

MAN 1: Oh really?

MARK Yeah. I've got a funny story I have to tell you. I was working, plain clothes in a juvenile division one night. And we
TIMMERS: had a complaint of possible of juveniles in a gay bar.

I won't give you the name of it. But it was a Country Western bar. And the sergeant looked at me, he says, "Mark, we'd like you to go check this out. Do you want to take someone with you?"

I looked around at the officer sitting there. I thought, there's only one person I'd take with. An old officer friend that I knew, was from a small town in East Texas. I mean we're talking po-dunk city.

I said, we're going to go down to check out this bar. We get a car and check out a car. And we're driving down there.

I said, "Now, this is a gay bar." He looks at me. He says, "A gay bar?" I said, "Yeah."

I said, and the catch to this is it is a country and western gay bar. They're cowboys. He say, "No, no, my daddy told me there were no gay Cowboys."

I said, "Well, there's some women there too." "You mean gay?" I said, "Yeah."

Oh I said, yeah. He's, "Well, can't be. Can't be." I said, "Well, you'll just have to see for yourself."

We walk in. And I go, you go this way and I'll go that way. And I'll meet you till the end of the round dance floor. He says, OK.

As I'm walking around, I stopped. And a couple of friends of mine's, I saw. I got to the end of the dance floor. I stood there. And I stood there for about 10 minutes.

Finally, he comes walking up. I said, "Where have you been?" He said, "You'd never guess what happened to me." And I says, "What?"

He said, "I was walking around. All these men keep asking me to dance." And I said, "Well, what'd you do?"

He put his arm around me. He says, "I told him I was with you." Thought that was pretty smart.

[LAUGHTER]

Just, stuff like that, I used to go home at night. And I used to just laugh. Yeah, I used to laugh at some of the stuff I used to see.

MAN 1: I had an officer come out to me the other day, that is not gay, he's straight. In fact he and his wife-- that's another story, but he's straight. He was telling me that he was part of the contingent that moved in on Mary's, the first time.

When the Mary's raid first occurred. Then the screaming. He said, we carried 60 or 70 people down. There was a lot of screaming and yelling.

He said, "I had these two guys in the back and three more in the front." He just had people everywhere, I guess. It must have been a real zoo. He said, all I remember, I kept telling him was hey, guys, I'm just doing my job.

They just told me to come down and get you, and I came to get you. I had a call too, not too long ago from a friend. He said, "The police are just harassing me to death."

Ask him why. He said that he'd been stopped two, three times, because they kept telling him his tail light was out. I said, "Well, is your light out?"

He said, "Yeah. But they're harassing me." I said, why don't you pull into a Stop-N-Go or someplace, and buy a bulb? Replace that bulb and that police officer won't stop and harass you.

He's just trying to help you. You need to keep somebody from running into your rear end. A lot of people don't understand that.

MARK [INAUDIBLE]

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: There's a lot-- yeah, well, I don't know about that. But there's a lot, there's a gap this big between the Gay community and police department. It's not just the Gay community. It's every community, I think.

MARK Yeah. But I think in general, the Gay community is very afraid of the police department. When I was in uniform, there were people in the Gay community, were very afraid of me. They were afraid to talk to me.

TIMMERS:

I believe in being open. What being open means is that you're yourself. That you go to work. You act like yourself. You don't pretend.

MAN 1: You believe that now? Or you believe that then?

MARK I believe that now. I think that's the way I should have been. But I never was.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Should gay people be afraid of the police?

MARK No. No, they have no reason.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Why?

MARK Nobody should be afraid of the police. Why? Because the police are there to assist the citizens. They're there to help the citizens.

TIMMERS:

I remember my last couple of months in patrol. It was the best time I had ever spent in the police department. I had worked 70s beat, which is the Medical Center, Hermann Park, Alameda, and Rice University area. It was the best time I ever had.

MAN 1: I don't like that channel. It's too slow for me.

MARK Is it? Well, it was fast enough for me.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Plus I hate sending officers, half the dang time, to the hospital. Oh my god.

MARK I always enjoyed. I remember I'd go to work. I worked the evening shift. I would sit there, and everybody be
TIMMERS: complaining about they had to go out there and work.

I was, I just wanted to get in the car and get out there and drive around and talk to people. I made it a point to, in my area, to stop and talk to people. They were working in their yards.

Or meet the people that own the stores, and really get involved. I enjoyed it. I loved it. Met a lot of family members out there. 90% of the people I met, that got to know me, we got along great.

MAN 1: What about the day you were sitting in the car, and your Sergeant came by?

