

NARRATOR: The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

MAN: Can I tell you what the gay movement was about? After I got elected, I got the phone call I knew I'd eventually get, got quite a few of them.

One was from a 17-year-old child in a small town in Minnesota. And the boy is handicapped. And the boy's parents found out he's gay. And they want to put him in an insane asylum. That boy needs help.

And the gay movement is about the letter I got from South West Africa, when you read about a gay person getting elected here. And that person has hope. And that 17-year-old kid in Minnesota has hope.

And we have gay leaders not understanding that. And I'm more worried about their own personal power. They're not gay leaders. They're offensive.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ROBIN TYLER: I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be in Texas. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me had not something in my life and this state prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us.

I am here tonight, because it is time that all of us love this space that gave us life and has nurtured us and taught us our values. Stand up and claim the history of this state for freedom and justice and human respect, away from the forces of narrow mindedness and bigotry, that too often dominate politics in the state of Texas.

LEA DELARIA: Say it! Say it so they can hear you in the Capitol!

(CROWD CHANTING) 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!

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

LEA DELARIA & (IN UNISON) Good afternoon. And welcome to the national march on Washington DC for Gay and Lesbian Rights

BRUCE and [INAUDIBLE]!

HOPKINS:

[CHEERING]

LEA DELARIA: Let's hear it out there!

[CHEERING]

I'm Lea DeLaria.

BRUCE I'm Bruce Hopkins.

HOPKINS:

LEA DELARIA: I'm a dyke.

BRUCE I'm a faggot.

HOPKINS:

LEA DELARIA: And we're best friends! I want you savor the 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.

[CHEERING]

Look at you.

[CHEERING]

500,000 strong.

[CHEERING]

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

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

HARVEY MILK: Yes.

PROTESTER: Come on out. [LAUGHS] Join us. Bring your friends.

HARVEY MILK: What do you think about the turnout so far?

PROTESTER: Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.

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 in the stores you shop in. You--

[CHEERING]

And once they realize that we are indeed their children, and we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all. And once you do, you will feel so much better.

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

HARVEY MILK: Yes.

PROTESTER: Come on out. [LAUGHS] Join us. Bring your friend.

HARVEY MILK: What do you think about the turnout so far?

PROTESTER: Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.

HARVEY MILK: And I asked people all over this country to do one thing, come out. Come out, America. Come out.

[CHEERING]

BUDDY I had to play that Harvey Milk thing again, because that's my favorite part.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: I know. That's great. Good morning.

BUDDY Hey, hello. The Berlin Wall is coming down.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Is it good night or good morning?

BUDDY It's good morning.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BUDDY The Berlin Wall is coming down.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Isn't that the greatest news ever?

BUDDY Dr. Joan Raymond playing judge and jury.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Isn't that the worst news ever?

[LAUGHTER]

BUDDY There's so much going on. And believe you me, we're here to tell you all about it.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BUDDY This is *After Hours* radio, celebrating life from the heart of Montrose on Houston's KPFT 90.1 FM. We're here.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: And we're queer.

BUDDY Right, Alan? Where's Alan? Where is he? He was here last week. He was here in person last week.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BUDDY Are you ready?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: I'm ready.

BUDDY OK, here we go. We're queer.

JOHNSTON:

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

BUDDY [LAUGHS] OK, we'll be nice, right?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And we have some special guests.

BUDDY Yes. The 1990 Lesbian Gay Pride Week committee is going to be here this morning to talk about the parade and

JOHNSTON: all the great things that are coming up next year as we celebrate the 21st anniversary of something called Stonewall.

JIMMY CARPER: As we swing into the lesbian and gay '90s.

BUDDY The gay '90s. [CHUCKLES] And all I can tell you is you guys in TDC, what happened? Did they take away your

JOHNSTON: stamps?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, what's the deal, no handkerchiefs?

BUDDY No, Ray was here last week. And I've got a bone to pick with you.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

BUDDY We'll do that here in a minute.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Anyway, we love you out there.

BUDDY Yeah, the phones are open at 526-4000, 526-KP-- [STAMMERS] What radio station is this?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right, KPFT.

BUDDY [LAUGHS]

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: 90.1 on your dial.

BUDDY And we're going to help you rip that closet door open and come on out, baby, because we're here. And we're

JOHNSTON: ready to celebrate 19-- what?

JIMMY CARPER: 90.

BUDDY I thought it was 2000 and something.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: No, not yet.

BUDDY When does that happen?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: When I'm old.

BUDDY You're already old.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Hey.

