

Where am I?

KPFT.

Oh.

Pacifica.

I've heard of it.

FM 90. FM 90. Houston. It's in Texas. KPFT. It's the only place to be.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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

Say it loud, gay and proud.

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

People of Dade County have said enough, enough, enough.

Human rights are here to stay. Eat a pie and go away.

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

State Senator John Grace has just conceded the election--

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

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

[CHANTING]

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

And here comes the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

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

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

I think it's terrible. Had a rock, I'd throw it at 'em.

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

Tonight we're marching as are others across America, and we shouldn't have to be.

Say it so they can hear you in the capitol. 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!

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

Good afternoon. And welcome to the National March in Washington DC for Gay and Lesbian Rights and Choral Reciting!

[APPLAUSE]

Let's hear it out there.

[CHEERING]

I'm Lea Delaria.

I'm Bruce Hopkins.

I'm a dyke.

I'm a faggot.

And we're best friends.

[CHEERING]

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

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]

You must-- as difficult as it is, as hard 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]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

And once-- once you do, you will feel so much better.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Why are you looking at me like that?

Because it's 2:00 in the morning.

[CHUCKLING]

OK.

Take two.

And now KPFT Houston 90.1 film Pacifica Radio brings you *After Hours*, radio celebrating life from the heart of Montrose. Tada!  
You're supposed to say--

What am I supposed--

Forget it. Let's do it again. Take three.

Take three.

OK, take number three. And now KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM brings you *After Hours*, radio celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose.

(SINGSONGY) We're queer.

[CHUCKLING]

Oh, we certainly are. Good morning. This is Buddy Johnston, and Allen Sands is here.

I hear you.

And Matt's here and Roger's out in the lobby and we're all here. Bob Hodge and Angela Passaretti with the Montrose Counseling Center are here, and they're going to talk about some wonderful ways to deal with holiday depression.

Also got a special guest going to stop buying a second. I understand that he won an election Tuesday. I can't remember his name.

Vince.

Who-- yeah. Vince, Vince, Vince.

Vince Somebody. He'll be in here in a little bit.

Right. Yeah. Good old Ryan.

That's him. And we got a lot of music for you, and we got a lot of good stuff for you. So stay tuned because this is Pacifica Radio Houston KPFT 90.1 FM and *After Hours*. And Terry was supposed to be here, but Terry is-- she's not feeling well.

Don't worry. I've sent out the enforcers after her. They'll drag her in here.

Roger's here, and he's not feeling well. I'm here, and you know I'm not well. Oh, well. What time of year is it?

[MUSIC PLAYING]

It's Christmas time.

Yeah.

It's all cold down along the beach.

Is that the Galveston strand?

The wind's whipping down the Boardwalk.

Yes, of course. Where else would he be talking about?

Hey, band!

Oh, well. God forbid Atlantic City, yeah.

Guys know what time it is. What time? What? What? What? Oh, Christmas time. You guys all-- you guys all been good and practicing real hard? Yeah?

[CROWD ROARING]

Hi, this is Kevin.

This is Ron.

And we're from the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Houston, and you're listening to *After Hours* on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.

(SINGING) There's something stuck up in the chimney, and I don't know what it is--

Oh, no, that's called "The Chimney Song." What are you doing, Alan?

That was utterly disgusting. I was back here looking at the lesbian songs but--

The lesbians songs?

The lesbian songs, yes.

I've got that album right here--

Songs by lesbian artists.

*Dyke the Halls.*

*Dyke the Halls--*

(SINGING) Dyke the halls with boughs of-- (SPEAKING) well--

Do I dare tell the light bulb joke.

Tell the light bulb joke.

How many dykes does it take to change a light bulb?

Oh, God.

One damn it.

[CHUCKLING]

Right on.

Who said that? Angela? Good morning.

Good morning.

How are you?

Very well, thank you.

Yeah, Bob's pointing because we have to-- if you can't hear yourself, that means nobody else can.

OK.

There you go. How you guys doing?

I'm all right, buddy. How are you this morning?

Just fine. We want to welcome Bob Hodge. Bob's getting to be a pro at this because Bob was on with us in the very beginning on some of our earlier programs, and Bob's the director of the MORE program at the Montrose Counseling Center.

Exactly.

Correct.

Correct.

Yay.

And tonight we got somebody else with us from the counseling center.

