

MAN: It's about two minutes till 1995. Well, Yeah. We're going to count this down together, aren't we?

MAN 2: Yes, we are.

MAN: All right, we're going to stay here and do it. It's a tradition to count down. All right, I'm going to open all the mics now. All the mics open now. Time to count it down. We have two minutes to go.

MAN 2: Well, we have right here.

MAN: Yeah.

MAN 2: We have a minute and 15 seconds.

MAN: A minutes and 15 seconds. Counting down, and we hope you're counting down with us.

MAN 2: Yes.

MAN: Yes. And when it hits a minute, we're going to change the music too.

MAN 2: Oh, we are?

MAN: Oh, Yeah. We're going to go. Oh. See, I don't blow these things very well.

MAN 2: When you leave that to the After Hours crowd. We do that very well.

MAN: All right, OK. All right. OK, folks. It's beginning. We're getting there now. We're getting there. 23:59:16.

MAN 2: We're going to do something that's really going to-- really going to surprise you.

MAN: All right.

MAN 2: Something you don't expect from KPFT.

MAN: Radio. Yeah, we are super radio. But tonight, we're going to be--

MAN 2: We're going to be very traditional.

MAN: All right.

MAN 2: And we've got 25 seconds to go 25.

MAN: 25 Seconds to change tune.

MAN 2: Here we go. We're going. We're down to 15 seconds.

MAN: 15. 15 and counting. I see Ray Heel in there. Hey, open up the mics in there too so everybody can go ahead. Yes. Open all the mics in there.

MAN 2: Here we go. 3, 2, 1.

[BLOW HORNS]

MAN: Happy 1995 to the crew and everybody.

MAN 2: Happy new year.

MAN 3: Happy new year.

MAN 4: May you have a happy good and prosperous new year.

MAN: All right. Now I move it over to the After Hours crew. And I'll tell you what, we'll get out of here and get out in town. Don't drink and drive, and stay alive.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN: And happy new year to you and yours.

[HONKING]

Oh, Yes, and that was the very traditional way of ringing in the new year. And now, here's--

MAN 2: Well, not too traditional.

MAN 3: And then you don't get a baby new year like Gigi.

MAN: That's true. That's true. And now, something a little bit less traditional. And then finally, something very not traditional. So that you know you're listening to KPFT Houston.

Yes. Dan Fogelberg. That Old Lang sign. And just so you're listening to KPFT Houston.

The following program contains language or images of a Frank or sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

Whoa. It must be Saturday night at midnight because you're listening to After Hours, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of After Hours is ready to bring you news, interviews, and music geared for gay and lesbian people. Just as Gloria Gaynor says in this song, it's time to open up your closets. We, at After Hours, urge everyone to come out of their closets.

By our definition, that means standing up for yourself and taking responsibility for your own life. But if you feel that you can't come out right now because of your age, your job, or whatever reason, that's OK. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of After Hours.

Oh, Yes. You've tuned in to KPFT Houston After Hours. I'm Jimmy, and with me tonight--

MAN 2: Is Gigi.

MAN: And we're bringing you the After Hours happy new year show.

MAN 2: Happy new year.

MAN: It is 1995. 1995.

MAN 2: And hasn't it been a good one?

MAN: Yeah. So far, it's been great. We're going to be just kind of light and airy tonight. We're going to be playing your favorite songs from the past year. And there's, gosh, there's been a lot of them. Talking about maybe some highlights and stuff like that.

MAN 2: In a little camp.

MAN: Oh, Yes. Gigi?

MAN 2: Yes?

MAN: You have to explain to me your outfit tonight. And Now, Gigi, is the permanent voice on After Hours for the bisexual community.

MAN 2: Well, I'm baby new year.

MAN: That's it. OK. With the difference.

MAN 2: With the difference.

MAN: Yes. Because baby New Year's is wearing a leather jacket.

MAN 2: With bells.

MAN: With bells and blue leotard top and red shorts. And let's see, combat boots with pink leg warmers, and silver Garland running up the legs.

MAN 2: Right.

MAN 3: And a whip to spank little baby with too.

MAN: Oh. And in the bisexual colors.

MAN 2: Yes.

MAN: Which are?

MAN 2: Pink, purple, and blue.

MAN: Oh. OK. OK.

MAN 2: And you know which I am? Purple.

MAN: Oh, Yeah. Oh, Yes.

