

526-4000. Bob, you wanted me to play the theme, is it? Didn't you call it 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 copy of that song to me. And Joe says we should dub that the gay national anthem.

It's true.

That would be wonderful.

So it's a beautiful song. And this is a nice song too. It's by Starship, from the movie *Mannequin*. And it's called "Nothing is Gonna Stop Us Now."

[MUSIC - STARSHIP, "NOTHING'S GONNA STOP US NOW"]

Just come out of that closet, right?

Mm-hmm. Let's get those hammers and chisels out, and start chiseling away, yeah. 3:08 on KPFT Houston. This is *After Hours*. Come out, come out, wherever you are.

(SINGING) Looking in your eyes I can see a paradise.

Nothing's gonna stop us. No! We can build this dream together, standing strong forever, nothing's gonna stop us now. Nothing's gonna stop us.

And if this world runs out of lovers, we'll still have each other. Nothing's gonna stop us. Nothing's gonna stop us now. We can build this dream together, standing strong forever--

Hi, this is Vicci Lindsey from Kindred Spirits. And you're listening to *After Hours* on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

And right now on *After Hours*, we're very honored to have someone in the studio with us that several weeks ago, they told me wouldn't be here. In fact, he told me himself he may not be here. And that's Councilman-elect Vince Ryan. Good morning.

Good morning, Buddy, how are you doing?

Well, I'm doing just great. How does it feel to be getting ready to move into city hall?

Well, it feels better than if I weren't getting ready to move in city hall. I'm still-- haven't recovered fully, from a standpoint of just schedule, and life, and the surprise and pleasure of it all.

I want to thank you for taking the time out to come by this station this morning and be with us. Councilman Greanias has always been involved with us here on *After Hours* and KPFT. And we're glad to see that you're willing to do that.

I've said it before and I'll say it again. There were a lot of people that were disappointed in the way that the HGLPC passed out their endorsements. But the HGLPC we believe, doesn't speak for the majority of the gay community in Houston. So I don't think you should feel slighted that you didn't get the-- someone said it was the kiss of death. But I shouldn't say that on the air. But anyway--

Well, but I didn't get a lot of the endorsements. And one of the first tasks I think I have, and I've already begun doing, is reaching out to those who didn't support me to assure them that they will get just as good council member from me as they would have if they had supported me. And it's-- one of the unfortunate things about politics is that people have to choose. You can't select two council members. You can't select three or four or five. And you can only select one.

And when people chose early on, and my opponent in the runoff had much early support, it made it difficult for people to change their mind. So I think one good thing about a 720-vote margin, I've been telling people it's not a mandate from the people of district C. It's just an opportunity to serve them.

Right, what would you say to those people this morning that are listening, that are a little hesitant, because maybe you didn't get this endorsement, or you didn't get that endorsement, or they don't know who Vince Ryan is? What would you want to say to them?

Well, one reason I'm on this program-- and I will be a regular guest on your program if you'll have me-- is that I will be a good council member for them. I'm looking forward to meeting those people. In fact, one of the things we will be doing in the next couple of weeks is getting a list of all the people who voted in the runoff. And I'm going to send them a letter.

I don't know which of those people vote for me and which voted for Cathy Mincberg. But I'm going to send the letter saying, here's my phone number. Here's my address. Here's my home phone number. And here are some of the things I'm interested in doing for you.

Please contact me. And please help me learn what I need to learn. And help me do what I need to do in District C and for the city.

So does this mean that when you get to city council that you're not-- you can't forget Montrose is here, because physically it is here. But you're not going to forget that the gay community is a part of it?

Oh, certainly not, Buddy. District C is a very interesting district. We go from, of course, Montrose to Meyerland and from Fourth Ward to Fort Bend County. And every part of it-- it's like a mosaic. Who's to say which is a better part, or the best part, of the least part of a mosaic? Because it all has one total impact on the senses.

And I think that Montrose-- as you know, I was raised here until I was about four or five years old, since my father's family had a house which is still on Montrose. I own property in Montrose. I owe on property in Montrose, anyway. And I consider Montrose be a very big part of my life, and certainly a very big part of District C.

Well, we don't have any big questions for you this morning, just the fact that you took the time out of your schedule, which I know is very busy, to come by, is, I think, an event for us. We're just pleased and honored to have you here. The only thing I'd like to touch on, and I'm sure everybody is listening, we've been talking all night about the Gay Pride celebration coming up this summer. And it seems like-- and it did happen just before election day, and just before events like this-- that the police come into our clubs.

