

BUDDY Hello. I don't know. Wait a minute, it's going to stop.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Make it stop--

BUDDY We'll do that again. We'll just edit this part out later.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Probably a real good idea.

BUDDY Yeah. Here, wait a minute. Here's some of Mr. Lee's mail.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: The infamous Jay Lee.

BUDDY Oh my God. [CHUCKLES] This is still going. It's probably not going to stop.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, hi, buddy. How you doing? Happy Easter.

BUDDY Oh, shut up.

JOHNSTON:

[LAUGHING]

JIMMY CARPER: Is this going to stop?

BUDDY Well, Happy Easter. I mean--

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, ta-da.

[SOUND CLIP PLAYING]

BUDDY See, they're still talking. This-- let's put it over there.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

NARRATOR: From the--

BUDDY OK. [HUMMING]

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Now what?

BUDDY Hell, I don't know.

JOHNSTON:

[LAUGHING]

I don't know. OK, let's do this.

NARRATOR: If you only had a moment, and the world was listening, what would you say about peace?

JIMMY CARPER: I want a piece!

NARRATOR: You could say peace is inevitable, that war will end-- either through decision or destruction. We have a choice. For the first time in history, it is possible to view the entire planet, with all its human diversity, as it truly is. Our world is one world.

Peace is more than just an end to war. Conflicts just as deadly are raging on hidden battlefields in our hearts and minds. Let's talk peace, real peace-- racial, religious, social, economic, personal peace. Peace is possible because it, too, begins in the heart. A thought for peace from the Bahá'í faith.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NARRATOR: We regret that the following material has been censored to comply with the Federal Communications Commission's April 16, 1987 ruling, which greatly expanded the types of programming it considers sensitive and/or offensive. The Pacifica Foundation and KPFT have always been on the cutting edge, upholding the right to freedom of speech and the expression of diverse ideas and cultures. Pacifica is appealing the FCC's decision in federal court, and can use your support in this matter.

You can write to the FCC, care of Chairman Dennis Patrick, at the Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street Northwest, Washington, DC, 20554. Or you can send your tax deductible financial support to the Free Speech Defense Fund, Pacifica Foundation, 3729 Cahuenga Boulevard, North Hollywood, California, 91604. This is Pacifica Radio, KPFT, FM 90, in Houston.

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

BUDDY That was Garlin.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: What is that?

GARLIN: (SPED UP) The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

--is advised.

BUDDY I think there's a problem there with the cart--

JOHNSTON:

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

BUDDY I think there's a problem with that machine.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

BUDDY Let's try it here. Come on, Garlin. Come on, Garlin. Talk to me, baby.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: [CHUCKLES]

BUDDY We can't do all-- we got to do all this FCC garbage before we can say anything.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, is that right?

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

BUDDY I mean, you know, censorship.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Come on, Gar.

BUDDY Here he is. Wait a minute.

JOHNSTON:

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

JIMMY CARPER: There. Wasn't that better?

BUDDY You know what I'd like to hear? Let's do this.

JOHNSTON:

[SPED UP AUDIO]

It's the chipmunk gay rights March.

[SPED UP AUDIO]

I think we need to put a sign on that or something, because you come in, and you don't know what's going on. And it's like, I don't think this is working.

SPEAKER: --we want?

GROUP: Gay rights!

SPEAKER: When do we want--

JIMMY CARPER: That sounds better.

GROUP: Now!

SPEAKER: What do we want?

GROUP: Gay rights!

SPEAKER: When do we want them?

GROUP: Now!

SPEAKER: What do we want?

GROUP: Gay ri--

BUDDY 526-4000.

JOHNSTON:

SPEAKER: When do we want them?

GROUP: Now!

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SPEAKER: What do we want?

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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-- once you do, you will feel so much better.

[CHEERING]

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

HARVEY MILK: Come on out. [CHUCKLES] Join us. Bring a friend.

REPORTER: What do you think about the turnout so far?

HARVEY MILK: Well, it's never enough-- never enough. Never enough.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BUDDY Well.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, good morning-- again.

BUDDY Why did you say good morning again? We're still here.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BUDDY Nobody's listening anyway, darling. It's just us.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I don't know.

PRESENTER 1: No, there's people listening.

BUDDY No there's not. Nobody gives a damn.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: There's a man on hold--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

--matter of fact.

BUDDY There is?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. He wants to talk to your-- hot body.

BUDDY [CHUCKLES] Wait a minute.

JOHNSTON:

PRESENTER 1: [CHUCKLES]

BUDDY KPFT.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Buddy, hi. This is Rick.

BUDDY Hi, Rick.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: I just wanted to let you know that, yes, there is somebody listening.

BUDDY Well, why don't people get involved? Have you been reading this garbage in *The Twit*--

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Yeah?

BUDDY --about the regular guy, and the irregular guy, and the parade, and all this crap?

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, what do you think?

BUDDY Doesn't anybody care what's going on?

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Question.

BUDDY What?

