UH NEH Projects | gcam_ah_19910824_t1_02_edit

- This is why we're out here. We want democracy, but when, two, three months ago, people from the Balkans say, Bush, help me, Bush said, no, no.

And now we have this situation. It's bad. Now we say, America, help us. Bush, help us. If Bush will stand and not do for us, it's democracy finished here.

[CROWD SHOUTING, CLAMOR]

- [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

[SHOUTING]

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

- [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]
- You're going against yourselves. Don't do this. Think about what you're doing, young man. Don't drag the army into criminal actions.
- [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]
- You've got to understand us too. There is chaos in the country. Yazov has nothing to do with this.

[NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

- We used to feed you boys. You're our sons. Go back.

[SHOUTING]

- [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]
- This latest move of the military is completely unconstitutional. Yeltsin and the government of the Russian Federation is a government that has been elected by the people, and it's working for the people. And therefore, we most vehemently object to the latest move.
- [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]
- We will defend the Russian Parliament around the clock every day from morning until evening. We have to build barricades, we'll build them.

[MUSIC - THE BEATLES, "REVOLUTION"]

- What do we want?
- Gay rights.
- When do we want it?

- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights.
- When do we want it?
- Now.
- What do we want?
- Gay rights.
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights.
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- When do we want them?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay
- "Homosexual" by James Carroll Pickett.
- What do we want?
- Gay rights.
The good homosexual accommodates himself, checks fantasies, behaves properly, purchases good taste, practices impeccable hygiene, begs respect from oppressors. The good homosexual reads only what is recommended, attends all the Westwood cinema attains season tickets to the Music Center, votes the straight GOP slate, retires from controversy, amasses financial security no matter the social toll, finds AIDS embarrassing but donates \$50 a year anyway anonymously. The good homosexual subscribes to <i>GQ</i> , laughs the loudest at fag jokes, laments the demise of After Dark, prefers porno in brown paper bags, browses Crown Books, where he purchased <i>After the Ball</i> , displays <i>National Geographic</i> , misses "Dynasty."
The good homosexual restrains impulse, sustains racism, objects to gay as too frivolous, refers to himself as a bachelor, contains

passion, remains invisible, maintains there is nothing amiss. The good homosexual swallows bigotry, suppresses ecstasy, drives the family sedan just like old dad did, kisses with a dry mouth and closed lips, wears a condom on his tongue just in case. The good homosexual nurtures propriety, derives morality from TV shrinks, believes there might be something to inanity, shushes all profanity, insists on anonymity, despises sodomy, fails to see why dykes have to be so pushy.

The good homosexual drinks Coors beer, as advertised in good homosexual publications, keeps up appearances, longs for the cops to crack down, engages a female for social occasions, relishes assimilation, irons crisp creases in casual jeans. The good homosexual quells excess, attacks radical fags, experiences madness in discrete little doses, waters down intensity, embraces mediocrity, reaps his own self-righteous vanity, does not grasp why silence necessarily equals death. The good homosexual kills queers.

- That's right, ma. You had it easy. You lost your husband in a nice, clean hospital. You know where I lost mine? I lost mine on the street. That's right. They killed him on the street. 27 years old laying dead on the street killed by a bunch of kids with baseball bats. That's right, mom. Killed my children. Killed in turn by people like you because everybody knows that queers don't matter. Queers don't love. And those that do deserve what they get. - Now! - What do we want? - Gay rights. - When do we want it? - Now! - What do we want? - Gay rights. - When do we want it? - Now! - What do we want? - Gay rights. - When do we want it? - Now! - When do we want them? - Now! - What do we want? - Gay rights.

- Now!

- When do we want it?

- Gay rights.

 Say it so they can hear you in the Capitol. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back.

 For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back.
- Good afternoon and welcome to the National March on Washington DC for Gay and Lesbian Rights and choral reciting. Let's hear it out there! I'm Lea DeLaria.

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

- I'm Bruce Hopkins.

- What do we want?