BUDDY [LAUGHS] We'll be back in a minute. We just want to have fun. 526-4000, 526-KPFT, that's the number to call.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Hello.

BUDDY I heard from the police department.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: No kidding. What did they say?

BUDDY They want me to come take a test on Wednesday.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Are you testable?

BUDDY I've already been tested.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: I'll bet.

BUDDY [LAUGHS] We'll be back in a minute.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: On Wednesday, how come I'm so long? That's five weeks ago, wasn't it?

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Hang on a minute.

BUDDY We'll rag the police department too.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: I know that's right.

BUDDY Yeah, we'll be back in a minute. 526-4000.

JOHNSTON:

[MUSIC - CYNDI LAUPER, "GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN"]

I don't believe that.

JIMMY CARPER: But girls just want to have fun.

BUDDY Well, is that all we want to have?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: No.

BUDDY We want to have a--

JOHNSTON:

[MUSIC - "YABBA DABBA DOO"]

Uh-oh, look out. We're here and we're definitely queer. I can prove that if you were here and you were Harry.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, here we go again.

BUDDY [LAUGHS] It's dangerous, baby.

JOHNSTON:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Yes, hello there. Have you been down to the drugstore this week?

JIMMY CARPER: No, why, what's going on?

BUDDY There's a new pill on the market.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: No kidding. What does it do?

BUDDY You haven't heard about it?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: No.

BUDDY We have an announcement here for you.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, great, yeah.

BUDDY OK, listen to this.

JOHNSTON:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN: Here it is. Become Butcher Nellie in less than a day, simply by taking the little pink pill. There's no need to recruit, seduce, or rely on environmental conditions anymore. The little pink pill does it all. Just one tablet before breakfast breaks the cycle of heterosexuality for a full 24 hours.

For years, heteros have been asking gays if they would take a pill if it would make them straight. Well, at last Queersville Labs have responded to this dilemma by giving heteros a taste of their own medicine. Yes, the little pink pill does it all. The boring cliched life of a heterosexual can vanish in one gulp. Mrs. Betty Morgan of Gresham Oregon talks about the little pink pill.

BETTY My life was a mess. Bridge clubs, gross husband, alcoholism, you name it. Then one morning, I got my act

MORGAN: together and took a little pink pill. In an instant, my sexual orientation changed as did my desire to be married.

Well, within a week, I ditch my old man, met a terrific woman, and got joint custody of my children. All this without water retention, headaches, or loss of appetite. Thanks, little pink pill. You made a new woman out of me.

MAN: Results may vary but don't consult a physician. The little pink pill, it does it all.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) With so many gay men and so little time.

MAN: (SINGING) Give me your guy. Give me your guy. Give me your guy. And find a great gay.

BUDDY Romanovsky and Phillips. And they'll be coming soon. Can we say that, coming soon?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BUDDY Will the FCC let us say that?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: We can say that.

BUDDY OK, they'll be coming soon in December.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: December third, fourth, something like that.

BUDDY Hey, there was a guy or two guys actually-- there will be more than two-- arrested out at Memorial Park.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, the old Memorial Park trick.

BUDDY Yeah, trick. [LAUGHS] Trick, trick, trick. Well, there are a lot of words for it. Number one, you shouldn't be out in

JOHNSTON: public having sex, because that's illegal except in, where, Denmark, Sweden?

JIMMY CARPER: Is it? This is Texas. It's illegal to have sex in your bedroom.

BUDDY Oh, OK. We can't have sex in our bedroom?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: No.

BUDDY Well, anyway, there was a high school principal and a high school teacher that were arrested in a bathroom in

JOHNSTON: Memorial Park.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-huh, what for?

BUDDY Doing it.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Doing what?

BUDDY I don't know. One of them was supposed to be doing it. And the other one was supposed to be shaking his stuff at

JOHNSTON: an undercover cop.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah?

BUDDY I know a couple of cops that will never mind. I better not say that until I get back on at HPD, and then we can say

JOHNSTON: that.

JIMMY CARPER: We don't want to talk about the big E, do we?

BUDDY But Dr. Joan Raymond was on-- she was out speaking against this. And she's already played-- well, here's what

JOHNSTON: she had to say. Listen to this.

JOAN As the superintendent of schools, I can tell you that I am totally disgusted with this kind of alleged behavior.

RAYMOND: There is no room for that in the school system. And there is certainly no room for it in our society. And believe you me, this district will take action very, very quickly.

BUDDY Sounds like she's got her mind made up.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BUDDY Let's see. What'd she say?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: No, she did say alleged.

BUDDY Alleged.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Alleged, alleged, yes.

