

NARRATOR: Where am I? KPFT. Pacifica-- I've heard of it. FM90-- FM90.

Houston-- it's in Texas. KPFT. It's the only place to be.

REPORTER: The disorders began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar, the Stonewall, on Christopher Street.

CROWD: Say it loud! Say it proud!

MAN: We take great pride in what's happened in the gay community and what's going to happen.

MAN: The people of Dade County has said enough, enough, enough.

CROWD: Human rights are here to stay! Anita Bryant, go away.

MAN: There's no question in my mind that the people of California don't want homosexuals teaching in the classroom.

MAN: State Senator John Briggs has just conceded the election.

REPORTER: Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed.

REPORTER: Dan White has been found guilty of one count each of voluntary manslaughter.

CROWD: Fight now! Fight back!

REPORTER: It has now broken loose. Cops are now bashing heads.

REPORTER: And here comes the National March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights.

REPORTER: Gay power, gay politics. That's what this report is about.

REPORTER: There are gay and lesbian people singing out here. What's your reaction to that?

MAN: I think it's terrible. If I had a rock, I'd throw it at him.

WOMAN: The real message of these gay games is that every one of us is a winner.

MAN: Today, we are marching, as our others across America. And we shouldn't have to be.

ROBIN TYLER: Come on and 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!

REPORTER: I think that's Robin Tyler on the stage leading the chant-- for love or for life, we're not going back.

LEA DELARIA: Good afternoon, and welcome to the national march on Washington DC for gay and lesbian rights and choral reciting! Let's hear it out there! I'm Lea Delaria!

BRUCE HOPKINS: I'm Bruce Hopkins.

LEA DELARIA: I'm a dyke.

BRUCE I'm a faggot.

HOPKINS:

BOTH: And we're best friends!

LEA DELARIA: I want you to savor this next moment. I have the proud task of telling you that the official count on the lesbian and gay rights march, the official count is over 500,000 strong. 500,000 strong!

Look at you! 500,000 strong. 500,000 strong, one of the largest marches in United States history. One of the largest marches in United States history. 500,000 strong.

MAN: We must destroy the myth once and for, shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out. 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 at the stores you shop in. You-- and once they realize that we are indeed their children, that we are indeed everywhere, every myth every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all. And once you do, you will feel so much better.

DJ 1: Well, good morning.

DJ 2: Greetings.

DJ 1: KPFT Houston.

DJ 3: Good morning.

DJ 1: Yeah, what's going on, kids?

DJ 2: We're queer.

DJ 3: And we're here.

DJ 1: It's--

DJ 2: The criminal homosexuals are back on the air.

DJ 3: Yay!

DJ 1: 90.1 FM, After Hours Radio, is celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose. And a special guest going to be in here this morning, somebody by the name of Ray Hill. Find out who he is.

DJ 2: You know him. You heard him. You either adore him or you hate his guts. But you'll listen to him anyway because he's going to be on.

DJ 3: We're going to make you.

DJ 1: There's so much going on this week. Let's see. The Texas Gay and Lesbian Conference is going on out at U of H.

We were out there all day. We'll talk about that, I'm sure. There's an Imperial Court Coronation or something going on this weekend. this weekend.

DJ 3: This weekend.

DJ 1: The Texas Gay Fathers are getting ready for a big meeting this weekend. The--

DJ 2: National conference.

DJ 1: We met some people from San Francisco this afternoon at the conference at U of H, and the NAMES project is bringing the quilt that was displayed in Washington during the March back in October the 11th. That's going to be here in May. There's so much going on. So call your friends, call your mother, and tell them that After Hours Radio celebrating live is on the air. And we're ready to go, right?

DJ 3: Time to wake up.

DJ 2: Crank it up.

DJ 1: Yeah. We got it. We're ready to go?

DJ 3: I'm ready. You ready?

DJ 2: I was born ready.

DJ 1: Everybody is here for a change. I can't believe it.

DJ 3: Yay, mark this day down.

DJ 1: We got some new music for you this morning. We're going to listen to this, and we're going to drag Ray Hill in here screaming. I don't know what he's doing here this early in the morning.

We'll see if we can get him to say a few words to you. Stay tuned. After Hours Radio, celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose, only on Pacifica's KPFT 90.1 FM. How you like that, Terry?

DJ 2: I like it.

DJ 1: That's a brand new song by--

DJ 2: I give it a 10.