- I'm a dyke.
- I'm a faggot.
- And we're best friends!
- I want you to savor this next moment. I have the proud task of telling you that the official count of the Lesbian and Gay Rights March, the official count is over 500,000 strong.
- It's all right. You may all come out and--
- 500,000 strong! Look at you! 500,000 strong. 500,000 strong.
- It's all right. You may all come out.
- One of the largest in United States history! One of the largest marches in United States history! 500,000 strong.
- We parents want to persuade society that our gay children are not acting out of defiance or self-indulgence. They're being true to their own nature. Our children are fine men and women, and we say to society that the parents and friends of lesbians and gay men will support their children.
- They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about white politics.

This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love and to choose and to live, and I don't care about straight tolerance, and I don't care about straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding-we are demanding our civil rights.

- Ari, do you have a few words for KPFA?
- Yeah, come on out! Join us. Bring a friend.
- What do you think about the turnout so far?
- Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.
- It's all right. You may all come out.

- 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. 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-- It's all right. You may all come out. - 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. - When do we want it? - Now! - What do we want? - Gay rights. - When do we want it? - Now! - What do we want? - Gay rights. - When do we want it? - Now! - When do we want it? - Now! - What do we want? - Gay rights. - When do we want it? - Now! - What do we want? - Gay rights. - When do we want it?

- Now!

- What do we want?
- Gay rights.
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights.
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- And I ask people all over this country to do one thing. Come out. Come out, America. Come out.
- And that's what it's all about.
- Yeah.
- What?
- It's been a couple of weeks since I've heard that.
- Well, it's been a long time since you've heard Alan say we're queer.
- Ah, thank you, Alan. All the way from San Francisco.
- Anyway, After Hours Radio celebrating live from the heart of Montrose, 90.1 FM, KPFT Houston. We're here.
- And we're queer.
- And Otis just called
- He did?

---and said, would I comment on the police officers were supposed to have been sent to sensitivity training-- Yeah.
---or something? Do you know about this?

- No.

- I don't know about this either. We're talking about HPD police officers and that one of the union officials, one of the police unions or maybe the association, said that a lot of their officers were Christians, and they didn't want to do that because it was, you know, against God and all this kind of stuff. So he's going to call us back in a minute, and he's looking for that article now.

If anybody knows what we're talking about, let me know because I don't, and working for the police department and being the head queer down there, that kind of really hacks me off. So I might really start screaming early if I find out about this. I want to point out to you that I hope it was the Houston Police Officers' Association that said it. No, I don't know. Maybe it was the Houston Police Officer Patrolmen Union. I don't know. There's the Houston Police Officers Patrolmen Union--

- Yeah.
- -- and the Houston Police Officers' Association. The HPOA is the building down here across--
- What's the difference?
- --from the police department. Well, one's a union and one's association. They got mad and split up like the Baptists and the Pentecostals and--
- Oh.
- The Association is the group that back in 1985, when the referendum was defeated and their building was shot up, said, oh, the gay community came down here and shot it up.
- Oh yeah.
- Do you remember that?
- Yeah.
- It turned out to be some off duty lieutenants or sergeants or somebody from within the department that were shooting up the damn place. And they all went-- never mind. I don't want to get on a roll.

Well, here's what we're talking about. Quick, play some music before I do start screaming. Jesus!

Sensitivity training. Hang on. We'll give you a little right now.

And that's exactly what we're talking about, and I just don't understand why so many people have such narrow minded views about life. Please, girls. I do too. You've had all that garbage pounded into you by the church and the lack of support in the school system and a lot of that other kind of crap. And it just continues to get worse and worse and worse. I really wish that if somebody is going to ask the United States for help, we would, like, kind of help ourselves first because there are hundreds of thousands of people living in our streets--

- Yeah.