BUDDY But still, it sounds like she's got her mind made up.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Sounds like she's already had her trial.

BUDDY If Dr. Raymond would realize that 10%-- maybe, well, at least 10% of her students in her school system are gay and lesbian kids, and teach them that it's OK to express their sexuality. And it's OK to date each other. And it's OK-- wait a minute. We're getting way off base, because that's not going to happen.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

BUDDY Right? They're not going to teach you that it's OK to be gay. They're going to continue to tell you that your life doesn't count. And you're never going to amount to anything. And that it's wrong and dirty and filthy. And we know that's not true though.

JIMMY CARPER: And we come on every week and tell you that.

BUDDY Yeah and this is called *After Hours*. And by the way, we got a phone call last week that I'd like to share with you. **JOHNSTON:** It could be one of Dr. Raymond's students.

MAN (ON PHONE): Yes, I just wanted to agree with the guy. Well, not calling the airport [INAUDIBLE]. But I think all y'all gays and lesbians ought to be stood up against the brick wall and shot. Or if not, the gas chambers along with the Vietnamese and half the niggers and half the Mexicans. And screw them people over out in the world, they won't even care for us poor folks. Yeah, you queers.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BUDDY You're listening after Hours on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. Coming up at 2:00 AM this way out with Greg Gordon and **JOHNSTON:** Lucia Chappelle.

LUCIA *This Way Out, The International Lesbian and Gay Radio Magazine.* I'm Lucia Chappelle.
CHAPPELLE:

GREG GORDON: And I'm Greg Gordon.

MAN: Tchaikovsky expressed his gayness quite clearly in his sixth symphony, the "Pathétique."

GREG GORDON: Analyzing Tchaikovsky's passion and relating some news.

LUCIA You've discovered *This Way Out*.
CHAPPELLE:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BUDDY Immediately following *This Way Out*, stay tuned for *AIDS in Focus*.
JOHNSTON:

MAN: In this edition of *AIDS in Focus*, we'll look at the nation's first successful voter initiative that repealed the city's AIDS anti-discrimination ordinance.

MAN: We have an awful lot of people out there that thought this was going to win, and did not get off of their blessed assurance, and do anything about it. They simply sat at home.

BUDDY And we'll also look at the role the media has played in the epidemic.

JOHNSTON:

MAN: Not only does the beginning of the AIDS epidemic coincide with the Reagan era, it coincides with a major shift of the news media to the right.

BUDDY Following *AIDS in Focus*, playwright, Harvey Fierstein, brings us a frightening look at defamation.

JOHNSTON:

MAN: A practicing homosexual is far more dangerous to society than a person who commits a murder per se.

MAN: If an employer doesn't want to have homosexual employees, I think he ought to have that right.

MAN: If you want to say I'm bigoted against a bunch of queers rubbing each other, I think it's as sick as anything can be.

MAN: You can't be a [INAUDIBLE] be family-oriented. That's a contradiction in terms.

MAN: You guys are guys who've just never matured.

MAN: Sexually retarded.

MAN: Totally repulsive.

MAN: Screw the gay community.

MAN: Who cares?

MAN: That's right.

MAN: Let them croak.

BUDDY Produced by Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, GLAD. Harvey Fierstein brings us this frightening look at how we're attacked daily in the media. And to round out the morning, at 3:00 AM, the *After Hours* collective brings you the archive hour.

This morning, Aaron Fricke's *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*.

MAN: Listen, I did it. I finally told my parents I'm gay.

MAN: (YAWNING) Yeah, that's great. How'd they take it?

MAN: Well, my mother kind of suspected. But my father, he just broke down and cried.

MAN: You're kidding.

MAN: No, it was pretty bad. He was sitting at the kitchen table. He didn't say anything. The tears just rolled down his face.

MAN: That's OK. You'll get over it.

MAN: [SIGHS] God, I hope so. It was awful.

MAN: How do you feel? That's the important thing.

MAN: I feel all right. I really do.

[APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN: Get ready. Any second now, you can run to the fridge and tank up, little boy *After Hours* returns here on KPFT Houston. Celebrating life in the heart of Montrose. OK, get ready, go.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

POKEY Hi, this is Pokey Anderson.

ANDERSON:

SHERRY WOLF: And I'm Sherry Wolf.

POKEY And we have a quick quiz for you. What's a feminist? A, someone who hates men. B, someone with no sense of

ANDERSON: humor and no bra. C, well-- D, come on, you can come up with something.

SHERRY WOLF: Well, it just takes too long. You can't say it real quickly.

