut up or I'll give you what he's going to get.

MAN 4: And what's that?

MAN 1: 50 lashes with a [INAUDIBLE].

MAN 4: 50 lashes? He should get at least 100 for what he did to me, that big fibber, you liar, liar, liar, liar.

MAN 1: Tie that scurvy dog to the yard arm too.

MAN 4: Get your hands off me. You smell like fish, you big brute.

MAN 1: Here, give me that whip. Hoist that dog from the yard arm.

MAN 4: Hey! You're hurting my wrist. This isn't funny now, you guys. Hey, come on.

[FABRIC RIPPING]

Oh, rip the shirt. How cliché. I suppose you'll have me walk the plank next or something.

MAN 1: Here, take this shot, you dog.

[WHIP LASHING]

MAN 4: Ow!

[WHIP LASHING]

Ow!

[WHIP LASHING]

Ah!

[WHIP LASHING]

Ooh!

[WHIP LASHING]

Yes!

[WHIP LASHING]

Oh, ah, yes!

[WHIP LASHING]

Ooh. Yes!

[WHIP LASHING]

Yes!

[MUSIC PLAYING]

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want them?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

INTERVIEWER Mary, if you play that tape while I'm gone, you're fired.

1:

INTERVIEWER Why? It's my favorite.

2:

[MUSIC - JASON DONOVAN, "TOO MANY BROKEN HEARTS"]

And besides, I'm the star of it.

[LAUGHTER]

INTERVIEWER *After Hours* radio, celebrating live from the heart of the Montrose. 90.1 FM, KPFT Houston. We're here.

1:

INTERVIEWER And we're queer.

2:

INTERVIEWER Yeah. We're going to be what now? BB what?

1:

INTERVIEWER BBSing.

2:

INTERVIEWER Oh, you scared me. I thought you-- BBC.

1:

INTERVIEWER No, no, no no--

2:

INTERVIEWER That's not till 3:00.

1:

INTERVIEWER Right.

2:

INTERVIEWER OK, hang on. Lots of good stuff happening. Right?

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

2:

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

1:

[MUSIC - JASON DONOVAN, "TOO MANY BROKEN HEARTS"]

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

WOMAN: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

WOMAN: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

[MUSIC - JASON DONOVAN, "TOO MANY BROKEN HEARTS"]

WOMAN: Hey! Say it, so they can hear you in 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 life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back.

[MUSIC - JASON DONOVAN, "TOO MANY BROKEN HEARTS"]

INTERVIEWER OK, Mary, so you guys are going to be OK, right, next week?

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah. It's not going to be the same without you.

2:

INTERVIEWER That's because I will be in Florida.

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah. That's why we're celebrating your birthday tonight.

2:

INTERVIEWER I'll be laying on the beach.

1:

INTERVIEWER Oh.

2:

INTERVIEWER And I'll be at the Parliament House--

1:

INTERVIEWER Oh.

2:

INTERVIEWER --for Orlando.

1:

INTERVIEWER I know what that is.

2:

[MUSIC - JASON DONOVAN, "TOO MANY BROKEN HEARTS"]

It's one of those kind of male places, isn't it?

INTERVIEWER It's a hotel, Mary.

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah?

2:

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah?

2:

INTERVIEWER It is. I'm telling you.

1:

INTERVIEWER Just a plain, ordinary hotel?

2:

INTERVIEWER Yes. You don't believe me, do you?

1:

INTERVIEWER No. [LAUGHS]

2:

INTERVIEWER OK, so we're going to be BB--

1:

INTERVIEWER BBSing.

2:

INTERVIEWER --S-ing. Right.

1:

INTERVIEWER Uh-huh.

2:

INTERVIEWER That sounds interesting. Hang on a minute, we'll tell you what that is in just a second. Because we want to know what's on your mind later on. And then we're going to be doing Rock Lobster.

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

2:

INTERVIEWER Ooh, yeah.

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah. I'm looking forward to that.

2:

INTERVIEWER *After Hours* on KPFT, 90.1 FM radio. Celebrating live from the heart of the Montrose. We're here.

1:

INTERVIEWER And we're queer.

2:

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

1:

[MUSIC - INFORMATION SOCIETY, "WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND (PURE ENERGY)"]

MAN: We must destroy the myths once and for all, shatter them. We must continue to speak out.

[MUSIC - INFORMATION SOCIETY, "WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND (PURE ENERGY)"]

WOMAN: They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about crotch 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-- you better hear me in Washington. We are demanding our civil rights.

MAN 1: Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

MAN 2: Yeah. Come on out. [LAUGHS] Join us. Bring a friend.

MAN 1: What do you think about the turnout so far?