MARK When I didn't have Sundays off, they used to put an officer on the evening shift into Rice University area. The
TIMMERS: officers thought that was a punishment, I don't know why. I was driving around, looking at those magnificent, beautiful homes.

It was quite boring. Then I saw people working in the yards. And I stopped and started getting out and talking to them. Next thing I knew, I was drinking coffee and eating cookies on the hood of my squad car.

I loved it. I remember the Sergeant came by. I was sitting there, drinking a cup of coffee. She had, the lady that owned the house, had a little spread on my hood of my squad car and had cookies and coffee out there.

He stopped and says, "What? Is there something wrong?" I said, "No, we're just having coffee and cookies and talking about the neighborhood, finding about who lives where and what's happening."

To me, that was fun police work. Some officers would think that's boring as shit. But I enjoyed it. I think it was the fact that I got to meet people.

But people were afraid of the uniform. I know I had an incident at Park Plaza hospital, where they were afraid of the uniform. And that really bothered me. I took it very personal.

MAN 1: You said you worked in juvenile, at one time?

MARK I worked juvenile division nights. I started out in Northwest patrol. Then I did my tour in the jail and then I went
TIMMERS: back to Northwest patrol. Then I went to juvenile division nights. Then I went to child abuse.

MAN 1: Oh, child abuse. We all know that gay people commit 100% of the child abuse in the world, right?

MARK Yeah. Yeah, I wish we had the exact statistics on sexual and child abuse.
TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Which are?

MARK The last time I remember, it was from an FBI statistic, it said that 98% of all sexual abuses were heterosexual
TIMMERS: married men between the age of 30 and 36, and were married with two children. The Gay community, they "molest children at the drop of a hat." You know, and such, people believe what they want to believe.

MAN 1: What are the statistics relating to gay people?

MARK
TIMMERS: I don't know. We both know we've tried finding those. I've never been able to find the statistics on that.

MAN 1: Why is it? I know what you're saying, Mark. I see it every day at work, where a child is beaten by his parents and taken to the hospital. Or children are found dead or abandoned. Why is it, we don't hear all that? Why?

MARK
TIMMERS: Well, it's the main reason, I think when a minister or a priest or a school teacher is found molesting a child, and especially if it's a male molesting another male, it becomes newsworthy. They exploit the fact. They just give it to the public and they feed on it.

MAN 1: Why don't they exploit the truth?

MARK
TIMMERS: Would you have news? Would you be able to sell more commercials? I think our media has a lot to play with what goes on.

MAN 1: I almost fell out of the chair. I was going.

MARK
TIMMERS: You were on your knees there, for a minute there.

MAN 1: No, it's too early in the morning for that.

MARK
TIMMERS: No.

MAN 1: Besides, I have to go to work when this is over.

MARK
TIMMERS: Answer me this. Do you think there's prejudice in the Houston Police Department?

MAN 1: No.

MARK
TIMMERS: You don't?

MAN 1: As a whole?

MARK
TIMMERS: As a whole?

MAN 1: No. Otherwise, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing.

MARK
TIMMERS: Do you think there's any homophobia in the police department?

MAN 1: Oh, everywhere. It's rampant. But I think it's only because they don't understand us. I think that the reason the Gay community is afraid of the police is because the Gay community doesn't understand.

As the community and a whole, they don't understand what we're doing. I think a good analogy is a lot of people look at the Gay community. And they look down the Westheimer Strip.

Or they'll take a certain group of people and they'll characterize them as being gay. That'd be like taking Jensen and Lyons, and categorizing the women that walk down there and saying that is the straight women in the community. I don't think we can categorize people. They have gay police officer organizations in other states.

MARK Yeah, they do.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: On the coast.

MARK I don't think we'll ever see that in Houston.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Why?

MARK Well, not for probably another 4 years, 5 years.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Why? Because of the sodomy laws?

MARK I think because of that. And I really don't, of the gay police officers I know, I don't know any of them that would be willing to stand up. And I can understand why.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Are they that afraid?

MARK Oh, they're deathly afraid.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Of what?

MARK Afraid of their partners finding out. I could understand, at one point. But now I can't.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Uh-huh. I have a friend that's a lesbian that works down there. She told me that she's not afraid. Because she does things in public, that goes to places, and she doesn't hide what she's doing.

She doesn't stand up on the patrol car and scream, "I'm a lesbian." But she said that when she put on that uniform and walk into that building it's an entirely different world.

MARK It is.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: It is. I can relate to that. Now it's even more of the world because I sit there. And I know that they know that I'm doing this program every week.