POKEY Well, if you really want to know, tune in to *Breakthrough*, Friday mornings from 8:00 to 11:00 AM on KPFT

ANDERSON: Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN: Welcome back to the New Gospel Revival Hour. [LAUGHS] Gotcha! Seriously, folks, it's *After Hours* on KPFT Houston. Celebrating life in the heart of Montrose. And now I'm handing it over to the collective to see what they do with it.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BUDDY Blow on that. Let's see if it works.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: [BLOWS ON MICROPHONE]

BUDDY Oh, yeah, that's good.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

BUDDY What is this song-- What is this song remind you of?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: This reminds me of the '70s. Isn't this our national gay treasure?

BUDDY Sylvester?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, versus Pat Crowley.

BUDDY No, it's Sylvester.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Ah.

BUDDY He reminds me of *The Times of Harvey Milk*.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Was this the number he did in the movie?

BUDDY This is the number that he's singing when there are like thousands and thousands of queers everywhere.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

BUDDY And they're having a party called--

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Called the?

BUDDY What?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Called the?

BUDDY What is it called?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Called the?

BUDDY What is-- I don't know what it's called.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

BUDDY Christopher Street west. What do they call it in San Francisco?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Something like that.

BUDDY Do you know what they call it, Bill? They call it something. Let's call and ask Harry. Oh, never mind. I can't say

JOHNSTON: that. We're talking about celebrations. And they happen yearly, annually, once a winter year across the United States.

JIMMY CARPER: We like to think it happens all year round.

BUDDY Well, it does. But there's only one official week.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

BUDDY Everybody else has got their holidays. So we've got ours, right?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

BUDDY And it happens on the annual marking of something called Stonewall. Which is what?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Anyone who listens to this show knows what that is.

BUDDY Well, what is it?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Gay liberation.

BUDDY What Stonewall though?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Stonewall, what was it originally?

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: That sleazy little bar in New York, where drag queens and dykes took on the cops.

BUDDY It was sleazy too.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BUDDY Right?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Very much.

BUDDY And there was-- well, where's that tape at that says-- right here. Don't be so heavy, baby. Listen to this.

JOHNSTON:

MAN: The disorders began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar.

BUDDY Now that's the key right there. The disorders began with a routine police raid. Routine is something that happens

JOHNSTON: all the time, every once in a while just for the hell of it.

JIMMY CARPER: And that's what was happening in New York at the time, and what happened in Houston for many years after.

BUDDY And what happened in-- what's still going on in gay and lesbian bars across the country, in cities where there
JOHNSTON: aren't such things as switchboards and radio stations and *Montrose Voices*, and this week in Texas magazines--

JIMMY CARPER: And Pride Week committees.

BUDDY --and Pride Week committees. And joining us this morning is--

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Bill Whiting.

GARY VAN And Gary Van Ooteghem.

OOTEGHEM:

BUDDY With the 1990-- is it 1990 already?

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: It is, indeed.

BUDDY And we're already getting ready for Pride Week.

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: We've been getting ready for Pride Week. Getting ready for Pride Week basically never stops any more. As soon as Pride Week happens one year, we take a quick rest, and immediately hit the streets running, so to speak, with Pride Week for the next year. We never really stopped last year.

BUDDY So what's going on at Pride Week?

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Well--

BUDDY We know what we think is going on. So what's going on? You give us the official. What's going on?

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Well, what are you asking? Are you asking what's going on within Pride week's committee, or are you asking about events?

BUDDY Events.

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Well, we're getting ready for our second fundraiser of the year. We've had one already. It was rather successful at the Brazos River Bottom.

It was a Halloween costume contest. And we gave away a number of prizes to best costumes and scariest costumes and that sort of thing. And now we're getting ready for the Night Under the Mistletoe, December 1st.

BUDDY That sounds like fun.

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: It's going to be a lot of fun.

BUDDY So what exactly is Pride Week? What's the history behind the committee? Or how does it-- what happens? Where
JOHNSTON: does it come from? How does it get started?

BILL WHITING: Well, Pride Week is sort of an ongoing thing. I don't think there's any getting started it. It builds itself anew each year simply because it dissolves itself. And the people that want to be involved in it come back together at the next meeting. But it is a committee of the Montrose Activity Center or underneath the [INAUDIBLE] of the Montrose Activity Center.

We have the 501C3 status of the Montrose Activity Center. But we are somewhat independent of the Montrose Activity Center in the sense that it does not exercise real direction of the committee. The committee is pretty much independent and goes forward to provide a resource for the entire gay community, for establishing and having events for the week or this-- now 10 to 11 days of Pride Week in Houston.

