

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

(SINGING) Standing in the shadow too long. Waiting on the sidelines too long. Watching and wanting you. Now you are going to want me too. I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding. Coming out of hiding looking for somebody like you. Coming out of hiding, coming on the run. Coming for nobody like you. Coming out of hiding. Coming out of the hiding. Ooh, ooh, out of the hiding. Ooh, oh, oh, coming. Oh, oh, oh, out of the hiding.

**BOARD** As president of the board-- I mean, as president of the board of supervisors, it's my duty to make this  
**PRESIDENT:** announcement. Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed.

[CROWD SHOUTING]

**WOMAN:** Todo, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.

**WOMAN:** They don't understand something. They don't understand something we are not talking about crotch politics. This is not a movement from the waist down. We're talking about our right to love and to choose and to live. And I don't care about straight politics. And I don't care about straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding-- we are demanding our civil rights!

**MAN:** And I ask people all over this country to do one thing.

(SINGING) Come out of hiding. Come out of hiding. Come out of hiding. Come out of hiding.

**MAN:** 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]

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

**HARVEY MILK:** Come on out. Join us.

(SINGING) Coming out of hiding, looking for somebody like you. Coming out of hiding, coming on the run. Coming on the hiding like you.

**HARVEY MILK:** 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.

[CHEERING]

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

[CHEERING]

**BUDDY:** It's 2:03 in the morning. Beautiful Sunday.

**JIMMY:** Yeah.

**BUDDY:** Wow, that was interesting.

**JIMMY:** That sure was.

**BUDDY:** Well, the 1990 lesbian and gay Pride Week committee with us were part of the committee.

**JIMMY:** Bill is PR, I believe, and I'm not sure what position Gary has.

**BUDDY:** I'm glad to see Bill in the PR because this year is the first-- this is the first time that we have ever gotten a press release--

**JIMMY:** Really?

**BUDDY:** --from Pride Week. I didn't get a single anything from them last year, nothing.

**JIMMY:** Wow, the boy is really on the job.

**BUDDY:** So he didn't look like a boy to me, child. He looks like a man.

**JIMMY:** That's true, yes.

**BUDDY:** I kept wanting to see his chest, though. Did you have any hair on his chest?

**JIMMY:** I couldn't tell. He was wearing what? He's wearing a T-shirt.

**BUDDY:** Anyway, I guess-- I don't like--

**JIMMY:** Besides, he's married.

**BUDDY:** He is?

**JIMMY:** Yes.

**BUDDY:** It's not controversy, is it? I guess it is in a way.

**JIMMY:** It seemed that way at a couple of points.

**BUDDY:** Because we know that everybody's not happy with the way things are, and they did have a valid point. If you don't like the way things are, get involved.

**JIMMY:** That's right.

**BUDDY:** But it's important to note what's going on in-- no, never mind.

**JIMMY:** Well, it's important to get involved. It's also important--

**BUDDY:** It is important to get involved.

**JIMMY:** --once you get there not to be intimidated. If you've got something to say, stand up and say it. Just even if it's your first time there, don't ever feel like, oh, gosh, this is my first time. I don't feel like I can really say anything. Stand up and say it.

**BUDDY:** I felt that way in the last two meetings.

**JIMMY:** They'll give you two minutes to say it.

**BUDDY:** But we'll take his advice and go and see what happens.

**JIMMY:** Yeah.

**BUDDY:** But I didn't recognize that gentleman that was here.

**JIMMY:** Gary's been around a long time.

**BUDDY:** I just have never seen him anywhere.

**JIMMY:** Yeah.

**BUDDY:** But that's not-- I haven't been anywhere. I've only been-- never mind.

**JIMMY:** I know where you've been, oh, yes.

**BUDDY:** Oh, well, 2:05, *This Way Out* coming up. Defamation with Harvey Fierstein. It's some pretty good stuff.

**JIMMY:** Yes, it is. That's a wonderful thing.

**BUDDY:** You need to stay tuned for that. And then at 3 o'clock--

**JIMMY:** Tada, tada, tata.

**BUDDY:** --reflections of a Rock lobster.

**JIMMY:** Yes, we're really going to have it, Scott.

**BUDDY:** 526-4000, 526-KPFT, that's the number to call. The dancing tongue, where she at?

**JIMMY:** The dancing town, well, poor thing. No, she's not here today. She is running a training session for the switchboard. When you want to be on the switchboard, kids, it takes like two weekends. Look at this, woo. It takes two weekends of intensive training. And K and Ron Morang and several other people are running it. And that's what she's been doing. So we do not have a community bulletin board.