MARK I have come to the realization, and that to me, being gay is not different.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: What does being gay mean to you?

MARK TIMMERS: Being gay to me is when I finally realized with accepting myself for what God created me as. I think people, 99% of the people to get to know me, get to know me and my lover, accept us totally, because of who we are, what we stand for. And I think if people took the time to get to know people, that they wouldn't have this homophobia fear.

People, I remember down at the Montrose Art Festival one time, a lady was walking with her child. She looked down at that child. She says, "For God's sake," she says, "don't touch nobody. You may get AIDS."

(LAUGHS) And I couldn't help but laugh. I thought, this is such homophobia. It's ridiculous.

MAN 1: But I have officers that go to calls now, that they know there's an AIDS patient living there and they're terrified. See, I can't blame them for being afraid. I do blame them for not trying to educate themselves.

MARK TIMMERS: Exactly. I think the police department needs to educate people. I really do.

MAN 1: Because see, I would like to say to those officers that unless you're going to go out there and jump in bed with those people and have sex, or unless you're going to share needles with those people, chances are you're not going to get sick.

MARK TIMMERS: No. No.

MAN 1: If I was a person with AIDS, I would be more afraid of all these people coming into my house.

MARK TIMMERS: You got that right.

MAN 1: Breathing and coughing, and carrying whatever germs they might carry with them. But again, that goes back to education. I think we need to educate not only ourselves.

But we, as a community, need to reach out and try to educate not only the police department, but every segment of society.

MARK TIMMERS: Yeah.

MAN 1: That's what we're doing now. I would love for Deputy Chief Tom Colby to come to me and say, we would like for you to do something with NOP, with the Neighborhood Oriented Policing, and help us put together a program for the Gay community. Because they're going to have to address the Gay community.

MARK TIMMERS: Yeah, I agree with that. People feel that they say, why do we have to address the Gay community? For one reason. How many people, in Houston, do you think are gay?

MAN 1: Now?

MARK TIMMERS: Yeah.

MAN 1: Thousands. Take 10%, 10% of the population, 4 and 1/2 million. Harris County, so 450,000, 500,000.

MARK TIMMERS: I would estimate at least 300,000 of the Houston residents are gay. That's a large majority. I think the police have to be geared to helping them. We're geared to help the Black community, the Hispanic community, the Vietnamese community. I think we need to be geared to also help the Gay community.

MAN 1: Do you think the day will come though, when those officers that are there will say it really just, where they get to the point where I'm at? Maybe not where I'm at, because I'm so out, blatant.

I think that's the word everybody likes to use. But get to the point where they say, it really just doesn't matter. I'm just going to go down there and do my job, and I don't care what people think.

MARK TIMMERS: I think a lot of officers would. I think I could have gotten to that point in the police department, that officers would have realized, and it wouldn't have mattered to them. There would've been officers who wouldn't have known me, always would have talked about me.

But I think officers that knew me would have accepted me. I really don't even know. I think back now, what is there to accept?

I go do my job. Just hopefully, as well as I can, better than a lot of them did. There was nothing I felt that they needed to accept. They just needed to treat me as a equal individual in that police department.

MAN 1: Sounds like the only person that needed to do the accepting was you.

MARK TIMMERS: This is true, it was.

MAN 1: That you just needed to accept yourself.

MARK TIMMERS: It was. I hid. I was afraid that people would find out. I think we see that in the military a lot too. They say they don't like to have gays in the military, because they can be blackmailed. They can be blackmailed, because they're hiding themselves.

MAN 1: I'm not trying to get anybody in trouble, because I, honest to God, don't know this story. But I had another officer tell me that there was a police officer that kissed his lover, or pinched his lover on the rear end in front of the Shamrock Hotel one time. Have you ever heard of that?

MARK TIMMERS: No, I haven't heard of that one.

MAN 1: There was a big to-do about it. Somebody saw them, and it was a big thing. They didn't really get them for that, for being gay.

They got him for expressing sexual, something, in uniform, or something. I mean, they got rules. They got a book of rules this thick, kids, I'm telling you. But it wasn't the fact that he was gay. They got him for something else.

MARK TIMMERS: The fact that, that's the thing too. They say, we'd never go after him because he's gay. That's a bunch of crap. I know it and you know it.

MAN 1: Sure.

MARK They may get him for something else. But they go with diligence, to get rid of people. To hide people. I think it should be the other way around.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: How come they haven't gone after diligence to get rid of me, then?

MARK Well, I know it's because you are open. You are yourself. And the police department, they're afraid to go after that. They can only go after you when you have something to hide.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: I certainly have nothing to hide.

