

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ANNOUNCER: It's been 25 years, a quarter of a century since the beginning of the modern gay rights movement. And 90.1 FM will be there, as thousands converge on the united nations this Sunday from noon to 6:00 pm. KPFT will carry the march for gay and lesbian rights as well as a special documentary on the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

Make sure to tune in for this unique in-depth coverage of this historic occasion. *Stonewall 25*, the march on Washington for gay and lesbian rights. Noon to 6:00 Sunday, only on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston.

SPEAKER 1: Whoa! That kind of ends in a hurry there, doesn't it? We've got something on the turntable here that was requested a while ago.

SPEAKER 2: On a turntable? For those of you young, that's this thing that goes round and round, lot like a CD player. And it's got a needle. It sits out on this big black disk.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. It's kind of plastic-y. And the older the disk gets, the scratchier it sounds.

SPEAKER 2: Some of the greatest treasures are on it.

SPEAKER 1: Absolutely. There's a lot of stuff that you can't get on the CD yet. This doesn't happen to be one of them. But this is the only version we have. And it was requested by a young gentleman m because he wanted to hear something that straight woman who called in didn't want to hear.

SPEAKER 2: Rock and roll.

SPEAKER 1: Rock and roll. It's The B-52's, and it's "Give Me Back My Man." Oh, B-52's and that little skip came right at the end, didn't it? We like to play B-52's because Fred Schneider, a member of that group is openly gay. So it's kind of fun stuff.

But I'm going to take you back a few years now because I've got a little story to tell for this piece of music. And then we're going to go into a piece of tape. It took place about 36 years ago, talking about how gay men and women felt about themselves. Way back when, in the '60s, I wasn't out of the closet yet, but I was working at a large corporation. And I had quite a few friends there.

And one day a guy came up to me and handed me poetry. It turned out to be lyrics to a song. And just by reading it, I realized that what he was saying there is that I know you're gay, and it's OK. And way back then, that meant a lot. That was the '60s version of coming out of the closet.

And the song-- about 20 years later, I finally realized-- ran across it's a song by Donovan of all people. It's called "I'll Try for the Sun." So I'm going to play the song and then go into that piece of tape.

[MUSIC - DONOVAN, "TO TRY FOR THE SUN"]

NARRATOR: As we approach the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion, the birth cry of the modern gay and lesbian liberation movement, it's important to remember that public discussion of homosexuality and fledgling civil rights organizing had been going on for several years before that momentous event.

For example, listen to these excerpts from *The Homosexual in Our Society*, an award-winning Pacifica Radio program originally broadcast 36 years ago in May 1958 on KPFA in Berkeley, California, and hosted by Elsa Knight Thompson. Panel members, Harold Cole, Dr. Blanche Baker, and Lee Gailey discussed some of the same issues we struggle with today. And although they may not deal with them in the same way, the obvious stirrings of pride and their undeniable guts are a precious part of our heritage.

INTERVIEWER: Mr. Cole, I think we'll begin with our first questions directed toward you. You are, I believe, the editor of the *Mattachine Review*.

HAROLD COLE: Yes. The Mattachine Society is an incorporated nonprofit organization that is engaged in examining and doing something about the problems that face the homosexual in our country today. It's a membership organization that is actually spread very thinly now from coast to coast. The magazine is national. In fact, it circulates also in 18 foreign countries.

INTERVIEWER: Approximately, how many members are there in the Mattachine Society?

HAROLD COLE: Right now, we have about 117 members. Probably by the end of the year, that will increase to 150. The interest in our subject is very great, but people are quite loath to join. All of the members are over 21 years of age.

INTERVIEWER: But the magazine itself would have a wider coverage than that, I presume.

HAROLD COLE: Yes, indeed. It circulates in about 2,500 copies each monthly issue.

INTERVIEWER: Doctor, is the homosexual classified as a medical case, as a psychological case? Let's have some general statement of what your interpretation would be of what produces that particular type of approach to life.