That is Angela Passaretti, and Angela is--

I am a staff member of the-- primarily of the women's program at the Montrose Counseling Center.

Well, that sounds like an interesting job.

It is.

And we're going to be talking about holiday depression and how to get un-depressed.

Maybe it's not so much depression as lack of gaiety.

Is that--

That has never been a problem around here. No.

Alan, give-- give him the headset-- the headphone a minute and tell him to sit over there. Robert's here with the Gay Fathers. I'm sorry-- Lloyd is here. His husband's at home asleep, and that's where my husband should be because Roger's in the lobby and he's sick. He's got the flu or something. I don't know. Hi, Lloyd.

Hi.

Can you tell us before we get going too far what happened at your house the other night other than we had a wonderful dinner?

We were sitting around and you said--

I didn't hear it.

I said, gee, *After Hours*, isn't that what they do in the bars after 2 o'clock in the morning when they don't serve alcohol but everybody comes in and dances. And I said why don't we do that for gay Pride Week. Why don't we broadcast *After Hours* live from a bar from a dance?

And we were announcing that we were going to bring you the Gay and Lesbian March from Washington DC long before it ever came to KPFT. It was all in the works. We had plans, and everything was gone. But nothing was definite, and I'm proud to tell you that *After Hours* will be bringing you hopefully a two-- at least a two if not a four-hour live broadcast from a local club.

It's not Hell. It's the other one over on Pacific Street, but we don't want to mention any names right now. But anyway that's all been-- we shook hands and whatever, and that's all going to work out. I understand that Charles may be flying in a big DJ from New York to do the music for us and yes.

Oh, I was just going to say don't you love Charles Armstrong.

Oh, he's wonderful.

I should have married that man when I had the chance. I should've married him.

Let's not get into that. Charles, you can call up and defend yourself if Alan's trying to make any-- what are those things called when it's months down the road, somebody comes in and says they had-- never mind. I don't want to get into that with Alan.

The thing that thrills me, buddy, is you said the March on Washington, you said that we were going to broadcast live long before there was any permission to do that.

We really did.

But we discussed this Wednesday night, and the four of us sitting down to dinner decided that it was a good idea. And then when I saw you on Thursday evening, you said guess what we have permission, and people are excited to--

I had mentioned it to Duane Bradley, our program director, and he said that's a great idea.

Yeah.

And we got the support of the station, and we hopefully have the support of the community because there's a large gay community out there. We had our first meeting-- not really a meeting. It was-- what do they call that, a pre-preparation meeting or--

Well, I think--

Something for the Pride Week celebration for 1988.

I think it was just-- just labeled as the first unofficial official meeting.

We decided-- we decided very little other that we should have some more meetings. The next meeting I believe is the January the 17th at the Dignity Center, and we're going to talk about gay Pride Week-- Gay, Lesbian Pride Week. I think this year they're going to call it Lesbian Gay Pride Week. I don't know. We'll figure all that out later.

But anyway we were talking about that, and someone made a motion that we have floats this year. And we're going to have the option I believe that if your organization wants to have a float in the parade, you're welcome to do that. If you want to have a booth at the rally, you're welcome to do that. If you want to just walk down the street and show your pride, you're welcome to do that. And if the March in Washington did anything at all, it showed the country that we were there by the hundreds of thousands, 750,000 almost I believe is the last count, and that is our weapon.

And as Harvey Milk has said and as I continue to say and as all of us around here continue to say, come out, come out wherever you are and you will feel so good. And speaking about feeling good, Bob and Angela are here with the Montrose Counseling Center. We're going to open the phone lines and let you call in and ask them questions here in a little bit.

Also that guy that won the election last Tuesday, I think he's going to be a district seat councilman or something. What's his name again? Bob, do you know who I'm talking about? I'm--

Vince.

Vince Ryan.

Vince, that's him. Vince Ryan, he may be coming by. I don't know, but we got some music for you. So let's listen to some music, and we'll get back to our holiday gathering. I don't know. Everybody's looking at me like what am I-- what's everybody looking at me for?

Because you're babbling.

You're the [INAUDIBLE].

Buddy, are you going-- are you going to give it to them?

Yeah, we give them the whole 12 inches.

That's right.

Oh, excuse me, Angela.

Thank you.

This is the only place-- what did you say, Alan?

Said that's OK. It's got a hole, too.