MARK Right.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Talking about threats, I was threatened. My life, I've been threatened. My life's been threatened several times, since we started this program back in August.

To that I say, you can come down here and kill me. Or you can kill Mark. But they're between 20 and 40 million gay people in this country. And you better have a damn big gun if you're going to start killing 20 or 40 million people.

Hitler tried to do it. They killed 600,000, 700,000 back during the Holocaust, and it didn't work. Gay people are going to be everywhere. And if I were to die this morning--

MARK Why do you think people want to get rid of gays?

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Because they don't understand.

MARK Do you think it's just basically because of religious belief?

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: No. They just don't understand. Because if it were religious, if they would read their bibles, especially John 3:16, it says for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

MARK I didn't know you memorized stuff like that.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: I know a lot of stuff like that. I love to get into these arguments with these so-called Christians, that want to preach Christian love, and then go out and throw rocks at people. Because the God I was raised with, that my grandfather told me about, was a God of love. And a God that accepted everyone.

He didn't put labels on people. Those people that do want to, I love to get into arguments with them. Because after about five minutes, they leave me alone.

Because honey, I lay hands on them and cast devils out of them, and all kinds of things. But what I'm saying is, I'm not afraid. Because I know that what I'm doing is what I have to do. I know that if my life, my physical being, breaths were to stop, someone else would come along and do it. And I'm not worried about that.

MARK I remember when you first told me you were going to do the radio program down here. I think I told you, you were crazy. Because I was afraid of what would happen. But after I thought about it, when we first met up in dispatch, when we talked and stuff, I was still hiding.

I really was. After I get out of dispatch and went back to patrol, I just started being myself. I didn't act any different.

I realized, looking at you, that exactly, that's one reason why you've been successful in this police department, is you've been yourself. People make comments to you. You just make a comment back to them.

I got like that in patrol too, where people would say things to me. I would just turn around and tell them exactly how I felt. I really think that if there are officers out there going through what I went through, that the only thing I can tell them is you need to start someplace.

You need, in the first place, being open doesn't mean standing up on that squad car saying, hey, I'm gay. That has nothing to do with it.

Being open means being yourself. Not hiding when you go out. I remember when we used to go out, I used to be afraid to go to certain bars because there were officers working the door.

Or go certain places. I go now and officers see me and they just yeah, now we know the whole story. Shit. They should've figured it out a long time ago, but I didn't let them.

MAN 1: I have the same way. Before I started doing this program I wouldn't go to Heaven or the Mining Company, or JR's, because there were police officers in there working the front door. My lover and I, we would drive by and just keep going, I'd say, "I'm not getting out."

Then I remember one night in JR's, where I saw a police officer in there, in his tight little blue jeans and his little flannel shirt. When he saw me, baby, he disappeared into the crowd. I think we both ran opposite directions.

But now, I know what you're saying. I wish I knew, 20 years ago, what I know today. That if I had maybe come out to family and my friends, and the people I work with, and the people I associate with, and the people where I spend my money, and let them know that I'm a good human being and I care about myself, and there's nothing wrong with that. That my life could have been so much more wonderful.

I wouldn't have lived all those years in fear. Because even in Houston, when I first came here and started looking for a job, I went to Harris County. They were hiring dispatchers.

The application said, the 8th or 9th question down said, "Have you ever committed a homosexual act?" I put, "Yes." It said, "If yes, when?" I wrote, "This morning."

[LAUGHTER]

Then the next question was, "Have you ever committed a deviant sex act?" But I don't really understand what deviant is. I went to high school in Arkansas. We didn't get big words. I mean, we only had like, milk and cows and eggs.

MARK That would be deviant.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Obviously, I never took the application back. I was getting real hungry. I'd gone down to Metro, to apply for a job there, in customer service.

On the way out there was a horrendous accident. People everywhere, blood everywhere. Heads rolling down the street.

The police showed up, and the dogs showed up. And the mounted patrol showed up. And the helicopters were flying overhead.

I thought Oh God, no. I don't want to go back to the police department. So I walked over to city hall. There was a little information booth downstairs, and a little bitty Black woman working in the booth.

I said, "Are the police hiring dispatchers?" She said, "Yes." I said, "I really need a job. But I'm gay, and I'm afraid they may not hire me."

She said, "You go over there. And tell them you need that job and tell them you're qualified. And that's all you have to tell them. And just do your job."

And that's what I did. I went over and applied on a Tuesday or a Wednesday. They told me it'd be 5 to 6 weeks before I went back. That next Saturday night, I was working.