BLANCHE Well, this is quite a controversial subject, even in the medical profession. There are those physicians who feel
BAKER: that this is definitely a neurotic problem. There are others who feel it's a glandular problem. Many feel it's hereditary. Others feel that it may be caused by other factors.

And I do not look upon homosexuality as a neurotic problem, but more a basic personality pattern reaction. Just as some people prefer blondes and others prefer brunettes, I think the fact that a given person may prefer a love of the same sex, is their personal business. Now, that doesn't mean that homosexuals may not become neurotic.

I think that they often do because society is so hostile to them and their own families do not understand them, so they're subject to a great many pressures and a great deal of unhappiness. I know that other psychiatrists would not agree with me.

INTERVIEWER: Is there any acceptable medical evidence in your view that this is partially, at least, a physical predisposition, rather than a psychological one?

BLANCHE There will be some research which tends to show that homosexuals are tall and skinny. And other researchers
BAKER: will show that they are more short and fat with feminine curves. As far as I can read, they are dealing with just a broad cross-section of the population. And I don't think they're actually measuring the factors which do contribute to homosexuality.

INTERVIEWER: And what would-- I'd like the rest of you to enter into this discussion. What do you think some of those factors are?

BLANCHE My own views are that all human beings have both maleness and femaleness in them. Now in America, we have too much the attitude that a person is either male or female. And as I find it, all the people I work with are mixed, male and female. And when there are certain experiences in early childhood, it tends to throw a person more toward the male side or toward the female side, and that subsequent patterns develop from that.

HAROLD COLE: I think that this whole business of homosexuality is just one of the things that exists in nature. It always has been with us as far as we know, and it always will be as far as we expect. It seems that no laws or no attitudes of any culture that we've looked into in the past have ever been able to stamp it out or even essentially curb it. The laws and the enforcement of laws against homosexuality merely chases it out of sight.

INTERVIEWER: You mentioned, Mrs. Gailey, that you had become a member of the society because your son was a member.

LEE GAILEY: That's true.

INTERVIEWER: Perhaps, you could tell us something about the problem from the standpoint of a parent.

LEE GAILEY: I think my first reaction would be a universal one. It was shock. Basically, I loved my son. And I wasn't about to put him out of the family circle, just because he happened to have a different sexual attitude. So I decided I would try to understand it. And in fear, the big part of fear is the unknown. As soon as you start to understand, some of the fear leaves. Isn't that so, Dr. Baker?

BLANCHE Oh, I so appreciate what you said. One of the factors which, I think, is so important to realize is the fear that it

BAKER: may be in us. We have little indications. Maybe we've been a little too exuberant and expressions that we were surprised at. And so we will often persecute a person because we don't want to face the truth in ourselves.

HAROLD COLE: We've also discovered that this bugaboo of fear is one of the biggest things we have to contend with. We get many, many letters from all parts of the United States, from people in all walks of life, from people in the armed forces, and from people of all ages, who have, maybe, either just discovered they are homosexual or they have known it for a long time and want some kind of help.

And we find it when we-- even recommend that they read publications which we produce. Many of them are afraid to. They're afraid to have their name on a mailing list. They think that some authorities are going to seize it. Well, that's never happened, and we don't believe it will.

Otherwise, they're afraid to even be seen reading material on this subject because they feel that to be seen taking an interest in the subject is to be wearing a sign or a mark of Cain or something like that which says they are.

LEE GAILEY: All you have to do is walk around town and into the bars and see the screaming meanies which are the ones that the public judge most homosexuals by because they are so obvious. If you walk down the street or if you walk into an institution, you cannot pick out the homosexuals. That is the heterosexual count.

HAROLD COLE: We feel like that there is a more basic problem to get at. And that is to educate the public so that its attitude toward these people who are displaying these mannerisms-- if this attitude can be changed, then the mannerisms will no longer be of any significance. And whether they're recognized or not, it won't amount to anything.