JOHNSTON:

RICK: As you know, I'm-- myself, I'm new to Houston.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: I have a really problem. I mean, I consider myself a fairly good looking guy, 28 years old. And you go into the bars here, and--

BUDDY And nobody will look at you!

JOHNSTON:

RICK: No, that's not it. It's like nobody wants to even acknowledge you. It's not that you want to be looked at. I go in, I want to talk to somebody. It's like I want to be around--

BUDDY They won't talk to you.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: And it seems like everybody's so cliquish.

BUDDY Have you ever called one of those 976 things? I mean, you don't have to say yes. I have. I spent--

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Yes, I have.

BUDDY --\$10,000 last month calling them. You know, where you abuse yourself on the line while somebody's going
JOHNSTON: [PANTING]. It's incredible that gay men-- I don't know about lesbians, Kay. You might fill us in on this. But it's incredible that we have another way of ignoring each other.

RICK: Right.

BUDDY I wish we could call in now where you call up, and it clicks in, and you're on there for like three minutes. And you
JOHNSTON: hear people going, hello? Hello?

[LAUGHING]

Hello?

PRESENTER 1: How--

JIMMY CARPER: You're kidding. Is that--

PRESENTER 1: --exciting.

BUDDY Where are you calling from? You know.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: What do you look like?

BUDDY Give me a break, man.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Yeah.

BUDDY Jesus Christ.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: What I wanted to say is, I wanted to discuss something.

BUDDY Does it-- Yeah, OK. Go ahead, baby.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Sure. It's just-- I don't know. To me, what I'd like to say is, if you're in a bar somewhere, or somewhere and a guy walks up and says, hi can I buy you a drink, don't automatically assume the guy's trying to pick you up.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that's true.

RICK: He may just want to be-- myself, I do that every once in a while.

BUDDY I'm trying to get--

JOHNSTON:

RICK: --for the conversation. And it's like the person will go, oh, excuse me, and walk away.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you know--

BUDDY Yeah, but I'm trying to get picked up, and you-- nevermind.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: We don't have to assume that the entire gay social life revolves around a bar.

RICK: This is true.

BUDDY What are we down-- how long have you been in Houston?

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Not even a year.

BUDDY [CLEARS THROAT] I've been here almost six years. We've been doing this program almost two years. It'll be two years in September.

RICK: And I want to say thank you. And some day, I think the show is going to go nationwide.

BUDDY Well, I want to say that if things don't change before September, it'll probably be my last show after the parade.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Oh, I'd really hate to see that because--

BUDDY Well, see, I'm real tired.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: --make a lot of people feel like they really belong--

BUDDY You know what?

JOHNSTON:

RICK: --community.

BUDDY We came-- I came here to this station to get involved, to help. And the community doesn't want any help. You

JOHNSTON: know who you have to fight? You have to fight people like Mary Ann Coleman. You have to fight people like David Fowler. You have to fight people like The Voice, and the [INAUDIBLE], and the TWT.

They don't give a damn about the gay movement. If they did, they would have helped us. They don't help us do nothing. And I'm just like real tired. I have given money, my time, and my energy, and I'm just all given out. So I-- was going to say later that if things don't change-- like, I want to get through the parade because it's the 20th anniversary of Stonewall.

The show will still be here-- because Rob, and all the kids that are here-- the gang. They'll do it, but I can't do it anymore. I just don't have the zip, zip-a-dee-do-dah. I'm-- [SIGHS] I'm real tired of sleeping by myself.

I'm real tired of going to the bars and being ignored. I'm real tired of-- can you say prissy? Is that a word? Can we get in trouble for that?

JIMMY CARPER: Prissy? Yeah, no, that's fine.

PRESENTER 1: Prissy's a word.

BUDDY Prissy-assed-- I guess you can say that, because they said it on 93Q tonight-- queens that are so goddamn stuck

JOHNSTON: up, they won't and won't even acknowledge that you're standing in the room. What the hell are we down here fighting for their rights, where they don't give a-- oh, I can't say that word.

JIMMY CARPER: No, you can't say that one.

BUDDY They don't give a damn. You know what I mean, Rick?

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Definitely.

BUDDY I'm real sick of it, baby. I'm really tired and worn out.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: I've even gone so far as calling a couple of organizations that I was involved in--

BUDDY Oh yeah, get involved in an organization.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: --saying, hey, I want to help.

BUDDY They don't want your help.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: It depends on the organization.

RICK: --name and number, and we'll give you a call if we need you.

BUDDY You mean to tell you about-- well, I can't say up until today, because Ray Hill's the president of the Gay and
JOHNSTON: Lesbian Political Caucus. And today-- yesterday, they had their-- fill up their Easter basket down in Mary's parking lot.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

BUDDY And I saw Ray Hill there. It's the first time since I've been in Houston-- well, I can't say that, because I really
JOHNSTON: wasn't around GLPC when Annise and all those people. But I-- in the last year or so, I had yet to see a GLPC president at a function.

JIMMY CARPER: You're kidding?

BUDDY For the community.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

BUDDY Look at the rally, Jimmy. What happened at the rally?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: That's true, absolutely.

