

PAT PARKER: Boots are being polished. Trumpeters clean their horns. Chains and locks forged. The crusade has begun. Once again flags of Christ are unfurled in the dawn, and cries of soul savior sing apocalyptic on airwaves. Citizens, good citizens, all parade into voting booths, and in self-righteous sanctity x away our right to life.

I do not believe like some that the vote is an end. I fear even more it is just a beginning. So I must make assessment, look to you and ask, where will you be when they come? They will not come a mob rolling through the streets. But quickly and quietly move into our homes to remove the evil, the queerness, the faggotry from their mists.

They will not come clothed in brown and swastikas, or baring chests heavy with gleaming crosses. The time and need for such ruses are over. They will come in business suits to buy your homes and bring bodies to fill your jobs. They will come in robes to rehabilitate and white coats to subjugate. And where will you be when they come?

Where will we all be when they come? And they will come. They will come because we are defined as opposite, perverse. And we are perverse. Every time we watch the queer hassled in the streets and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we lied about the boyfriend or girlfriend at coffee break, it was an act of perversion.

Every time we heard, I don't mind gays but why must they be blatant, and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let a lesbian mother lose her child, and did not fill the courtrooms, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let straights make out in our bars while we couldn't touch because of the laws, it was an act of perversion.

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

And they will come for the perverts. And it won't matter if you're homosexual, not a faggot, lesbian, not a dyke, gay, not queer. It won't matter if you own your own business, have a good job, or an SSI. It won't matter if you're Black, Chicano, native American, Asian, or white. It won't matter if you're from New York or Los Angeles, Galveston or Sioux Falls.

It won't matter if you're butch, or femme, not into roles, monogamous, non-monogamous. It won't matter if you're Catholic, Baptist, atheist, Jewish, or MCC, they will come. They will come to the cities and to the land. To your front rooms and in your closets. They will come for the perverts. And where will you be when they come?

[MUSIC PLAYING]

PRESENTER: Oh, yes. Some more of that Venus Envy that you all love and request. And with me tonight, guess who stopped by?

GIGI: Gigi.

PRESENTER: Gigi's here. Yeah. And wish a merry solstice and happy Christmas, and all of that kind of good stuff. Whatever it is you're celebrating. Kwanzaa, Hanukkah is over with, I guess.

GIGI: Yes. Yeah.

PRESENTER: Oh, right. Oh, well. So that was the *12 Gays of Christmas*, Venus Envy. Before that we had Queen, yes, *Thank God it's Christmas*. And before that, we started off that set with *The Fanfare* by Richard Audd, with Pat Parker in there doing her poem, famous poem, *Where will you be when they come*.

And stay tuned. We've got more Christmas carols, and maybe a surprise guest in about 15, 20, 25 minutes. We'll see. So right now, how about *Dyke the Halls*.

GIGI: All right. Woo, baby.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

PRESENTER: Oh, yes. Isn't that pretty? Seattle Men's Chorus, *White Christmas*. You're listening to a special, musical version of After Hours, right here on KPFT Houston. After Hours, Queer Radio with Attitude. Before *White Christmas*, we heard the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston from their 1992 concert, during the most wonderful time of the year.

Before that, the New York Gay Men's Chorus again, with *Masters in this Hall*. Then the Seattle Men's Chorus with *Ding-Dong Merrily on High*, and then *Dyke the Halls*. Yes, that's the name of the group, and the name of the tune. Before that, Venus Envy, the *12 Gays of Christmas*, and Queen, *Thank God it's Christmas*.

You're hearing queer Christmas carols. And now we're going to take a break from all of that and-- because we've got special guests here in the audience, in the studio. Someone you haven't heard from on this show in about six months. Yeah. Where are you been, girl?

TRANAE
CHARDON: Hello, and happy holidays, everybody.

PRESENTER: It's Tranae. Oh, wait a minute. I wanted to do this thing.

TRANAE
CHARDON: What?

PRESENTER: Hold on, hold on.

TRANAE
CHARDON: OK.

PRESENTER: OK. Our listeners are used to hearing that just about every week. And that was Diverse House back six months ago, with Brenda and Tranae. And Tranae's here tonight to give us an update on his career. What's going on?

TRANAE
CHARDON: Well, it's the holidays.

PRESENTER: Uh-huh.

TRANAE This is the part of the year where you get very thankful.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Oh, yeah.

TRANAE God has allowed us to live another year.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: You bet, you bet.

TRANAE Some great things happened to me and also people around me.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Mm-hmm.

TRANAE I've worked out, have a new album coming out.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Oh.

TRANAE In the spring.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: OK.

TRANAE Song title, *Get off and Dance*. I have-- I working on this single that'll be out real, real soon.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Oh, yeah?

TRANAE *Something's missing in my life*.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Oh.

TRANAE I'm writing about my personal experiences now.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: That's-- that--

TRANAE I'm maturing, I'm maturing--
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Of course, yeah.

