

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

**SPEAKER 1:** Oh my God, language, or frank, what did he say?

**SPEAKER 2:** Don't worry about it, it don't matter.

**KAY:** We don't get to do it.

**SPEAKER 2:** We don't get to do it.

**KAY:** At least not on the air.

**SPEAKER 1:** OK, what's going on gentlemen-- ladies and gentlemen?

**SPEAKER 3:** Well guess what today is-- or yesterday, to be precise?

**SPEAKER 1:** Would you tell me all about it?

**SPEAKER 3:** It's Kay's birthday.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**SPEAKER 1:** Wait a minute, she's learned sign language. What does that one finger in the air mean, Kay? Oh, you're only one year old?

**SPEAKER 3:** Maybe.

**SPEAKER 1:** Come on, tell us what that-- was that something that I don't know? I didn't--

**KAY:** I don't think it's something you don't know.

**SPEAKER 2:** But I don't think it's something you can say on the air, either.

[LAUGHTER]

**SPEAKER 1:** I know it's something we can't say on the air-- around here anyway. So what else is going on?

**SPEAKER 2:** Well, we have a wonderful-- good news in our homophobia report tonight. We'll do that a little later. We have a wonderful show coming up for you tonight.

**SPEAKER 1:** When does it start? No, I'm just kidding.

**SPEAKER 2:** When does it start? After you leave. No.

**SPEAKER 1:** Well, thanks.

**SPEAKER 2:** We're going to do--

**SPEAKER 1:** I love you too. And you see what happens when you do this, [INAUDIBLE]. OK, kids, you can't hear them now. He's sticking his tongue out, but he never does that when I need it, where I need it. This is *After Hours* radio.

[BEEP]

**SPEAKER 1:** Yes?

**KAY:** Hi.

**SPEAKER 1:** See, you get feedback, and you try to be cute. OK, tell them what we're doing, Let's do it so we can get it over with. No, I don't want to get it over with because the sooner we do it, sooner we can get going.

**SPEAKER 2:** Does that mean we can talk again?

**SPEAKER 1:** I don't want to talk to you.

**SPEAKER 2:** I don't care.

**KAY:** Will you talk to me?

**SPEAKER 1:** Oh, I'll talk to the birthday--

**SPEAKER 2:** We're doing Aaron Fricke, and

**KAY:** Reflections of a rock lobster, a lock robster, something.

**SPEAKER 1:** She doesn't even know the name of the show, it's *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*, all about Aaron Fricke. And it's going to be coming up in just a minute. Members of HATCH, the teen gay group. Hey, did you know there was such a thing?

**SPEAKER 2:** No.

**SPEAKER 1:** There wasn't when I was 16 years old.

**SPEAKER 2:** What do those initials stand for anyway?

**SPEAKER 1:** I don't know. We'll find out here in a minute. But they're here with us, we're going to listen to reflections on a rock lobster. It's all about Aaron Fricke taking his boyfriend to the prom. And it's going to be a blast. So we should get started, right?

**SPEAKER 2:** Yes.

**SPEAKER 1:** Let's keep you up to Houston, 90.1 FM, and you're listening to *After Hours*.

**REPORTER:** The disorders began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar, The Stonewall on Christopher Street.

**PROTESTERS:** Say it loud, gay and proud.

**PROTESTER:** We take great pride in what's happened in the gay community and what's going to happen.

**REPORTER:** The people of Dade County have said enough, enough, enough.

**PROTESTERS:** (CHANTING) Human rights are here to stay, [INAUDIBLE] the fight, go away.

**MAN:** There's no question in my mind that the people of California don't want homosexuals teaching in the classrooms.

**MAN:** Dade Senator John Briggs has just conceded the election.

**REPORTER:** Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed.

**REPORTER:** Dan White has been found guilty of one count each of voluntary manslaughter.

[YELLING]

**REPORTER:** It has now broken loose. Cops are now bashing heads.

**REPORTER:** And here comes the National March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights.

**REPORTER:** Gay power, gay politics. That's what this report is about.

**REPORTER:** There are gay and lesbian people singing out here, what's your reaction to that?

**MAN:** I think it's terrible. If I had a rock, I'd throw it at them.

**PROTESTER:** The real advantage of being in gay gangs is that every one of us is a winner.

**PROTESTOR:** Today we are marching, as are others across America. And we shouldn't have to be.

**ROBIN TYLER:** C'mon and say it so they can hear you in the capital. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back.