BUDDY What happened at the rally? You remember?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: [CHUCKLES] Yeah, the president wasn't there. He was supposed to--

BUDDY The president wasn't there.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Right. And then there was a whole bunch of problems about who was going to speak in who's place.

BUDDY Someone came up and they said, I want to speak. And I said, that's fine. We didn't get any from-- well, in the first
JOHNSTON: place, the community didn't want the rally to take place. They wanted it to flop-- because, see, they didn't like me.

And they didn't even know me. They didn't even give me a chance. But that's OK, because I've tried. I've tried. But they wanted the thing to flop.

Well, it didn't flop it. It was very beautiful.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it was.

BUDDY The rally was beautiful. We had Harry Byrd here, and Heartsong sung, and the Montrose Singers, and the MCCR
JOHNSTON: Choir. It was wonderful. It was very, very beautiful.

But there were people down there-- and I'll believe this until the day I die-- that said, ha-ha-ha, it's going to flop, and he's going to look like a fool, and he can't do anything. And you know, I was just so proud of our community, when we came together as a community and did something beautiful.

And to hell with all those people. We did it without them. And it was just wonderful. But anyway, they-- I'm really tired of garbage. I have a friend that works out at the gym where I work out, and I was walking down on Montrose-- when, Tuesday-- Monday or Tuesday with another friend. And we walked up to him and said, hello, how are you.

And he said, fine. And we exchange whatever it is you exchange-- hellos, and went on our way. Well, I saw him two or three days later in the gym. While we were talking, someone that has a business-- I won't even name it, I'll be nice-- on Montrose that is part of the executive committee for Gay, Lesbian Pride Week told my friend, you should avoid him because he's that asshole that does the gay radio program at KPFT, and all he does is cause trouble, and duh-duh-duh. And this queen doesn't even know me.

JIMMY CARPER: You've got to be kidding.

BUDDY So how in the hell can he start making judgments on me to people that he-- give me a break.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Buddy, I would just like to say, I would hate to see you go because, as far as I'm concerned, listening to your show makes me proud to be gay.

BUDDY Do you know why-- or I think you know why? Because we're very honest.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Yeah.

BUDDY That's what life is, baby. You can't-- I can't come on here and lie to everybody. And when I feel bad, I say, you know, I really feel like hell. And I really do sometimes.

JOHNSTON:

Because when I worked for the police department, I thought that was really a big thing, and I thought I would get a lot of support. I couldn't get nothing. No support at all. Because some of these Queens are so goddamn afraid that somebody is going to get their picture in the paper, other than them, or somebody else is going to get their name in lights, that they're not going to help anybody do anything. So it's a sad state that we're in, it really is.

Here we've got the 20th anniversary of Stonewall, the parade coming up. And right now, they're telling us they don't want drag queens. And then two or three paragraphs on down the line, they say they do want drag queens. I wish I had a copy of the rules and regulations that they printed because there was one little thing in there that scared me.

It said the whole purpose was to promote a positive image of the gay community.

RICK: Right.

BUDDY And I want you to tell me who is to decide what a positive image is. I cannot speak for the 500,000 gay men and
JOHNSTON: lesbians that live in Harris County. I would never even try to speak for all those people.

But there are some queens [CHUCKLES] and whatever in this city that can tell you right now that they're tops, baby. And they have screwed up more good for the community.

JIMMY CARPER: What's odd to me, Buddy, is that all of a sudden now, we can't have drag queens in a parade that's celebrating the birth of gay rights as we know it. That was started by drag queens.

BUDDY I don't understand it.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: True. And just like the thing with condoms, they don't want any condoms.

BUDDY Oh, you can't throw condoms.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: They don't want any condoms being thrown this year, right?

BUDDY Let me tell you something-- and I told this last week, I think. I told the same story. I worked for HPD, for the
JOHNSTON: Houston Police Department, and did a gay radio program. Two years ago, I went to the Lesbian, Gay Pride Week parade, and I wore sunglasses and a big hat, and hidden the crowd because I didn't want anyone to see me-- especially the cops that knew me. And I called in sick that day.

I called in sick because I wanted to be there. Last year, after doing this program for almost a year, still working at HPD, where I went to work in a uniform that said Houston Police on the side of my sleeve, I went to the Pride Week parade, again calling in sick-- because that's the only way I could get the day off. That's grounds for dismissal-- calling in sick, abusing sick leave.

I called in sick. And they told us then, last year, that you can't throw rubbers, or beads, or you can't throw anything. I went down Westheimer, and we threw 2,000 rubbers.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

BUDDY And buckets of beads. And let me tell you something, when we started out at Woodhead and Westheimer, and I
JOHNSTON: looked up there at that intersection, there were about two dozen cops there. And the first thing I thought was, my God, I can't do this.

JIMMY CARPER: You did it, though.

BUDDY And I reached down, and punched up the tape. And our little song started playing, and Harvey Milk started
JOHNSTON: talking. And I thought, to hell with them. I'm doing this for me. And we started walking, and there was nobody there.