TRANAE --as an artist now. I'm maturing.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: And that's where you-- I think the best songwriters write from the heart and personal experiences.

TRANAE I've got projects on the back burner that I want to do. Something that I want to do for Hippie.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Well I was looking through the Voice--

TRANAE Yeah.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: --and I happened to see--

TRANAE Midtowne Spa--

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Yeah.

TRANAE The extravaganza.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Now, we've worked with Midtowne before, because there have been special shows there and they've given free tickets and things like that. And so we're always, we're-- this picture, girl. You in a blonde wig. What is this?

TRANAE Matter of fact, one of the clerks, Pat, thinks I'm a white woman. He's listening right now, and he asked me to lie.

CHARDON: He said, girl, you look white.

PRESENTER: Well, you do actually.

TRANAE You know, because--

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Except, you're doing that thing with your lips. That little bee stung lips thing.

TRANAE Yeah.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Yeah.

TRANAE They say blondes have a lot of fun.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: How, Gigi's over there. Let's see Gigi.

GIGI: Oh, OK. Yeah.

PRESENTER: Well, this week--

GIGI: We have fun.

PRESENTER: Oh, OK.

TRANAE I have some greetings from Midtowne.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Yes.

TRANAE
CHARDON: From the staff and management, of Mark--

PRESENTER: I always had a good time at Midtowne.

TRANAE
CHARDON: Mark and JC, they send their best.

PRESENTER: Oh, good.

TRANAE
CHARDON: Also, they want to extend the welcome to each and everybody out there. All of the patrons that have patronized them for all the years they have, they want to let them know that for the holidays they're going to reduce prices.

PRESENTER: Oh, OK. We can't mention the prices, just that--

TRANAE
CHARDON: We can't mention the price.

PRESENTER: Just that three [? dudes ?]. That's cool.

TRANAE
CHARDON: We'd also like to send out a welcome to our chef. He does the buffets on Wednesdays. His name is Jean Porter. He does great work out there.

PRESENTER: Ooh--

TRANAE
CHARDON: Great work

PRESENTER: Buffets on Wednesday, huh?

TRANAE
CHARDON: Yeah, just very great. And he didn't get a lot of credit for it, but this is my chance to give him--

PRESENTER: Good.

TRANAE
CHARDON: --my--

PRESENTER: Good.

TRANAE
CHARDON: --my critics choice. Eat your sausage and wild rice. It's great.

PRESENTER: I would love to eat his sausage, honey.

TRANAE
CHARDON: Midtowne is going through a lot of changes--

PRESENTER: Yes.

TRANAE
CHARDON: It's going to launch to do a lot of renovations, keeping it up to date. They also have a new program there--

PRESENTER: The last time I was there, it was just-- there had been improvements made already, and it was really, really nice. I had a good time.

TRANAE
CHARDON: Wait for the surprises, y'all.

PRESENTER: Oh?

TRANAE
CHARDON: They are great surprises. Matter of fact, they've added something new to it. They have a personal trainer there, by the name of Joel [INAUDIBLE]

PRESENTER: Oh, I know Joel. He's very good. Mm-hmm.

TRANAE
CHARDON: And, we like to say, hello, happy holidays. And we'd also like to say thank you to the AFH, Stokesy. Midtowne is out there. Warm wishes to you, Over the Hill.

PRESENTER: Oh, yeah. Over the Hill, yeah.

TRANAE
CHARDON: We like to say, we didn't forget you.

PRESENTER: That's right.

TRANAE
CHARDON: And the staff at Badger would like to wish everybody a safe and very, very well blessed, happy holidays.

PRESENTER: Oh, yes, yes.

TRANAE
CHARDON: Now, our show.

PRESENTER: Yes, I see. The New Year's Eve Extravaganza.

TRANAE
CHARDON: Yes. A few people got omitted in the ad. That was because the top of the picture wasn't--

PRESENTER: OK. OK.

TRANAE
CHARDON: But we got my best friend, Courtney van Wales.

PRESENTER: Oh, no kidding.

TRANAE
CHARDON: Court this is going to be there.

PRESENTER: Ooh. The last time I saw Courtney was in I was in a movie.

TRANAE Right.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Oh, it was great.

TRANAE You didn't hear that from us. We also have somebody new that's coming through. Yeah, you remember Amazing
CHARDON: Grace?

PRESENTER: Mm-hmm.

TRANAE She passed.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Yes, I know.

TRANAE [INAUDIBLE] was walking with the hearse.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Oh.

TRANAE [INAUDIBLE] she's going to carry on the torch.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Good.

TRANAE The new Grace Jones.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Yeah.

TRANAE And her name is [? Trajay. ?]
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Uh-huh. Great.

TRANAE [INAUDIBLE] She's going to perform with us. We've got this gay Essence, Houston, Black Velvet.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Mm-hmm.

TRANAE Bubba McNealy.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Do MC work?

TRANAE Yeah, he'll be there. Whole new sound system was put in.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Oh.

TRANAE Everything. Yeah, this is--
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: And now where is it going to be held, in that large room?