We put on a few things ourselves. This past year we had a concert that was sponsored by Gay Pride Week as well as the Longhorn Band. And we also put on the parade as actual Pride Week events. But then there were a number of other events that we facilitated and helped coordinate and just generally, not so much sponsored as promoted.

GARY VAN OOTEGHEM: And oftentimes there's a lot of confusion perhaps in a lot of people's minds also, in that there are so many different organizations that work together, that it doesn't give the appearance as we want it to. That there is one major function and one-- I mean, not one major-- one major series of functions and one major organization.

But quite literally, it's made out of quite a few different independent organizations that are just working together as a team. It's something that has been fostered here over a number of years. And I might add that in a national sense, each of the other cities have come online by themselves independently.

And no one's really brought up all the cities in some kind of an organized fashion. We hear just like the rest of the country. Some cities were ahead of us in doing this. When it became the time for us to do it, which went back quite a few years, more than a decade, decade and a half, we picked it up on our own and started doing it. Whoever was there in the forefront, Ray Hill was there in some of the very early days.

And I remember Ray doing a few of the parades in which it was just to go with four or five right turns around the block. But we did it. And what happens across the country is that all of the different cities, mainly Metropolitan areas, all felt the need to speak up and quite independent of each other. That also has become a cohesive force on the national front.

Much like the number of independent organizations here operate under that one organization, the Gay Pride Week. On a national level, there's that too. It's like a confederation. They don't all have the same themes each year, but generally many times, they do.

BUDDY Do the themes changed every year?

JOHNSTON:

GARY VAN OOTEGHEM: The themes change generally here each year. I think one of the things I noticed this last time was that more cities try to pick up the same theme, which is a good thought.

BILL WHITING: The International Association of Gay Pride Coordinators meets every year and has for the last few years. I wouldn't want to say exactly how many.

BUDDY Didn't you go to that meeting?

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Yes, I was fortunate enough to be one of the Houston representatives.

BUDDY That was in--

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: In Vancouver.

BUDDY Vancouver.

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: British Columbia. It's a lovely place. It looks like San Francisco of the North.

BUDDY Oh.

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Without the earthquakes, of course.

BUDDY [LAUGHS]

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: But at any rate, at this conference, which this year was in Vancouver, the assembled coordinators vote to establish a national theme. And this year's theme is look to the future.

There were a number of themes that were suggested. But there was a voting process. And, of course, look to the future won out over basically anything saying gay '90s. However, droll that might be, it was not particularly popular.

So, yes, each city is allowed, is encouraged to develop a local theme if they prefer. But each city is allowed to use the national theme if they choose.

GARY VAN Quite by chance also, I might add, the celebration of that is always on the anniversary, of course, of Stonewall.

OOTEGHEM: Even there though there's some latitude in making decisions. Vancouver being-- I think they're celebrating the same thing we all are, but at a different time, but more close to us. Dallas--

BUDDY Well, Dallas--

JOHNSTON:

GARY VAN Which is usually--

OOTEGHEM:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

--a little bit later than us.

BUDDY When it's nice and cool.

JOHNSTON:

GARY VAN Yeah.

OOTEGHEM:

BILL WHITING: Well, across the country, it seems that a number of cities all do this. I know that we always try to have our around the time of the Stonewall riot. But it seemed that a number of cities stagger the things around. And in fact, in two years at the 25th anniversary-- I believe it's two years at the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

At any rate, whenever it is, 25 years, they're going to suggest that-- or they have suggested that everyone make sure they not have it on Stonewall day. So that everyone can join New York and have a major celebration in the city of New York for the 25th anniversary.

BUDDY That'd be fun.

JOHNSTON:

GARY VAN That would be fun.

OOTEGHEM:

BUDDY I don't think New York is ready for that.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Wouldn't it be fun to have all the major cities stagger them. You could just go to a different celebration in every week.

BILL WHITING: Well, that's what they do in California. They start in San Diego and work their way up the coast towards San Francisco. And, of course, LA has this wonderful event about the same time. But they try to have it so-- they have a national regional association that has its own little acronym, but right now, it evades me.

That encourages different communities to put them on now. They have a gay pride celebration in San Jose. They have one in San Diego. They have one in Long Beach. They have them all over the state. And as a result of that, they do try to stagger them, so that you can make each and every one.

BUDDY When you called us about coming on the show, what's the goal of the 1990 committee? Did they have a

JOHNSTON: centralized goal or--

BILL WHITING: Yes, there is a goal of the committee. The committee is as always wanting to put on the absolute best possible Lesbian Gay Pride series of events that Houston can do. We feel like Houston's celebration is the oldest in the state of Texas, and therefore, should be the best in the state of Texas.