**BUDDY:** 526-4000, 526-KPFT, hello.

**WOMAN:** Hello.

**BUDDY:** Yeah.

**WOMAN:** Am on the radio or not?

**BUDDY:** Yeah, did you want to be on the air?

**WOMAN:** Yeah, air me. Hello, hello.

**BUDDY:** Hello.

**WOMAN:** Are you there?

**BUDDY:** Yeah, we're here. Where are you?

**WOMAN:** We are your listeners and--

**MAN:** What happened to *Musical Curfew*?

**WOMAN:** Yeah.

**BUDDY:** It's not on anymore, but thanks for calling. Hang on. 526-4000, 526-KPFT. Should we go to *This Way Out*?

**JIMMY:** Yeah, let's--

**BUDDY:** OK, here we go. Stay tuned. We'll be back right after this. So what's coming up, Jimmy? Who we got anyway?

**JIMMY:** We're going to do *This Way Out*, but, boy, that little record you've got in front of you really looks kind of neato.

**BUDDY:** Some a friend of mine give me this.

**JIMMY:** Mickey Mouse disco.

**BUDDY:** Isn't that cute?

**JIMMY:** That is wonderful.

**BUDDY:** OK, here we go. *After Hours* on--

**JIMMY:** KPFT.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**LUCIA** Welcome to *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. I'm Lucia Chappelle.

**CHAPPELLE:**

**GREG GORDON:** And I'm Greg Gordon. Tchaikovsky expressed his gayness quite clearly in his sixth Symphony, The Party Teach. Analyzing Tchaikovsky's passion and relating some news--

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

**CHAPPELLE:**

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**SANDY DWYER:** I'm Sandy Dwyer.

**MANUEL** And I'm Manuel Nunez.

**NUNEZ:**

**SANDY DWYER:** With news wrap. A summary of some of the news in and affecting the gay and lesbian community for the week ending November 5, 1989. It took 17 years but the state of Massachusetts finally has a gay and lesbian civil rights law, only the second in the US to have a statewide law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment, credit, and public accommodations.

Over the years, several other states have attempted to pass similar legislation with only one victory in 1982 when Wisconsin became the first state in the US to enact such a law. David La Fontaine, a lobbyist for the Massachusetts Coalition for lesbian and gay civil rights, said that the turning point in his state was in 1987.

That year, the bill had the support of the majority of the legislators in both the state senate and assembly. But the Senate's Irish Catholic leadership, which still vehemently opposes the law, succeeded in killing it in committee, so it never came up for a vote. Over 1,000 people stormed the state house with 14 activists arrested after chaining themselves to their seats in the senate gallery.

During the following year, 1988, activists sent a message to the legislature by campaigning for five candidates who favored the civil rights legislation with three winning elections. Continued lobbying and demonstrations led to the bills final approval this year on October 30.

**MANUEL NUNEZ:** In the Pacific Northwest region of the United States, a Halloween social event, especially for lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth, received official government blessing and co-sponsorship. From the Seattle Gay and Lesbian News Line, Mike Deleary has a story.

**MIKE DELEARY:** Over 50 lesbian and gay and bisexual youth and friends participated in a dance October 27 co-sponsored by the City of Seattle's parks and recreation department. This is the first time ever the city co-sponsored a gay and was being youth event. The City of Seattle also received calls attacking and supporting the event. For many, the dance served as a place to meet other people. One of the participants was Nicky.

**NICKY:** Yeah, I think it's a good thing. It's getting lots of gays together, getting to know new people, pushing new people that you're normally not around.

**MIKE DELEARY:** Are you having fun tonight?

**NICKY:** Yeah, I am.

**MIKE DELEARY:** The event was co-sponsored by two local organizations, Club Soda and Stonewall Recovery Services, as part of a campaign to fight AIDS in high risk populations, including gay youth. Also present at the dance were two Christian fundamentalists preaching against homosexuality. The two were denied entry into the dance. They claimed they were unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of age. However, Andy Reynolds, spokesperson for the parks department, says that's not the case.