DJ 1: What is it? What's the name--

DJ 2: Oh please, please.

DJ 1: This is brand new. We just got it. It's called-- the name of the song is "Call Me," and the group is S-P-A-G-N-A. I don't know what that is.

DJ 2: Spagna?

DJ 1: Yeah, we'll give you a free program guide and a March on Washington button and the KPFT poster that says After Hours on it if you're the person to call us at 526-4000-- 526-4000. And we'll throw that at you. Mr. Ray Hill, everybody knows who that is?

DJ 2: Yay.

DJ 1: He's going to be here in just a minute.

DJ 4: If you don't know, call in.

DJ 1: Yeah. Give us a call-- 526-4000. After Hours Radio celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose, coming at you live on a beautiful Sunday morning. So much is going on right now in Houston that, oh man, we just don't know what button to push next. There's just so much going on this year.

DJ 2: A lot going on.

DJ 1: Great.

DJ 4: We are--

DJ 1: --be great for us.

DJ 4: We're redefining the word busy.

DJ 1: Yeah. So stay with us. This is After Hours Radio celebrating life from where?

DJ 2: The heart of Montrose.

DJ 1: Yeah. [INAUDIBLE].

JOE WATTS: "Praises of Pride," written and read by Joe Watts. A cry to unite is in the air. Fear, death, and dying, even despair. But hopefully, determined, we will survive by keeping the flames of our faith alive.

A cry to unite is in the air, singing praises of pride. A cry to unite is in the air, a time to celebrate, to love, to care. Forever united, we must stand, or divided, we will surely fall.

Listen to the cry. Rise up, stand tall. A cry to unite is in the air, singing praises of pride.

The cry to unite is in the air. Bonding of souls and hearts everywhere. Our dream to unite must come true-- the courage to face the world as you. A cry to unite is in the air, singing praises of pride everywhere.

JINGLE SINGERS: Do you remember when?

DJ 1: Now don't say anything, Alan, about how old I am.

DJ 4: Oh, would I dare?

DJ 1: Would he dare?

DJ 3: Yes, he would dare.

DJ 1: Hey, the brand new KPFT program guide is laying here, and we want to give it to you along with an After Hours poster and a button that says National March on Washington, October the 11th, 1987. And although I wasn't there, I was sitting here pushing buttons for you. Ray Hill was there. He may tell us about that in a minute. In the meantime, we want to tell you to come out, come out.

DJ 4: Get out, get proud.

DJ 1: Yeah, get out. There's a lot going on this year, and we want you to be a part of it. Give us a call at 526-4000, and let's talk about gay and lesbian pride and coming together as a community.

And who knows what's going to happen? Just stay with us. This is after hours on KPFT Houston.

KEVIN: Hi, this is Kevin.

RON: This is Ron.

BOTH: And we're from the gay and lesbian switchboard Houston, and you're listening to After Hours on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.

DJ 1: Yeah, you certainly are.

RAY HILL: Sounds pretty festive to me.

DJ 1: Who was that? Well, good morning, Mr. Hill.

RAY HILL: Well, good morning.

DJ 1: You spent the day at U of H, right?

RAY HILL: Yeah, well, you spent more of it than I did. I slipped away and got some sleep so I could be in good form tonight.

DJ 1: You said something about, on Wallenstein the other day, about going to bed with the chickens or something. I don't know. You and Jeff--

DJ 2: That's one I've never tried.

RAY HILL: Well--

DJ 1: I wasn't going to say that, you guys.

RAY HILL: That was a serious radio fall faux pas. I was trying to explain that I go to bed early, and the way you do that in Texas vernacular is I go to bed with the chickens. And immediately, the phones lit up from the Vice Squad juvenile division.

DJ 2: As well they should have.

DJ 3: Mm-hm.

DJ 1: All these folks know that I work down there at the police department as a police dispatcher, and I would have been the-- I don't know if I would send a car after Ray Hill. Yeah, I would, but--

RAY HILL: You can't pass up a good confession, buddy. I don't care if you're the good guys' cop.

DJ 1: Anyway, we got somebody on the phone. My chair doesn't want to work, but that's OK. We have somebody on--

DJ 2: Well, it's that stretcher--

DJ 1: --from the Imperial Court in Houston. Laura Lee Love, you there, darling?

CALLER: Yes, I'm here.

DJ 1: Well, good morning.