- --who don't have any place to sleep at night. You know--
- And we're the richest nation on Earth.
- Yeah, right. Most of our people live below the poverty level-- like, where the minimum wage is like 4-- what is it? \$4.25.
- \$4.25 an hour.
- Did you know who Louie Anderson is, the comic?
- Yeah.
- Did you see Louie Anderson, "No, You Didn't," on HBO?
- No.
- And he was talking about crack, how the government's talking about how everybody is on crack?
- Oh yes.
- And it's like, it's either I can go to work for \$4.25 an hour, or I can sell crack. Let's see. \$4.25 an hour, you get up at 6:00 in the morning and go to work, put the same molt in the same hole for the next 20 years, and maybe have something for retirement. \$4.25 an hour, 8:00, and then start at 7:00 or 8:00 in the morning, two weeks vacation a year, or I could sell crack and get, like, a stack of money this high and all these gold chains to hang around my neck and a new BMW and vacation, like, once a month to the Bahamas and Switzerland and have stacks and stacks of money.

And let's see. Let me see. It's--

- Such a hard decision.
- What's the ceiling on this \$4.25 an hour? Oh, you mean I could, like, manage people for \$4.25 an hour? And I might get a raise in 10 years or-- oh, I've always wanted a BMW and all those chains and-- anyway--
- And that's a real problem, especially with teens.
- Yeah. Well, we don't want to talk about any problems that have-- the kids have. God forbid we solve anybody's problems.

You know, I'm really disappointed in this. I notice-- he hasn't called back. So I guess he either can't find it or has misplaced the article about the police sensitivity training.

Of course, this is the first I've heard about it. You know, being an openly gay person, the Chief or nobody else down there would call and ask me to have any input in this thing because they want to keep me in the back of the bus. I'm probably going to resign as president of the civilian union there.

- Why?
- Well, because we recently had a membership drive which didn't do very well, and we had to increase our dues to get money and bought things like computers and answering services and--
- Yeah.

- --so we could, like, function because the union's been down there and hasn't functioned. It doesn't do anything because there's no money to do anything. And a few people are upset about the dues going up, and I just don't need all that grief.

You know what I mean? Here, we've been trying for over a year to do something, and people just want to bitch and sit on the sidelines and not get involved. And I can't come here--

- Doesn't that sound familiar?
- Yes, it does, and I can't come here every Saturday night and listen to these queens saying, well, I can't come out of the closet and-- [IMITATING WHINING] I can't get in line-- Ia, Ia, Ia, Ia-- and then go down there at the police department and hear all that. So Wednesday, we have got a meeting with the chief as union people, and I'm going to probably tell her that it'll probably be my last meeting because I'm probably going to resign and tell her one of the reasons that I'm going to resign is because I'm real disappointed in the way that I've been treated since I did this channel 13 thing when I was asked to be there as a representative of the department.
- Yeah.
- And I understand that some of the other Union leaders don't want their people involved in sensitivity training because it goes against their religion. And if you want to read about-- how if you want to hear about how bad the police department's managed, just pick up *The Post*. It's on the front page of the paper every day.

And I'm just real tired. I really thought that they wanted to do something good down there, and maybe I'm fooled. Maybe I am a fool.

- No. I don't think--
- I just don't have the energy to put into that and to put into this. And I'm going to put my energy into coming up here and doing this show.
- Huh.
- So the rest of it will just have to do whatever it's going to do.
- Well, it is going to take energy. It's--
- Well, I don't have any, girl. And--
- Nobody said it was easy to be the company queer.
- Depending on how marathon goes this time, I may not be here on Saturday night.
- Hm. And that's coming up--
- Just telling you. Anyway--
- That's coming up in September.
- -- I do have a message I'd like to play for all those homophobes down at HPD--
- Oh!