**ANDY REYNOLDS:** Because of it being a teen dance, it is age limited. And any teen dance that we have, we would not let adults in because we don't feel that that's an age group that needs to mix with teens.

**MIKE DELEARY:** The participants are hopeful for more activities such as this.

**WOMAN:** Yeah, it's cool. I think it's good that there's a place where we can go and not feel, I don't know, like people are all against us or something.

**MIKE DELEARY:** Other organizations, including the YMCA, are considering following in the city's footsteps. Alice Stewart of the YMCA says the need is great.

**ALICE STEWART:** We've been doing the teen hotline for three years now. A lot of the kids that call the hotline are gay or lesbian kids. They need someone to talk to. They need to get together with one another. They need to have the same opportunities for fun and friendship that every other kid has.

**MANUEL NUNEZ:** That report by Mike Deleary of the Seattle Gay and Lesbian News Line.

**SANDY DWYER:** Toronto, Canada is the first major city in the world to install condom vending machines in their high school washrooms. The school board trustees began considering the issue after it was revealed that at least 47 Toronto high school students were HIV positive.

Loretta Nichols, chair of the school board, said that it was reality to them that, quote, "Young people are sexually active, and it's not going to be altered by telling them not to do it." She said that their decision was based purely on the health question. The board, avoiding debates over the religious and moral issues of making condoms available, received support from the community where letters ran 6 to 1 in favor of the vending machines.

**MANUEL NUNEZ:** The US Defense department has rejected a report prepared by their defense personnel security research and education center, which recommended that the armed forces consider ending their discrimination against homosexuals in the military. The defense department said that they rejected the report because it went beyond what they had requested.

The report titled, Nonconforming Sexual Orientations and Military Suitability was completed in December 1988 but was not released until late last month. Pressure for its release first came from Lambda Legal defense as part of their lawsuit on behalf of former midshipman Joseph Stephan, who alleges he was forced out of a US Naval Academy solely because of his sexual orientation. At first, the defense department denied the report existed. Congressional pressure led by openly gay Congressman Gary Studds finally resulted in its release.

Professor Theodore R. Sarbin, who co-authored the report, said he is preparing another about whether gay men and lesbians are a security risk. Sarbin said that having a personal secret, any personal secret is what makes a person vulnerable to extortion and it is not, quote, "distinctive to homosexuals or heterosexuals."

**SANDY DWYER:** And finally, Sergeant Miriam Ben Shalom began her personal battle with the US army 15 years ago when they attempted to dismiss her after she mentioned she was a lesbian during an interview with the press about what it was like to be the army's first woman drill sergeant. The department of defense policy states that homosexuality is incompatible with military policy. Stating that the dismissal action violated her first amendment right to free speech, Ben Shalom won a multitude of court battles until last August when the US Seventh Circuit court of Appeals ruled in favor of the army.

A motion was recently filed requesting that the case of Ben Shalom be reviewed by the United States Supreme Court. Meanwhile, Ben Shalom has been nominated as the 84th battalion's soldier of the year, and her superior officers have put her name in for a promotion. It would be more than just a bit ironic if the soldier of the year was ultimately declared as unfit for military service.

**MANUEL** That's news wrap for the week ending November the 5th 1989, written by Sandy Dwyer of the news, serving the greater Los Angeles area with contributions from other gay and lesbian publications and broadcasts throughout the world.

**SANDY DWYER:** Remember, an informed community is a strong community. Find out what's happening in your area by monitoring your local gay and lesbian media. For *This Way Out*, I'm Sandy Dwyer.

**MANUEL** And I'm Manuel Nunez.

**NUNEZ:**

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**ANNOUNCER:** Here it is. Become butch or 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 tap 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, last queers vel labs have responded to this dilemma by giving 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.

**MRS. 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 the little, pink pill. In an instant, my sexual orientation changed as did my desire to be married. Well, within a week, I ditched 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.