MAN 2: For androgyny and other things.

MAN: Well, we have with us tonight the daddy of daddies, Ray Hill, who's going to talk about something very important in our community. But before we go to Ray, I got something in the mail this week from Leslie Ann, who is obviously a big Melissa Etheridge fan, like I am. And sent me a tape of some of Melissa's live performances. And before-- I mean, this may be the last time this season you're going to hear this because it's a Christmas song. But it's Melissa singing a song that I certainly grew up with and I think she does a wonderful job.

So this song for Melissa to the After Hours audience. And you all will be thankful to Leslie Ann for sending it to me so that I can play it for you. Melissa Etheridge, War is over.

Melissa Etheridge, War is Over.

MAN 3: Remarkably good music.

MAN: Yes. Yes. That's John Lennon Yoko Ono piece. With me-- I'm Jimmy and this is After Hours. And with me tonight is Ray Hill. And Ray, you're here for specific--

MAN 3: Yeah.

MAN: You're here to--

MAN 3: I usually don't come around burglarizing other people's shows. I have my own show to do tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock.

MAN: 3 o'clock. The prison program.

MAN 3: But there is this incident that is in all the media that I thought your audience and that of gay and lesbian voices needed to get a specific report on because the other media haven't quite-- the beginning get it right, but quite it right. Kind of chronologically, from my perspective, I got a call from somewhere in the bowels of homicide department at Houston police-- central place, that the assistant chief over homicide and Jack Cato, Captain Jack Cato of channel 2 is now there public information officer, was fixing to hold a news conference of which they were going to announce a Jeffrey Dahmer story in Houston, Texas.

And my inside informant said, Raymond, this ain't even a gay story. This is a dope story. And so I rushed down to the news conference, and when the chief came in, he suddenly had a problem because there was Ray Hill with his fat butt sitting there in the second pew and all of the other media gathered around because they were thinking, well, you know-- I have been known to seize that microphone before. I did that during the Broussard situation.

MAN 2: Oh, I know.

MAN 3: I just had to take over, and I just took over and conducted business there.

MAN 2: Well, the thing of it is, something like that can be so volatile.

MAN 3: Oh, it's-- what I think they were looking for is, they never did find it. What they were looking for is something to get like the National radio television show Cops down here to do a reenactment, and a Jeffrey Dahmer National story, and get on Geraldo, and maybe Maury Povich, and do that kind of thing. And so they-- closest thing the chief came-- this is an assistant chief. This is not Sam. This is one of his assistants. His name is not important.

Captain Jack Cato was backgrounding the reporters out in the Hall. And the assistant chief with a microphone in his hand kept referring to this as the opposite of gay bashing, as the opposite of gay bashing. And of course--

MAN: What's that supposed to mean?

MAN 3: The media didn't know what that meant. But he was being very careful because there I sat ready to correct him if he misstepped. And finally, one of the reporters said, after listening to the whole story, said, hey, isn't this just a dope story? I mean, it sounded like a dope story to me. I don't hear anything in here unusual. And the chief's said a very remarkable thing. He said, no, there's probably narcotics involved, but that's not the motive, and narcotics are peripheral to this story.

Well, that whetted my appetite. And of course, at that point, I didn't know myself what had gone on. A young deputy Constable, a fellow whose name I will use because he did a remarkably, effective, by the book, police job. His name is John Karrer. K-A-R-E-R. K-A-R-R-E-R. And he is with Constable office, and he's hired as off-duty Constable over in the area between West Alabama and a Southwest Freeway close to Sheppard.

MAN: Oh, OK.

MAN 3: That neighborhood over there. And he regularly proposed that neighborhood. Kind of the 9/8. What he was doing was on Christmas Eve, he was patrolling the area and he noticed a large number, seven or eight young people, men and women. Well, all three kinds men, women, and trans persons.

MAN: OK.

MAN 3: And a group near the little park on Dunlap between Richmond and the freeway Sheriff. And that was unusual for that kind of people to be there at that hour or the evening, and so he went over and said, what's the deal? And they explained to them they were taking a drunk friend from one place to another. And he looked over the crowd, and the crowd-- drunk friend wasn't there. So he said, well, if you're taking a drunk friend, where-- you lost your drunk friend along the way. Where is your drunk friend? And finally, somebody said, well he's over in the bushes, and he went over the bushes and he found the victim in this case, a young man by the name of Rudy Meineke in very, very serious physical condition.