This is the only place we're going to get the full 12-inch mix. And we're going to play some music, and then we'll be back to you in just a little bit. This is after hours on KPFT Houston.

Alan says it's the full 12 inches with a hole.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

They don't understand something. They don't understand something we are not talking about crotch politics. This is but from the waist down. We are talking about right to love and to choose and to live. And I don't care about straight politics, and I don't care about straight understanding. You got to hear me in Washington. We are demanding. We are demanding our civil rights.

[APPLAUSE]

Community was very different.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

I want to-- before we play this song, I want to tell you that we're going to open the phone lines up in just a second, right?

Yeah.

Mm-hmm.

So what kind of questions do we want these folks to call and ask us?

Well, I imagine there's a lot of people out there who aren't having the perfect holiday for an awful lot of reasons. And it's easy to feel real alone, and it's easy to think that it's pretty hopeless and that there isn't anything to do to make it better. But there are things to do. So we'd like to hear from people who want some support.

And there are people that care, right? That's evident by not only the counseling center but the switchboard and all those other kind of places around.

A lot of people that care, and you really don't have to do this alone if this is not being a good time of year or not being a good night.

I remember spending a Christmas in Omaha, Nebraska, the first summer or the first Christmas I was away from home. And I got a package from my mom and dad, and that was it. That's all Santa Claus could find to bring. He must have really been stuck up in the chimney that year.

And I didn't even want to open the package. That's how down in the dumps I was. And so I didn't fix any dinner. I didn't open any Christmas cards. Everything was on a pile on top of the stereo, and I remember crying.

Finally Christmas Eve about 9:00 when I sit there all day waiting on the phone to ring for someone to call and say Merry Christmas, and it just didn't happen. And opening up the-- I opened up that damn package and I hung up those Christmas cards and I fixed the best thanks-- Christmas dinner you've ever seen. Just me and my bear but we had a-- we had a blast.

And you said the key word in there I think, buddy, because you were sitting there waiting for something to happen to you.

Right.

And as soon as you got up and did something, things began to change. And as long as we sit around on our can waiting for the world to come knocking on our door, it's-- we may be waiting a real long time. So we and our bear have got to get up as it were and make Christmas dinner, and if you don't do anything more than clean the kitchen and do the dishes, it's something.

You contact a few friends. Sometimes it seems like it would just be easier to stay alone, and I think it really works out the other way around, that sharing whatever we feel with at least someone else makes it easier.

And it is easy because there are people that care. Maybe in Omaha, 10-- has it been 10 years? It hasn't been 10 years. Even five or six years ago, Omaha, Nebraska, is not the greatest place to be if you're gay. But I really can't say that about Houston because there are so many organizations here that are there to help us as gay men and women, and I don't see any excuse for anyone other than sitting there alone and not taking that first step.

It's-- and there are a lot of other people out there alone besides yourself. And if I get out of myself and go and see what I could sometimes do for somebody else, I not only brighten up my season but somebody else's as well. Victim status is strictly by choice, and if I choose to sit in the house by myself and not get involved, then-- if I keep doing what I've been doing, I keep getting what I've been getting.

You wrote a nice article, Bob, that was in *This Week in Texas* magazine Friday.

Thank you, Bob.

And I want you to read part of that later on in the program. If you didn't see it and if you just joined us, Bob Hodge, director the MORE program with The Montrose Counseling Center's here. And Angela Passaretti with the women's department at the Montrose Counseling Center and Angela's got some music for us. And what's the name of this song?

Well, we're going to hear "Heaven Is a Place on Earth," Belinda Carlisle.

And this is KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.

(SINGING) Ooh, baby--

And you're listening to *After Hours*.

(SINGING) Ooh, heaven is a place on earth.

All I can say is come out, come out wherever you are.

(SINGING) We'll make heaven a place on earth.

And Brian Keever is giving me a dirty look in the air studio, so if I don't say something-- what-- what'd you say, Brian? Oh, Brian's not going to say anything. He's just shaking his fist at me. We'll discuss this, and we'll be right back. This is KPFT Houston 90.1 FM and you're listening to *After Hours*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) Do you remember when--

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) I know enough to say someone has taken--

[MUSIC PLAYING]

And that was called "Second Hand News" from Fleetwood Mac.

(SINGING) Do you remember when?