concerning me and my position on my involvement here at KPFT and just my lifestyle, my alternative lifestyle as a whole. And it's a little ditty that I'd like to play just for them.
[MUSIC - TOM PETTY, "WON'T BACK DOWN"]
OK?
- OK.
- OK. We got viewer mail coming up next.
- Ah!
- It's just easier to stand around if there are other people standing there with you and helping you, but there's not. So we'll just live with it.
- OK.
- Anyway, just rags me, Mary. I wish I could say that word. Starts with a P and
- Yes, I know. No.
- Well, David Letterman says it. Of course, he's not on Pacifica. Here's some viewer mail. David Letterman also says that.
- How about listener mail?
- Yeah.
- You know, there are lots of nights when I'm kind of glad that our listeners cannot view us. Of course, this is one of them.
- We'd have to comb our hair.
- Yeah.
- Forget it. That's why I was so scared when I did that TV thing. We ask you all the time to write us, and some of you do, and some of you don't.
Well, some of you do, and many of you don't. For those of you who don't, [BLOWS RASPBERRY]. Hateful Queens. Think
- How rude!
- Get your pencil out and write us. It's After Hours, KPFT 419 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas, 77006.
- In fact, we got several letters this week.
- Yeah, we did
- You must have been especially bitchy last week.
- Oh, we were playing music.
- Oh.

- They said, please quit playing music.
- Ah.
- Dear After Hours first, I would like to say how much I enjoy your program. I'm one of your non-gay listeners, and I've been listening to you for about a year.
- Oh!
- And there are a lot of you out there.
- Yeah, that was brought up in a meeting today.
- However, what I'm really writing to say is that I support your program 110%. The prejudices against gay and lesbian people must stop, not to mention the bigotry. We all know that it is going to take some serious reform from this in this screwed up country before positive changes come about. But one thing that must be remembered through everything is that the fight must never end until equality is reached even though a lot of the people running the country are so prejudice. This is by law a I can't even say the word
- Democracy?
anymore a democratic society
- Democratic.
which means we all have a right to express how we feel even though standing up for our beliefs and lives often means risking our necks. Don't ever give up. I know it's trying, but please don't give up.
And who cares what the self-righteous idiots think? Oh, she said some other words that I can't read. This country belongs to everyone.
Be political. Even if only 1 out of 1,000 people are reached and come out because of your program, that is 1 worth more than the 1,000 who didn't. As for John Goodner the bigot, I really pity him. Well, that's enough of my bitching.
As for y'all, don't stop bitching because people do listen. And remember, the non-gay people are your friends. Thanks for having-thanks for hearing me out.
More than that, thank you, and you are welcome to read this letter on the air. It's from Kelly, and she says, play some Indigo Girls. Girl, I was going to.
- Oh, I didn't bring my Indigo Girls.
- I left it at home. I pulled it out. Kelly will play it next week.
- You bet.
- I promise.
- You bet.
- This is

- I like that one.
- Yeah, this is great, isn't it? These are kind of winded letters. I'm skimming through this. Dear Buddy and Jimmy, it's Monday evening as I write this letter. This is--
- Did they really say Jimmy?
- --first time-- yeah.
- Ah.
- Usually they say Mary--
- I know.
- --or Louise or Margaret or hateful queen. Dear Buddy and Jimmy, it's Monday evening as I write this letter. This is the first time I've told anyone that I'm gay.

I'm 18 years old, and I spent most of my life refusing and denouncing the notion that I'm gay. At the age of 16, I realized how strongly I wanted to share my life with another man rather than a woman. Not until a year ago could I call myself a homosexual.

I've always cringed at the word. It sounded so clinical. Let's see.

My self-esteem has been deeply injured not only by a homophobic society but also by my inner struggle with myself about being gay. I've been a Catholic all my life. I have a great faith in God, for he has taken such gentle care of me.

But you can-- but as you all know, the Vatican does not look too kindly on us sinners. This deep root in the Catholic Church has crippled many self-- has crippled my self-worth despite it keeping me and helping me to attain such faith. I've known the inner torment, confusion, anger, and disillusionment that every gay and lesbian person must endure. I've often wondered why anyone would think someone would choose to be gay in this society that hates us and kills us.

- Turn it over.
- Oh, sorry, Mary. To be gay is to know a great deal of pain. It is a difficult life to live.

So why would anyone ask for it? To all the self-righteous, ignorant Christians, I have something to say. God is for all of us.