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**GREG GORDON:** You've tuned in to *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. With Lucia Chappelle, I'm Greg Gordon. For some interesting analysis of what is arguably Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's greatest symphonic work and most certainly analysis you never heard in your music appreciation class, from Gay BC in Wellington, New Zealand, here's beyond the Sugar Plum Fairy, narrated by Barry Empson and produced by Hugh Young.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**BARRY** To most people, Tchaikovsky's music is typically the sweet syrupy kind of thing. If you saw Ken Russell's movie about him, *The Music Lovers*--

[MUSIC PLAYING]

--you get a glimpse of the more passionate side of his music and of his homosexuality but largely as a reaction to his wife's sexual demands. In *Christopher Street* magazine last year, Simon Karlinsky told how, on the contrary, Tchaikovsky expressed his gayness quite clearly in his sixth symphony, the Party Teak.

Tchaikovsky publicly called the symphony generally regarded as his greatest, the keystone of my entire oeuvre. Soon after he started writing it, he said its program was deeply subjective and would remain an enigma to all. "Without exaggeration, I have put my entire soul into this symphony." Nine days after its first performance in 1893, Tchaikovsky was dead.

In 1980, the Soviet musicologist Alexandra Orlova began publishing her claim that Tchaikovsky had been driven to suicide by a court of honor made up of old pupils of his old school of jurisprudence in order to prevent a scandal about his homosexuality. What a film Russell could have made about that. Other historians have thoroughly debunked the suicide theory. In Karlinsky's version, Tchaikovsky was gay in both senses, not tortured.

It's well known that Pyotr Ilyich's brother, Modest, also gay, suggested the title *Pateticheskaya* for his last Symphony rather than *Programmnaya*, which would have made people ask what the program was. But *Pateticheskaya* does not mean pathetic in Russian. It means enthusiastic or passionate.

The lineage of this story is rather long, but it is complete. In the 1940s, Kalinsky had a friend called Alex, who would spend several months with the painter Pavel Tchelitchew. Tchelitchew had in turn had designed scenery and costumes in the 1920s for Sergei Diaghilev. And in his youth, Diaghilev was a friend of Modest Tchaikovsky.

According to Simon, quoting Alex, quoting Pavel, quoting Sergei, quoting Modest, quoting Pyotr Ilyich himself, "The program of the sixth symphony is a celebration of gay sexuality." And the one who helped Tchaikovsky to celebrate it was his servant Aleksey Sofronov, known as Alyosha.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The murky bassoon and Viola music shows half conscious stirrings of the attraction to other men.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The climax of the sexual act isn't shown. Instead of a climax, Tchaikovsky transfigured the love music by changing the key and placing it in a new harmonic and instrumental environment, which suggests that their love continues after lovemaking is over.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

A gentle sighing coda concludes this encounter between two men who have succeeded in escaping from the disapproval and anger of the outside world.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

There were more explanations about the program of the rest of the symphony, but Kalinsky unfortunately can't remember them.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Not the stumbling wolves in five for time though it's pleasant to guess that Tchaikovsky was saying, that our dance of life has something extra rather than something missing. And its unconventional rhythm is more interesting than the conventional three, four.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Nor can Karlinsky remember the program for the mischievous match. It's one of the most un-military matches ever written. Could Tchaikovsky have written it in praise of the non macho man?

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Kalinsky does remember that the finale of Tchaikovsky's sixth symphony was meant as a requiem for a friend and former lover who had died.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

This could have been a number of men. Eduard, whose death the composer mourns in one of his diaries. Ivan [INAUDIBLE], an army officer who had an affair with Tchaikovsky in the Caucasus. To Tchaikovsky's horror, Ivan shot himself after he refused to make the relationship permanent. Or Aleksey Apukhtin, who died about the time the symphony was composed.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The symphony is dedicated to Tchaikovsky's gay nephew, Vladimir Davidoff known as Bob. Tchaikovsky had been in love with Bob since the nephew was a teenager. And Karlinsky guesses, by 1893, Bob returned his uncle's love. So the symphony could be a confession of his past loves to Bob, who was the first to learn that it had a private, intimate program. And he told Bob that he loved the passionate symphony more than any other of his musical offspring and so do most listeners who go beyond the Sugar Plum Fairy.

Our examples are played by the Leningrad Philharmonic orchestra, conducted by Yevgeny Mravinsky. This program was written and produced by Hugh Young.

**HUGH YOUNG:** It's presented by Barrie Empson, technical production by [INAUDIBLE].

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**GREG GORDON:** Thanks for choosing *This Way Out*, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Sandy Dwyer and Manuel Nunez, Keith Clark, Mike Deleary, Howie Bag Of Donuts, and Michelle Langer Bush and Barry Empson and Hugh Young contributed program material. Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.