I remember that. Do you guys remember that? I like to play that because a lot of people in the quote, "world out there" seem to think that we-- as gay and gay men and women gay and lesbian people-- that we are second hand citizens, second hand, second class, third, fourth, fifth, sixth class. And I don't always agree with that, the feedback. Do you guys know what I'm saying?

Mm-hmm. Well, some like to believe that we aren't here at all. Lower than fifth class.

Some of them would like us to go away.

That's right.

And there are many of us here. Like I said once before, *The Kinsey Report*, in 1985, gave us a total population in the United States at 239 million, 239 million people. So if you follow *The Kinsey Report*, 10% of that 239 million, so that's around 24 million or so of us.

I fantasize sometimes about the thought that we might plan a day where we would all walk out of our closets on the same day--

Wouldn't that be wonderful?

--which would just be an incredibly powerful statement. And there would be no turning back from there.

I'm one of the people that used to sit at home and think about how nice it would be, but I never did anything. And once I became involved here at KPFT, I worked for the City. And it was pretty obvious if you do a Public Radio program a Public Radio station program and you're going to be in front of the public, that the people you work with just might hear it.

So I went to them and told them, and I was terrified. But after coming out at work, there is no place else left to come out. And Harvey was right. You will feel wonderful. And if they don't like you, who gives a damn but you, and me, and Bob, and Angela, and Allen Right, Allen?

I give a damn. I was wondering when you were going to play something we've got words to.

What do you want to sing?

I'll sing anything with words to it.

Ah, we'll sing something. We've got--

For a minute, I thought I was in JRs.

We've got the phone--

[LAUGHTER]

I haven't been to JRs in a while. We're going to take a phone call now. I think they said we've got someone on line two that has called in to talk with us and see what he has to say.

Good morning. Are you there?

Ah yeah, hi.

Hi there. This is Buddy.

I just wanted to talk to the people in the counseling center and ask [INAUDIBLE].

Sure. Bob Hodge and Angela are here. What's on your mind this morning?

Well, I recently broke up with someone. And I've been really depressed about that. And I'm still going to be depressed about it during the holidays. And all my friends are gone and everything. And my family's not here.

Did you just move to--

I'm really worried about what I'm going to do. I'm going to be really depressed. I was wondering if you could give me any advice, and--

Did you just move to Houston?

Yeah.

You just broke up-- are you gay?

Yeah. You just broke up with a lover?

Mm-hmm.

How long were you together with him?

Ah, about a year.

A year. What do you guys got to say to this guy this morning?

It's a real hard time to have to go through a holiday when you're suffering a really major loss. And that's what happens when we break up. We're going through a grieving process. Do you have any people that you feel comfortable talking to that you could be with in the same room and not have to pretend to be happy?

Yeah. It's like you can only talk to someone so much, and then, you'll get depressed.

Well, that's true. I think you probably need to expect that it's going to be a difficult holiday and that you're just going to be in different levels of your depression throughout it. But you can be doing things to help make it a little bit better. To be around people that you can be real with makes a big difference and to open yourself up to what people want to give you.

A lot of times people are real caring and real sensitive to their friends who don't have it so good at Christmas. And if you let people know that you need some support, you'd be surprised what you get back, and then be open to receive what they have to give you.

I think the hardest part, sometimes, is just getting out of bed and making coffee. And the act of doing something like that, getting up and getting as active as you can in your own life and being open to, as Angela said, the kindness that may be out there from other people-- listening for invitations, accepting offers to go places, and being comfortable with the people you're with. It's all right to tell them you're depressed. And then start looking-- while you're doing that and talking about it-- looking for the positive. And--

All right. Thank you.

Sure. Thanks for calling. Thank you.

All right. Bye-bye.

Bye-bye.

If you're out there, and you're part of this community, we want you to know that the gay men and gay women everywhere are coming out of the closet by the thousands just as we speak. Thank you for ripping those doors down, and they're coming out. And 1988 is going to be the greatest celebration of life that you have ever seen in the streets of Houston during a Gay Lesbian Pride this year.

It's going to be the most exciting and the most wonderful thing. And if you miss it-- if you sit at home, and you miss it, you're going to be sitting around that week after and thinking, gee, I just don't know. And as Lloyd said earlier, the after hours program we're going to be broadcasting live, live radio. We say things on this program that you couldn't say out in the streets-- what 20 years ago-- without getting thrown in jail.

10 years ago.

10, really 10 years ago.

There wouldn't have even been this radio show--

That's right.