CALLER: Good morning.

DJ 1: Hey, I want to tell you a story. I went out to the Ramada Inn, Katy and Silber, Mr. Hill, and all you folks in there. Now, Ray, I went out there because someone that works with you on the prison program had the mic and the recorder that I needed for the university conference it was held at U of H today. So when I was out at the Katy Freeway and Silber Ramada Inn--

RAY HILL: Know it well.

DJ 1: --they were having a don't kill the cattle something that Jane does Talk of the Earth here on Fridays from--

RAY HILL: Embrace the Earth program, right?

DJ 1: Yeah, Jane was out there covering something for us. And as I walked in the building, there were drag queens everywhere. And what was going on out there, Laura Lee?

CALLER: We were having our weekend of coronation here at the Ramada Inn.

DJ 1: Sounds like everybody was having a lot of fun.

CALLER: They really were.

DJ 1: You had a full house Friday night. How did everything go tonight?

CALLER: Everything was great tonight. We had representatives from all over the United States, and they were out here in Houston having a very good time with the Imperial Court system of Houston.

RAY HILL: Laura Lee, this is Ray.

CALLER: Hi.

RAY HILL: Could you tell us something about the development of the Court in Houston? I know the Court has been around for many, many years. My good friend in San Diego, Nicole Ramirez, has been active in the Court system and spreading the Court system. Maybe it would be a good idea to tell folks what the Court system is and how it has developed in Houston.

CALLER: OK, it's basically a not-for-profit organization. We are a community-minded organization. We're here to service our community in any way that we see fit or deem is, you know, a reliable need. And we're just here basically to help out anyone in our community. We do not discriminate in any form or fashion, and we just do what we can for our community.

RAY HILL: And the Imperial Court, of course, the officers are like the empresses of the various areas of the country.

CALLER: That's correct.

RAY HILL: And it is trans persons and impersonators and entertainers, their separate organization within the community. In some parts of the country like San Diego and San Francisco, there have been Imperial Courts since the late 1940s.

CALLER: Correct.

RAY HILL: And it is something that has only been going for a relatively short period of time in Houston. And could you tell us about that evolution?

CALLER: Yes, we're going into-- excuse me. We're going into our fourth year this year. This evening, we elected our new monarchs, which, we have a new monarch, the empress four Jenee Johnson, and emperor four Kenny Jenkins. And this is going into our fourth year.

We started very small, like I say, three years ago. And we have grown to well over 40 members this year. So it's something that the community finally realizes that Houston needs, and they're responding very well to it. And we're just-- we're having a very good time with it. And like I said, we're here to do what we can.

RAY HILL: And I have been to some of your occasions, fundraisers for A Place in the Sun, that the court put on at Exile--

CALLER: Right.

RAY HILL: --too, and I have attended other shows where you have raised money for other worthy causes. I want to thank you, welcome you to the community. Would you give my regards to the Emperor and Empress, and we're looking forward to seeing you out on the stump.

CALLER: Thank you very much for giving us this opportunity.

DJ 1: Sure.

CALLER: Appreciate it.

DJ 1: It looked like y'all were having a great time last night, and we just wanted to share that with everybody that was listening to us this morning.

CALLER: I'm glad, and thank you all.

DJ 1: Thanks for calling. Have a good night.

CALLER: Bye bye.

DJ 1: Well, Mr. Hill, someone just called and asked if we could play some Romanowski and Phillips. Can we do that, you guys?

RAY HILL: Romanowski and Phillips? Is this--

DJ 2: I have no objection.

DJ 1: They wanted to hear that song what kind of self-respecting faggot--

RAY HILL: Am I.

DJ 1: --am I. We've got that somewhere. Let's see if we can find it. Ron Romanowski and Paul Phillips on After Hours KPFT Houston Radio, celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose. Oh yeah, Ron and Paul. Aren't they great?

RAY HILL: There's so much fun on the stump. I mean, running into them in weird places like Santa Fe, New Mexico, the last time we--

DJ 1: They're living in Santa Fe now.

RAY HILL: Yeah, they're living in Santa Fe now, and that's a lot healthier environment for them than San Francisco was.

DJ 2: Yeah, most self-respecting faggots are living in--

DJ 1: Santa Fe.

RAY HILL: --places other than San Francisco, right.

DJ 1: Well, Terri's not a self-respecting faggot.

DJ 3: Say what?