It was just a couple of people here, a couple of people there. When we turn the corner, at the curve, there were 20,000 plus gay men and lesbians screaming and yelling at us. And they cheered and applauded.

RICK: What I would like to say about the condoms, if I may, is--

BUDDY What's that?

JOHNSTON:

RICK: --I would like to see it continue. Because who doesn't-- who knows? There may be somebody out there that may be their first--

BUDDY I just don't understand.
JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, is it-- correct me if I'm wrong here. I believe it's really against policy, or city law, or something that you can't throw anything from a moving--

BUDDY From a moving vehicle.
JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

BUDDY Because they don't want someone to run out and get ran over. And that makes sense.
JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, what about walking along, and just kind of handing them out? Or--

BUDDY We were walking and tossing them, and had a hell of a time.
JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

BUDDY And I'll throw rubbers this year, if I have to go to New York to throw them. Maybe Rainbow the Clown and I, we
JOHNSTON: can have our own parade, and come down from Bagby and Westheimer, and meet them in the middle of the intersection. I don't know.

RICK: Buddy, I would definitely like to say I would-- I definitely would hate to see you go.

JIMMY CARPER: We would, too.

BUDDY I'm just tired. You know what I mean? I have to work for a living. And we asked people to pledge during the show,
JOHNSTON: or during marathon, and we didn't get a lot of that money paid. And we spend a lot of money out of our pocket for records and tapes. And all we ask sometimes is for people to write us.

And I go on and say, would you write us a letter? And you look in the mailbox, and there's nothing there. And it's hard-- it's hard sometimes to come in here, and do this every week, and act like everything's fine. But everything's not fine. So this morning on Easter Sunday, maybe we can resurrect the community. Who knows?

But I appreciate you calling.

RICK: All right.

BUDDY And--
JOHNSTON:

RICK: One thing I would like to say again is just to the community at large. If you're out somewhere, and somebody walks up and just says, hi, don't give them the brush-off. Maybe it's just a guy that wants to say hi, not necessarily a guy that wants to have a roll in the hay.

BUDDY Maybe it's somebody just as lonely as we are.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: Right.

BUDDY Thanks, baby. Have a good morning.

JOHNSTON:

RICK: You too, Buddy.

BUDDY KPFT.

JOHNSTON:

KURT: Buddy?

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

KURT: Hi.

BUDDY Hi.

JOHNSTON:

KURT: This is Kurt.

BUDDY Hi, darling.

JOHNSTON:

KURT: I've got a couple of things I wanted to say. First off, about the gay pride parade.

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

KURT: And also about this Mr. Regular Guy, whoever the hell he is.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BUDDY 5-- hang on. Hang on. 526-4000. 526-4000. That's our phone--

JOHNSTON:

KURT: Number one, I don't consider myself an ally but I have done shows in the past-- drag shows. One, it's none of his business who-- or how somebody else wants to live their life, because he don't pay their bills. They're not the ones that they have to impress or make happy. And if he's not happy with the way the rest of the world is going, he's obviously not happy with himself.

BUDDY That's it.

JOHNSTON:

KURT: And just because he's not happy with himself, he can't change the rest of the world. Number two, the thing about the parade, that's a bunch of bull.

JIMMY CARPER: Which part?

KURT: About the no drag queens, and no feminine clothing, no hair showing, and no--

BUDDY Well, in--

JOHNSTON:

KURT: --all this other stuff that they have going.

BUDDY In one paragraph they said, no, you can't. And then, two or three lines down, they said, yeah, you can.

JOHNSTON:

KURT: Right.

BUDDY It's so--

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Nebulous.

BUDDY It's so chicken-crappy that--

JOHNSTON:

KURT: OK, the one thing I wanted to say about that is that I come in contact with a lot of people where I work, because I work at one of the convenience stores. And you hear all this stuff about how people are so proud, and how they want to show the way that they think that we ought to spend our life on freedom, and how happy they are for the parade. And Mary Ann Coleman comes in the store a lot.

BUDDY Mm-hmm.

JOHNSTON:

KURT: And I had to sit down and put up with her bullcrap all the time because I work in this store, and we have to put up with what they have to say. But one thing I'd like to tell her, and I hope she's listening--

BUDDY Oh, she's not listening, baby. She's sleeping.

JOHNSTON:

PRESENTER 1: --late at night.

KURT: One thing I would like to say is, I don't really care what she wants. She doesn't run this community. There's no way that-- I don't think anybody would let her. And frankly, I don't really care what her opinion is. If I want to go out there with hair hanging out from my underarms, I'll do it.

BUDDY I want to do-- I have never in my life put on a dress. And say, oh the boss would like that.

JOHNSTON:

[LAUGHING]

I have never put on a dress and done drag. But, you know, I'd love to do drag and go down Westheimer this year, just for the hell of it.

KURT: Well, a group of friends of ours [INAUDIBLE] in the garden party.

BUDDY Yeah?

JOHNSTON:

KURT: Couple of things planned.