He did not create sin. He does not create ugliness or perversion. If it is true that being gay is sinful or ugly, then he made a mistake, and God doesn't make mistakes.

I've always been gay even though I've often wished I was not. I suppose I'm telling you this, Buddy and Jimmy, because without you, I could have never come as far as I have. I listened to your show for the first time in December of 1990.

I was stunned when I first heard it. Its frankness and boldness shocked me, but it also thrilled me. For the first time, I felt that I was not the only gay man in Houston and to be gay does not equal damnation.

After hearing your show on Sunday the 18th of August, I simply had to write. You must continue to fight. For every 13-year-old that sneaks a phone call to you, there are thousands who do not and others who are quietly finding out their true value and worth while listening to you scream and laugh and cry and demand to be treated other than lepers.

I urge you to continue the fight, After Hours and the zeal and love that you always have. I cannot speak for all the gays who live in this life in bars and bars and have deaf ears and blind eyes. But I speak on behalf of me and all the young gay men and women who can't come out just yet.

I don't know if I'll ever come out of the closet. It's strange, and it's a struggle I will probably know for most of my life. But I and every other young gay and lesbian person need a voice, and you provide that voice along with understanding and support that we cry for.

Though we can't march and rally in person, our spirits will cheer up. With every stride, you help us. Thank you, Jimmy and Buddy, for your volunteer efforts to make us feel just as worthy as having-- just as worthy with a man in our bed as-- a man in my bed as I would be with a woman.

I hope I've helped you understand that even though you feel as you are screaming in a soundproof room, we hear you guys. We love you, and you must never stop screaming if only for the silent and the scared. With appreciation and support.

PS, I do not mind if you read the letter on the air. I hope it is not so terribly long-winded. If you cannot, just say you got it.

Would you play a request? Remember when you said if there was any gay in a man, this song would drive them off the road? Well, you guys were right.

"I'm Telling You" by Ms. Jennifer Holliday. We'll play that. Oh! It's not fine, but that's OK.

- I'd like to make a little comment to the man who wrote that. I don't pretend to know all of the ins and outs of dealing with being gay and being a member of the Catholic Church or trying to be members of the gay community and a member of the Catholic Church, but there is a wonderful organization called Dignity.
- Yep.
- It's a group of gay and lesbian Catholics. They meet-- if you can't find the number in the phone book, try calling the switchboard-- 529-3211.
- Girl, you always plug that damn switch board.
- That's right. That's right.
- I'm kidding. I love the switchboard. Anyway, we do want to hear from you. It's After Hours KPFT 8419 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas, 77006. And we have one more little letter here to read to you--
- OK.
- -- and a very special request. Look at that. Look at those puppy dog eyes.
- What a beautiful man.
- Isn't he gorgeous?
- Yeah. As you might suspect, we got--
- Looking at your picture, Brian.
- Yes.

- You're gorgeous. We're old enough to be your father or your grandmother.
- Hey! She is
- Anyway.
evil and hateful tonight.
- No, I'm just kidding. I got one more letter for you. Remember, the address is KPFT After Hours, 419 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas, 77006.
- Yeah.
- Please write because that's what keeps us going, right?
- Right. And like I said, we've got one more letter because every once in a while, you get a letter that just does it to it.
- Mm-hm.
- This is that letter. After getting this in the mail and watching the Soviet Union fall apart or actually Communism. It's not the Soviet Union.
- No, it's still there. It's the whole idea of Communism.
- After getting this letter and looking at this young man's face because in radio, you don't get to see a lot of people.
- No.
- So this letter is very special because there's a photograph that came along with it. So send pictures.
- Oh.
- OK. I'm kidding.
- We could get in trouble for that.
- I didn't say send naked pictures.
- Oh! Well
- Especially if you're hairy and have lots of chest hair. Although if you are hairy and have lots of chest hair
- No! No!
- OK. Let me read this letter. This is another letter that we got.
- This is my favorite letter of the week. Anyway, dear After Hours, my name is Brian, and I'm 15 years old. I just started listening to your show, and I'm gay.
I have a great guy named Chris that really loves me, and around my gay and lesbian friends, even though they're few in numbers, I'm open about my sex life. But Chris and I are both still in the damp, dark, and lonely closet. Maybe if you guys keep telling people to come out, we'll get brave and come out. I'm really in need of meeting people like me to find some friends and have fun enjoying

life. Can you please play a song, a love song, from me to Chris?