DJ 1: You're a self-respecting dyke, aren't you?

DJ 3: Yeah.

DJ 2: I want to be-- when I grow up, can I be a Dyke too?

DJ 1: No. Anyway, this is After Hours on KPFT Houston. We got a lot to talk about, don't we?

RAY HILL: Yeah, there's so much going on this week.

DJ 1: There's so much going on this year this is going to be one of the greatest years the gay and lesbian community has ever seen.

RAY HILL: And Houston is going to be a good place to be this year.

DJ 1: Houston is going to be the hub. Not only do we have the-- everything going on at U of H this weekend. What am I doing this weekend out there? We were there all day. The conference, Texas gay leaders and lesbian leaders.

RAY HILL: It was a good conference. It was sparsely attended from--

DJ 1: It was wonderful.

RAY HILL: --the rest of the state. But there are folks there from San Antonio in Houston and Austin.

DJ 1: And Dallas.

RAY HILL: And some folks from Dallas, and then those nice two gentlemen from San Francisco--

DJ 1: Yes.

RAY HILL: --about the--

DJ 1: The Names Project.

RAY HILL: --The Names Project.

DJ 1: And the quilt will be here in Houston hopefully at some place like the George R. Brown Convention Center.

RAY HILL: Yeah, exactly where is not to be determined. It will be here Mother's Day weekend.

DJ 1: May the 10th? Is that right?

RAY HILL: And Mother's Day itself will be the main day of display for the tents. So all you mothers out there, get ready.

DJ 2: Well, I think we ought to dream the reflection pool in front of City Hall.

RAY HILL: Not big enough.

DJ 1: It's not big enough.

RAY HILL: Not big enough. We thought about that.

DJ 2: Well, we could block off the road and carry it all the way over into the rest--

RAY HILL: Yeah, right. You know, absolutely. Tear down the library would be a great start.

DJ 1: Yeah.

RAY HILL: Keep the books. I mean, it's just the architecture that bothers me.

DJ 1: They've got about 300 square feet now from what I understand. And they said they hope to bring 1,000 square feet. Is that right?

RAY HILL: Right.

DJ 1: In the tour. And then what they set up in Dallas and what they set up in Houston and--

RAY HILL: 100,000 square feet.

DJ 1: 100,000, that's right. Will be totally different in each city. So it's something that we're all looking forward to.

Ray, I'm involved with this program because of this gentleman right here. I'll show you. And his name is Mike Miede. And you know who Michael was, I'm sure.

RAY HILL: Oh yes, I-- Mike and I went through some--

DJ 1: Tough times--

RAY HILL: --wonderful, wonderful, wonderful times, tough times. And Mike made some of the most marvelous radio, I think, that I have ever seen done anywhere.

DJ 1: We lost Mike last April the 1st to AIDS, and Mike's continuing on with us here this morning as he does every day here at KPFT because he was so involved in what was going on in the community. And--

RAY HILL: And the station.

DJ 1: --right, and the station. And his life touched a lot of people, as all of our lives do. You know, we were talking about that one day. I don't think you realize how many people your life touches until you're not around and they start looking for you.

DJ 2: Or after you're not around-- I didn't find out about Mike until after he died and I had a-- we had a mutual friend who introduced me to some of the tapes of the older Wildenstein programs.

DJ 1: Which are wonderful, by the way, some of which we're going to be sharing with you here.

RAY HILL: But--

DJ 1: [INAUDIBLE] to come.

RAY HILL: There was-- I was with Mike at a fairy gathering, again, out of Santa Fe, New Mexico, up in the hills at the headwaters of the Pecos River just out of Pecos, New Mexico. We were dancing naked in the sunshine with a bunch of other fairies at this strange little gathering when it occurred to Mike that, no, his wasn't a mean little useless life-- that Mike might as a spirit and a person could change the way the world works not just for a few people but for everybody. And that was such a realization to Mike because Mike had come from an atmosphere where he was raised in a family that really didn't like sissies very much.

DJ 1: As some of us were.

RAY HILL: And he tried to overcome that, and that's always a failure and deep down within him had been this I'm not really a good person. I'm not a worthy person. I can't do anything to make a difference.

I'm a failure at everything that I do. And I was with Mike at the moment when the light penetrated his own defenses and cast a shadow across that self-guilt and self-loathing. And I didn't see him then for three years.