[LAUGHING]

And it's going to be quite different. And I hope that Ms. Mary Ann Coleman goes off, because I would love to be standing right behind the-- or right in front of the rest of the group when she does. Because I'm probably one of the first ones to go off on her.

BUDDY Mary Ann is probably a very sweet woman.

JOHNSTON:

KURT: She is, but she's--

BUDDY But--

JOHNSTON:

KURT: --she can be very opinionated at times.

BUDDY --Jerry Falwell is probably a very sweet man. I don't agree with what Jerry preaches and teaches.

JOHNSTON:

KURT: And also another thing, Buddy, if you can, don't leave-- because you mean a lot to a lot of us. The only reason that I really tune in is to hear everybody up there, including you. And you really-- you make a lot of our nights, and you give us a lot of strength to stand up for our own rights.

BUDDY Well, you hold down the fort.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: We'll be working on him, too. Don't worry.

BUDDY Bring me up--

JOHNSTON:

RICK: OK, thanks.

BUDDY Bring me up another brownie. I'll see you later. KPFT.

JOHNSTON:

CALLER: Hello?

BUDDY Yes?

JOHNSTON:

CALLER: Well, I was about say that it's a nice change for me to switch over to men for a change. But I just recently, might I say, crossed over.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Welcome to the group.

CALLER: Well, thanks. I'm not really into the scene much.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

CALLER: But--

BUDDY Scene's a mess.

JOHNSTON:

CALLER: Yeah, I've been listening. I listen to a lot of shows on KPFT.

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

CALLER: Not just this show. I'd like to see a-- [BURPS] Excuse me. About to say I'd [INAUDIBLE] suck a big dick [INAUDIBLE]--

BUDDY See? That's what you get, garbage.

JOHNSTON:

[LAUGHING]

Crazy straight people that have to say nasty words that the FCC won't let us. Oh well. To hell with them.

PRESENTER 1: Well, at least he's listening.

BUDDY At least he's listening, yeah. He thinks he's cute. I wish he was cute.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Maybe that was Regular Guy.

PRESENTER 1: Actually, doesn't *The Advocate* have an article on how to pick up straight men?

BUDDY What is this?

JOHNSTON:

PRESENTER 2: I always found straight men easier to pick up.

JIMMY CARPER: That looks like a room deodorizer.

[LAUGHING]

PRESENTER 1: What are you doing with a room deodorizer? You're--

JIMMY CARPER: The kind that come in very small bottles.

BUDDY 526-4000. That's the number to call. Someone told me this was illegal.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, really? Is it?

PRESENTER 1: They are.

JIMMY CARPER: Illegal for what?

BUDDY Hello? Hello? Wake up out there. Getting down on your knees and do what we do is illegal, darling. Just because

JOHNSTON: it's illegal doesn't mean that it's wrong.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. You see, it's not illegal--

PRESENTER 1: --real bad for you, though.

JIMMY CARPER: It's not illegal to be one. It's illegal to do one.

BUDDY Well, that's true, but you have to understand the laws. Just because it's a law doesn't mean that it's right. It was

JOHNSTON: law that the Jews were carted off to the gas chambers, but that doesn't mean it was right. It was law that Blacks had to sit at the back of the bus, but that doesn't mean that it's right. It's law that keeps Nelson Mandela in prison in South Africa, but that doesn't mean that it's right.

PRESENTER 2: I heard that.

JIMMY CARPER: Did you know that in the '50s, it was against the law for gay people to congregate together?

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: That was to keep us from creating organizations.

PRESENTER 2: Spreading [INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY CARPER: And that the first one, the Mattachine, was against the law. And every time they met, they could have been busted, and carted off to jail.

PRESENTER 1: Even though some of the best poets at that time were gay.

JIMMY CARPER: They weren't even do anything sexual. They were just meeting, and that was against the law.

BUDDY Well, well, well.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: So we have come a little ways.

PRESENTER 2: We have a lot more to go.

BUDDY A long way to go. 526-4000. That's the number to call.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: It sure is. Give us a call. In the meantime--

[LAUGHING]

Oh, I see that Purple Heart coming out.

BUDDY Let's do this.

JOHNSTON:

PRESENTER 1: Ah-hah.

BUDDY Because I've got that interview with someone that we'll play here in just a second. Yeah, 526-4000. That's the
JOHNSTON: number to call.

[AUDIO CLIP GLITCH]

That-- did you hear--

PRESENTER 1: That was a little noisy.

BUDDY Let's-- it stopped.

JOHNSTON:

PRESENTER 2: [INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY CARPER: Oh

BUDDY [CHUCKLES]

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY CARPER: There we go. Michael Callen.

BUDDY Yeah. We'll do this, and we'll be back in a minute.

JOHNSTON:

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

How many times have we heard that song? "If your love always did what a normal heart should do, if you always play a part instead of being who you really are?" And that's a question, I guess, I ask you to ask yourself every week, right? Who are you really, and what do you want to do with your life?