So he immediately radioed for a EMT, a meat wagon, and ambulance came and carried Meineke to the hospital for treatment.

MAN: What were the other kids doing at this time?

MAN 3: And he did it by the book. He said, let me see some identification. You're witnesses to a possible crime. And he wrote their names down and told them to go away.

MAN: Oh.

MAN 3: But he had all their names. And so then he reported all of this. I mean, he's an off-duty security officer, who is a deputy, a law enforcement officer, is a deputy Constable, and he was hired to do a job to protect those citizens and their houses.

MAN: Sure.

MAN 3: Those houses were not in any danger. Here was a person assaulted, but it was going to require far more investigation than he could do to come up with any charges or anything. He didn't have anything. But he had all of their names. And so he cut them loose and turned it over to the homicide detectives who did an investigation.

Apparently, here's what happened, Rudy Meineke got in debt to the local law Westheimer drug dealer. Pretty sizable debt.

MAN: Now, is he a street kid?

MAN 3: Well, they-- all-- everybody involved here is a known hustler on Westheimer.

MAN: OK.

MAN 3: Everybody involved here. At least the uniformed police officers at the storefront know all of these kids. The Patrol officers that Patrol lower Westheimer know all of these kids. All of these kids have at various times been stopped, ID'd, given citations for jaywalking, or hitchhiking, or just simply cut loose. But everybody in this group is known to the regular Patrol officers normally assigned, including Rudy Meineke.

Rudy Meineke is a throw away kid. His parents threw him away some time ago. He ultimately found his way to hippie, where the staff at hippie notified his parents, we have-- your son showed up here. What do you want us to do? Will you sign papers to have us take him off the street and put him in a safe house somewhere? Because he's not going to do that voluntarily. And the parents refused to sign such papers.

MAN: Oh.

MAN 3: The kid got kicked out of home, apparently, for drugs, or sex, or something. Now, his father is telling a story these days that their son was down here to take a young woman off the streets and get her to church down in Dickinson or something, but that's just in case Geraldo shows up and they want to have a good story.

MAN: Sounds about right. Yeah.

MAN 3: The reality is, those folks run that kid off, and that kid is down there.

MAN: I'm a throw away kid. I know what this is about.

MAN 3: So, at any rate, Rudy got into debt with a local drug dealer. And then Rudy, in order to kind of make that situation worse, stole some drugs and some money from the drug dealers. And so he's in trouble with the drug dealer. And the drug dealer tells the kids around here, well, the reason I ain't got no dope for you is because Rudy has gotten the dope. So somewhere around-- before the 15th, they got Rudy and beat him up pretty badly and he staggered into hippie on the 15th, and hippie immediately sent him to hospital for medical.

MAN: Sounds about right.

MAN 3: Which is what you and I would do if somebody stumbled on their front yard, whether we knew them or not. And so he went to the hospital for treatment. When he got out of treatment, here's where the story gets kind of weird because there's been stories that he was picked up at the hospital.

MAN: Yes, I've read that.

MAN 3: By his assailants. His assailants don't have a car.

MAN: Oh.

MAN 3: OK. These are street kids, right. The street kids don't have no money. They don't have no car. They don't have a regular place to sleep. One of them has this apartment over in-- a not real status apartment complex over near where he was found. But they don't have a car. So the best estimate that I have from the street kids is that Rudy went back to them because that's where the dope was.

MAN: Sure.

MAN 3: Now, they've been torturing him, being mean to him. Well that's all over. Let me get some more dope. Everything will settle down. And then that was on the 15th. When he got out of the hospital was on the 18th. And now he is from the 18th until the 24th, he's held in that apartment and just serially abused by everybody. They try to take-- cut his tongue out.

And the reason for the cutting tongue out is that in between all of this, running from the dope dealer, he decided that the way he would solve his problems is go report his dope dealer to the police. And I talked to the uniformed officer that works at the storefront that he did that too. Of course, if I went in there and said, Jimmy Carper is a dope dealer, the police are not going to send a squad car out to your house and pick you up.

MAN: No.

MAN 3: That's not sufficient evidence, but street kids don't know all of this. They think all I got to do is finger them and they get arrested. Well, that didn't make-- the dope dealer also got killed.

MAN: Oh.