That experience took him away from me. He went off with the fairies and milked goats in a strange place called Short Mountain, Tennessee. And I would occasionally get these strange and wonderful postcards-- hand-painted, of course, and scribbled all over all sides and margins for him. And when he came back, he began to do remarkable radio. And that's what will make an impression on my ability to do radio, your ability to do radio, and many people everywhere.

DJ 1: He touched someone here at the station by the name of Hatachi. Hatachi does a program on Wednesday evenings called Speakeasy.

RAY HILL: Speakeasy.

DJ 1: And Hatachi read a little thing called "Why Did He Leave Me?" And we want to share that with you right now. That's Bruce Hornsby and The Range and "The Way It Is."

What album is that from, Alan? Do you know? Is this "The Way It Is" album? OK.

DJ 2: I think that is the title of the album.

DJ 1: [INAUDIBLE]. Yeah, this is After Hours on KPFT Houston, and we like to keep quoting the 1985 US Census figures because I love to count. And the population, according to the United States government, old Uncle Sam, back in 1985 included some 203 million white folks, 29 million Black folks, 17 million Hispanic folks. Now if you follow the old Kinsey Report, which I think is not-- you know, wrong. I think it may be like 15%.

RAY HILL: Well, now, wait a minute. Wait a minute. Kinsey did his research in 1948, 1954. Believe me, I know this because I went to college.

DJ 1: OK.

RAY HILL: That's good stuff.

DJ 1: So these are 1985 figures, right?

RAY HILL: Yeah.

DJ 1: So that means that there were, 1985, 24 million gay and lesbian people in these United States.

RAY HILL: In the same varieties that everybody else came.

DJ 1: 24 million people. Now Bruce Hornsby just said, that's the way it is. I don't agree that's the way it is. I think that's the way it is if we continue to sit on our butts and don't go vote--

DJ 2: That's the way let it be.

DJ 1: --and don't change things. Harvey Milk said one time that he had a group of friends telling him how they needed to throw hand grenades and blow up City Hall. And Harvey said, oh, that's great. But the problem is, they have more bombs than we've got.

RAY HILL: Hand grenades, right.

DJ 1: So he said, what if you were the chief of police, and you were the mayor, and you were the district attorney, and you were something else? And they said, oh, that's great. And Harvey said, well, you just said the system stinks.

It's not the system that stinks. It's the people that are running the system that stinks. Now 24 million people don't even vote in the presidential elections. So if we got 24 million gay and lesbian people out there to vote, we may even elect Ray Hill to the White House.

RAY HILL: That would be nice. Me and Patrick-- that would certainly take care of Patrick's immigration problems.

DJ 2: I think we'd have to assassinate the entire electoral college.

DJ 1: Who's that laughing? Michael, are you there?

CALLER: Yes, it is. I'm one of the 24 million.

DJ 1: Are you?

RAY HILL: Hello, [INAUDIBLE].

DJ 1: Oh, better make it 24 million and 1.

DJ 2: A significant part of it.

CALLER: No, just one. Just one of the 24 million.

DJ 1: You're calling from--

CALLER: Montrose.

DJ 1: Montrose. Where's that?

RAY HILL: Where's Montrose?

CALLER: It's just one of those bizarre places--

RAY HILL: Isn't it a weird place to live? Don't you folks have a lot of problems down there?

CALLER: We have lots of problems.

DJ 1: [INAUDIBLE] everybody that [INAUDIBLE].

CALLER: --with you in Washington.

RAY HILL: All right. All right.

CALLER: And I saw--

RAY HILL: Those were the days.

CALLER: It was one of the most moving experiences in my life.

RAY HILL: Mm-hm? Would you tell the people that?

CALLER: And I was part of the contributors to it.

RAY HILL: I tell folks that big sissies don't cry and lie to them because that's exactly what happens when you walk through that quilt.

CALLER: Men, women-- I held a mother of a boy who lost her son to AIDS--

DJ 1: Did you make a panel?

CALLER: --on that day as the quilt was opened.

RAY HILL: And you had made a panel?

CALLER: --read it here in Houston.

DJ 1: Did you make a panel for someone?

CALLER: Pardon me?

DJ 1: Did you make a panel for someone that was included in the quilt?

CALLER: Yes.

DJ 1: There were a lot of stories, Jack, on Wildenstein, which is heard here on KPFT on Tuesdays from 9:00 until 10:00. Was talking about an older couple that showed up at Mary's. That's somewhere down on Westheimer.