They called home, talked to my old Assistant Chief of Police. I don't know what the hell he told them, but whatever he told them, they must have liked it. Because by Saturday, I was reporting down there.

MARK TIMMERS: When I first joined, when I joined, one of the first questions I asked me wasn't have you killed somebody? They says, "Are you a fag?" Then it was "Have you ever done drugs?"

But I thought, I mean, they're asking me if I'm gay before they ask anything else? That, that scared me. It really did.

I was still married at the time. It pushed me a little bit deeper. I think society has pushed a lot of people very deep. Very deep.

MAN 1: Do you have any stories to tell us about locker rooms? No, I'm kidding.

MARK TIMMERS: No, I have no stories.

MAN 1: I just wanted to hear one. You can tell me later. What would you say, Mark, to police officers in general?

Or not just police officers? But lawyers, or doctors, or janitors, or popcorn salesmen at the dome, or schoolteachers, or librarians? Everybody and anybody that's listening to us now, that they're gay and they know they're gay and they've accepted that they're gay.

But they're afraid that someone's going to find out. What would you say to them? First of all, I think you have to accept yourself.

You have to be open. Being open and accepting yourself, and just being yourself out in public, and acting like everybody else. The problem is, somewhere along the line you have to make a stand. Like Harvey Milk's said, you have to tell your parents. You have to tell the people you work for.

People say, why should I yell it out? I don't really think you have to write a letter and tell everybody. But I think in being yourself, you're telling people exactly who and what you are.

I made the mistake for 24, 25 years, of not doing that. Created a lot of headaches for me, a lot of controversies. A lot of things I can't change.

But I've learned a lot. I've gained a lot of insight. I think be yourself. You know? And when people ask you, tell them the truth.

If you can tell yourself the truth. I mean, now I think if people ask me, "Mark, are you gay?" Or a lot of times they say "Hey, are you a fag?"

"No, I'm not a faggot. I'm sorry, I do not like that word. But yes, I am gay.

I'm a homosexual. I have a beautiful lover. We have a very nice house. We have a great family.

We work hard at being ourselves. Ken is real afraid of this program. And I'm real excited about it.

MARK I would just say, be open.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Mhm?

MARK What do you think?

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: I'm not going to say that, because that's exactly how I feel. If you could change anything, right now, what would you change?

MARK I would go back and change what I did in the police department. Because I would give anything to still be wearing that blue uniform, that 36-62 badge. I would give anything to be out there in the public, being myself. I really feel the bottom line is, is the public's going to have to put me back out there. Because I can't do it no more.

MAN 1: Do you mean that?

MARK I'm very sincere about it.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Why? Why do you miss it? What do you miss?

MARK What do I miss? I miss being out in the public. I miss helping people.

TIMMERS:

I miss knowing that there's a chance that not just helping gay people, but helping straight people, that I can help someone. I really miss it. I miss excitement. Not knowing what's going to happen the next minute or the next second.

MAN 1: It's like that, right?

MARK I feel it was. It can be as boring as boring can be. Then the next 4 seconds your life, you don't know what's going to happen.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: A lot of people don't understand that. Because when my officers SO every day-- oh, and SO means sign on-- when they come to work, in the back of my mind, I'm thinking God, help me get all these guys and girls home tonight in one piece. That's all I care about when I'm sitting there for 8 hours.

When they get angry at me and snappy at me, and whatever, all I'm thinking about is, I just want to get everybody home in one piece. So they can go live their lives. Because I didn't realize this until several months ago.

Even after I'd started doing this program, someone had said something about I was going to lose my job. I said, look, this is just a job. I come here so that I can do my work and go enjoy my life. This is not my life. This is my job.

MARK Yeah, it's part.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: But you really can't say that, because it is a part of your life.

MARK Yeah. My lover, Ken, can't understand. He said he never will. But he knows that when I left, a great part of me left.

TIMMERS:

It's still there. I feel the Houston Police Department is a very fine establishment. But I think there's a lot of barriers that need to be broken.

I really feel that there needs to be people that are willing to do that. To stand up and say, just because I'm gay doesn't mean I can't do this job. I can do it just as well, if not better. Have just as much compassion, if not more. I think we need gay police officers desperately.

MAN 1: We've got them.

MARK Yeah, we do. I think we need police officers who are willing, when somebody looks at them to say, "Hey, are you a fag?" "No, I'm not a fag, but I'm gay." Don't you?

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: You're looking at me, and you know that's exactly how I feel know.

MARK I know. And there is a lot of homophobia in the police department. But that has to be overcome. And it's not going to be overcome by officers not educating themselves.