--that many years ago.

It's amazing what we've done. And if we all just come out, and there is a lot of support. Because believe it or not, we are a family. And we stand by our brothers and sisters. And the phone lines are open at 526-4000. If you want to get on the phones and talk to Bob and Angela, give us a call. And remember, come out of that closet because we are a family.

[MUSIC - "FAMILY"]

(SINGING) It's more than you. We are a family.

Hi, this is Romanovsky and Phillips.

No, it's not. You're Romanovsky. I am Phillips. This is Phillips. Hi.

OK, well, anyway. Together, we're Romanovsky and Phillips.

That's right.

And whenever we're in Houston, we always listen to *After Hours* every Sunday morning from 2:00 to 4:00.

Right here on KPFT 90.1 on your FM dial.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hey, and right now the microphone of *After Hours* is on the streets of Westheimer and Taft. We're here on the corner of Westheimer and Taft. And we're speaking to Jan Muir, Church Administrator for the Community Gospel Church. And Jan it looks like you have some sandwiches and coffee here. Can you tell us what's going on?

Yes, we're out here feeding the hungry, Buddy. Jesus told us, told me about two weeks ago, on the second day of November this year, to go out and to feed my sheep. And we've been doing that every night since then.

How many nights are you down here on the streets of Montrose?

We're out here every night.

Who is the food for?

For the hungry.

Can you tell me where the church is located and where somebody that might be interested in helping out can help you out?

It's located at 3014 Center Street. That's on the corner of Studemont and Center. And the phone number there is?

863-8846.

Well, *After Hours* thinks it's a wonderful thing you're doing. And good luck with what's going on down here.

And praise God. Thank you very much.

Hi, this is Scotty. It's a beautiful morning in Montrose, out walking around, seeing all the nice people. And you're listening to *After Hours* on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Well, the star has joined us--

Good morning.

--in the studio.

Good morning, dear. How are you?

I'm fine. How are you?

Just fine. What's going on in the world?

Oh, we've got a lot going on.

Well, Bob and Brian are here with me. Angela is on the phone with someone that's called in. We've got another call standing by. We're going to get to that in just a second.

Brian, tell us what went on at the parade meeting the other day. I mentioned part of it.

Well we just made sure-- this was our first 1988 meeting for this year. We're hoping to get a lot more response and a lot of help this year for our Gay Lesbian Pride Week for 1988. We're going to have actual floats this year. They will not be professional. But that makes people more creative because we're all such a creative group anyway. Is the counseling center going to have something to share?

Well, it hasn't been discussed yet that I'm aware of. That's something our board I'm sure is going to take up. We have always been in the parade. And our presence will be there in one form or another.

Oh, well, good. We decided this year-- J. Allen came from HOBO-- he's the president of HOBO-- to let us know that they're going to expand our gay fest this year and try to have a lot bigger gay fest this year, which I think is wonderful.

That'll be great.

It was an excellent one last year. Wasn't it?

Yes, it really was. And this year, they said they might try-- this was a try. I hope they do. I'm pushing for it-- to run ads in publications announcing and pushing our Texas celebration. He said, maybe even running ads in *The Advocate* to get people to come from both of the other coasts, from the East Coast and the West Coast to the wonderful Third Coast for our celebration.

But we don't want just the people from the coast to come. We want the people in Houston, the gay men and women here in the Montrose, and in the Heights, and in the Pasadena area, and in Clear Lake, and in [INAUDIBLE]--

Deer Park.

And then, some of the people in the outlying that may be hearing us in Nacogdoches, and in Hearne, and in Hempstead that aren't sure that there's a gay world out there beyond their town. And come in and see us because it's a wonderful city, and we've got wonderful people in it.

There's a lot going on, an awful lot going on.

It's one of the best cities I've ever lived in. I know that.

I've got a call on the line, Bob. Let's see who we've got. Angela is not with us. She stepped out, like I said, to talk with someone on the phone. Good morning. Are you there?

Good morning. Yes.

Hi there. Did you have a question for Bob?

Yeah. Bob.

Yes.

I'm gay, but I'm a father. I have two kids. And my wife and I have been separated for a couple of years now. And we're getting a divorce finally. And she and my kids live out of town. I have two sons.

And last Christmas was real tough without my sons, but I did get to go and visit them for a little bit. This year, I'm not going to be able to see them at Christmas. And I'm already very nervous, and very worried, and very upset about what that's going to do to me. It was bad enough not to see them at Thanksgiving.