MAN 2: Well, it's never enough. Never enough. Never enough.

[MUSIC - INFORMATION SOCIETY, "WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND (PURE ENERGY)"]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

INTERVIEWER 1: *After Hours* radio, celebrating live from the heart of the Monroe. 90.1 FM. We're here and we're queer. And we're going down to the BRB now.

INTERVIEWER 2: Oh.

INTERVIEWER 1: You can do other things with your telephone rather than BBS.

1: [MUSIC - ROMANOVSKY AND PHILIPS, "THE ANSWERING MACHINE SONG"]

Because he's like every other bitch in the Montrose, "Here, take my number, but please God, don't call."

INTERVIEWER 2: I know. I know.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[DOORBELL RINGING]

MAN 1: Peter, I was getting worried.

MAN 2: Train was late.

MAN 1: Aaron, you look fantastic.

MAN 2: Well, I should. After all, it's the night of my prom.

MAN 1: [LAUGHS]

MAN 2: Come on upstairs.

MAN 1: I've got a tuxedo.

MAN 2: Did you get the lavender ones?

MAN 1: Did you really think I was tacky enough to wear a lavender tuxedo?

MAN 2: Well, I am.

[LAUGHTER]

NARRATOR: *Reflections of a Rock Lobster: A Story About Growing Up Gay in Rural America.* When Aaron Fricke decided to take another young man to a senior prom, the story made national headlines and court history. *Rock Lobster* is the tender coming out story of one brave young man and his very special night at the prom

[MUSIC PLAYING]

INTERVIEWER And we'll be listening to *Reflections of a Rock Lobster* later on.

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah, I'm so excited. I really like that.

2:

INTERVIEWER You look excited, Mary.

1:

INTERVIEWER Mm.

2:

INTERVIEWER You do.

1:

INTERVIEWER Thank you.

2:

INTERVIEWER Anyway, what are we doing?

1:

INTERVIEWER Not too many people tell me that these days.

2:

INTERVIEWER What?

1:

INTERVIEWER That I [LAUGHS] look excited.

2:

INTERVIEWER Because radio is nice. They can't see you, baby.

1:

INTERVIEWER Right, right.

2:

INTERVIEWER And they see you they go, ugh.

1:

INTERVIEWER Ugh.

2:

[LAUGHTER]

INTERVIEWER Sorry.

1:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Well, I'm sorry. I didn't mean that. Actually, I did.

INTERVIEWER I know you did.

2:

INTERVIEWER [LAUGHS]

1:

INTERVIEWER You're going to be gone for two weeks, I can say lots of things.

2:

INTERVIEWER Is this somebody you know? Don't let those terrorists in--

1:

INTERVIEWER Oh.

2:

INTERVIEWER What are you going to say while I'm gone?

1:

INTERVIEWER Well, I haven't really thought about it yet.

2:

INTERVIEWER Please be nice.

1:

INTERVIEWER I'll try.

2:

INTERVIEWER Because everything you say I'm sure I will hear about.

1:

INTERVIEWER Yes, you will.

2:

INTERVIEWER I just don't want to get any calls at the Parliament House saying, Jimmy said--

1:

INTERVIEWER Mm-hmm. [LAUGHS]

2:

INTERVIEWER Anyway, did you know that if you use your telephone, you can talk to other gay and lesbian people?

1:

INTERVIEWER Well, of course.

2:

INTERVIEWER No, I mean, without seeing them face to face. It's kind of like two way radio without the voice.

1:

INTERVIEWER Are we talking about whatever that BBSing thing is that we're doing tonight?

2:

INTERVIEWER What does that mean? I mean, really. Can somebody say-- no come on.

1:

INTERVIEWER Bulletin Board Service.

2:

INTERVIEWER Oh, please. It's too easy.

1:

[LAUGHTER]

INTERVIEWER That's really it though, isn't it?

2:

INTERVIEWER Oh yeah. Bulletin Board Service.

1:

INTERVIEWER We have two guests tonight from Bulletin Board Services

2:

INTERVIEWER Oh god. And they're so nervous.

1:

SUBJECT 1: No. Not at all. Not even remotely.

INTERVIEWER This is like radio, so if you'll scoot right up here.

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah, and just--

2:

INTERVIEWER And put your \$2 on the table.

1:

SUBJECT 1: What about \$5?

SUBJECT 2: We need a keyboard.

SUBJECT 1: How about \$5?

INTERVIEWER A keyboard?

1:

SUBJECT 2: And a modem.

INTERVIEWER You need a keyboard and a modem. Well, actually, you do need a keyboard and a modem, right?

1:

SUBJECT 2: Oh yeah.