"Then you might just miss the one who's standing there. So instead of passing by, show them that you care. Instead of asking why-- why me, and why you, why not we too If we always believe all the madness that we're taught, never questioning the rules, then we're living lies we bought so long ago.

How are they to know? Well, it's not who's right or wrong. It's just another way. And I don't want to fight, but now I'm going to stay with you till the end-- with you, my friend." It's called "Love Don't Need a Reason," and you're listening to *After Hours*-- of course on KPFT in Houston.

And joining us right now through the magic of tape, because he's at home sleeping right now like sensible people should be doing-- we're taping this early Saturday evening-- is a young man that sung this beautiful Michael Callen song recently at the Center for a Positive Lifestyle. Right?

REG BRAND: Right.

BUDDY In the-- I can't say the Joe Watts production. [CHUCKLES] Although Joe would probably want us to say that. It's the

JOHNSTON: Jeff-- what's the guy's name?

REG BRAND: Hagedorn.

BUDDY --Hagedorn production. He wrote the play called-- *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*. No. He wrote a play called--

JOHNSTON: what's it called?

REG BRAND: You're on your own.

BUDDY Come on. Let's call Joe Watts and ask him. No, seriously, folks, it's called "A Layman's Guide to Safe Sex", and it's

JOHNSTON: wonderful. And it has-- had been playing at the Center for a Positive Lifestyle for several weeks. In fact, a month or so ago, we had the cast in here, and Joe, and they read some scenes for us.

And we're going to be recording that play. I don't know if this or not. We're going to be recording that play and making it available to the Pacifica Archives, which will send it to 300 plus radio stations around the United States. So not only will we be hearing it in Houston, we may hear it in Los Angeles, in LA, and Leningrad, and God knows where. But anyway, on with the show.

Joining us in the studio this morning is Reg Brand. And you sang "Love Don't Need a Reason," right?

REG BRAND: Indeed, I did.

BUDDY And it was beautiful.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Happily.

BUDDY How did you find out about Michael Callen?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Through Joe Watts. He brought this song to me and said, I want you to sing in the show. And I said all right when I heard the song. It's wonderful, wonderful music. It's easy to sing.

BUDDY It's a beautiful song.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: It gives you enough heart that you don't have to make up any.

BUDDY Had you ever heard of Michael before you've heard this song?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: No, never.

BUDDY Have you ever heard any of the other things on the album?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Oh yeah, I sit and listen to it by the hour now.

BUDDY Really? He's wonderful. He should be here this spring, I hope. Anyway, you're a thriving musician?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Well, I'm thriving and I'm a musician. I don't know if you can put those two together that way.

BUDDY Not on this radio station, you can't. Because if you say-- no, never mind. We get into this trouble all the time

JOHNSTON: because everybody knows we're gay, and-- where any time we say anything out of line, they make big deals out of it. So if you say thriving, it reminds us of throb-- no, I can't.

REG BRAND: [LAUGHS]

BUDDY I'm not going to get off on that. You've written some other songs though, right?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: A few that I let people listen-- I've written lots, but I've written a few that I'll let people listen to.

BUDDY When are we going to be able to buy your albums?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: I ask myself that question a lot. It's in the works. Not until I have enough material that I feel like is worth putting out there, because I don't-- I'm not going to ask somebody to pay attention when I don't have something for them to pay attention to.

BUDDY Are you nervous?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Why-- just because I'm jumping around here and moving my hands a lot, why do you ask me that?

[CHUCKLING]

BUDDY There's no reason to be nervous.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Actually, I was sitting here wondering how I look.

BUDDY I'm actually chewing this candy on--

JOHNSTON:

[CHEWING]

REG BRAND: I haven't been on radio in a while. Do I look all right?

BUDDY You look fabulous, darling. It's radio. They don't-- they can't see us, thank God.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: But they know. They always know.

BUDDY 3:00 in the morning.

JOHNSTON:

[LAUGHING]

If they could see us, I wouldn't be here. Anyway, you've written some of your own stuff, right?

REG BRAND: Mm-hmm. And about different things that happened in my life. I try to write about what I know.

BUDDY Have you always been interested in music?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: No. When I was in the cradle, I probably didn't really give a damn. Can I say that on the radio?

BUDDY It's too late. You already did.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Oh. But for as long as I can remember. My mother used to sing little patter songs to myself, and my brothers, and sisters. And those are some of my earliest memories. So yeah, always.

BUDDY Really?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Mm-hmm.

BUDDY When did you first start writing?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: 17, 18. Wrote poetry before that, but never put any of it to music. And then--

BUDDY What's the theme of most of your music? I mean, is it going--

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: That's kind of like asking me what's the theme of my life.

BUDDY Well, what is it going to be like Romanovsky and Phillips? Is going to be a lot of gay stuff? Are you going to write
JOHNSTON: middle-of-the-road stuff? Are you going to write stuff that's going to sell lots of records? Because gay music doesn't sell--

REG BRAND: God, I hope I do all of that.