INTERVIEWER: I'm very grateful to you, Dr. Baker, Mr. Cole, and Mrs. Gailey for coming along today. Thank you very much.

BLANCHE Thank you.

BAKER:

LEE GAILEY: [INAUDIBLE] the privilege.

SPEAKER 2: Well I had this mad passionate crush on Doris Day when I was a child. And I still do. Hearing that song, it brings it right back to me. I love that voice. And I was always, always hot for that woman. So even as a child, I knew. I knew. que sera, sera. Oh, well, this has been an interesting evening.

Jimmy has played some really great tapes and some really great background. We've had some good music and some, clever, if I have to say so myself, conversation. Diane wasn't--

SPEAKER 1: [INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER 2: That's right. Diane didn't make it. She called halfway through and said, I'm sick. I just can't make it. And I said, OK, we forgive you this time. Let's see. We did get a lot of calls. And I really appreciate those who called and let us know what they were thinking, and how we've impacted their lives. That's really important to us that we connect with you guys.

SPEAKER 1: I have a story.

SPEAKER 2: OK.

SPEAKER 1: When don't I have a story? This show started September 6, 1987. I say that all the time. And I came to the show in March of 1988. And at that time, there was a man named Robert-- Lloyd Powell. His lover's name was Robert, and Keith. Who's answering the phone? That's how I met Lloyd, a friend of a friend. All that kind of stuff. I ran into Lloyd last week at the new Walgreens over here, this big huge Walgreens at--

SPEAKER 2: The place to meet, and be met.

SPEAKER 1: And he was telling me he had watched the program on Access. And there was a guy on there talking about coming out. And that when he came out. One of the ways that he did it was by listening to this radio program on Saturday night with his radio underneath the pillow, so mom and dad couldn't hear.

And we both just looked at each other because we knew it was after hours, and that one or both of us were probably here when that kid was listening to us. That's why I come down here every week.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, I've got I've got one or two of those stories, too.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

SPEAKER 2: What's interesting is that I was part of one of those stories. When I moved here in 1979-- you come from out of town and you're new and you don't know where everything's at, or if there is anything. Frankly, some big cities, they-- where I came from they had one bar and you had to be a member or be with somebody who was a member to get in.

So you didn't-- you just don't know where it's at. And I was doing what I do best. I was channel-surfing on the radio one night, and I caught KPFT. And I listened to the channel. I believe I was listening to, oh, Clara-- Clara Kern.

SPEAKER 1: Clara Kern. *A Woman's Place*.

SPEAKER 2: Right. Must not have been in the evening because she did a morning show.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, really? Oh.

SPEAKER 2: I think she did a morning show. Whenever it was, I heard Clara. And when I heard her, she talked about another show. And that show was *Pokey Show*.

SPEAKER 1: Oh.

SPEAKER 2: And when I heard *Pokey Show*, she talked about another show. And that show was the Wilde & Stein program. Actually, she talked about Wilde & Stein because at that time, Pokey was the major distributor of Olivia Records here in town--

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: --and probably still is, actually.

SPEAKER 1: Probably, yes. Yes.

SPEAKER 2: And she talked about the bookstore, Wilde & Stein. At that time, it was over on--

SPEAKER 1: *Wit & Wisdom of Oscar Wilde*. [LAUGH] *The Wit & Wisdom of--*

SPEAKER 2: I don't know. I don't know what you're looking for.

SPEAKER 1: The official name of the store?

SPEAKER 2: Oh, I don't know. I always called it Wilde & Stein bookstore.

SPEAKER 1: OK.

SPEAKER 2: Charles [? Gillis. ?]

SPEAKER 1: Oh, yeah. That's right.

SPEAKER 2: And I heard about the bookstore.

SPEAKER 1: I bought my first Romanovsky and Phillips album from him.

SPEAKER 2: At that time he was sitting next to Happy Buddha, for those who are older than--

SPEAKER 1: Oh, gosh.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, there's no Happy Buddha anymore. And that was my connection into the community, was one, two, three, through KPFT. And I went into the bookstore, and I told Charles that I was new in town, and that I was looking for some way to connect with people. And I offered him to-- I volunteered to work in his store so that I could get to know people.