**LUCIA** Satellite distribution of *This Way Out* is made possible through a grant from the Chicago Resource Center.

**CHAPPELLE:**

**GREG GORDON:** This way out is produced by Lucia Chappelle.

**LUCIA** And Greg Gordon. And we thank you for listening on KUMD, Duluth.

**CHAPPELLE:**

**GREG GORDON:** And radio UFM Christchurch.

**LUCIA** Among others.

**CHAPPELLE:**

**GREG GORDON:** With a special welcome to KAOS Olympia.

**LUCIA** And we thank you for supporting this local community radio station.

**CHAPPELLE:**

**GREG GORDON:** Do stay tuned.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ANNOUNCER KPFT Houston.

**JIMMY CLARK:** This is Jimmy Clark from non-violent alternatives. Please, pay your pledge.

**MAN:** This is [INAUDIBLE] from [INAUDIBLE]. Please, pay your pledge.

**JACQUELINE** This is Jacqueline McGee [INAUDIBLE]. Please, pay your pledge.

**MCGEE:**

**VINCE** This is Vince Anderson from Esoteric Adventures. Please, pay your pledge.

**ANDERSON:**

**JERRY:** Hi, this is Jerry [INAUDIBLE] from the heart of Texas. Please, pay your pledge.

**MICHAEL** Hello, this is Michael Ricks from the *New World* show. Please, pay your pledge.

**RICKS:**

**WOMAN:** This is [INAUDIBLE] from Speakeasy. Please, pay your pledge.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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

**MAN:** That's great.

**MAN:** 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.

**MAN:** He'll get over it.

**MAN:** 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.

**NARRATOR:** *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*, a story about growing up gay in rural America.

**BUDDY:** That's all about Aaron Fricke--

**JIMMY:** Yeah, that's coming up.

**BUDDY:** --taking his boyfriend of the high school prom right after we hear from Harvey Fierstein. This is kind of scary, kids, so hold on to your hats, right? This is *After Hours*.

**JIMMY:** KPFT 90.1 FM.

**HARVEY FIERSTEIN:** This is Harvey Fierstein. I want to thank you for sitting down and listening to this tape. What you're about to hear are actual recordings taken from radio and television broadcasts of defamatory statements made about gay men and lesbians. Many of these statements will offend and disturb you, but it's important that we listen to them together just as it's important that we do something about them.

**MAN:** Steve, Bob Grant here. You're on WABC. Hello. Steve is not there. Steve got tired. David, hello. David got tired. And maybe Steve and David got tired together. Maybe they'll croak together.

**HARVEY** Defamation as heard on radio and television.

**FIERSTEIN:**

**MAN:** I think a decent argument can be made that homosexuality is probably the worst possible if you would sin or socially disruptive event that a person can commit.

**HARVEY** The expression of evil with malicious intent.

**FIERSTEIN:**

**MAN:** It is a perversion. You want to tell me that homosexuality is not a perversion?

**HARVEY** Open deliberate and forceful degradation.

**FIERSTEIN:**

**MAN:** They sort of put a little flag on the virus and said gangway we're coming through, and you're not going to be allowed to do anything to stop it because it's our civil right to spread it.

**HARVEY** Gross verbal abuse.

**FIERSTEIN:**

**MAN:** You're not capable of looking at yourself in the mirror and saying, I am a fag. I am a queer. I am a perverted individual.

**HARVEY** This is Harvey Fierstein.

**FIERSTEIN:**

**MAN:** One of my listeners came up with a much better idea called him SAD, which means sexual AIDS distributors.

**HARVEY** And that is defamation. As an openly gay writer an actor working in the entertainment industry, I know the power of media, and I know that defamation in the media echoes throughout our society. When GLAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, asked me to narrate this tape, I couldn't get to the studio fast enough.

You've just heard a few of the reasons why. You're about to hear a lot more. But what you'll also hear is why this hateful talk is so dangerous and what it is you can do about it.

**MAN:** There are certain kinds of things such as murder. And I would contend such as homosexual acts that absolutely disqualify a person as being a responsible citizen.

**MAN:** That's Dr. Paul Cameron, we're going to take telephone calls with Dr. Cameron right here in our WABC studio in just a moment. WABC talk radio. Time, 25 minutes now to 4 o'clock.