RAY HILL: Down on Westheimer. I was there that day. That was a [INAUDIBLE].

DJ 1: They were making panels. A panel, by the way, is 3 foot wide and 6 foot long--

RAY HILL: Three foot long and--

DJ 1: --which is the size--

RAY HILL: --six foot wide.

DJ 1: --which is the size of a human body.

CALLER: We made one very special for a friend of ours. Mardi Gras is coming up. My friend who I met at Mardi Gras in New Orleans. It is the Mardi Gras flag. His name is Troy Webb, died of AIDS, an attorney here in Houston.

DJ 1: So you think we should all--

RAY HILL: Did you find it in the quilt?

CALLER: Of course.

RAY HILL: OK.

DJ 1: Do you think we should all go out and see it?

RAY HILL: I'd like to give somebody some idea of the scope. I don't know how many people out there familiar with the mall. But the quilt was laid from 12th Street to in front of the castle, which is about a block long area.

CALLER: Mm-hm. And it's hard to experience-- it's hard to explain, Rick.

RAY HILL: And the scope of that much area of the ground covered by this intricate tapestry of people's lives and their feelings and impressions their friends had of them after they died and the trappings of their lives-- a lot of Levi's, and a lot of leather. It is overwhelming. Now when we bring it to Houston, then we're going to-- we just started those discussions today this afternoon at the University of Houston with the people who are scheduling. They had already come up with a schedule, and they decided Mother's Day was going to be the draw of the luck for Houston, which I think is a wonderful time to have--

DJ 1: That's going to be a good weekend for it.

RAY HILL: Now we're looking for an indoor location for the quilt. I know that having experienced the quilt on the mall, outdoor location is something that we know the impression of. And the indoor location is something that I wasn't too sure about. But for the sake of preserving the quilt, they need to have an indoor location.

CALLER: Ray?

RAY HILL: Yes.

CALLER: After seeing it and being a part of a person who contributed to it, I say we should have the George Brown Convention Center.

RAY HILL: Well, that's--

CALLER: [INAUDIBLE] denial.

RAY HILL: That's one of the locations they're looking at. They're also considering the dome.

CALLER: The dome? But the convention center is long, big, and we should have it.

RAY HILL: OK, and in order to do this, we're going to need 200 volunteers. I mean, that's--

CALLER: You have one here.

RAY HILL: OK.

CALLER: I give you Troy Webb's sister.

RAY HILL: OK.

DJ 1: Michael, the people from San Francisco that are coming, the two guys that are here, are going to be part of a group that are going to be traveling with the van, a van that will have them in it, and then a truck, which will have the quilt in it. And they're going to have a total of six-- is it six or eight people? So when they get to Houston, they're going to depend completely on us as a community.

RAY HILL: So what we've got to do is-- and watch your local publications. Watch TWIT and The Voice and listen to After Hours because as the meetings begin to get started, we're going to be making those announcements and attend meetings. I mean, I hate to tell people this, but the only way you're going to get anything accomplished is to go to a damned meeting.

DJ 1: Right.

CALLER: Well, they--

RAY HILL: And so-- yeah?

CALLER: You remember the Marys panel.

RAY HILL: All of the Marys panels. There were so many of them. Yes--

CALLER: That struck me-- and you know, my friend was not part of that. However, seeing that panel and seeing those people--

RAY HILL: I knew all of those people.

CALLER: --I didn't know all of them, but that segment of panels brought me to my knees. McAdory's panel.

RAY HILL: Mac's panel, yeah.

CALLER: Lord McAdory. Seeing that at the far end of that quilt was a moving experience. And I know there are people out here listening to me who saw it also.

RAY HILL: Well, there are a lot of people listening to this from-- all kinds of people listen to the After Hours show-- insomniacs, people in their place away from [INAUDIBLE].

CALLER: No, [INAUDIBLE] yes. [INAUDIBLE].

RAY HILL: And so I want to say something that perhaps will help those people that didn't experience the quilt as you or haven't experienced losing someone to AIDS as everyone in this room has. Let me tell you. I am 47 years old.

I have lost more of my friends to AIDS and violence than my mother has of her friends, and she's 74. That is an unnatural environment. That sort of thing ought never in the history of humankind to happen.