TIMMERS:

But somebody has to do it. When I was out there, I was afraid of someone biting me. Of picking up a disease from an incident like that. But I was educated enough to know what and what not to do.

MAN 1: Something that makes me crazy, at the beginning of our program and we'll play it in just a second, the opening that we run is part of the Stonewall Riot. Where the news reporter's reporting it. He said it began with the routine police raid on a homosexual bar. And it was routine, right?

We have people like Vince Ryan, on City Council for District C, that if he's told me personally, and I really believe it with all my heart, that if we go down and make an effort, that things will change. I think the message that we have this morning for you listening is that we're all a part of this country. When the founding fathers sit down and wrote the Constitution, they had great wisdom when they wrote the first three words, "We the people."

MARK "We the people."

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: We're just as much of that "We the people," as anyone else. If the gay community and the lesbian community could ever get their act together and realize that if we stood up tomorrow and were counted as a group, that nothing would stop us. Nothing's going to stop us. See, I should play "Nothing's Going to Stop Us Now," by Starship.

But that's the message we have for you. I know this hasn't been easy for you. And I know it hasn't been easy for Ken. But I'm glad that you came by and took the time to talk to us.

If the good fairy, which I haven't seen yet, would pop in right now, boom, and say, "Mark Timmers, I'm going to give you one wish," what would you wish for?

MARK I always wish that I'm back in the police department. But I wish if I was back, it'd be with the understanding that I am who I am. When people ask, they know.

TIMMERS:

But the main wish I always have is that I can keep me and my lover, our lives together. The police department's a major part of my life. But my family and everything else is more important.

But I also wish that every police officer goes to work goes home at night, or in the morning or in the evening. But I really hope that someday I can put on a uniform, put on another badge, and go out there. I really do.

[CHIMING MUSIC]

CHORUS: (SINGING) We are the world.

PAT PARKER: Boots are being polished. Trumpeters, clean their horns. Chains and locks forged, the crusade has begun.

Once again, flags of Christ are unfurled in the dawn. And cries of soul savior sing apocalyptic on airwaves. Citizens, good citizens all, parade into voting booths.

In self-righteous sanctity, X away our right to life. I do not believe it some, that the vote is an end. I fear even more, it is just a beginning.

I must make assessment. Look to you and ask, where will you be when they come? They will not come, a mob rolling through the streets, but quickly and quietly move into our homes to remove the evil, the queerness, the faggotry, from their midst.

They will not come clothed in Brown and swastikas, or bearing chest heavy with gleaming crosses. The time and need for such ruses are over. They will come in business suits to buy your homes and bring bodies to fill your jobs.

They will come in robes to rehabilitate, and white coats to subjugate. And where will you be, when they come?
Where will we all be when they come?

And they will come. They will come because we are defined as opposite, perverse. And we are perverse.

Every time we watch the queer hassled in the streets and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we lied about the boyfriend or girlfriend at coffee break, it was an act of perversion. Every time we heard I don't mind gays, but why must they be blatant? and said nothing, it was an act of perversion.

Every time we let a lesbian mother lose her child and did not fill the courtrooms, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let straights make out in our bars, while we couldn't touch because of the laws, it was an act of perversion.

Every time we put on the proper clothes to go to the family wedding and left our lovers at home, it was an act of perversion. Every time we heard, who I go to bed with is my personal choice, it's personal not political, and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let straight relatives bury our dead and push our lovers away, it was an act of perversion.

And they will come for the perverts. And it won't matter if you're homosexual, not a faggot. Lesbian, not a Dyke. Gay, not queer. It won't matter if you own your own business, have a good job, or an SSI.

It won't matter if you're Black, Chicano, Native American, Asian, or White. It won't matter if you're from New York or Los Angeles, Galveston or Sioux Falls. It won't matter if you're Butch or femme, not into roles, monogamous, non-monogamous.

It won't matter if you're Catholic, Baptist, Atheist, Jewish, or MCC. They will come. They will come to the cities and to the land. To your front rooms and in your closets. They will come for the perverts. And where will you be, when they come?

(SINGING) We are the world. We are the children. We are the children. We are the ones who make a brighter day--

JOE WATTS:

"Praises of Pride," written and read by Joe Watts. The 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. A 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.

MAN 1:

Oh yes, "Praises of Pride," written and read by Mr. Joe Watts, a dear friend of mine, who happens to be a homosexual.

[LAUGHS]

We hope you enjoyed that little conflagration we had with Mark Timmers, former Houston police officer. If you've got any comments to make to us, give us a call right now, 526-4000. We've got about 20 minutes left in the program this morning, and we want to hear from you, and hear what you got to say.