INTERVIEWER 1: And what we're talking about is BBSing. Bulletin Board Services. And they're all over the country right now. And they're also all over the gay and lesbian community. If you happen to be in the Montrose and you pick up the twit, right? It's in the back. It says BBSing modem required.

INTERVIEWER 2: I have noticed that for a long time. But I'm a virgin when it comes to computers.

[LAUGHTER]

INTERVIEWER 1: Uh-huh. That's about the only thing she is a virgin of.

INTERVIEWER 2: So I have absolutely no idea what any of this is about.

INTERVIEWER 1: So a modem is something that hooks up to your phone, right?

SUBJECT 1: Yeah, it's really simple. You can take a basic computer, be it IBM or Apple or what have you, add a modem to it, a communications software, telephone line, you call one of the gay-lesbian bulletin boards in the area. Get online, require a password, obtain a password and all--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

INTERVIEWER 1: You have to--

INTERVIEWER 2: What's a modem?

INTERVIEWER 1: You have to have a computer and--

INTERVIEWER 2: I don't know what a modem is. It's like a box or something?

SUBJECT 2: It's a little box.

INTERVIEWER 2: Oh, OK.

SUBJECT 1: You can get a modem that's external, outside of the computer. And you can get a modem that's internal, inside the computer.

INTERVIEWER 1: So the first thing-- the first thing you need, Mary, is a computer.

INTERVIEWER Right.

2:

SUBJECT 2: Yeah. Right.

SUBJECT 1: It's basically, the modem is, in simple terms, is an adapter that will allow the computer to communicate over a phone line to another computer.

INTERVIEWER Oh OK. Well, that explains it. I understand that.

2:

INTERVIEWER You have to explain it to layman's terms. Lay--

1:

SUBJECT 1: I hope the--

INTERVIEWER Layperson.

2:

INTERVIEWER No, that works. That works. That's exactly what it is.

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

2:

SUBJECT 1: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER So you guys have--

1:

INTERVIEWER These guys know what they're doing.

2:

INTERVIEWER You guys have two of the best boards in town, right?

1:

SUBJECT 2: We'd like to think so.

SUBJECT 1: We would like to think so. But there are many fine bulletin boards that are gay-lesbian in the Houston community.

SUBJECT 2: There really are. There really are.

INTERVIEWER I was amazed because, see, back five years ago, maybe six years ago--

1:

INTERVIEWER Mm-hmm.

2:

INTERVIEWER 1: --when we first had our computer and we were out in God's Country, out in Mission Bay, we had a little computer and we called bulletin boards as they were coming online. And they were like two or three, and now there are pages and pages of them. And new ones show up every day, right?

SUBJECT 1: Pretty well. We have several new bulletin boards in town. Some of them come on and stay on for a long period of time. It's very expensive to operate a bulletin board.

INTERVIEWER 1: Why is that?

SUBJECT 2: You need computers, you've got to pay for phone lines, the software is not cheap. You spend hours and hours and hours sweating over it, kind of like up here with this.

[LAUGHTER]

INTERVIEWER 1: So like if there's a thunderstorm and everything goes to pot, you're screwed or you got to run out and-- it's like watching a baby, right?

SUBJECT 1: Oh yeah.

SUBJECT 2: Yeah.

SUBJECT 1: A lot of us-- so right now, we add policies to our equipment, rider insurance, riders to it. And in addition to that, we put all kind of spike protectors on to protect your--

INTERVIEWER 2: Spike protectors?

SUBJECT 1: Electronic.

INTERVIEWER 1: Not that kind of--

SUBJECT 2: It protects against brown out.

INTERVIEWER 1: --power surge.

INTERVIEWER 2: Oh OK. OK, can we get kind of basic for me?

SUBJECT 1: So you buy a computer and you get a modem and you buy the software, and then you put it in and you dial into these bulletin boards.

INTERVIEWER 2: And then what?

SUBJECT 1: So you're like the only person there, right? No? Yes?

SUBJECT 2: No, I don't follow you.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

INTERVIEWER I don't understand--

2:

SUBJECT 1: --person.

INTERVIEWER Jimmy. Just got a computer and he bought it and hooked it up and dialed in to the board. He's the only person
1: online at that time.

SUBJECT 2: Well, it depends on the system that he calls.

SUBJECT 1: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER Oh.

2:

SUBJECT 1: Some of the computer systems that they call or what we call "multi-node," where large numbers of people can communicate on that system at the same time.

INTERVIEWER At the same time.

1:

SUBJECT 1: Other systems are just two nodes. What I mean by node is the number of callers that can call in to that bulletin board. So like the same time.