**REPORTER:** I think that's Robin Tyler on the stage leading the chant. For love and for life, we're not going back.

**PROTESTER:** Good afternoon and welcome to the National March in Washington, DC for gay and lesbian rights and always fighting

[CHEERING]

Let's hear it out there.

[CHEERING]

**PROTESTER:** I'm Lea Delaria

**BRUCE HOPKINS:** I'm Bruce Hopkins.

**PROTESTER:** I'm a dyke.

**BRUCE HOPKINS:** I'm a faggot.

**PROTESTER:** And we're best friends.

[CHEERING]

I want you to savor this next moment. I have the proud task of telling you that the official count of the lesbian and gay rights March, the official count is over 500,000 strong. 500,000 strong.

Look at you. 500,000 strong. 500,000 strong. One of the largest marches in United States history. One of the largest marches in United States history. 500,000 strong.

**SPEAKER 1:** 526-4000 is the number to call. We're ready for *After Hours*.

**PROTESTER:** We must destroy the myth once and for all, and 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 store that you shop in.

[CHEERING]

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 you do, you will feel so much better.

[CHEERING]

**PROTESTER:** What do we want?

**PROTESTORS:** Gay rights.

**PROTESTER:** When do we want them?

**PROTESTORS:** Now.

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**PROTESTORS:** Gay rights.

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

**SUBJECT:** Come on out. Join us, bring a friend.

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

**SUBJECT:** Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough. And I ask, I ask people all over this country to do one thing, come out. Come out America, come out.

**SPEAKER 1:** Oh, do you think they're getting the message? They're getting the message from New York to LA. The word is out and we're here, and we're queer. And we're glad to be here.

This is *After Hours* radio celebrating live from the heart of the Montrose. This morning, we're going to be listening to *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*, all about Aaron Fricke taking his boyfriend to the high school prom. That sounds like a good deal, doesn't it? What's Roger got-- money?

**KAY:** My money.

**SPEAKER 1:** Oh. I'm not working, I haven't seen money in, like, two months. Anyway, stay with us. The group hatched the Houston-- what is it? Houston area-- what is it, Jim? You're shaking your head.

**SPEAKER 2:** Houston Area Teen Coalition on homosexuality.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah. They're here and they're going to be talking to us about their group. Can we listen to "Rock Lobster"?

So stay with us. It's going to be fun. 526-4000 is the number to call. We're going to be taking your phone calls after the show and during the show.

If you're a very large, nice looking man with a lot of hair on your chest, please call me, 526-4000. I've got some pure energy I want to throw on you. Right Jimmy? What are you laughing at Jimmy?

**SPEAKER 2:** Ask him if he's got a brother.

**SPEAKER 1:** 526-4000 Is the number to call. This is *After Hours* radio celebrating live from the heart of the Montrose.  
(WHISPERING) The Montrose. Sounds kind of scary, doesn't it?

Give us a call, 526-4000. We're back and marathons over, thank God. And we're going to be having a good time so stay with us.

Some short guy with no hair on his chest called and said, what's the game plan? Well, give us a call and we'll tell you what the game plan is. We're queer.

[MUSIC - INFORMATION SOCIETY, "WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND"]

(SINGING) I want to know what your thinking. There are some things you can't hide. I want to know what you're feeling tell me what's on your mind. I want to know what you're thinking. There are some things you can't hide. I want to know what your feeling. Tell me what's on your mind.

**SPEAKER 1:** Oh, some guy with what now? What'd you say, Roger?

**SPEAKER 3:** A guy with no hair on his chest.

**SPEAKER 1:** Is on line one. Well, tell them to hang on. This is *After Hours* radio, celebrating live from the heart of the Montrose.