**HARVEY** On radio or television shows in the morning, afternoon, or night in cities and towns throughout the country, the public is fed a regular dose of anti-gay commentary by bigots masquerading as experts, journalists, and what are now known as shock jocks. In the name of ratings, we are ridiculed and defamed. And people who hate us are given a forum through which to pedal their lies and venom. Day after day after day, it spills into the cars, living rooms, and minds of men, women, and children. And no minority is subjected to more media sanctioned defamation than gay men and lesbians.

**MAN:** All over the United States now homosexual males are defanging and declawing small animals, often hamsters, gerbils, inserting them into their rectum. And then the animal in its death throes, it's frantically-- it's in terrible pain. It's scurrying back and forth, trying to escape. And this apparently causes a great sexual rush among those who practice this abhorrent destruction of animal life.

**MAN:** If there's anybody on the sidelines thinking that homosexuality is just a minor deviation from the norm, that story should convince even the dummies in the audience that we're talking about sick, sick perverted people.

**MAN:** Right? I think so.

**HARVEY** Besides painting a distorted picture of our sexuality, these bigots present perverse theories about our lives  
**FIERSTEIN:** designed to threaten ignorant listeners.

**MAN:** Most family men are not inclined to want to go and go and go whereas a homosexual says, gee, if I can get paid to go to a new city and pick up a new trick here and a new trick-- that's appealing to them.

**MAN:** It's common for these people to have orgies when they get hopped up. And what takes place on these orgies-- it might be a group of them. And they pass a Coke bottle around to each one. And sometimes the end breaks off.

**MAN:** Homosexuals are about five or better times apt to engage in sex with animals than are heterosexuals.

**HARVEY** And when we're not traveling in pursuit of distant animals, we're proselytizing here at home.

**FIERSTEIN:**

**MAN:** Yes, divorce is easier today. And as a consequence probably that's where some homosexuality stands. Yes, we have allowed homosexual teachers to teach. And that is, again, probably a place where homosexuality comes from.

**MAN:** I believe that a child is born not knowing about homosexuality. Homos are not born, but they're taught that way.

**HARVEY** They use their theories to justify and encourage discrimination.

**FIERSTEIN:**

**MAN:** So discrimination, whatever it is, is based on the need for society in general to protect itself from the encroachment of a perverted warped minority. If a person hates a homosexual, I think, he has a right to hate whomever he wants to. What are we going to do? Brainwash people? Give them a laser treatment to get rid of their hatred?

**MAN:** They cannot discriminate.

**MAN:** Oh, yes, they can. If they don't want them teaching their children in school, they should be able to protect themselves from having a queer teach their children in school.

**MAN:** Now--

**MAN:** If they don't want them in their apartment, they should be able to keep them out of their apartment.

**HARVEY** They use the Bible to preach violence and hatred against us.

**FIERSTEIN:**

**MAN:** In the Bible, let him read. And I don't think he has. 20th chapter, Leviticus, he talks about homosexuality in the Bible as condemnation. No, no, no. It goes more than condemnation. If you read the 20th chapter of Leviticus, it says you must kill the homosexual.

**MAN:** Well, of course, it goes beyond that. It goes to total retribution. That is why those cities were destroyed.

**MAN:** You Bible-thumping people are going to come after me for things that it is my right under this constitution to do, then you--

**MAN:** Then I say we change the constitution and get rid of sick perverts like you.

**MAN:** Yeah, and I can imagine the method. I can imagine the method.

**HARVEY** They even threatened gay callers with violence over the air.

**FIERSTEIN:**

**MAN:** Wait till I get a hold of you down there. I'll smash your head against the wall.

**WOMAN:** We'll fix you up with one of these lesbians that comes in.

**MAN:** I'm going to knock some sense into you.

**MAN:** Hey, this is Steve. I'll tell you what. Make the trip in. Come on up to the mobile unit, will you? Let me punch your nose right down your throat.

**HARVEY** In their zeal to paint us as evil threats to society, they leap on AIDS as a weapon, confusing an already worried public and endangering our own right to exist.

**MAN:** I think they put a lot of pressure on. You know an old saying, the wheel with squeaks loudest gets the most grease. And with them, they have been shouting and most vociferous in demanding that AIDS be treated as a politically protected virus.