TRANAE Yeah, where we have all the shows.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: OK.

TRANAE There's a contest there, everything be there. And they're having a benefit. They're making reservations if
CHARDON: anybody wants to take our reservations for the rooms, we're going to have that. They have a champagne toast and we have a catered buffet by Jean.

PRESENTER: Ooh, how nice. What a nice way to spend New Year's Eve.

TRANAE Yeah, it really is. It really is really nice. I've been with this house for God knows for how long now. I think we're
CHARDON: contractually stuck together.

PRESENTER: Well, I always love the facilities. I love the indoor pool and that you can actually swim in it.

TRANAE [INAUDIBLE] free.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Yes, I know.

TRANAE A matter of fact, one of the books that I read about, Steam Magazine even rated Midtowne Spa an award.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: That's right. And I, you know--

TRANAE Hey.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Absolutely. Absolutely.

TRANAE Number one, the place to beat there.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Steam is a wonderful magazine. Yeah, yeah. I

TRANAE Just got to read it I just happened to pick it up or go through it.
CHARDON:

TRANAE I was [? ready ?]. Used to the Midtowne Spa.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Yeah. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

TRANAE And they talked about the maze, girl.
CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Mm-hmm. Do I know about the maze.

PRESENTER: Oh, I know. I've been through there.

TRANAE Like they tell you Chicago, don't drink the dirty water. Yeah, I'm so happy. I'm glad, this is the-- the holiday
CHARDON: season can't bring you down.

PRESENTER: Oh, I know it. I know. Everybody gets the blue. You know, there's great expectations for the day of Christmas day, and you know, the things you have to do, And maybe some family or family of choice things. But there's always that letdown too. I think because we make it-- we make our expectations too large. Yes. Yeah.

TRANAE I got some bad news for you.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: OK.

TRANAE I'll be leaving for the first of the year.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Where you go? Now--

TRANAE I'm going to tour in Florida.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: OK, now, you told me this before and then you didn't go. So you're really going this time?

TRANAE Yes.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: By yourself, or--

TRANAE Yeah.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: OK. The first house is no more, is that it?

TRANAE No, no, no. We're still together.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: Oh, OK.

TRANAE Diverse. let me explain to you. I remember, I didn't get a chance to explain to you what Diverse House is. Diverse
CHARDON: house is a project, it's not actually a group. There are no [INAUDIBLE] in here.

PRESENTER: Oh, OK. OK.

TRANAE I never really-- I don't think people understood that.

CHARDON:

PRESENTER: No, I never did.

TRANAE
CHARDON: Diverse House is what would be called-- what would be a good way to do a Quincy. The way Quincy Jones set up his organization. What he did was he wrote music, or even though he couldn't sing it, he hired musicians, backup singers. And he put together a project where what he did was, when he released an album, it didn't have one person singing. He showcased a lot of different types of talents and different styles of music. So what I've done is, since I write all my stuff and I usually do, I produce majority of everything, I decided to call the project Diverse House. Every project is going to be called Diverse House.

PRESENTER: Oh, OK.

TRANAE
CHARDON: Meaning it's the diversity of all the dance and house music that I do.

PRESENTER: Gotcha.

TRANAE
CHARDON: So what I do is I hire in my all backup singers. It's like a collage of people. What I do, I get people that have never been noticed. New talent. I write a song for them, I put them in a studio. I either sing backup, sometimes I sing lead. We just use different people's ideas. And the whole sound is just totally-- that way, when you release an album, you can almost tell sometimes who wrote the songs because it all sounds alike. This time, everything is totally different.

PRESENTER: That's nice.

TRANAE
CHARDON: Matter of fact, I'd like to say hi to my producer, my new producer. He's the keyboard player and vocalist with Beat Tempo.

PRESENTER: Oh, yeah.

TRANAE
CHARDON: Rick Thompson, he's my producer now.

PRESENTER: OK.

TRANAE
CHARDON: Matter of fact, he's the one that put together my new piece.

PRESENTER: Yes, I have something right here-- N-D-O--

TRANAE
CHARDON: Raw. Very raw. Matter of fact, I'm going to tell you why I get so raw. I did it raw. I knew Jimi was going to want me to bring a demo.

PRESENTER: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

TRANAE
CHARDON: So I said, OK. So what we did was with two and four, we did four a track. And it was a good day for me, honey. I had a good, good, good, good, nice meal. I chewed very heavily. I had a nice glass of Kool-Aid.

PRESENTER: Touch you, girl. Touch you.

TRANAE

CHARDON:

I dealt and I was ready to sing. So we had already, it took us six hours to complete this. This song, actually, is a depiction of my life in general. But for everybody else out there, it would be something that we all, sometimes, we forget that there is always something missing in everybody's life.

And we sometimes try to find a way to replace it with something that we really don't need. And sometimes all we really need is just a little bit of love and a little caring. And this song is pretty much that defines, actually, what we really need. I think you going to enjoy.

PRESENTER:

Let' get to it.