This is the final day, right? Of Lesbian Gay Pride Week planning sessions? We're going to go down there and thrash each other around the room.

MARK That's it. Last chance.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Yeah.

MARK Make yourself heard or felt.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Yeah. And we need lots of help. The Bar Owners Association pulled out of Gay Fest. I'm trying to get a statement from them. We'll have that for you, I hope next week, if not sooner.

Maybe we'll have it on Wallenstein or "Breakthrough," which by the way, air right here on KPFT, your Pacifica Station, on Tuesdays. Wallenstein, long running Gay Men's program every Tuesday from 10:00 until 11:00 hosted by Jack Volinski, another dear friend of mine, who happens to be a very well-known homosexual, in these parts.

Ray Hill, comes in sometimes, and says a few words. Now, have you ever known Ray Hill to say a few words?

MARK Very, very seldom.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: But anyway, Ray, I love you.

[LAUGHTER]

Then, on Friday mornings, you can hear "Breakthrough," with Cherry and Poki, every Friday, from 8:00 until 11:00. Wonderful programming for the women's community. And the feminist community and the men's community. Just tune in and listen, and enjoy.

Again, we want to hear from you. If you have any comments about the show this morning. If you have any comments about Pride Week, what you think we should do or shouldn't do, so on and so forth. Oh, anyway, we're going to punch this up. No? Why don't you punch me up? You don't want to get on the radio?

MAN 3: No, not really.

MAN 1: We'll find out. Hello?

KEN: Hi buddy, this is Ken.

MAN 1: Well, hi. How are you?

KEN: Just fine, how are you?

MAN 1: Fine. Let me find you. There you are.

KEN: OK. I have a couple of things I'd like to say about the show. I'm Ken Clemmons. I'm Mark Timmer's lover. I'm really pleased with the show, and I want to thank you.

I want to correct one thing that Mark said, since he's not here. I wasn't afraid of the show at all. I was worried for him. But I'm not now. I'm really not afraid at all.

I'd like to say that I'm very proud of Mark. He's gone through a lot and he's paid his dues. He's going to come out OK, because there's a lot of people that love him.

I'd like to say to his mother, who loved him, and my mother, who loved him, and his children, who love him, and all the people he knows on the police force that were his friends and some of them who don't express that right now, but maybe would like to, that they could learn from this. And that they it could be a lot happier. And they could be a lot better adjusted if they just were themselves, like Mark said.

I work with, I see a lot of them and I have contact with a lot of them. Because where I work they come in. They're my customers now. And I'd like to say, to a few of them, that they just need to have the courage and just be themselves.

Again, I'd like to thank you. I really enjoyed the show.

**MARK
TIMMERS:** Thanks for calling, baby.

KEN: And Mark, thanks you, too.

**MARK
TIMMERS:** OK, thanks for calling.

KEN: OK, good night.

**MARK
TIMMERS:** The number is 526-4000, 526-4000. We want to hear from you. We did get a call from a police officer.

I won't tell you his name, that works in Vice. And he wants a copy of the Paul Harvey thing. It's on an album.

Where's that album at? Oh, where was that album? I don't have that. I don't have that album with me, because we recorded that the other day.

But it's in a Paul Harvey album that I've had for 15 or 20 years. I doubt if you're ever going to find it, but I'll be glad to make a copy of that on cassette for that officer. He said he wanted to play it around the station.

And I thank him a lot for calling. The number's 526-4000. We want to hear from you.

Got some new music for you this morning, from an album called *Purple Heart*, Michael Callen, is the artist. And the song is called "Love Don't Need a Reason." This is after hours, radio celebrating life, from the heart of Montrose, on Houston's Pacifica 90.1 FM, 526-4000 is the number to call.

(SINGING) If your heart always did--

[MUSIC - MICHAEL CALLEN, "LOVE DON'T NEED A REASON"]

KEN: Hi. I just wanted to say something, about something that happened 4 years ago, today. And I would like to say this to Buddy. Happy anniversary, I love you.

MARK
TIMMERS: Was that 4 years ago?

KEN: 4 years ago today.

MARK
TIMMERS: We met at Rich's?

KEN: Mhm, at Rich's.

MARK
TIMMERS: I thought it was 4 years ago tomorrow.

KEN: Well, today is the 5th. It's our anniversary.

MARK
TIMMERS: I thought it was the 6th.

KEN: No, it's the 5th.

MARK
TIMMERS: I'm just kidding you, I know what day it is.