SPEAKER 1: Wow.

SPEAKER 2: He was working 12-, 15-hour days there.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, yeah. Absolutely. I remember that.

SPEAKER 2: And he didn't get away. And he jumped at the opportunity to be away sometimes. And I jumped at the opportunity to be there. So I went to work in the morning, got off of work, came straight to the bookstore, and worked till it closed. I closed the bookstore. And I met a lot of people through there. And one of the people I met was Ray Hill.

SPEAKER 1: No.

SPEAKER 2: And Ray was the station manager there. And I met Pokey. And everybody I met seemed to be connected with KPFT. And Ray told me and Charles told me about the Wilde & Stein program, which I listened to, and Mike Miesch. Ray Hill was doing it. I believe even at some point during that time, Debra from *Lesbian and Gay Voices* was doing some part of it.

SPEAKER 1: No kidding.

SPEAKER 2: Yes, it was a long time ago, long time. And I came down and sat around in the background for quite a while when somebody said, hey, come over here. And I did. And that was how I really connected with the people that I'm still connected with.

Whether those-- I'm not still connected with the same people, but that's how I got connected with the people that I still am connected with, was through KPFT, and a gay and lesbian program here that was on the air at that time. And so I'm one of those stories. And I hear those stories over and over and over. And that's what gets me up here at midnight till 3:00 AM in the morning.

SPEAKER 1: There has been an amazing number of people that have come through after hours, some staying one week, some staying a couple of months, doing this, doing that, answering phones, doing little weekly reports on the air. It's just-- I'll bet 100 people or more have worked on this show.

SPEAKER 2: Right.

SPEAKER 1: It's really amazing.

SPEAKER 2: While we're talking about that, we can tell people that we could use volunteers down here, just because Matt's answering the phone doesn't mean that we can't have another person answering the phone. We could always use somebody in the production room with us or--

SPEAKER 1: Absolutely.

SPEAKER 2: --just hang out and watch. And we're always looking for new talent. I mean, you don't even have to be talented. Look at me. You could just come down here and be at the right place at the right time. And we'll put you on the air. I mean, I've told people that before, come on down. We'll put you on the air. They show up and we do. So if you're looking for a way--

SPEAKER 1: People have started here and gone on to other shows.

SPEAKER 2: Well, look, when Judy and Bruce were here-- and Bruce has done so much since then. Of course, he did a lot before that. But he's done so much since then. And Buddy, his involvement in the community, and buddy was-- some of the people with Town Meeting [? 1. ?]

And all the people have been connected with here have you know a commitment to our community. And this is one place they do it. And they're always doing something else. And they go on to other bigger and better things. Look at [? Debra. ?]

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

SPEAKER 2: [? Debra's ?] got her own show now, has been one of the co-chairmen of the March on Washington.

SPEAKER 1: Big March on Washington.

SPEAKER 2: The big March on Washington, which was a real honor, I'm sure. She went up there for a year to work on that and has come back to us and working on the other show on Friday nights. But we're always looking for people to come down and participate. So if you were looking for a way to make an impact or to meet people and you just aren't looking-- you just are really comfortable with the bar scene, meeting people, and being able to trust people-- I know how that is, I've been there--

SPEAKER 1: Absolutely.

SPEAKER 2: --come on down here. We're just friendly folk. And we'll be glad to teach you what we know, which is not a whole lot, but it doesn't take a whole lot to do what we're doing. We sit in front of a mic and--

SPEAKER 1: You may not even know what you want to do.

SPEAKER 2: That's right.

SPEAKER 1: [INAUDIBLE] wanna do something.

SPEAKER 2: And if that doesn't work, we are so in touch with the rest of community. We can find some place for you to put your talents. Believe me.

SPEAKER 1: And if you can't wait until next week, you can call 529-3211 from 4:00 to midnight and talk to the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard.