And I think it certainly is. But it's never good enough. And certainly this year we're looking to expand the parade. I've heard people saying they would like to see it half again as big. I see no reason to stop at half again. I would like to see it twice as large as it was last year. And last year's was a wonderful parade.

We feel like it would have had even more than the 25,000 that the police estimated in attendance, had it not been that there was a tropical storm ready to hit the city at any moment. And in fact, if you'll think back, the skies cleared about 15 minutes before step off. And a few hours after we all got in, they clouded back up and began to rain again, so--

BUDDY It's never rains on our parade.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Never ever.

BUDDY It never. Never has. I remember frying chicken one time in a storm. And I was thinking, oh, god, this is going to kill us. Never rains on us. It's always beautiful. And it's exciting because once that crowd gets down there, it's kind of out of control. It's like all those Germans climbing on that Berlin Wall.

It doesn't really matter who you are or what you're doing. Once that massive group of people get there, it's just kind of like their day. And we're just all standing around watching it happen.

BILL WHITING: Yes, one of the most exciting things that I think I've experienced in my lifetime-- and I've experienced several that were rather memorable, is actually being in that parade and heading up Westheimer Street. And seeing the crowds as they get thicker and thicker, and hearing them cheer and shout, and you get all goose pimply, and your back climbs up and down. And it's just very exciting.

And by the time you get up to the curve on Westheimer, you really have some energy built up. And you're ready to jump up and shout just like right now. Just sitting here talking about it, I feel like jumping up and shout and waving my hands.

BUDDY We could play those--

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Funny you just mentioned that because that's--

BUDDY We could play those tapes.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: That's exactly what Buddy and I did at this last parade. We walked right down the middle of Westheimer taping it all, our reactions, people's reactions.

BILL WHITING: It's quite exciting. It's really one of the uplifting events of your life. And I certainly would hope that all people, whether they're gay or lesbian or straight or nothing. I would like to see everybody down there enjoying the love and the togetherness, and just the excitement of people coming out and saying, I'm OK. And I think you're pretty neat too.

GARY VAN OOTEGHEM: One of the other features about that though is when people come out of all ages, and you start seeing that there's young and old alike that come out there. Also, there's a lot of young people, teenagers that really haven't found their identity yet. And I'm sure that there's more than one out there that are for the first time, seeing images of what-- some sense of calling that they have too. It's an internal call. I don't know that--

We all have the same clock or even go to the same tune or time. But when that calling comes, sometimes you want to just see that there's others like you. Just like the first time you come out, and you start noticing that-- the first time you find out there's a gay bar. And then you know there's hundreds like you. And then pretty soon you find out there's thousands like you. And as we've come to find out there's millions like us.

BUDDY How do we get those people out in the streets though?

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Well, the way you do that is by exciting them, by having public relations events, just letting them know that it's there. You want to remember Gay Pride-- excuse me, Lesbian Gay Pride Week is not a protest march. Lesbian Gay Pride Week has not been a protest march for some time. Lesbian Gay Pride Week is a celebration, a celebration of love and togetherness, a celebration of diversity.

It is not a time to stand up and shout you better give us our rights, because they can't give us our rights. We have our rights. It is simply there for us to take them. And so long as we say, you have to give them to us, that means we are denying our rights to ourselves. We need to simply say, we are OK. We have the same rights as everyone else and take them.

GARY VAN OOTEGHEM: However, just to make the point. It's nice when thousands of us turn out, so that they know there are that many of us.

BILL WHITING: Oh, yes, it's very helpful.

BUDDY That's true too.

JOHNSTON:

GARY VAN OOTEGHEM: Yeah, it's important to be seen. It's an image builder. It's also one of the reasons that I try to stress why it's important to have a good image with the parade. We are on view by others.

BUDDY What do you mean a good image?

JOHNSTON:

GARY VAN OOTEGHEM: I think that our best foot forward ought to always go. You can have fun. You can have it in a respectable manner. But there's always media that's out there trying to pick away at us. And I know what you're thinking and trying to direct me towards, but--

BUDDY What? [LAUGHS]

JOHNSTON:

GARY VAN OOTEGHEM: Well, there's been a controversy in the past, several parades. But the tone of any one parade has to be not only to the people that we, in fact, want to be seen and seen by and be a part of. But also, I think part of it is imagery of what it looks like to the press. Because the press is not our friend, has not been. And any time they can make us look like fools, they do. Sometimes we help them immensely.