And it's not just our clubs. This is from the news. This came out of Los Angeles. And it's telling about the fire department closing down one of the bars because of overcrowding.

And when the people peacefully left, they got outside, and there were 20 or 30 policemen standing there in a line all waiting to greet them. And it's not that-- maybe they weren't. And I'm not saying they weren't overcrowded. They probably were, just as certainly were a lot of other bars. But other than getting real specific, what do you think we can do to help you address the problems that we're having with the police on matters like this?

Well, Buddy, I was-- I guess, almost the best word to use is shock-- during the campaign, to hear over and over again, from gay people who I knew, and gay people who I hadn't known until the campaign, that the harassment was still going on in the bars. I have not had an opportunity to sit down with members of the senior staff, police department and discuss it from their perspective. If it's occurring-- I have no reason to disbelieve all the people. I would venture to say I had 100 or 200 or 300 people tell me, during the course of the campaign-- and not just gays-- that it was still going on.

In fact, of course there was a celebrated event just before the first round of the election that may or may not have been harassment. I said during the campaign, I believe that one of the primary evils is the public-intoxication law. It allows too much discretion in the hands of people that may or may not be well supervised.

I've never seen any purpose that the public-intoxication law served. I think it's vague. And in fact, I've asked an attorney in Montrose, who is gay, if he would help me research the law on the public-intoxication law to see whether any recent developments in constitutional law or statutory law has changed the application of that law.

I don't know if there's much I can do about that law in the state of Texas, because of the makeup of the state legislature. But I also intend on sitting down next week, as I've mentioned to you, Buddy, I was appointed prior to the election campaign to the Neighborhood-Oriented Policing Task Force, which is a new program which has been under development for several years at the police department. And I was appointed as a representative of the mayor's Police Advisory Committee. I represent the Houston Area Women's Center on that committee.

And this concept is basically going back to the beat cop, going back to the police officer who is a part of the community, who is a part of solving problems rather than just simply being in what they call the hall or the call and haul business, which is too often what the police department does. You call them-- as you know, you're a dispatcher-- you get called. And then they come out and they haul away the problem if they can catch the problem or find the problem.

Well, that's not a very satisfying thing for a police officer to do, I wouldn't think. I've advised deputy sheriffs and constables for seven years. And the more interesting and the more you can make them a part of the solution, I think the better policing you'll have. And also, in an area as diverse as Montrose, part of the problem is you take police officers maybe, from a different part of the country or a different part of the state, we've never lived in big city, who don't really know the city, or don't know this part of the city, and you place them in an environment that is very unusual for them.

And that's got to be threatening. It's got to be challenging. And these people aren't necessarily the most educated in the world, the most sensitized. And many times they're very young. So I think that this neighborhood-oriented policing concept may be part of the solution to the problem in Montrose. We all know, with 4,500 police officers, and many, many more people than in the police department, there are many gay police officers. Probably, if not all of them, they stay in the closet, because of the environment that they work in.

Well, that's not the case in other cities. In fact, one of my staff members, fortuitously, is taking a vacation to California before the end of the year. And one of the things we're trying to arrange is for her-- she's going to be in San Francisco, for instance-- is for her to meet with different gay leaders-- [COUGHS] excuse me-- in San Francisco to talk about that issue and also the AIDS issue.

Well, I'm sorry.

Well, my point is, there are a lot of different things I need to do to learn about how we can go about solving the problem of harassment. It's a big problem because it's endemic in the police department, apparently. I'm not saying it is, it's just I've heard too many people to disbelieve that still going on.

I think we still have two kinds of police officers, not only in Houston, but probably everywhere, and one is the good old boy. And the good old boy may be 45 years old, or may be 25 years old. It's not necessarily a factor of age. It's more a factor of orientation.

But then I think we have some fine, new, different-style police officers in the police department. And I think that kind of person is epitomized by the new Deputy Chief, Tom Koby. I hope so anyway. I'm going to be meeting with him next week to talk about several things, to include the Neighborhood-Oriented Policing Task Force. So it's a big problem. I know I've been through this problem-- and we haven't solved it yet-- with the Houston Area Women's Center, and the training we do at the Police Academy and in-service training, and trying to sensitize police officers to family violence, to tell them that they can stop family violence, tell them that they don't have to be a part of family violence.