INTERVIEWER Your board is--

1:

SUBJECT 1: My board, the board I run, has two nodes at the moment. So two people can be--

INTERVIEWER --can be calling at the same time?

1:

SUBJECT 1: In addition to the--

INTERVIEWER As compared to--

1:

SUBJECT 1: As compared to the exchange, which is--

SUBJECT 2: We have 25 right now.

INTERVIEWER 25 separate phone lines?

1:

SUBJECT 2: Yeah, I believe in it. My lover and I met through his single line bulletin board two years ago.

INTERVIEWER Oh, wait a minute. Wait a minute. This is like talking to other people on your computer?

2:

SUBJECT 2: You can leave message or you say, hi, how are you?

INTERVIEWER Oh really?

2:

SUBJECT 2: It's even more basic than that.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

INTERVIEWER And you don't use your real name, right? Which adds a little bit of--

1:

SUBJECT 2: Most of the people on the board don't.

INTERVIEWER --security to it.

1:

INTERVIEWER You have little cutesy names?

2:

INTERVIEWER You use what is called a "handle," which is probably borrowed from CB's right?

1:

INTERVIEWER Oh OK.

2:

INTERVIEWER Guess what mine is, Mary.

1:

INTERVIEWER I can't imagine. I'll bet it's something like "Mickey Mouse," huh?

2:

SUBJECT 1: Mister or missus.

INTERVIEWER It's like real hard to figure out. I mean, I'm like sending messages and you go, oh hi, buddy, how you doing?

1: [LAUGHS] Oh good, this worked about two minutes.

[LAUGHTER]

All except one. There's one board in Houston called the Pigs' Trough, which I'm not a member of. But if-- no, I am.

But I certainly don't use "Mickey Mouse" over there. That's no Mickey Mouse--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

INTERVIEWER Pig Trough?

2:

INTERVIEWER Well, Doug's not-- I mean, he's been here before and talked about it. So we're safe to--

1:

SUBJECT 1: A lot of the boards you probably hear these different names. A lot of the boards carry a theme to them. Like the Pigs' Trough, for example, is one of the leather boards in town.

INTERVIEWER Oh.
2:

SUBJECT 1: Yeah, so you--

INTERVIEWER OK.
2:

SUBJECT 1: You can kind of choose what your area of interest is, gay or lesbian. And then when you get on some of these different boards, we have-- most of the boards have different areas on them for lesbians and gay men, and so on. You can get into different areas on them.

INTERVIEWER So if you have 25 phone lines coming to your house, how do you finance this?
1:

SUBJECT 2: We're converting to a pay system on the 15th of May.

INTERVIEWER Which is no big deal, right? Because that's the way most of the boards operate that are large.
1:

SUBJECT 2: Once you get into that number of lines, then, especially in Texas, the Corporation Commission declares that if you run over three lines, you have to pay business rates. So our phone bills are pretty high right now.

INTERVIEWER OK. Can you kind of give me-- I mean, what do these things cost?
2:

INTERVIEWER The boards, you said-- or you're being on--
1:

INTERVIEWER Well, I mean, if you've got a computer and you're calling in, I assume that it's--
2:

INTERVIEWER Oh, so it would costs money?
1:

SUBJECT 1: Can I give you just a rough estimate?

INTERVIEWER Yeah.
1:

SUBJECT 1: This two line board-- a two line board that I run at the moment, an investment that I've invested in it, not even including time, is approximately \$10,000.

INTERVIEWER Jeez.
2:

SUBJECT 1: Just for two nodes.

INTERVIEWER And-- I'm sorry, go ahead.

1:

SUBJECT 2: We put \$80,000 into ours.

INTERVIEWER Whoa.

2:

INTERVIEWER Do you, like, work for--

1:

SUBJECT 2: Oh, the phone company loves us.

INTERVIEWER You don't work for the city, that's for sure.

1:

INTERVIEWER Well, wait a minute. If I'm calling in--

2:

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah.

INTERVIEWER I'm just kidding.

1:

INTERVIEWER If I'm calling in, doesn't it-- don't I have to pay for that service?

2:

INTERVIEWER Yeah, so there's a fee, right?

1:

SUBJECT 2: Well, it depends on which board. We have a charge--

INTERVIEWER So some boards are free.

1:

SUBJECT 2: We have a chant for access to two ours until-- well, we're still aren't really, until May 15.

INTERVIEWER Oh.

2:

SUBJECT 2: But the phone bills finally got so bad--

INTERVIEWER Well, I can imagine.

2:

SUBJECT 2: We couldn't just pay for it anymore. And it really was outgrowing just a hobby.

INTERVIEWER You don't just get-- you don't just leave messages. There's public domain software that you can pick up, right?

1: Games and other things that you can upload and download.