- Oh!
- Thank you, and love, Brian. PS, keep being queens on the rag.
- Don't worry, honey. We will. We were born to it.
- Anyway, OK. This is from Brian to Chris. He loves you very much.
- Aw, what a lucky guy.
- And you heard it on After Hours.
- Yeah.
- Thank you, baby, for writing us. It really does mean a lot to us. And if you're listening and you haven't written us, I'll give you the address about 10,000 more times because I love getting mail from you. It's After Hours KPFT, 8419 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas, 77006. And this is for Chris from Brian, and you heard it on After Hours.
- Yeah.
- Well, girl
- Ooh, that was pretty.
was that a good love song?
- I think so.
- And what did this queen want to hear? Jennifer Holliday?
- Oh, listen.
- OK.
- I got a little story about that.
- Well, tell it. Quick.
- Well, you know how queens are. The first time I ever heard that song, it was before I ever heard of the plapreamgirls. It was at the old Copa Lounge, and some wild queen came out and just did this number. You know, it was just all over the stage. And I thought it was just the greatest drag number I've ever heard in my life.
- And then the next drag show you went to, 15 other queens did it.
- Yeah.
- Oh, child.
- It became the song for drag queens.
- It is. It's from <i>Dreamgirls</i> , and it's, and I'm telling you.
- And I'm telling you I'm not going, girl.

- That's it, honey. Now, listen, if you are gay and you are driving, please pull over to the side of the road and put your emergency brake on. This is just a warning because gay men have been known to kick up their heels while this song is going.
- That's right.
- And something inside you, you just can't stop it.
- I know. Just stop at the first door and go in and scream, give me a wig.
- Clear these tables and let's get this going. Here we go.
- Ladies and gentlemen, Miss Donna May! Woo! And every other drag queen in history. What? What?
- I am exhausted, but I did get a standing ovation out in the lobby.
- It's because they were all trying to run. If we're going to play that, we're going to play this.
- OK.
- Ladies and gentlemen, please pull over and put your car in park. This is a warning from Pacifica. Oh yes. Oh yes, it is.
- Wrong button.
- I see. OK, enough of that.
- OK. I don't want to hear
- I was just getting ready to do a formation line here.
- Well, Mary, I cannot believe. And Otis called back, Otis McClay
- Oh.
who does Houston Saturday night just before we do, of course.
- And 1:00 to 3:00 on Monday.
- Yep. He called back and said, he couldn't find the article in the paper to get the information as to whether it was the Association or the Union that said that the Houston police officers in their group could not attend sensitivity training for gay and lesbian people because it went against their religious beliefs.
- Hm.
- So I guess that means that if they're Protestant, they're not going to have anything to do with atheists
- I guess.
or Muslims
- I guess.
or you know, you see what I'm saying?

- We got a call from a listener who thinks it was in <i>The Advocate.</i> I'm going to have to check when I get home.
- On what?
- Thought that that article was in The Advocate.
- Oh really?
- Yeah.
- Well, Mary, you just sit in <i>The Advocate</i> . I don't know what you're talking about.
- When?
- These are the women from Kentucky.
- Oh!
- And they do know what we're talking about. And I'll also play this for all those narrow minded bigots in the audience. We won't be silent, kids.
- Right, your girlfriend.
- Yes on After Hours. We're here.
- And we're queer.
- Yeah.
- I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me had not something in my life in 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 who love this state that gave us life and has nurtured us and taught us our values to 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 the politics of the state of Texas.
[APPLAUSE]