[LAUGHING]

BUDDY I wish that it did, but unfortunately it doesn't. I mean, when you sing "Love Don't Need a Reason" the other night,
JOHNSTON: there were about 99 out of 100 that had never heard that song. And they were very, very touched. It was beautiful to see the reaction on their face, because we've been playing this album for eons and eons-- here at *After Hours*. But anyway--

REG BRAND: Thanks.

BUDDY But do you know what I mean? That there's an audience out there that's dying to hear your stuff. But do you get
JOHNSTON: discouraged at times, or-- because we asked Romanovsky and Phillips the same thing, and they have struggled enormously to get just where they are today.

REG BRAND: Hmm.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Do you look at it as a challenge, or as something you just have to do, or--

REG BRAND: It's just something that I do. I don't know that I have to do it. Things get bottled up inside sometimes, and I find that if I don't get them out-- one way or another, they end up hurting me eventually. And music is one of the safer ways to get them out. And so if I can catch something in a lyric, I can then let go of anything that hurt.

But I still got it. I can remember it, and I keep the lesson, but let go of whatever hurt.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: So then a lot of the songs are going to deal with growing up gay, or just being gay?

REG BRAND: Just growing up.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Just life, right?

REG BRAND: Yeah. If you narrow it down to just gay, then you're saying that other people can't relate to it. And I think that's--

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: That's not-- that's not what I'm trying to get at, because if you listen to "Small Town Boy" or-- what's the other one-- "Nobody's Fool", when Michael Callen sings "Nobody's Fool", that's anybody calling their mother and dad-- anybody. Straight, gay, Black, white, it's the same old thing.

You know, your parents-- not all parents, but most parents and their kids never will see eye to eye. And somehow, the parents always seem to think they've failed just a little bit, and the kids think they're never going to reach that goal where they should be for their folks. And if you listen to that song, it's every person that's ever felt that way.

That's the phone call that-- I mean, I make that phone call thousands of times a year. I could call them, and play that song, and get more out of it--

REG BRAND: They get it.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: --than in conversation. Exactly.

REG BRAND: Oh, when I write something, the things that I've written that are worth listening to are the things that were the hardest for me to write because they were the most honest, and they hurt a lot. And when I expose myself that way, I always am real leery of whether or not people are going to like it. Because if they don't like it, then they really don't like a chunk of me, because it's very real for me. When I sit down and say, OK, I'm going to write a song now, and I don't really have anything pressing on my mind, and there's no reason for me to write a song, except that I want to, it usually comes out like every other song that I make fun of.

And so the ones that matter are the ones that just come out of what I'm going through. And that's not just gay, or just anything. It's human.

BUDDY It's just life.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: It's just where I am at the moment.

BUDDY That's why we say *After Hours* is radio celebrating life, because we're not just queers. We're just people trying to
JOHNSTON: get through the day. And just like you, as you listen, we know that there are things that you face day-to-day-to-day-to-day. And if you face them, that's the key.

That's the clue, and the key, to the gateway that will get you through whatever it is you're trying to get through--facing it, and not hiding it, not avoiding it. But anyway, in other news, Center for a Positive Lifestyle and the production of "Layman's Guide to Safe Sex" was wonderful. They did a wonderful job. They looked like they were having a lot of fun with it.

REG BRAND: Lots of fun. Lots of fun.

BUDDY The show is having an encore performance at--

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Tomorrow night.

BUDDY --Stages--

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Actually, tonight.

BUDDY --tonight, right?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Sunday, Easter night.

BUDDY Sunday, Easter night-- Easter night at Safe Sex Show.

JOHNSTON:

[LAUGHING]

REG BRAND: I think that's appropriate.

BUDDY At Sages-- at Stages. And unfortunately, I don't have the phone number for stages.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: I do.

BUDDY Do you really?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: It's 52-STAGE.

BUDDY Well, that's easy.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: 52-STAGE.

BUDDY 52-STAGE, and I'm sure you can still get tickets if you'd like to see it.
JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: There are a few left.

BUDDY Why is the show going to Stages?
JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Because Ted Swindly, who's the director of Stages, came and said, we like the show. Would you come and perform for us for an evening?

BUDDY And this is during a run of one-night shows or something? It's a series, or--
JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Mr. Swindly has come up with a series there at Stages. And I believe it's called the Cabaret Series, the Cabaret something or other.

BUDDY Didn't mean to put you on the spot, but I can't remember what it is.
JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: What he does is goes out and finds other productions that he appreciates, and brings them in so that the Stages crowd will have a chance to see them. So I'm real tickled.

BUDDY If we get Joe to record this and help us produce this for radio, does that mean you're going to sing "Love Don't
JOHNSTON: Need a Reason" on the--

REG BRAND: He hasn't asked me about that.

BUDDY Really?
JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Let me tell you, if there's a possibility, I'll be all right there. I love that song.

BUDDY Speaking of you singing, you brought us some music?
JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Brought something that I wrote several years ago. And-- this song came at a period in my life where I was just stuck. Nothing was wrong, nothing was right-- nothing going on. And I was getting very bored with myself, and felt like if I didn't do something, that I was going to end up wasting my life away.