MAN 3: In a completely unrelated issue. He hid a bunch of dope out on consignment. So he had the same problem that Rudy had. And so when he went to his suppliers, they had heard that story one time too many.

MAN: Oops.

MAN 3: So his buddy shows up in the morgue. And so this is a very complicated story, but it doesn't have anything to do with gay culture. It doesn't have anything to do with Hustler culture. There are men, women, and trans persons involved in all of this. Some would consider themselves gay, some would consider themselves straight. But all of them are involved in the reality, not the glamour, of the street scene story.

What you have on the street is a bunch of hungry kids who are not making enough money to eat much less keep a roof over their head and take care of their other necessities. Most of them are involved in a drug culture until they give up on that and find their way out. Hippie is there as an Island in the middle of the stormy sea. And if you sail in there, and you're ready to get off the streets, they're there for you for that.

In the meanwhile, you can get a bite to eat. Sure. You can drop a change of clothes. You can get somebody to sit down and chat, but they're not going to preach to you. But they want you to know that when you're ready to give it up, they're there to help you get off. They really do.

MAN: How do I know about--

MAN 3: I wasn't a throwaway kid. I was a runaway kid. 37 years ago tonight.

MAN: Yes?

MAN 3: I left beautiful historic Galena Park, Texas, that industrial slum across the bayou downwind from Pasadena.

MAN: Now, we've got lots of good listeners out there.

MAN 3: I know, but they're dying to get out of there. I understand. I remember that. And I was a junior in high school and I came downtown New Year's night, on December the 31st, and stayed several days. I missed a couple of classes. To find my first real gay man.

Now, real gay men were different then, as Jimmy pointed out, than they are now. I mean, you didn't have any openly up front. I met a nice fellow in his late 20s, early 30s, and we had a wonderful time. I tried hustling. I tried hustling for about two weeks. I lost \$47.30 in the occupation. And in 1958, \$47 bucks was big money. It was. 17 years old, 1958, you're talking about big money there.

MAN: Because 10 years later, I was hustling for 15 bucks a trick.

MAN 3: Yeah.

MAN: And that was good money.

MAN 3: That was good money. I never-- it wasn't a success for me. I lost money on this deal. My expenses to get in town and all of that did not-- and the food that I buy. I kept books and I still keep books on everything. But any rate, I lost \$47 bucks, and after two weeks, I said, I'm going to quit this. There must be a way to this works, but I don't--

MAN: That's right.

MAN 3: So I'm going to get out of this business. So after two week hustling career, of course, some would argue that that's all I've ever done on my life. But political prostitution is illegal. It's sexual prostitution. It were, a city council would have to meet in Harris County Jail.

[LAUGHTER]

But the thing about it is, is that life on the streets way back then, and what we now consider an innocent era--

MAN: That was tough.

MAN 3: Was not pretty.

MAN: And I recognize this too.

MAN 3: And it is worse now. And-- but as you read these stories, and we're going to get more of these stories, this is not a gay story. This is not really even a hustler story. This is a pure and simple drug culture story.

MAN: Exactly.

MAN 3: And when you look at it in that light, it suddenly begins to make sense. Otherwise, it doesn't make sense. And let me tell you what happens in a drug culture, because many of you may not know and many of you may be thinking that you want to know. Promise you, you don't. What happens in a drug culture is reality kind of gets dropped in the toilet and somebody flushes it before you can fish it out. And it's a very unreal world where things of preposterous cruelty, I mean, just mega cruelty can happen and nobody will think anything's wrong because they're living in a self-indulgent, feed me my dope kind of reality that doesn't relate to anything that you and I would understand or be able to carry on an intelligent conversation about.

And so you get a gang of kids, and there may be 17 people involved here. We now have 13.

MAN: Wow.

MAN 3: Charged and under arrest. And there--

MAN: Would you call this a gang?

MAN 3: Well, it's not organized. If it is a gang, then there are Blacks, and Browns, and whites, and males, and females, and trans persons.

MAN: Too diverse.

MAN 3: Yeah, these people don't have enough in common to be a gang. Right. They're young. They're desperate. They're unwanted by their families. If they haven't--

MAN: That's the only thing they have in common.

MAN 3: They haven't made the connection that somebody in the gay community really cares.

MAN: Yeah.