And every time I've been out there-- I've probably been out there 10 times-- there's always the police officer comes up after it's all over and says, well, I have to hit my wife because. But it's better. It's far better than it was.

And I guess I've been doing this over a two-year period. When we first would go out there, you'd get nothing but blank stares. And it's better.

It's not solved. The police department still is not doing the kind of training we'd like to see in the area of family violence. The Police Advisory Committee's major goal this year is to help the police department develop their training in such a way that a whole wide area of sensitizing issues are concerned with.

You know I don't have to ask you the next question. So we'll make it real brief. But the last time I saw you, before the election, was at EJ's, one of the bars here in the Montrose. You and Cathy Mincberg were there, speaking to the crowd, which was rather excitable, at times. And I told Miss Mincberg then-- and I think I told you the same thing-- I wouldn't have got up in front of a crowd like that.

Buddy, you weren't running for office.

(LAUGHING) That's true. Anyway, then we ask her, or someone in the audience asked her, that if the raids and everything continued, if the harassment continued, would she openly seek out the support of the gay community to help put a stop to it. And she never would answer our questions.

And I was going to stand back and be real calm and quiet, and not say anything. But I was really angered because she wouldn't answer our questions. So when I finally got up there and started yelling and screaming, and ask you, if you would publicly seek out the support of the police-- of the gay community to help put a stop to this, you said yes.

And obviously, I don't have to ask you if you would, because you're here. And you're part of our program. And I know that you're interested in what's going on in Montrose in the gay community. So again, if you had to sum it up and get those doubting Thomases to at least, I want to say, give you a chance, what would you say to them?

Well, I think-- I asked, all through the campaign, for people to look at my record and compare my record with my opponent's, because I think that's the way you can tell what people are going to do in the future. People will know very quickly-- maybe not so quickly, but certainly in the course of the next two years-- they're going to know whether I'm the kind of person I've been saying I am. And on this issue, I am the kind of person I say I am.

I don't care whether we're talking about gays, we're talking about Mexican-Americans, or we're talking about the White Anglo-Saxons in Meyerland. The fact is, the police have only the authority that we give them through the legislature and under the Constitution. And if they are doing something they shouldn't be doing, I think that's the very worst kind of thing in the world to be done.

Now on the other hand, I have great respect for police officers. I think anyone who does that kind of work is-- it's kind of like the military. I'm in the Army Reserves. I don't want to be in the Army Reserves more than two weeks a year. And that's about the time I spend. But I have great respect for those people. That doesn't mean that sometimes they can abuse their authority. And where that abuse takes place, we all need to band together and first, try to quietly solve the problem. But if that doesn't work, then we need to march down to city hall and bang on the table.

Hopefully, that's not necessary. And to do that, you need friends to bang on the table with you. And I think that in the gay community, from what I've been told during the campaign, this problem is a big one. And you've got to go to the people who are having the problem first, and learn about the problem.

Well, if we don't play some music, they're going to come down here and carry me out of here, so--

Well, Buddy, hopefully, we will set this up on a regular basis so people can start anticipating when I'll be with you.

I'll encourage them to write you here at *After Hours*. And I'm sure they will. And we'll get those letters to you. I just want to thank you sincerely for taking the time to come by here this morning. 2:00 to 4:00 is not the best time to be up. But believe me, there are many people listening. And they're all interested in what you have to say. And we just want to thank you for taking the time out to come by and be with us.

Well, thank you, Buddy. And I hope to be back soon.

Hi, this is Tom from EJ's, where we're celebrating life in the heart of Montrose. And you're listening to *After Hours* on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

Well, Bob, is it plugged in over there?

What is it supposed to be plugged into, the power--

Well, I don't know. We're checking the plugs here. There it is.

It's right here.

Now it's plugged in. OK, let's start all over.

Hello.

A major technical malfunction.

We're back now.

No, we're not either. There we go. Now we are.

[AUDIO OUT]

I said we were, but we're not. OK.

It's a gremlin. Quick, squish it.

[LAUGHTER]

Alan, get in here and help us.

All this high-powered equipment.

That's right.

Wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute.

All right, ladies and gentlemen, this is live radio. That's what it's called. And we're pushing buttons.