SUBJECT 1: So I said, every board has its own interest, with that respect you can log on one type of bulletin board if you're into using what we call "shareware software," which is public domain programs that you can call the bulletin board, download over the modem, and utilize there at your home later when you're offline. Utilize these different programs. Most of the programs that are in public domain are free or are shareware, we call them.

INTERVIEWER 1: Plus the board that I'm familiar with, yours, you have games--

SUBJECT 1: Turkey's Roost, yeah.

INTERVIEWER 1: Online games, and my favorite is like the Walt Disney trivia.

INTERVIEWER 2: I'll bet.

INTERVIEWER 1: No, really.

SUBJECT 1: You have 82% on--

INTERVIEWER 1: Top position.

[LAUGHTER]

SUBJECT 1: We're waiting for you to hit that 100% mark.

INTERVIEWER 1: I could cheat.

SUBJECT 1: You get a bonus prize then.

INTERVIEWER 1: Oh, you do?

SUBJECT 1: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER 1: I could cheat.

SUBJECT 1: Would you?

[LAUGHTER]

Would you like to?

INTERVIEWER 1: No, no, no.

INTERVIEWER Yes. I would.

2:

SUBJECT 1: [LAUGHS]

INTERVIEWER Get a computer.

1:

SUBJECT 2: It'll meet you there at Parliament House.

[LAUGHTER]

INTERVIEWER So you call in and you play Disney trivia and it's in color, and you ask questions and you respond. And it's like boom, boom, boom.

SUBJECT 1: If you have a color monitor on your end.

SUBJECT 2: Yeah.

SUBJECT 1: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER So it really depends on how much you want to spend on your system at home. And then some people, like me, use computers from work and other things, right?

SUBJECT 1: Yeah.

SUBJECT 2: Oh yeah. Yeah, it's amazing how many people, on a Friday afternoon when it's sunny out, suddenly get on the bulletin boards because they're not going to do anything at work.

[LAUGHTER]

But they've got to stay there.

INTERVIEWER I see.

2:

SUBJECT 2: They log on.

[LAUGHS]

INTERVIEWER So you two kind of run this like a hobby type thing?

2:

SUBJECT 1: Well, a lot of them start out as a hobby. And then, really, with all honesty, what ends up happening here is you start out a board as a hobby, usually two or three lines because you can get residential phone rates. When your system grows to a point where you have to add that fourth line or more and you go commercial, you really have to become a pay system like the exchange has. Because the cost of operating the system is phenomenal.

INTERVIEWER Well, I would think so.

2:

SUBJECT 1: You generally, at that point, the time that you have to spend on it warrants somebody working on it almost 24 hours.

SUBJECT 2: It's a full time job now.

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

2:

INTERVIEWER I'm sure it is.

1:

SUBJECT 2: My lover works at it full time.

INTERVIEWER Gosh.

2:

INTERVIEWER If you've got 25 lines coming into your house, it has to be a full time job.

1:

SUBJECT 2: It's like having company over all the time.

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

2:

SUBJECT 2: And I like to-- I like to have parties.

SUBJECT 1: And you can get paged in the middle of the night.

SUBJECT 2: Oh no, I don't answer pages in the middle of the night.

SUBJECT 1: What's nice about this, and a lot of-- well, not a lot, but you listening, what's nice about it, if you have a computer and you're sitting out there thinking, well, nobody can find me. I can't be seen in Montrose, or I don't yet have enough courage to drive down to any of the bars or whatever, you can actually talk to people and leave messages with other gay and lesbian people and remain anonymous.

And really not-- really not be exposed to whatever it is you feel like it's keeping you in the closet.

INTERVIEWER I see.

2:

SUBJECT 1: It's very, very-- it's a very, very safe environment. And then there are places that users get together, people who use the computer, or users, right? On a regular basis--

SUBJECT 2: Oh, every Friday.

INTERVIEWER And meet it at certain places and their clubs that you go to, and what on and so forth. So it's a nice social thing, right? Other than just sending this guy over here your money. Send me your money.

[LAUGHTER]

SUBJECT 1: Some of the boards-- some of the boards even have a set up where someone with a computer and the modem, they can call and log on anonymously, not even having a password yet, no information at all, they can just log on. They will be granted very limited access, but they can obtain all kind of AIDS information if they need it. Where to go to get HIV tested, what to do if they're HIV positive, and there's a wealth of information.

INTERVIEWER Oh, that's wonderful. I had no idea.

2:

SUBJECT 2: Wonderful information on them.

INTERVIEWER Both boards that you guys have have information like that, right?

1:

SUBJECT 2: Yeah, the Montrose Clinic-- actually, what is it? Houston Clinical Research Network has a lot of information out there.