And I know I'll be able to talk to them on the phone, but I don't know. Just not being with my sons that I care very much about is really bothering me. Like I said, I'm gay now. I heard you all talking about the gay fathers--

Yes.

--programs before, or the DJ was. But anyway, that's just a new thing for me.

I want to acknowledge the fact for you that how difficult this time must be. But I also would like you to consider that it isn't Christmas yet, all right. One of the things that I heard you say was how difficult Christmas was going to be, and you're already beginning to worry about it.

This is a time when you can start accessing some wonderful organizations like Gay Fathers where you can talk to some people that are in similar situations. When Christmas Day rolls around, when, Christmas Eve rolls around, you'll have places to go, people to talk to. You'll have things already set up.

You're luckier than a lot of people in knowing that there could be a problem coming, and you know what it is. There are an awful lot of people in Houston-- gay and lesbian people-- that have children, that have celebrations. The churches have got many things going on, Bering and MCCR. And, of course, the Gay Fathers group has got some terrific people to talk to, and to be with, and to share some of the experiences with.

And we can take some of this alone time and some of the sadness and begin to talk it out and to get involved in some other things because there are places where there are other kids. And there are people that are feeling a lot the same way that you are. But I think one of the keys right now is to recognize that it is early morning the 6th of December and not early morning the 24th. And just being aware that this is coming up and doing something today and not living in the future yet because it's not here yet. If that helps any at all.

Well, sure. Because maybe it's almost 20 days away, but like I said, I'm really worried about it because I'm afraid of how I'm going to feel on that day. And Christmas has always been really special for me, and--

You bet. And the more--

--[INAUDIBLE] it was last year.

And the more involved you get now, and you set up how you're going to be, who you're going to be with, and what you're going to be doing on those real stressful days. You can set it up now 20 days ahead of time, so that when those days roll around, you can be too busy to be thinking about the fact that you're not having it the way it had been in the past. And you're also lucky in the fact that you get to call your kids. There are a number of gay fathers out there who don't even have that option.

Have you lived in Houston very long?

Ah, yeah, most of my life.

Have you ever been involved in like the parade or anything that goes on here in the summertime when we're celebrating Gay Pride?

Well, I got to see it last year.

On TV or in-person?

I was there.

Ah wonderful.

It was great.

Well, listen. Get through the holidays. And if you'll hang on the line a minute, I want Allen to give you the phone number. I believe he's got it at the Gay Fathers group here in Houston. And they can help you if you want to give them a call.

Yeah, I'd like that.

And thanks for calling, OK.

Thank you.

Sure.

Good luck.

Have a good morning.

It's 3 o'clock. This is KPFT Huston 90.1 FM. And Bob, Angela is still out there tied up on the phone, so I'm going to count on you. We sit here-- and I know this is like a broken record, because I say this over and over and over-- we sit here, and we say come out, come out, and how easy it is-- and not how easy it is, but how wonderful it is. And it's not easy, right?

It's not easy at all.

We'll acknowledge that fact.

You bet. There's a tremendous amount of risk and a lot of pain sometimes involved in the coming out process, but we've all got a right to be here. And we've got a right to be who we are, and just acknowledging that, and accepting ourselves for who we are. There's nothing wrong with being gay. There's nothing wrong with breathing, and living, and celebrating life. And that's what this is all about.

And I talked to some people with the different groups and whatever at being involved here at KPFT. And there are so many of us that won't even acknowledge the fact that we're here in the millions, not hundreds of thousands, but the millions of us. And that 25 million figure that I keep quoting, that's an old 1985 figure.

That's a very conservative figure.

So I don't know how many-- I wouldn't even begin to guess how many of us there are in this country. And what Angela was saying earlier about if we all just came out and everybody stood up at one time, I really think they would have to come up with a new word like Toxic Shock Syndrome. Angela, right?

It'd be like Homo Shock Syndrome or something. Because if we all came out in numbers-- and I'm not talking about throwing rocks or anything. I'm just talking about standing up for yourself and being proud of who you are and what you are-- if we just stood up for ourselves, there's no way they could stop us, not 25 million strong.

And I think too that we would feel a real strong awareness of how many of us there are. And I think a lot of times we forget because we have to fight on so many fronts to keep our jobs, to keep our homes, to keep our children.