**SPEAKER 2:** It sure is, and we do some celebratin'.

**SPEAKER 1:** We do birthday celebrating. One of our favorite women is having a birthday this morning. Her name is--

**SPEAKER 3:** Kay.

**SPEAKER 2:** Kay.

**SPEAKER 1:** Kay. See Jimmy, if you do it, she won't get mad at me.

**SPEAKER 3:** Oh.

**SPEAKER 1:** Just stay tuned because we're going to have-- we're going to have a good time, right? We're going to have a--

[MUSIC, "THE FLINTSTONES THEME"]

(SINGING) A yabba, dabba doo time. A dabba doo time, we'll have a gay old time.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) We'll have a gay old time.

**FRED** (YELLING) Wilma!

**FLINTSTONE:**

**REPORTER:** The disorder began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar, The Stonewall on Christopher Street in the heart of the West Village.

[YELLING]

[HELICOPTER ENGINE]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**PROTESTER:** What do we want?

**PROTESTORS:** Gay rights.

**PROTESTER:** When do we want it?

**PROTESTORS:** Now.

**PROTESTER:** What do we want?

**PROTESTORS:** Gay rights.

**PROTESTER:** When do we want it?

**PROTESTORS:** Now.

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

I want you to savor this next moment. I have the proud task of telling you that the official count of the lesbian and gay rights March, the official count is over 500,000 strong.

**PROTESTER:** 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.

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

(SINGING) Standing in the shadows too long. Waiting on the sidelines too long. boy, I been watching you. Now you're going to watch me too.

I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding. It's no mystery how you missed me for so long. But that's history. You've been so wrong for so long.

Boy, I've been wanting you. Now you're going to want me too. I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding.

**WOMAN:** It's all right, you may all come out.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**SPEAKER 1:** We're queer.

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

(SINGING) Standing in the shadow for too long. Waiting on the sidelines for too long. Watching and wanting you. Now you're going to want me too.

I'm coming out of hiding. I'm coming out of hiding. Coming out of hiding, looking for somebody like you. Coming out of hiding, coming on the run, counting on nobody but you. Coming, out of hiding. Coming out of hiding.

Oh, oh, oh, oh. Out of hiding. Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh. Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh.

**WOMAN:** As president of the Board of Supervisors, it's my duty to make this announcement. Both Mayor Mosconi and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed.

**MAN:** Oh!

**MAN:** Jesus Christ!

**JUDY GARLAND:** Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.

**PROTESTOR:** They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about crotch politics! This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love, and to choose, and to live, and I don't care about [INAUDIBLE], and I don't care about [INAUDIBLE]. You better hear me in Washington.

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

**HARVEY MILK:** Come on out. [LAUGHS] Join us. Bring your friends.

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

**HARVEY MILK:** Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

(SINGING) Come out of hiding Come out of hiding Come out of hiding Come out of hiding

**PROTESTER:** We must destroy the myth 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 at the stores you shop in.

[CHEERING]

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

(SINGING) Out of hiding. Coming out of hiding. Out of hiding. Oh no, we're coming. Out of hiding. Oh no, we're coming. Out of hiding. Out of hiding.

**PROTESTER:** When do we want it?

**PROTESTORS:** Now.

**PROTESTER:** What do we want?

**PROTESTORS:** Gay rights.

**PROTESTER:** When do we want it?

**PROTESTORS:** Now.

**PROTESTER:** And I ask, I ask people all over this country to do one thing. Come out, come out America, come out.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**ADVERTISEMENT:** I want to tell you about a revolutionary new hair color. It's for lesbians only. You can choose the look you desire. Whether you want that mature, politically correct salt and pepper look, or the matted, sweaty active style, Sexual Preference by L'Oreal has your number.

I let the straight girls be nice and easy. For me, it's strictly Sexual Preference by L'Oreal. Because without it, I'm worthless.

**SINGER:** (SINGING) Give me a guard.

**SPEAKER 1:** Give me a guard. Give me a guard.

**SINGER:** (SINGING) He's glad to be gay.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yes, sir. Ladies and gentlemen, *After Hours* radio, celebrating live from the heart of the Montrose. We're getting ready to listen to *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*, right? Is that right or not?