INTERVIEWER Mm-hmm.

2:

SUBJECT 2: We're hoping to put some of the amfAR trial information online eventually. But nobody right now has time to do the programming for it.

INTERVIEWER I can imagine.

2:

INTERVIEWER And not only that, you've got other-- like national publications online.

1:

SUBJECT 2: We have a few. We've got USA Today and we get the New York Stock Exchange quotes. A lot of people read USA Today, not too many people seem to look at stock quotes for some reason.

INTERVIEWER And the Turkey Roost, Mary, is where they print the weather before I come to here-- come to the station.

1:

INTERVIEWER Oh.

2:

INTERVIEWER Because one of the users is kind enough to call and upload that.

1:

SUBJECT 1: And upload the weather.

INTERVIEWER And we rush that over here, and bingo, it's great.

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

2:

SUBJECT 1: Yeah, so a lot of the users really participate in some of the areas. As we mentioned, one of the people on it is involved in weather. So he, for free, logs he the board and he can upload files and information, just as you can download them. So he takes his information, uploads it to our systems, and then we can, in turn, make that available to the callers that call in and--

INTERVIEWER It's really, really nice.

1:

INTERVIEWER That's great.

2:

INTERVIEWER Plus, a couple of them-- yeah, well, at least two-- we'll hook them before they leave-- but you call in and it goes, hi, this week on *After Hours*, BBS--

INTERVIEWER Ah.

2:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SUBJECT 1: Exactly.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SUBJECT 2: For a price.

[LAUGHTER]

Parliament House.

INTERVIEWER Thank you very much. That was the--

1:

[LAUGHTER]

The Parliament House? Why is everybody talking about the Parliament House?

INTERVIEWER Must be well known.

2:

[LAUGHTER]

INTERVIEWER I have had so many comments on the Parliament House this week. But that's another story on another show.

1:

SUBJECT 1: It has a magazine shopping in it.

INTERVIEWER Oh, really?

1:

SUBJECT 1: Oh yeah.

INTERVIEWER I hear it has a lot of--

1:

INTERVIEWER Have you been there? You want to tell us more about it?

2:

INTERVIEWER No, let me play this record.

1:

[LAUGHTER]

And you tell us all about the Parliament House. No, I really enjoy both of your boards. Because number one, a lot of people, like I said earlier, are afraid and still don't come out into the community. And they really get a lot of information that otherwise they're not going to get. Because we have a lot of groups in here that say, well, the Pride Week people, for example, were planning the parade.

And they're doing a lot of press in The Twit and The Voice. But a lot of gay people don't see The Twit and The Voice

INTERVIEWER Yeah, we figure about 10% of the gay and lesbian community probably ever see it.

2:

SUBJECT 2: I for one didn't see it until I started going to the clubs. I didn't know it existed before I come out.

INTERVIEWER We talk about that a lot. And we'll have people call, and they'll say what's This Voice something, because we've never seen it? And I think a lot of times, as a community, we let ourselves down when we think that that's the only way. And we know, certainly from this broadcast, that there are people all over the area, all over the county, and counties beyond that tune in every week to find out what's going on.

SUBJECT 1: Sure.

INTERVIEWER So they're out there writing down the number now. The exchange and the Turkey's Roost and the--

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

2:

INTERVIEWER So in order to get on the board, you have to get validated, right? In order to have access.

1:

SUBJECT 2: That is correct.

INTERVIEWER And that's to protect the user and the system, right?

1:

SUBJECT 2: Both. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER What does that mean?

2:

SUBJECT 2: We require a lot of, not really personal information, we want their real name, their real mailing address, their real phone number. And we want some information to verify that they truly are gay or lesbian, and not somebody who wants to get on the system and harass people.

INTERVIEWER Ah. Gotcha.

2:

SUBJECT 2: And then we'll call back. And that's pretty much true of all the gay and lesbian boards in Houston. We're fairly strict, more so in Texas--

INTERVIEWER Has that been a problem?

2:

INTERVIEWER That's only for everyone's protection.

1:

SUBJECT 2: It really is.

SUBJECT 1: Oh yeah.

SUBJECT 2: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER Has it been a problem, though?

2:

SUBJECT 1: Well, I wouldn't say a major problem. Occasionally. It's unfortunate at this point, but the bulletin boards, at this point in time, we have to recommend that everybody be at least 18 years of age. Now you can call into the anonymous sections on them if you're under 18, but to actually gain full access, you have to be a legal adult.

INTERVIEWER Oh.

2:

INTERVIEWER And again, that's probably to protect you, right?

1:

SUBJECT 1: Yeah, it is.