Let's see. That's plugged in. OK, wait. Here, stick your tongue in here and see if that works.

[LAUGHTER]

No, try again.

No, don't do this.

Lick your finger and touch this.

Wait. We have no power. That's the problem. Who's kicked the cord out of the wall?

Oh, there it is. It has a short in it. We have a short short, ladies and gentlemen. And we're frantically running around. Brian, why don't you get a-- what do we do?

What do you mean?

Come fix our short, Brian.

Get a bunch of queens in here or a bunch of faggots.

Wait a minute, wait a minute, where are the dykes?

Oh, wait a minute.

Get the dykes in here.

Here's a dyke. Get the dyke over there.

You want a mechanic?

Get that screwdriver out.

She can change a light bulb, but can she fix the--

That's right.

I can always--

It's still not on. It's still not on.

It sounds like--

OK, now it's on. Now it's on. Wait a minute.

Can you hear them now?

Yeah.

[INDISTINCT SINGING ON TAPE]

Oh, OK.

[INAUDIBLE] radio fun.

OK, do we need to do anything or what?

I don't think--

I think we just did miracles.

I think-- exactly.

Councilman Ryan has got this blank look on his--

[LAUGHTER]

Well, it is Sunday morning.

What do you guys think about Councilman Ryan?

I like him well enough. I met him--

A lot of dead air.

--quite a while before the election.

You What?

I said I met him before the election at church. And he seemed very personable and concerned, which I thought was great.

Bob and Angela are both sitting here going, I don't know. And a lot of people don't know. Someone told me-- I said, Councilman Ryan's going to stop by and be on *After Hours* with us, and they hung up on me.

And I didn't call the bitch back. And finally he called back. And I said, why did you hang up on me? And he said, well, he's not going to help us. He's not going to care about us. The HGLPC didn't support him. And I've said before that I don't think the HGLPC speaks for the majority of the community now. We've invited them many times to come on and say that they do. And as soon as they find a way down here, they're more than welcome to do that.

I talked to Annise Parker at Heaven last Tuesday night at the March on Washington party. And she never got the message, apparently. And she's just tickled to death with the idea and [INAUDIBLE].

Well, I've called and called and called. And that's something we're just not going to get into. I said before that we wouldn't make any comments about the election. And we were accused of being biased because we wouldn't back the HGLPC. And we can't do that because that's a violation of station policy. We don't endorse candidates on this program because the station doesn't endorse candidates.

And what we do do, and what I did do, and what makes me very angry with the HGLPC, we are gay men and gay women. The purpose of gay political caucuses is to elect gay people. And you can't tell me, in a city of over a million people, and then a county of over 4 million people, that we can't find one queen that's qualified to run for city council. Now then, 25 million of us in this country, that many people don't even vote for president. So enough said about the election.

We do not and we're are not ever going to start endorsing candidates. We are going to endorse the fact that we support each other as a community. And all we do is say community, community, community--

Oh, we have.

--community. What did you say, baby?

But we don't always have to endorse someone just because they're gay. They need to be qualified too.

Yeah, that's true. But as Harvey Milk said, if there's a gay turkey and a straight turkey running, you should vote for the gay turkey. And if you don't think-- if you believe that unqualified people never get elected, ladies and gentlemen, look to the White House, that big-- you know that big, ivory building in Washington? Look at the crackpot that's running this country now.

Oh, that's all right. He's on his waning years, as we put it.

Well, anyway, enough said about--

Unfortunately, he spent too many waning years running this place.

[LAUGHS]

Enough said. Enough said about the election. Let's talk about Gay Pride. And pride is--

Why don't we change the subject. Let's talk about what's happening right now.

Yeah, there's a lot going on.

It's Christmas in Montrose.

It's Christmas in Montrose.

It's that time of the year.

And I think we need to hear some Christmas music. And we want to open the phone lines up, 526-4000. We've got about 29 minutes left. I want you give Angela and Bob a call about how to deal with holiday depression. And in case you are depressed, maybe this will put just a little chuckle in your step.

[MUSIC - "SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN"]

(SINGING) Oh, you better watch--

Well, believe it or not, it's Christmas time in Montrose. Is it? Is it Christmastime?

It's Christmas in Mon-- that's a funny song.

--even though it's 80 degrees.