KEN: It's the only way I can keep track.

MARK
TIMMERS: How's that?

KEN: Your birthday. Your birthday is 5/6. And our anniversary is 6/5. That's the only way I can keep track of those two dates.

MAN 4: I hope somebody brought the cake.

MARK
TIMMERS: We don't have any cake. Maybe they'll have a cake for me at work this morning, because I am really hungry.

[LAUGHTER]

I have a headache that just won't quit. And we've got some new music for you, from Romanovsky & Phillips, the number's 526-4,000. We've got about 10 minutes left. This is from the album *Emotional Roller Coaster*. And I think that's the name of the song, right?

MAN 3: It is the name of the song.

MAN 1: Yeah.

MAN 3: It's how I spend my life.

(SINGING) Life with you's an endless playground. Ooh-wah-ooh.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN 1: Well, it's almost time to go home. Lesbian Gay Pride Week, getting ready to kick off like a one-legged man at a rear-end kickin'. Is that possible?

[LAUGHTER]

My dad always said that. Anyway, it's going to be great. 1988's going to be one of the greatest years. Because gay and lesbian people are coming out all over the world.

October the 11th, National Coming Out Day. We're going to be telling you all about that. After hours it's going to be sponsoring a dance, live broadcast over this radio station, KPFT.

On June the 18th, we're going to have an after-hours dance as part of the celebration of Lesbian Gay Pride Week. Our show will be broadcast entirely from Kindred Spirits, down on Richmond Avenue. Come down and dance with this and enjoy the night's activities.

It's just going to be a blast. We're going to have a lot, lot, lot, lot, lot, lot, lot, lot of fun! Meantime, you can call us at 529-4636.

That's the after-hours hotline. Tell us what you think of the show, or what you want to be on the show, if you're a singer or a poet and you have music for us to play, just get it to us and we'll be glad to do that for you. Don't let another day go by without coming out, kids. I tell you, it is just wonderful, right?

MAN 3: It is fantastic.

MAN 1: And it's only going to get better and better and better and better. And better and better. If you believe in anything, believe in yourself. And don't buy into the lies that everybody's been feeding you all of your life. It's not worth it.

If you have any doubts, call me up and we'll discuss it. 529-4636 that's the after-hours hotline. And I'll be there for you. In fact, this whole crew will be here for you.

I don't know where they are this morning. Where is everybody?

MAN 3: Took a night off.

MAN 1: I'm going to take a night off next week.

MAN 3: Oh boy. That means you're going to be here?

KEN: Yeah.

MARK

We were bar hopping.

TIMMERS:

MAN 1: Yeah, well? Did they get a lot? You say we, the Pride Week people, right?

MARK TIMMERS: Yeah, the Pride Week People were out bar hopping. We gave a lot of guides out. We took about nine kids, the guys out.

We had a lot of the outlying bars this week. And we're going to be out again next week, probably some more.

MAN 1: If you need one of the Pride Week guides, call us up at 529-4636, or 526-4000. I'll be able to be glad to get that to you. Also, the Lesbian Gay Pride Week Committee is going to meet today for the final time, 6 o'clock at Dignity Center.

If you have any questions at all about what's going on in the community, you can't find the guide, you can always call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard at 529-3211. Stay tuned for this. Get your dancing shoes out. Get them ready. Because on June the 18th, we're going to dance all night long down at Kindred Spirits. If you can't get out and dance with us, you can tune in and listen to it right here on your favorite radio station, KPFT. Right?

KEN: That's right.

MAN 3: That's right.

MAN 1: And I'll see you in a couple of weeks. And you'll be here next week, right, Mike?

MAN 3: I'll be here next week.

MAN 1: OK, baby. Listen kids, remember what we always say to you, it's better to be loved for what one is. Right?

MAN 3: That's right. Than try to be--

MAN 1: Than hated? No, that's not right. We can't even quote anything to you, this morning.

MAN 3: Just be yourself.

MAN 1: Just be yourself. We could say like Casey Kasem does, "Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars." Or you can get down on your knees and reach for--

MAN 3: The stars.

MAN 1: (LAUGHS) See you next week. Bye.

HARVEY MILK: We must destroy the myths, once and for all shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

[CHEERING]

As difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family. You must tell your relatives. You must tell your friends if indeed, they are your friends.

You must tell your neighbors. You must tell the people you work with. You must tell the people at the stores you shop in. You--

[CROWD ROARING]

[THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE]

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.

[CHEERING]

I asked people all over this country to do one thing, come out. Come out, America! Come out!

[MUSIC PLAYING]