MAN 3: But I can assure you that many of us care. Not just the people over it hippie, but many of us care. I got a call from one gay couple that all they do is like wash the clothes for and provide food money for one of the kids that's now in jail. And they called me before he was arrested. And I said, you're not the police. What you're doing is good work.

MAN: Sure.

MAN 3: Just continue to do it. You're not in any danger. And they said, well, of course. And continued. It's just like--

MAN: Good.

MAN 3: It's just like, in my community, nobody asked or cares. How you got exposed to HIV. It is a non-issue.

MAN: That's right.

MAN 3: And if you live in a community of people that do care then you're sick and you need to be healed from that kind of attitude. And giving somebody a few bucks for food and giving somebody clean clothes when the weather changes and is erratic.

MAN: Or warm clothes.

MAN 3: Or warm clothes, or whatever. I mean, just hand-- that's all right.

MAN: Sure.

MAN 3: No one is in danger from these kids except the person they focused on and maybe their selves. The rest of us are not part of this scam. And the rest of us can't have an anything to lose except the change we may leave laying on a coffee table.

MAN: Yeah.

MAN 2: So I wanted to get that story straight because I care very much about what people in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities think about themselves. And the media is so powerful and so seductive that a story like this can-- you know what this reminds me of? Remember the coffin?

MAN: Oh, yes. All of a sudden--

MAN 3: Everybody, Oh, I've been to my parties and all this, and you say, well, what actually happens at a mummy party? Well, no, I haven't actually been to one, but I have this friend who goes to them regularly, right. Where do you buy Saran wrap in bulk?

MAN: Yeah, it's--

MAN 3: I mean, if you went to the grocery store and you bought the Saran wrap to wrap a body alive, or otherwise, it would cost you a fortune. And where do you buy coffins except places that put them to immediate use?

MAN: If it's confusing enough to the gay, lesbian, transgender and bi community then how does the straight community perceive the gay community because of it?

MAN 3: And the gerbil thing.

MAN: Oh, yes.

MAN 3: Remember when Paul Cameron invented gerbils for gay men. And so the Paul Cameron watchers in San Francisco, and I and everybody else, got out the yellow pages and we called every veterinarian in every major city in the United States and said, how much business you get declawing gerbils? And we didn't find a single veterinarian listed in a single yellow pages in a major city of the United States that ever heard of declawing a gerbil.

MAN: And any of us old enough, we've had straight people friends who came up to us to ask us if it was really true.

MAN 3: Yeah. Right. And so it was a complete figment of Paul Cameron's imagination. Never happened. Doesn't exist. Absolutely a lie. But that's what happens to people against whom there's a lot of prejudice.

MAN: Sure.

MAN 3: And a lot of fear, and a lot of ignorance, and a lot of misunderstanding. And the sad part about it is, if somebody doesn't get the story correct, some of our own people fall off the table in disbelief.

MAN: Yes.

MAN 3: And so that's why I'll-- if something like this happens, I'll call Jimmy. I can assure you that the Houston Police Department is not going to get away with calling a news conference and saying there's a gang of Jeffrey Dahmer's in Houston, because that is not true. Jeffrey Dahmer is a very strange and rare people. We had one here one time.

MAN: Yes, we did.

MAN 3: Dean Corll and a group of people that were around him were engaging in some real reared heavy activity. It was all about drugs too.

MAN: It was. However-- however, the perception that got to the general public was that it was a gay thing. And the perception was all gay people are this way. And unfortunately, I didn't have easy access to news conferences because I was in the joint. I was in prison. But after I got out of prison-- let's see, that was in '72 or '73, and I got out in '75, and that was still fresh on my mind. Important enough for me to go look up some members of the jury that had served in that case. And what that was about was a group of people, some of which who may have engaged in homosexual rape that hated homosexuals.

MAN 3: Yes. Their justification for getting away with what they did is we were killing queers. That never that never did make--

MAN: No.

MAN 3: Dave Ward's list, or Ron Stone, or any of the news people in the city never got that story right. But the jury did because that's what the evidence said. And the families of the victims did because they sat in those trials and they listened to that.

MAN: But that's a very small percentage. We're talking with Houston population.

MAN 3: Right. But we're talking-- we're talking about incidents that happen every 20 or 25 years nationally. So don't think there's a bunch of Jeffrey Dahmer's looking at it now. That doesn't mean that the sorry man that you marry in a drunken state tonight and take home will turn out to be a good husband.