BUDDY So what's the answer to that?

JOHNSTON:

GARY VAN Nothing. There's no one group or any one policy, I think, that can govern everybody. I think everybody has to have their own idea of what's the right thing to do. We do celebrate the very independent and diversity we have. I think we have to have some control over, so we don't look ridiculous though, because there are times when we do.

BILL WHITING: But let's do speak to that controversy that supposedly did swirl about Gay Pride Week last year. Last year, it was Gay Lesbian Pride Week. This year it's Lesbian Gay Pride Week. Next year it will be back. We do this--

BUDDY But this controversy has been going on with the parades forever.

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Well, the controversy will continue. There's always going to be controversy, because we're controversial people, just by the fact that we exist. But what I'm talking about is the controversy within our community.

Somehow or other, there came to be an idea that there was not going to be drag allowed in the parade. And I don't know where this came from. Even as late as the last meeting before the parade, people were saying, why can't we have drag in the parade? And in fact, we repeatedly told people we were not denying anybody in the parade the right to appear in drag.

We had drag entries in the parade. The only thing that was denied to people in the parade was lascivious costumes. And in that sense, there was a dress code established that said, you couldn't show body parts that were illegal.

BUDDY Have they done that before in years past? Because I don't ever remember seeing any body parts--

JOHNSTON:

GARY VAN Very close to it. Very, very close to borderline if not past borderline, yes.

OOTEGHEM:

BUDDY Did you see the pictures from the Dallas parade?

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: What does that got to do with Houston?

BUDDY But did you see the pictures from the Dallas parade?

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Yes, yeah. Yes, I did. I just don't see that Dallas has anything to do with Houston. I don't see that San Francisco's parade has anything to do with Houston. Houston's parade is specific to Houston. And it should reflect the values of Houston, Houston's gay community, Houston as a city.

BUDDY What values though? Who's going to decide what the values are?

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Well, the rules were voted on in the committee. And the people who went to the meetings voted on the rules of what they would be and they adopted. And they were brought up from the floor.

GARY VAN There's not any act of censorship, if that's what you're implying or trying to suggest or have an answer towards.

OOTEGHEM: It is merely one that people are reminded over and over that we have a certain responsibility to act in a responsible manner, certainly in public, has to be with TV cameras on us, has to be one of the greatest times of acting that way.

BUDDY But whether we're in three-piece suits or in Speedo bathing suits, the community's never going to accept the fact that we sleep with each other.

BILL WHITING: Well, I think that's not true. I think that certainly there are significant portions of the community that accept that fact right now. And if we will simply allow the rest of them to catch up, they can be brought along.

Just a few minutes ago, you made the comment that Dr. Raymond and the school board would never be telling the kids that it was OK for them to be gay. And I think that's not fair, because one of the things I learned while I was in Vancouver-- I picked up a Seattle newspaper and read a rather large article about what the Seattle schools were doing for their gay and lesbian children.

BUDDY OK, but that's Seattle. That's Seattle. We're talking about HISD.

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Well-- but you're saying never. And what I'm saying is if it can happen in Seattle, it can happen here if we let it, if we force it.

JIMMY CARPER: But homosexuality is not against the law in Washington.

BILL WHITING: It's not against the law in Houston either. What is against the law is the act of homosexual sex. And that is not the same as being a-- that is not the same as homosexuality. There is no law in Texas that says homosexuality, per say, is illegal. What there is a law is one saying, if you do anything about, it is illegal.

JIMMY CARPER: Practicing homosexuality.

BILL WHITING: Practicing homosexuality.

BUDDY So we're all supposed to abstain?

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Basically, that's the ridiculous 2106 law.

GARY VAN Yeah.

OOTEGHEM:

BUDDY That's the key word right there, ridiculous.

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Of course, it's ridiculous. It makes handicapped people, criminals-- if the only way see--

BUDDY That's what we've been complaining about and bitching about for two years. My problems with Pride Week go

JOHNSTON: back--

GARY VAN We've been complaining about that for years.

OOTEGHEM:

BUDDY My problems with Pride Week go back to 1987, 1988, I think. Was is '88 or '87?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: It was '88.

BUDDY Well, one of those years, two or three years ago. When I was on the executive committee, and I was in a Pride

JOHNSTON: Week meeting. And I said, we can have the best parade in the world. But if the people aren't there cheering and applauding and marching along with us, then it's all worthless. We're just not getting anywhere.