**WOMAN:** I just cannot believe that with this AIDS crisis, which is-- let's face it, a homosexual disease. That's what it is, just a homosexual disease. And yet they're looking for civil rights. I don't understand it.

**MAN:** What do you think of this \$3 billion we're supposed to spend on AIDS?

**MAN:** What is the expenditure supposed to be on since we have been told that there's no cure in sight. As a matter of fact, one PhD biochemist MD said it was impossible to cure AIDS.

**MAN:** I know. Do you know any normal people that have it?

**MAN:** No.

**MAN:** No, I know. And so why do us normal people have to pay for it?

**MAN:** Good question.

**MAN:** It's ridiculous.

**HARVEY** And anyone who calls in trying to defend us or defend themselves is denied the opportunity to speak.

**FIERSTEIN:**

**MAN:** An insult to the vast majority of New Yorkers who do not have the perversion that you are afflicted with.

**WOMAN:** Which I don't regard as a perversion, sir.

**MAN:** Well, of course, you wouldn't regard it as a perversion.

**WOMAN:** Is it bad?

**MAN:** You want to look in the mirror and say, I, Julie, am a dyke? I, Julie, am a sickola. I, Julie, am a freak. You don't want to say that.

**WOMAN:** Do you feel the need--

**MAN:** And I don't blame you.

**WOMAN:** --to be insulting, sir?

**MAN:** Fred, you're on 77 WABC. Hello.

**MAN:** Bob, I happen to be a neurologist.

**MAN:** You have no rights.

**MAN:** I-- what?

**MAN:** You have no rights.

**MAN:** Ah, go fart some perfume.

**MAN:** I'm glad I don't know you personally because I would avoid you like the plague.

**HARVEY** The only people given a platform and accorded respect are those who toe the line of hate.

**FIERSTEIN:**

**MAN:** I would like to make this statement about the homosexuals.

**MAN:** Sure.

**MAN:** When I was young, they were referred to as perverts and degenerates. Recently, use of the word gay, which once was a beautiful word. It isn't a beautiful word any more because it describes perversion and degeneracy.

**MAN:** The gay rights parade so-called I call it a sodomy parade. And this is actually what they're looking to glorify.

**MAN:** I don't know any homosexual worth a damn who got out and said that his life has been gay.

**MAN:** God created Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve.

**HARVEY** And so it goes, 24 hours a day from Morton Downey, Jr. to Bob Grant to Howard Stern to DJs and program hosts

**FIERSTEIN:** all over the country, professional bigots who are heroes to their audience.

**MAN:** Bob, your name is not Bob Grant. Your name is Voltaire. Your name is Leonardo. Your name is Copernicus. I love you and God bless you. Keep up the good work.

**MAN:** Everything you say I keep screaming, oh, yes, yes. You're absolutely right. Oh, my God. He's so right. Everything he's saying is so right.

**HARVEY** A character in *Torch Song Trilogy* is beaten to death in a public park by a gang of kids who grew up listening to

**FIERSTEIN:** that kind of hate at home and on the radio. Today with AIDS declining standards on radio and television stations and increased public tolerance for intolerance, it's an everyday occurrence. And you've barely heard five minutes worth. Why must we fight back?

If we don't fight back, it will get worse and worse. It's already contributed to a frightening national rise in so-called fag-bashing and other hate crimes. Politicians hear this garbage and back away from supporting AIDS and civil rights bills. Parents hear it and feel ashamed of their gay children. Gay kids hear it and feel ashamed of themselves. We hear it and we feel angry, alienated, and abused.

GLAD was founded in 1985 to let people in the media know that not everyone who hears that garbage applauds, to educate media executives about the violence and discrimination it provokes, and to encourage media programmers to take a closer, more positive look at our community. GLAD professionally represents our interests and brings our concerns, outrages, and suggestions to the people in charge. And it's already had great success.

Shock jocks have been forced to tone down their hateful rhetoric. Newspapers have run editorials condemning anti-gay violence, and television networks have produced documentaries exploring gay culture. But GLAD needs your help because fag-bashing with words and with fists is on the rise. And we can't rely on anyone but ourselves to fight against it. So if you don't like what you've just heard, if you recognize the threat to our health, our safety, and civil rights, you've got two choices. Here's one.