And I sat down at the piano one day, and I said, that's it. I'm going to do something, even if it's wrong. And the minute I took that attitude and decided I was going to make some kind of change, this song just came pouring out. And it was real easy to write because it was all about getting a hold of something.

BUDDY Can we listen to it?
JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Sure.

BUDDY What's it called?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: It's called-- what is it called? I wrote it. I should remember.

BUDDY Now you're on the spot.

JOHNSTON:

[LAUGHING]

REG BRAND: It's called "To Reach The Sun".

BUDDY Don't be so nervous. Why are you so nervous?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: See now, if you didn't tell them, they wouldn't know that that. The only way is because my hands are shaking, and I'm wiggling a lot. Can they hear that on the radio, that I'm squirming?

BUDDY No, but just relax.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: OK, don't give me away, then.

BUDDY I won't grab you there anymore.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: [CHUCKLES] Deal.

BUDDY OK, what's the name of the song?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: It's called "To Reach The Sun."

[MUSIC - REG BRAND, "TO REACH THE SUN"]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[INAUDIBLE] you've got a big company?

BUDDY That was, well, just stretching this [INAUDIBLE] oyster just so far. The mic-- the headphones. You can only pull it so far. Oh.

Is this-- are we on the radio now? Is this real, or is this for whatever?

REG BRAND: I'm going to let you play DJ, and I'm going to just sit here and pretend like I don't know what I'm doing.

BUDDY Well, this is it, kid. It didn't get any better.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Oh, we're on, huh?

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

[LAUGHING]

REG BRAND: Uh-oh.

BUDDY Ask Joe Watts. It's very real, and very spontaneous. Is that the way--

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: If that's what you mean.

BUDDY That song was nice.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Thanks.

BUDDY You said, as it was ending, that you were going to have to redo it? OK. We won't.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: I recorded that last year early.

BUDDY --like David Letterman says. Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: There's some things I'd like to-- now that I-- haven't heard it in a while. I haven't played it in a couple of months. And--

BUDDY Well, it's nice.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Thanks.

BUDDY It's very nice.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: They say your best work is always the one you're working on. And I want to go back and fix it, or go on to the next one.

BUDDY Mm-hmm. So tonight you'll be performing at Stages?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: At Stages, 9:30.

BUDDY Along with the group?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: The Group Theater Workshop, "Layman's Guide to Safe Sex." It's a funny show.

BUDDY 52-STAGE.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: 52-STAGE for tickets.

BUDDY That's the number to call.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: And my part in the play is that I sing. I don't act, so--

BUDDY Sing something else.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: --I've been able to just-- don't ask me, I will. I've been able to just stand back and watch the play more than any of the other characters have had a chance to. And they're really good.

BUDDY They've had a lot of fun with it.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: It's good writing. I think that's the first thing to be said, so that they had something to work with. And Joe came up with some real inventive ways to present the material. And--

BUDDY Well, Joe called me several months ago, and said that he had this play he wanted to do for radio. It was originally written for radio. Don't touch that, because it's making a noise.

REG BRAND: OK. Mine never makes a noise.

BUDDY Please. It was originally written for radio. Did you know that?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: No.

BUDDY It was. And we're going to be hopefully producing it for Pacifica Radio, and sending it around the world in stereo.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: That'll be fun.

BUDDY I really look forward to that. I love seeing those things, but our best work is done on tape, just like your music, so that when we're gone, wherever it is we go when we go, people can look back and say, wow, that was good stuff.

REG BRAND: Cleveland. That's where everybody goes.

BUDDY To Cleveland?

JOHNSTON:

[LAUGHING]

We can't edit that out. What's your name again?

REG BRAND: Who am I?

BUDDY Well, come on. What is your name? Reg?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: It's Reg Brand.

BUDDY --Brand. And--

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: Reginald Eisen Brand. But that's way too fussy.

BUDDY Reg is going to be singing again at Stages tonight when the Group Theater Workshop presents an encore

JOHNSTON: performance of "The Layman's Guide to Safe Sex." If you haven't seen it, you need to go see it. And if I know Joe Watts, we'll be able to talk him into getting it on tape, and maybe doing the show again somewhere else. And so, who knows. All right?

REG BRAND: I'd like that.

BUDDY OK. Well, thanks for-- when you get some more stuff recorded, music, you'll come by and bring it for us to play--

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: I'd love it.

BUDDY --right?

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: You're an insane person. This is fun.

BUDDY OK. Well this is taped, darling. He should be here like now, when we're getting ready to shut this baby off and

JOHNSTON: really cook.

REG BRAND: Oh.

BUDDY OK.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: I'm at home listening.

BUDDY OK.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: And you're doing a great job, by the way.

BUDDY Well, thank you very much. And thank you for the little bunny rabbit.

JOHNSTON:

REG BRAND: You're welcome. Happy Easter.

BUDDY Happy Easter. Speaking of Joe Watts, this is Joe Watts. And it's called--

JOHNSTON:

JOE WATTS: *Phrases of Pride*, written and read by Joe Watts.