INTERVIEWER Because we know how lovely this wonderful state we live in-- I mean, they have that sodomy law. And here I work for the police department and do that every chance I get, and they just--

INTERVIEWER Don't we all.

2:

INTERVIEWER --cannot understand that it's useless, girls.

1:

INTERVIEWER I know.

2:

INTERVIEWER Now I'm talking to the legislature.

1:

[LAUGHTER]

Like we know they're listening right now.

SUBJECT 2: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER Anyway, so we've got our modem and we have our--

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

2:

INTERVIEWER Do you understand now?

1:

INTERVIEWER I understand that. Yeah.

2:

SUBJECT 1: Let's say you meet somebody kind of through the message base. What we mean by message base is you have your access now to one of the boards, you get you call with your computer, your modem, you're online with the system. You're going through the message base, you can read the public messages that are left there by the other users.

INTERVIEWER And when you sign on, Mary, you get this nice message from the system operator that says, hello. So-and-so just called and he's gay from such and such. And he enjoys such and such. And you go, hmm.

INTERVIEWER How nice.

2:

INTERVIEWER So you drop a--

1:

SUBJECT 1: Profile.

INTERVIEWER Hello there, darling. How you doing?

1:

SUBJECT 1: It's a personal profiler.

[LAUGHTER]

Those are some of the most active areas on most of the board.

[LAUGHTER]

You can imagine why.

SUBJECT 2: I think chatting online is the most active one.

INTERVIEWER Really? Could we like come over and watch that sometime?

1:

SUBJECT 2: Oh yes.

[LAUGHTER]

INTERVIEWER No, I'm kidding.

1:

SUBJECT 2: I'd love to watch from my end, because I can see what really is going on. The users--

INTERVIEWER Well.

1:

SUBJECT 2: Well, I can't divulge it, though.

SUBJECT 1: But we can read the--

SUBJECT 2: But we can read every--

SUBJECT 1: The private areas. We have to have that type of access running the systems because--

INTERVIEWER I could be in trouble, girl.

1:

[LAUGHTER]

SUBJECT 1: We do have access to the private messages, to make sure that there is no real-- no illegal activity going on.

SUBJECT 2: There's pretty much two rules that we have. There's no drug sales or talk, and no talk about sex with minors.

INTERVIEWER Mm-hmm.

2:

SUBJECT 2: Other than that, pretty much anything goes. But those two things, there's too much liability and we don't really want to foster that in any way.

INTERVIEWER And most of the users are really nice people, right?

1:

SUBJECT 2: They really are, yeah.

INTERVIEWER Because I've known a lot of people over the years that have been use-- have used computers. And you have met people through the systems, and they're very, very nice people. They're not like those, I hate to say that plastic, credit card person that you meet somewhere that they go out-- you know I mean those? People that we met before there were things like computers, and we had the Montrose-- the Gay and Lesbian Softball League or something in here a couple of weeks ago.

We had baseball, now we have baseball leagues--

SUBJECT 2: Are you talking about Queens from Dallas?

INTERVIEWER
1:

[LAUGHTER]

--that are over there on Pacific Street. Now dancing their night away and they don't understand that there's more life than that. Not that we don't go over there, but there is a life outside of that.

INTERVIEWER
2:

INTERVIEWER
1: Yeah. And that's all we're saying. We certainly don't want to knock the clubs, because they support us-- have they supported us all. And when no one else is giving us money for AIDS Research and AIDS other things, the bars always have.

SUBJECT 2: Sure.

INTERVIEWER
1: But now as we grow, I guess, as a community, we're finding that we're more than just dancing machines.

INTERVIEWER
2:

INTERVIEWER
1: People who have minds and communicate and learn from each other and become very good friends. And I know a lot of people who have become friends through the systems.

SUBJECT 1: Oh, a lot of--

INTERVIEWER
1:

SUBJECT 1: A lot of people have met their lovers through the systems, through the--

SUBJECT 2: Oh yeah.

SUBJECT 1: Through the computers.

INTERVIEWER
2:

SUBJECT 1: Right here, yeah.

INTERVIEWER
1:

SUBJECT 2: Everybody's on an equal footing to start.

INTERVIEWER Exactly.

1:

SUBJECT 2: And there is a place you can go meet every Friday night. All the bulletin boards have a very informal gathering at the Venture Inn.

SUBJECT 1: In the upstairs at the Venture Inn.

SUBJECT 2: And so if you've been talking with somebody and you want to go meet them, it's a real good place to go.

INTERVIEWER Ooh.

1:

SUBJECT 1: A lot of nice people know-- we don't all wear thick glasses and computer dweebs, just because we communicate on the computer.

INTERVIEWER No, he certainly doesn't.