It's called "Dyke the Halls." That's a strange little audible. Alan and Brian are in the air studio. I think they're in there with us.

If you have a call or a question-- not a call. If you have a question for Bob Hodge and Angela Passaretti with The Montrose Counseling Center, give us a call, 526-4000, 526-4000. We've got about 20 minutes left on the *After Hours* program. This is KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM, Pacifica radio. A lot of wonderful things happening here, getting ready for 1988. Can you guys believe this year is gone?

Mm-mm.

That's kind of scary.

They seem to go by faster all the time.

We had a few people call it didn't want to get on the air. They were talking about depression and how to get through the day. And the number to the counseling center is 529-0037.

You remembered. Very good, yes.

529-0037.

And we're there 24 hours. There's someone that'll take phone calls.

And also, the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard's there at 529-3211. It's been around for quite a while. We had those people in here with this one night.

Who else did I want to mention there? Somebody else-- I can't think now.

Crisis hotline, of course.

The crisis hotline. Yeah, that's one of the busiest numbers in town.

Particularly this time of year, it is.

But, Buddy you had asked before we went on the air, we were talking in the studio about the grieving process and the process that we go through. And this time of year, a lot of people are re grieving the loss of loved ones and loss of relationships. And I think it's important that people understand that is a process, and that grieving is a real normal, natural reaction to loss.

And it takes time to get through things. And there's not a point you're supposed to be on that scale at any one particular time. And allowing that process just simply to continue wherever it is, and being willing to work through, and be willing to talk about what's going on in your life with other people, is very important.

To sit here and laugh and say there is no reason to be depressed, if there are any people on this planet that should be depressed, it's gay and lesbian people, because we've been treated like crapola for a long, long time. And if we allow that to continue to happen, it's going to happen. If we come out of the closet, and stand up and say, we're proud people, there's nothing wrong with loving-- Harvey Milk said at one time that there was a law that forbid people from marrying of the same sex, he said.

But there is no law anywhere in this country or in the universe that says two people cannot love each other. And if you understand that, and if you understand that sex between people of the same sex is not something that is nasty, it's something that's wonderful and something that's beautiful.

I saw, several years ago, a wonderful-- one of those little throwaway pieces, fillers, in *The Los Angeles Times*. And apropos of nothing, there it sat at the bottom of one of the pages. And it said, when I was in the army, I was given a medal for killing a man, and a dishonorable discharge for loving one. And that's a very sad commentary.

It is. And it brings things to mind for me. When we talk about coming out, and we talk about the wonderful emotional rewards we get, and political rewards we get from coming out and being who we are, I remember the days when I wasn't out, when I was so terrified, and feeling like the world was so much bigger than I was. I come from an Italian-Catholic family. And I assure you that coming out was not easy.

It is a constant struggle. It took about 10 years to rectify things with my family. A lot of things still aren't rectified. And I guess I want to speak to people out there who are not at a place where they're feeling that they can come out, and to let you all know that that's a process, and that there may come a time when you feel you can do that, and that that's a very personal decision to make. And I think we all need to come to our own terms about what coming out is for us, and when we do it, and who we do it to, and if we do it at all, because we don't live in a supportive culture.

And coming out is a risk. And for some people-- and my heart goes out to all the teachers out there trying to make the world better for our children-- who seriously stand to lose jobs and lose livelihoods.

Exactly.

And that's a very real threat that we can't pretend isn't there. It is a huge risk.

And to hear people like teachers, and police officers, and preachers, and priests, and doctors, and lawyers, or whatever, and people [INAUDIBLE] say that we're not there, we're everywhere. We're a very important part of this community. And god help anybody that might be gay that might turn out-- I mean, who'd want one of those dykes and faggots, somebody like Leonardo da Vinci or somebody like--

It's very--

The list goes on and on and on of wonderful--

Or Gertrude Stein.

--gay men and woman. Yeah, Gertrude Stein.

The young people have got, in a lot of instances, because of the invisibility that supposedly we are, they have no place to turn to. If you are an ethnic-racial minority, and someone makes a slur about you, you can go home to your family that is the same nationality, the same color, and you get the support. And you're told, by example, that you are all right by your parents. Gay and lesbian young people don't have that to go to. Where do they go?

And if they're out in the hinterlands, seeing the invisibility of their existence, they have no place to go to see that we are all right and they are all right. We are our own role models.