But I have learned more about life from the direct experience of learning about death and know how precious every minute that I have has. And I know how precious every minute that I spend with a friend is to my hope in the world. I want to invite you to start planning now to make time available on Mother's Day, 1988, so that you can come and experience the rich tapestry of people young and old, straight and gay, who have died in at least some small part of the hope that never again will we hate one another. Never again will we waste our lives.

DJ 1: Michael?

CALLER: Yes.

DJ 1: Thanks for calling.

CALLER: Thank you. And I'll be there on Mother's Day, and I will be part of making that happen.

DJ 1: This is KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

RAY HILL: And so we have a caller. Can we get the caller? This is After Hours. Who's calling?

CALLER: This is Gary.

RAY HILL: Gary, where are you calling from?

CALLER: Calling from Montrose.

RAY HILL: Montrose Mercy, We're inside the loop family tonight. What can we do for you, Gary?

CALLER: Well, I wanted to know. I just started the conversation between you and Michael.

RAY HILL: Mm-hm.

CALLER: And I'm sure there are a lot of people out there who just heard what was going on that that want to know how they can volunteer--

RAY HILL: OK.

CALLER: --for the quilt. Is there a number we can call or somebody we can be in contact with?

RAY HILL: Well, not yet. The people that are taking the leadership, we kind of had a quick meeting this afternoon with the folks who are from out of town. Basically, they need a tax deductible bank account to run it through, and that's going to be Montrose Activity Center. We discussed that.

And they need somebody to coordinate the beginnings of the effort. And I think that the person who went out with a guidebook was Jim Curry, who is with Gay Lesbian Political Caucus. But what we will do for this project is we run up a flag. And we'll say anybody interested in volunteers.

So if you're interested in helping with that, the main thing right now is keep your ear to the ground with Montrose Voice and TWT. Listen to After Hours or Wildenstein, whatever is your connection with the Gay and Lesbian Community. Or periodically check with the switchboard. But a meeting will be called, and it'll be announced. And then a month later, we'll get together and have a look at one another and decide who showed up and who else do we need to go get.

CALLER: Good. I'm with the PWA Coalition.

RAY HILL: Oh, well, listen, darling. You don't even have to wait. That'll come to you.

CALLER: OK. OK, well, we were talking about that in the meeting last week.

RAY HILL: Yeah.

CALLER: And I was just curious because nothing has been set about it.

RAY HILL: Well, see, PWA Coalition just didn't happen to be at the University of Houston today when all this come down.

CALLER: They weren't there?

RAY HILL: Well, there's so many things going on in town this weekend.

CALLER: Shame on them.

RAY HILL: And so that's fine. You can't expect people to be everywhere all the time.

CALLER: Yeah.

RAY HILL: So what we did is we made temporary arrangements. But like the PWA Coalition and the Foundation and AIDS for AIDS, people in the AIDS business, this is their show.

CALLER: Exactly.

RAY HILL: Yeah, the rest of us are just helping out. And so because somebody didn't get a telephone call before we did the radio show doesn't mean that we're slighting anybody. The point is--

CALLER: Oh, of course not.

RAY HILL: Yeah. The point is that you will-- the PWA Coalition, one of the nice things about this is that they try to localize it. For instance, the panels that are being made now, we will save back and not send with the quilt to the Names Project because then we can build like a color guard of the most recent names that are on uprights as you approach the quilt itself.

CALLER: That's a nice idea.

RAY HILL: And the people that are standing around in the panel helping people find things and reading names will be people with AIDS or HIV positivity right here in Houston so that it has a real personal impact. The only way that AIDS has any meaning at all is for us to share our emotion.

CALLER: Exactly. Like, those of us who are positive and every day have to face with it.

RAY HILL: Right.

DJ 1: Also, in preparation for the--

RAY HILL: Or those of us who don't know whether or not we're positive because we haven't been tested, but we assume that we are.

CALLER: Yeah.

DJ 1: Also, in preparation for the quilt to come, we're going to be taking those new panels, the ones that we're making now, and we'll continue to make, out to places and display them like in public libraries and shopping malls, universities.

CALLER: Shopping malls, I think, would be the first place to hit.

RAY HILL: Yeah, the real important thing is that this is not a gay community project because AIDS certainly affects everybody. This is an opportunity for us to do the kind of teaching job that our government friends have failed to do. And I guarantee you. I don't-- did you go to Washington?

CALLER: No, I didn't.

RAY HILL: I guarantee you, you cannot walk into that panel without having one of the all-time memorable experiences of your life.