And like I said I worked for the City of Houston, and I was terrified when I first started doing this program. And I went to the people I work with, my supervisors first. And I said, look, I want to do this gay radio program. And I want to get real involved in what's going on. And they were supportive.

They weren't rude and crude. Maybe there were few people that made rude and crude comments-- I'm sure there were behind my back or whatever-- but all in all, the people I work with were supportive. And I went to those people because they were my friends. And I said, look, I don't want you guys to pick up the newspaper and read about this and think it's something I'm trying to hide from you. Because yes, I am trying to hide it up until today. And it is not easy to come out.

No, it isn't.

It is not easy. I was thrown out of the house when I was 17 years old. And I spent a lot of time in the streets by myself. Someone asked me-- or we were at the parade planning thing last weekend, and I was making a lot of comments that some people didn't like. And they said, well, you haven't been here. And we've been involved in this for so many years.

And hey, I paid my dues. I was thrown out when I was 17. I lived and was fired from a job when I was 19 because they said we don't want faggots working for us. I was thrown out of a building when I lived in Nebraska because they said we don't want people like you living here. We have all paid the dues. The price has already been paid.

We paid the price with the death of Harvey Milk. And last week-- I want to say this before I forget about it-- last week we had scheduled a Harvey Milk special called *Diminished Capacity*, and we were going to run it for you, telling all about Harvey and how wonderful he was and how wonderful his life was. But the station had technical problems, and we didn't come on the air until about 3 o'clock.

And last week, I said that I would run that for you tonight, but we had Bob and Angela scheduled to be here. And I felt like the holidays were here, and we can run Harvey Milk in January. So we're going to run that I believe on the 7th of January. The date is not important. What is important that we will run it for you.

But talking about Harvey Milk and leading up to that, I talked to so many young people, and they said, who's Harvey Milk?

Our gay heritage is missing--

Who's Harvey Milk?

--in a lot of places.

And we played-- Brian, what's the game we played, Brian, the other night at the house?

Gay Monopoly.

And some of the questions were what? Alan, I can't-- you've played that. Haven't you?

No. I have not been invited over. Thank you.

He has a key to that door so you don't have to get invited.

It's wonderful to play the game because they have a section where you learn to remember your gay and lesbian history. What it is that they describe people in the past history and who is it, and you have to figure out who it is. And there are always people who were gay men or lesbians who were very famous in history past.

And they try to remember who they are. It's really a good experience and a good education. Also, they have the hanky codes in there but that's kind of cute too.

Ah, let's talk about hanky code. Gosh.

Buddy, you talked about having to leave your house at 17. And I just got through talking to a very bright and courageous young woman, who is 16. And I guess I have a message for the young people out there. It's a real tough time to be discovering that you're gay and lesbian because we don't live in a culture that says it's safe to talk about that.

That's right.

We have lots of legal binds. I know we do at the Counseling Center, and I'm sure agencies all over do to even talk to young people about sexuality, let alone being gay and lesbian. And I just want to tell them all if there's any young people listening, hang in there because it does get better. Once you can be free to be who you are, it feels a lot stronger.

There are people out there all over for you. You don't have to feel alone. If you just hang in through the tough years while you have to be at home, and you have to maybe be careful. Just dig down inside and remember that you know who you are.

And I'm not really jealous. I'm really envious of these young people, Angela. Because when I was thrown out of the house, there were no copies of the *Montrose Voice* on the corner everywhere. There were no copies of *This Week in Texas*. There were no gay and lesbian switchboards to call. There were no gay radio programs to listen to.

In fact, we went to the bars. We parked blocks away and then snuck in through the alley to make sure that no one saw us coming.

They didn't have neon signs out in front--

No sir.

--of them then. They all had back doors, and--

That's right.

I remember the days in Los Angeles when you could be taken off to, what we call the Glass House downtown, for just holding hands with someone in a bar. And that was in Los Angeles.

Yeah.

And it wasn't that long ago either.

If you want to give us a call here for Angela or Bob, do that now at 526-4000. Bob, you wanted me to play the theme, is it? Didn't you call that the theme?

Our Executive Director Ken Vance and myself have dubbed this the theme song of the Montrose Counseling Center.

We've dedicated this song to many people many times because it should be right up there with "Family." We played "Family" before this. And I want to thank Joe Watts with the theater workshop. Joe supplied that.