That's true.

And it's-- my heart also goes out to the young ones, because believe it or not I, also used to be young. And it was a long time ago, but I do remember them.

I was just going to say that, Bob--

Yes, I thank you, Angela.

--many moons ago.

I appreciate-- your support is always appreciated.

Certainly.

And we'll be honest. There's a lot of unhappy people in the community. We get more flak on this program from the gay community. And some of the gay churches in the Montrose tell me they get more flack from the gay community, from their homosexual people, that they're more homophobic than the heterosexual people that are out there that are surrounding us. And we're so busy running around stabbing each other in the back that we just can't seem to get our act together. And if we don't do that--

Someone else will get it together for us, Buddy, is the problem--

They certainly will.

--you see.

And I always fall back on Harvey Milk. And I can't believe-- and Brian and I talked about this the other night, I think, when we were playing Monopoly, about how people don't know anything about our heritage. And if the gay movement was so strong in Germany in what-- was it the 30s? '20s, '30s?

Yes. And--

There was a large gay community that was really among the higher echelon of the German society.

I want to remind you, but before we get on this roll, that the lines are still open at 526-4000 if you want to give us a call for Bob or Angela and how to deal with holiday depression. But what we were getting on to, the gay movement in Germany was very, very strong. And they had a gay group, a gay gathering, or something. And I heard Harvey talk about this in interviews. I wasn't one of the privileged few that knew him.

But he was talking about how they had 8,000 gay men and women together. And Harvey said, oh, that would be so wonderful. That'll never happen. I wish he could have seen Washington, DC on October the 11th. Brian was there.

He would have been in the front of the parade.

You bet he would.

Brian was there.

You know, Buddy, I went to the Gay/Lesbian Health Conference in March in Los Angeles, and the fifth annual AIDS Forum. And it was at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, beautiful hotel at Universal Studios, looks out over the San Fernando Valley. And I was wandering around at the opening of the conference, feeling a bit angry at the discrimination and the lack of support from Washington.

And we sat down in the main conference hall.

[BLUEGRASS MUSIC PLAYING]

And all of a sudden, it occurred to me-- I had moved to Los Angeles in 1968-- and to have that many gay and lesbian people at a hotel like that in 1968 would have been absolutely unheard of. And the mayor of Los Angeles came and gave a speech. One of the city council people came and gave a speech. The mayor of West Hollywood, supposedly the nation's first gay, lesbian city, came and gave a speech.

Is that Steve?

That's Steve Schulte.

Steve Schulte, that's right.

The reason I say that, Vince Ryan was here earlier. He was talking about-- we were talking about the bar raids and so on and so forth. I got a magazine called *News*. Is that right, Brian, *News* or something from LA?

Oh, yes.

And last weekend, the Los Angeles Fire Department went into a leather bar in LA, a very popular leather bar, and told the manager that he was overcrowded. They were over capacity. And they ordered everyone to leave, and ordered the bar closed. And as the people left, there were 20 or 30 cops lined up out in front.

And there was no violence. But they were there. And this happens all the time.

That's intimidation.

It happens to us-- it happens to us in--

It happens here in Houston too

--just every election. And around Gay Pride Week, you can look at your clock when you see the patrol cars going into the bars. And if we as a people continue to let that happen-- and we've got someone in city council. Councilman Ryan, I think, Councilman-elect Ryan, is going to be a positive force. If we give the guy a chance and let him do something for us--

Knock on wood.

--I think he's real eager to work for us. If he wasn't, he certainly wouldn't waste his valuable time to come down here to be on this show.

Hopefully, since he knows so many people down there, and has worked with these people in Mike Driscoll's office, I think that's going to help be a cohesive community. He won't be so caustic with the police department as some other people would have been.

That's true.

It'll be easier for the police to work through him, I do believe. I hope, anyway.

And you're-- the counseling center is one of the few groups that's funded by the state, right? It's recognized by the state?

Well, our substance-abuse program--

Substance abuse--

Yeah, the MORE program receives some funds from the state to operate, so that people that don't have the money to pay for alcohol and drug-abuse treatment can receive the treatment. But that's a very small percentage of-- the counseling center receives no governmental support at all from anybody. But we are the only gay-lesbian agency in the state of Texas that the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse licenses as a treatment program. And in that, we're very lucky.