Why have 20,000, when we could have 300,000? And a prominent lesbian in the community, she stood up. And she said, it's not our place to bring the community out of the closet. And I still don't understand that. If we can't set the example for these kids-- I know Dr. Raymond's not going to do it.

GARY VAN Ask her on your show.

OOTEGHEM:

BUDDY Oh, she's been here many times. [LAUGHS]

JOHNSTON:

GARY VAN Not every person--

OOTEGHEM:

BUDDY But we can't--

JOHNSTON:

GARY VAN Not every person that speaks as though they are in charge of these things-- many times people speak for their

OOTEGHEM: own self. And they don't speak for a community as a whole. Although lots of times, we say we speak for a community as a whole, we don't always do that.

BUDDY She was also part of the executive board. I just couldn't understand that attitude.

JOHNSTON:

GARY VAN Lots of people are on that executive board but not all of them speak as one voice. There are many still different

OOTEGHEM: voices no matter where you are. We still work in a pluralistic society.

BILL WHITING: Yeah, this is still America. And it's up to the individual. If they want to be out, they get to be out. And if don't want to be out, they don't have to be out.

I have been out so long, it's hard for me to remember not being out. I've raised my lover's kids of-- we've had a gay family. We've been profiled in the Houston Post. We've been active in gay life in Houston. We were not active in gay life in Austin, when we had our business there. But that's because we just made a personal choice that we didn't want to be politically active in Austin. When we came back to Houston, we chose to be politically active again.

We have been out so long, it looked like up to me. I don't know what to say about people who are not out. But I can certainly understand that they have their own reasons. And it is a difficult decision.

GARY VAN But it's a personal one.

OOTEGHEM:

BILL WHITING: And it's is a personal decision.

GARY VAN It's one that each one makes. It's just like abortion frankly. It's that person's decision, no one else's.

OOTEGHEM:

BILL WHITING: And that's what Gay Pride is for, so they can see that it is OK to be out. The people that are marching down the street, that are riding those floats, that are cheering the people on-- if you'll think about Gay Pride, the people on the floats are cheering as much as the people that are on the curbs.

And what we're saying to people is come out, come out, come out. But if you don't want to, that's OK. At least, come down to Montrose for this week and see that it's OK.

And that is what Gay Pride Week is, is an effort to get all the organizations possible to come up to the very public, to have events, so that all people can come to them. So that we can have a lot of people that decide they do want to be out. But it's not up to us to drag them, kicking and screaming, out of their closet. It's up to us to provide an example for them.

And as to whether or not 300,000 people come down or 25,000 people come down-- I would prefer to see 300,000. But I don't think that that is a reasonable expectation with our previous parades. I think that is a very reasonable expectation with our future parades. And one of the reasons that is so reasonable is because we're doing such an outreach to the public. We are now going very actively after media coverage of our events, both during the event itself and preliminary to the event.

GARY VAN Well, we're also getting a lot more professional in as to-- after a number of years of doing it, we've learned how to do the outreach. And we're trying to be as effective as we can. We have a better class of people-- quality people is what I mean-- in the PR side that are professional by their own occupation.

BILL WHITING: Why, thank you, Gary.

GARY VAN Yes. Well, you do a good job. And in that outreach, that's part of it, because when they do it, they do it in such a professional way. That, in fact, the word is getting out more now. And this is still only in the early stages if you think about where we're going.

BILL WHITING: We're very organized this year. And we are really covering some ground. We have already established our logo contest for this coming year, which I want to speak about in a few moments. We've already handled several controversies, put them behind us, and gone on to new ones, if you will will.

We are on our second fundraiser. And we have a number of fundraisers coming. We have events planned. And we even have some important elections coming up that we'd like to speak about in the next few minutes.

BUDDY So-- wait, few minutes? This is still 4:00. [LAUGHS] You'll get plenty of time. So everything's fine.

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: I think everything's fine. It's not perfect. Life isn't perfect.

BUDDY We'll talk about that in a minute. This is *After Hours* on KPFT.

JOHNSTON:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NARRATOR: KPFT Houston.

BUDDY What did you say?

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: I said don't dance around if you've got a question.

BUDDY We got lots of questions.

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: Well, ask the question. Don't try to pull it out. Ask the question and let's deal with it publicly. We're not here to dance around.

BUDDY So what are you here for?

JOHNSTON:

BILL WHITING: To tell people about the things that are coming up at Gay Pride, the election for the female coach here, to invite people to take part in it, to encourage people and their organizations, to get together and start working on events, to contact our planning coordinators, to come and volunteer for our committees, to volunteer for their committees. It is not our Gay Pride. It is their Gay Pride.