2:

SUBJECT 1: There's some really hot men who show up that you can meet through the computers.

INTERVIEWER Well, not only that, but you get to know a person first. Likes and dislikes, rather than being bowled over one way or the other by the physical aspect.

2:

INTERVIEWER It's not really like you get to meet them. You communicate. And I think that's something we haven't done.

1:

INTERVIEWER You don't have the physical presence to--

2:

INTERVIEWER I know as gay men, because you can't talk in some of those places, the music is so loud. And they just keep you--

1:

INTERVIEWER Yeah.

2:

INTERVIEWER But you actually communicate and learn about how wonderful these people are.

1:

SUBJECT 1: We have two ways of communicating. You can communicate via the message basing that we've talked about, then via the actual online chat. Now Johnny Knight here, they have the-- with 25 lines, they do a lot of chatting.

INTERVIEWER Wow, that's what I'm afraid might have gotten me in trouble. [LAUGHS]

1:

SUBJECT 2: It's hard it's hard to follow when there's 10 or 15 people in there.

INTERVIEWER I'll bet you try.

2:

SUBJECT 2: I sure do.

[LAUGHTER]

I sure do.

INTERVIEWER It can be a lot of fun. Well, do you want to plug the numbers or--

1:

SUBJECT 1: Yeah, you betcha.

INTERVIEWER -- you just wanted to look in The Voice? Or do you just-- what do you want to do?

1:

INTERVIEWER OK, so which one first here?

2:

SUBJECT 2: Go right ahead.

SUBJECT 1: OK, well, I'm Full Moon, sis up of the Turkey's Roost bulletin board. And the phone number is 530-7505.

INTERVIEWER Which is really nice because it has that fabulous Disney trivia, darling.

1:

INTERVIEWER Hmm.

2:

INTERVIEWER Call in and try to beat Mickey Mouse. Good luck.

1:

INTERVIEWER And what's the other one?

2:

SUBJECT 2: I'm Johnny Knight of The Exchange. [INAUDIBLE] of The Exchange. My other half is Big Blue, and our number is 521-2191.

INTERVIEWER OK.

2:

SUBJECT 2: God, he'll kill me if I get the number wrong.

INTERVIEWER Now, both of these--

2:

[LAUGHTER]

SUBJECT 2: I almost said my own phone number.

SUBJECT 1: Oh.

INTERVIEWER Both of these are in the back of The Voice-- or back of The Twit, right?

2:

SUBJECT 2: Back of The Twit, yeah.

INTERVIEWER Or as we've been doing for many, many years--

2:

INTERVIEWER Oh, girl. She's going to plug the switchboard.

1:

INTERVIEWER That's right. There--

2:

INTERVIEWER Here we go.

1:

INTERVIEWER Call the switchboard. 529-3211. We've got them down there too.

2:

INTERVIEWER Listen, thanks for coming by, really.

1:

SUBJECT 1: Oh, thank y'all very much for having us.

INTERVIEWER So you still nervous?

1:

SUBJECT 2: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER Oh, come on.

2:

INTERVIEWER Take him out back, Mary.

1:

INTERVIEWER I plan on it.

2:

[LAUGHTER]

SUBJECT 1: We'll slap him around with a laptop.

INTERVIEWER No.

1:

INTERVIEWER No, no, no. That's not what-- no, no.

2:

INTERVIEWER 1: It's nice. Because before I was out doing things like *After Hours* and spending my Saturday nights here, I remember the times going home from the police department and getting on the computer and just feeling comfortable having gay men to talk to. It's a nice, safe place.

SUBJECT 2: It helps. It really does. We've seen some people really come out of the closet through the bulletin boards.

INTERVIEWER 1: Which is great.

SUBJECT 2: It really is.

INTERVIEWER 1: Plus, I get frustrated because a lot of the gay men don't want to hear anything we have to say. Because they don't know any better. I mean, they're over there drinking and whatever, which is fine. I would be over there now chasing them if it wasn't for this.

SUBJECT 1: There's just a tremendous, tremendous wealth of information that you can get through the bulletin boards.

INTERVIEWER 1: And I--

SUBJECT 1: Even as far as Montrose Clinic Hours and things where you can go in and get tested.

INTERVIEWER 2: That's great.

SUBJECT 1: Find out information--

INTERVIEWER 2: We need that available.

SUBJECT 1: There are-- some of the boards have message areas on them where if you're HIV positive you can talk with somebody else who's in the same situation that you're in.

INTERVIEWER 1: Right.

INTERVIEWER 2: That's very important.

SUBJECT 1: Anonymously too.

INTERVIEWER 2: That's right, because sometimes people are just not ready to do this face to face thing if they're HIV positive.