Where we can sit here and talk all night about Pride, Pride, and Pride, but if you don't take that first step and stand up for yourself, I can guarantee you, no one else is going to do it.

Buddy, we get shot down enough by jerks as it is. We might as well stand up and be ourselves--

Exactly.

--and see what happens.

To bring this down to a personal level, since we've been talking about depression and the holidays, I think one of the very personal and powerful ways that we begin to do that is to know that we may not have our families of origin. We may have been rejected by some of our families. We may be miles away from moms, dads, brothers, and sisters. And they may not even want us around.

But we can create our own gay and lesbian family of our dear friends, of people who--

That's right.

--accept us for who we are, whether they be gay and lesbian people, or whether they be liberal and progressive heterosexual people, we can create, in our very own little neighborhoods, and worlds, and houses, the kind of family that is nurturing, and loving, and caring. And that can make the difference at the holidays for us.

It does make a difference.

And, Brian, I think you'll back me up on this. We were at the meeting last Sunday, a week-- was it last Sunday? A week ago Sunday--

Yes.

--about the parade. And someone said that last year's parade was a death march. And they apparently weren't there because--

Obviously not.

--it was a wonderful celebration.

And it was.

And at the end of the parade, when Ray-- Ray Hill led the end of the parade. And when he got down to the curb, and everyone started falling out into the streets, and we marched over to the rally site, it was a wonderful experience to be surrounded by that many gay people. And I'd like to see several hundred thousand of us--

It was a wonderful experience.

--down on the streets to enjoy that and be part of it.

It was phenomenal. I've been in the gay-lesbian pride parades since 1982. And I continued-- I want to do it until 1999. But it's just-- it's something we need. It's something we have. Just like Angie said, bringing it down to a personal level, both my parents are deceased. I don't have any brothers and sisters. I don't have a lover. And I don't have a roommate. I have cats.

So that can-- you can real easily get depressed when all you have to talk to are cats. But we have a wonderful family. I belong to MCCR. I enjoy my church family. I have some real good friends. And I intend on having a wonderful Christmas. I just went out tonight while my Christmas tree.

[SOFT FLUTE MUSIC PLAYING]

How wonderful. We haven't even done that yet. And [INAUDIBLE] been yelling at me to do it.

[LAUGHTER]

We're going to take a little break. And we'll be back in just a second. Think about Pride. And think about yourself. And let's come together as a community.

We're going to be broadcasting live from the-- well, we'll be an *After Hours* dance to celebrate Pride, the week of the Pride celebration. And I am working with Councilman Ryan and other people in the community to have a memorial in front of city hall on November the 27th this year, because it will mark the 10th anniversary of the death of Harvey Milk and the assassination of Harvey and George Moscone in San Francisco. And if you don't know who they are, for God's sake, go out and buy a book, and read about them. And learn all about them. And by the time you get through reading the book, you'll be down there with us in November.

And any time you can see the film, *The Life And Times Of Harvey Milk*, don't miss it.

Yeah, it's great.

Anyway, we're going to take a little break. And we'll be back in just a minute. This is *After Hours*. We've got about six or seven minutes to go. And we just want you to know that gay Pride-- gay/lesbian Pride is alive and well in Houston, Texas.

Alan, what you got?

I just wanted to say that tomorrow is the annual tree lighting at Mary's. That'll be at about 6:00-ish. You know how gay things go. It could be 7:00-ish.

Oh no. But we'll be on GST, Gay Standard Time, 6:15. The MCCR choir is going to be singing there. And then the choir will be going caroling. And we're going to hit everywhere we can and just have a wonderful time. And then tomorrow, of course, I have to take my gay Christmas tree out of the closet, and set it up in the living room where everyone can see it.

OK, we'll be back in just a second. Let's take a little break. And you're-- you're-- [ROLLS TONGUE] say it, Alan.

Say what, on *After Hours*--

Yeah.

--on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM?

There you go.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) All you gay women, all you gay men, come together. Stand together, and each other's rights defend.

There are ghettos in the cities--

[APPLAUSE]

Yeah, Tom Robinson. I don't know. Does anybody know the name of that song? Angela, do you know what that is?

I don't know, but I sure like it.

Mm-hmm, I did too.

Yeah.

It's an old, old, old golden oldie.

A get up and dance and celebrate song.

Yeah.

Mm-hmm, it's a clapper.