**MAN:** Go to your mirror. Look at yourself in the mirror and repeat after me. I am a perverted misfit.

**HARVEY** But don't just take my word for it. Take theirs.

**FIERSTEIN:**

**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 fagola and be family oriented. That's a contradiction in terms.

**MAN:** You guys are guys who have 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.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**HARVEY MILK:** Somewhere in Des Moines or San Antonio, there's a young gay person who all of a sudden realizes that she or he is gay, knows that if the parents find out, they'll be tossed out of the house. The classmates would taunt the child. And the Anita Bryants and John Briggs are doing their bit on TV. And that child had several options--staying in the closet, suicide.

And then one day that child might open a paper. It says, homosexual elected in San Francisco. And there are two new options. Option is to go to California--

[LAUGHTER]

[APPLAUSE]

--or stay in San Antonio and fight. Two days after I was elected, I got a phone call and the voice was quite young. It was from Altoona, Pennsylvania.

And the person said, thanks. And you've got to elect gay people so that young child and the thousands upon thousands like that child know that there's hope for a better world. There's hope for a better tomorrow. Without hope, not only gays, but those Blacks, and the Asians, the disabled, seniors, the uses-- the uses.

Without hope, the uses give up. I know that you cannot live on hope alone. But without it, life is not worth living. And you, and you, and you have got to give them hope. Thank you very much.

**BUDDY:** It's 2:53, about minutes until 3 o'clock. *Reflections of a Rock Lobster* coming up here on *After Hours. Defamation* narrated by Harvey Fierstein, produced by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

The gay and lesbian pride week people were here this morning. It seems that some of them don't think there's any controversy. And maybe there's not. What we're angry about is that hundreds of thousands of you don't get involved in your life.

You say, oh, I can't come out. Oh, I can't do this. Oh, I can't do that. Honey, that's exactly where they want you. The reason people are sneaking around in toilets and dark alleys and bookstores and bathhouses is because they've been told all of their lives that their lives don't matter. You're just going to be a piece of garbage, so don't even try to make it count. Why bother?

The church has told us that all of our lives. And what society hasn't told us, what the church hasn't told us, what our schools and leaders, community leaders haven't told us, to tear down our lives. Our families have told us. Our mothers and fathers have turned their backs on us because they too are pressured to be accepted by a society that denies that we're here. It's sad.

But thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands and thousands of gay and lesbian people go through life never feeling good about themselves. It's sad that people like Jim Westmoreland can sit on a council and make a remark like he did about someone as wonderful as Mickey Leland.

But let me tell you something, kids. And you've got to get the message. We've been telling you for two years. You've got to get the message. Your life does count you can make a difference.

I worked for the Houston Police Department and did this show. My God I'm getting ready to go back to the police department and work. Don't tell me that homophobia is going to keep you down. It's not. It's only going to keep you down if you let it keep you down.

Look what's happening. Jim Westmoreland is gone. We went to the polls and got rid of him. The message that that sends to us is that this country is tired. We're tired of a handful of bigots trying to run our lives and push their Bible down our throats.

We're tired of a group of holier than thou preachers trying to shove that up our you know what. Look at Jim Bakker. Look at Jimmy Swaggart. Look what's going on around you. It's not just the gay community that should be upset this morning. It's not just the women. It's not just people dealing with abortion and yes and no and this and that.

Look what's going on in East Germany. Look what's happening as they tear down a physical piece of hatred and bigotry. Watch the world. It's happening all around us. We saw it happen this year in China. Yet we saw it crushed in China.

But do you think just because the Chinese government kills thousands and thousands of their young people that they're going to give up the hope for freedom? Do you think because Nelson Mandela's been locked up in jail for over 25 years that the people in South Africa are going to give up their right for freedom?

Listen, baby. Don't give up. Get involved. I'm angry. I'm not angry at you, and I'm not angry at the pride week committee. I'm angry at myself. I'm angry because I waited 35 years to stand up for myself. And I haven't even done-- I have-- I've only begun to grow.

Dr. King talked about how he went up to the mountain side and saw what was there and saw the promised land and how he had been there but he couldn't get there with you. I stood in the back of our Jeep two years ago 3,300 Montrose across from Kroger Store. I saw thousands and thousands of gay and lesbian Houstonians come into that parking lot after the parade proud people.

We've got to get together. 20 years is too long to struggle. To those people that-- well, we'll just be there to report it to you. That's all I can say.