SPEAKER 2: And they have a list of probably about 150, 160 organizations in town, that you sit with someone on that phone and give them a little background in yourself, what kind of things you like, and they can give you a list of things that are going on in town that you might be able to participate in.

The thing about volunteering and participating in those things is the minute you walk in the door, you have something in common with everybody else there. You have something you can talk to, talk about with everybody else there, the fact that you chose that place. So we would love to have you down here. But if that's not good, call us we can direct you someplace else or call the switchboard. They can direct you someplace else. But we have a great time down here, and we'd love to include you.

SPEAKER 1: Now, I want to make sure to mention to people-- I played the card a little while ago. But this station is going to be covering six hours of the Stonewall event live from New York.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, I heard that a while ago.

SPEAKER 1: That's going to be--

SPEAKER 2: That feels great.

SPEAKER 1: --on the satellite, noon to 6:00.

SPEAKER 2: We'll be listening for Michael.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, yeah. Yeah. He'll be in there screaming.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, yeah.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, yeah.

SPEAKER 1: So I imagine that's going to be kind of like coverage of gay pride here where you know there's commentators talking about what's happening and interviews with all kinds of gay and lesbian people.

SPEAKER 2: I'll just get into the song. I always--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 1: In the background, we've got Chris Williamson, and she's doing a wonderful, wonderful song, one of my favorites, "Sweet Woman." And that's for that straight woman that was talking to us earlier.

SPEAKER 2: That's right.

SPEAKER 1: Some of the older women's music.

SPEAKER 2: And don't feel alone out there if you're straight and you happen to catch us and you happen to listen to us. You don't have to tell your friends, but we'd like you to. Don't feel alone if you're straight out there and listening to us because we have a lot of straight listeners. We have married couples who call us from their bed--

SPEAKER 1: Oh, yes.

SPEAKER 2: --and talk to us. Who was that? [INAUDIBLE] the guy's name was Fred and somebody else that calls us from their bed and tells us what they're thinking about what we're talking about. And we have various people who are involved in-- you don't have to be gay to support equal civil rights. So we want to make that clear. We're here for everybody. If we tend to lean in that direction, that's because we are gay.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. Absolutely.

SPEAKER 2: Anyway, that's it for me. I'm going to be out of here, and you can catch me the fourth weekend of next month. And I'll be back to amuse and entertain and put you to sleep.

SPEAKER 1: And the fifth weekend of the next--

SPEAKER 2: Is music.

SPEAKER 1: --month is a music show. So you'll be getting a whole lot of me.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: And you've been listening to *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

SPEAKER 2: Stay tuned for?

SPEAKER 1: A carbon dating game with Eric.

SPEAKER 2: With Eric. What a great guy? Eric!

NARRATOR: If you can operate a radio and a tape recorder, you can earn valuable extra dollars, while driving in your car, sitting at your desk, or cleaning your fishbowl. How? Listen to these excerpts from actual radio broadcasts and see how many FCC violations you can detect.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN 1: Hi, I'm stupid, and he'll prove it.

MAN 2: And you're listening to the Stupid And Prove It, Joe, man.

MAN 1: That's right, dipstick. And the radio dogs are taking your calls right now to find out how big is your [BLEEP]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ANNOUNCER: That's right. Anything you hear on the radio that violates community standards or contains one of these seven deadly words-- [BLEEP], [BLEEP], [BLEEP], [BLEEP], [BLEEP], [BLEEP], or, [BLEEP] can be used as evidence in federal obscenity cases and could be worth big bucks to you. Help your government rid the airwaves of dangerous subversives and smut peddlers, once and for all.

Support the troops. For more information, contact the FUCC, the Foolish and Unnecessary Communication Commission. The FUCC don't [BLEEP] with us.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN 3: We thought it was beef jerky.

ANNOUNCER: You saw Frank Sinatra while you're tripping. And you're comfortable with KPFT [INAUDIBLE] is a music.