Brian's saying something and he's not on.

I'm not on?

You are now.

Oh, goodness.

[LAUGHTER]

I said you could hold hands and swing and sway. That's the type of music that is.

Swing and sway.

You know what we haven't mentioned tonight?

What's that, dear heart?

That the young man and young lady that's sitting in our lobby this morning is having an open house tomorrow.

Yes, we are.

That's right.

Tell us about it, Bob.

Yeah.

Well, Montrose Counseling Center's annual open house is at the Counseling Center tomorrow from 2 to 5 o'clock. At 4 o'clock, our awards ceremony will be beginning, and presenting the Director's Award and the Stella Scott Award, in honor of the woman who donated the first batch of money to get us started back almost 10 years ago. We'll be going into our 10th year next year. And--

It sounds wonderful--

--a service to the Montrose community.

That's down the street, right down the street from KPFT?

900 Lovett.

That's right.

900 Lovett, yes?

What time?

2 o'clock, 2 to 5 o'clock. And the award ceremony will be at 4:00. And we've got--

That sounds great.

Yeah, we got food, and--

It's a really good time. I went last year and had a wonderful time.

Anything else going on in the world the news that we need to touch on?

Oh, well they had a wonderful parade today, the Children's Montrose Parade, Christmas in Montrose parade--

With tricycles and everything?

--was today.

Tricycles and all that good stuff.

Well, they had a parade. They had a children's parade from the Campanile up to the Chelsea Market.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

That sounds like fun.

And--

I got my wagon out.

[LAUGHTER]

My "wittle wed" wagon.

Your "wittle wed" wagon?

Yeah. Anyway, Bob, I can't say thanks, because I say that every time you come down here.

Buddy, I thank you. This is a lot of fun. And you're doing good stuff for this city and for the gay men and women of the upper-Texas coast. And I appreciate that.

Angela, you've never been here before. But we want you back.

Thank you. I'd love to come back.

Maybe- we could do a whole program on the women's department at the counseling center, because I think that'd be a blast.

That's something that's needed.

Let's do it. Well,

That song means it's time to go. That song is called you. And that's our unofficial theme song. It's called "You" because you are the reason that we are here. And we are family. And we are coming together in a way, in 1988, that is going to knock their socks off. And if you set at home and miss it, well, you set at home and miss it, what?

Then you missed it.

Then you missed it.

You missed it. Don't miss it. Be a part of it. Come out and get involved. The next Pride parade meeting is January the 17 at--

Yeah, that's right.

--at the Dignity Center.

Yes, on Fannin.

3200 Fannin, I believe. You can call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard and find out about that. Anyway, you can call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard and find out about everything going on in the community. That number is 529-3211. You can write the *After Hours* program at 419 Lovett, care of KPFT, 77006.

And we'll be here next week. I don't have any idea who's going to be here next week. I just want to go home and go to bed, because I'm tired.

Don't be tired, Buddy. It's only 4 o'clock in the morning, almost.

I know.

Get to sleep until Monday morning.

Yeah. Listen, Angela and Bob, thanks again, guys, for coming by.

Thank you.

Just wonderful.

Thank you, Buddy.

And I'm serious about the woman's program.

Good.

We need to do a whole two hours--

I'd like to come back.

--and just talk about nothing but what's going on for the lesbian community, the counseling center. I think there'd be something wonderful to work on.

It would be.

This is *After Hours*, KPFT, Houston 90.1 FM. Stay tuned for *Stepchild*, 213, coming up. And we'll see you next week. Bye.

[THEME MUSIC]

[MUSIC - PAUL WILLIAMS, "HARD WORKING PILGRIM"]

(SINGING) Been here working for my Jesus. Been here working for my Jesus. But my steps are getting slow. But my steps are getting slow. Had a hard road to travel. I've had a hard road to travel. In this world below. In this world below.

Been working on a building. Been working on a building. Been praying every day. Been praying every day. Lord, I've been a hardworking pilgrim on the way. Now my feet are getting weary. Now my feet are getting weary. But I'm satisfied. But I'm satisfied.

Still got a lot of burdens. I've still got a lot of burdens. But nothing to hide. I've got nothing to hide. When I stand before the judgement. When I stand before the judgement. This is all I came to say. This is all I came to say. Lord, I've been a hardworking pilgrim on the way.