**SPEAKER 2:** Yes.

**KAY:** Yes.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yes. We're going to be telling you about it right after this, so stay with us. Members of HATCH are here and it's going to be interesting, to stay tuned.

*After Hours* radio, celebrating live from the heart of the Montrose. We're glad you're tuned in this morning. We're just as queer as can be, right kids?

**SPEAKER 2:** That's it.

**KAY:** Definitely.

**SPEAKER 1:** Back in 1980, Aaron Fricke took his boyfriend to the high school prom.

**SPEAKER 2:** No.

**SPEAKER 1:** Did you guys know that?

**KAY:** Yes.

**SPEAKER 3:** Yes. I just heard that recently.

**KAY:** That was the year I graduated from high school.

**SPEAKER 3:** Just recently, we've heard about it, I've heard about it.

**SPEAKER 1:** Oh, really?

**SPEAKER 3:** I'm sorry.

**SPEAKER 1:** You're sorry about what?

**SPEAKER 3:** I didn't, I'm slow.

**SPEAKER 1:** We have a studio full of guys this morning.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** You gentlemen are from where?

**SPEAKER 2:** From HATCH.

**MAN:** Houston.

**SPEAKER 1:** The guy with the cigar. They're young, and they're from Houston, and they're good looking. So give us a call. No, wait a minute.

[LAUGHING]

**MAN:** The number is--

**SPEAKER 1:** Harvey Milk said one time that he was out recruiting young, gay men, I can't remember what it was, but it got him into a lot of trouble. So we'll do that this morning, now.

[LAUGHTER]

This morning we're going to listen to a program called *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*. And that's all about Aaron Fricke, back in 1980, taking his boyfriend to the high school prom, which sounds like a good deal to me. You guys tell us what HATCH stands for?

**MAN:** Houston Area Teen Coalition for Homosexuality.

**SPEAKER 1:** For homeless homosexuals.

**MAN:** Homeless homosexuality, yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** OK. Anything from that room before we get started? Somebody, anybody? Are we ready?

**SPEAKER 2:** Ready.

**SPEAKER 1:** The number is 526-4000 if you want to talk to us. We're going to take your phone calls after the Rock Lobster program gets going. So stay with us, it's going to be pretty interesting. This is *After Hours*, in KP-- say it, Bruce.

**SPEAKER 3:** KPFT 90.1.

**SPEAKER 1:** Houston 90.1 FM, yeah.

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

**WOMAN:** Billy, Aaron, come downstairs please. Billy, where are you two hiding? Come down here right now. Young man, what are you doing in there? Open the closet door at once.

What are you two doing? Billy, I've told you to keep those britches on, young man. Aaron Fricke, get out of his house immediately. Your mother's going to hear about this. Get out of that closet now.

[MUSIC - B-52's, "ROCK LOBSTER"]

(SINGING) We were at a party. His earlobe fell in the deep. Someone reached in and grabbed it. What rock lobster does.

Aaron Fricke's *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*. Starring Benjamin Kaizer as Aaron, Andrew Saller as Peter, Richard MacIlvan as Mr Lynch, and Kenneth Dempsey as John.

With Nora Sinclair, William Gavitz Virginia Maser, Joseph Tran Michelle Gaybo, Bob Lazar, David Erskine, David Strasburger, Peter Haden and Alan Zeremba Written by Richard Sigelco

Based on the book and original material by Aaron Fricke. Directed by Nicholas Deutsch Produced by Wesley Horner.

(SINGING) We were at the beach. Everybody had matching towels.

**MAN:** Here ye, Here ye, here ye, United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island is now in session. The honorable Chief Judge Patine presiding. All rise.

[SHUFFLING]

**JUDGE:** Be seated. In the matter of *Fricke vs. Lynch*, shows that the following opinion was entered into the record May 28, 1980.

Most of the time, a young man's choice of a date for the senior prom is of no great interest to anyone other than the student, his companion, and perhaps a few of their classmates. But in Aaron Fricke's case, the school authorities actively disapprove of his choice.

The other students are upset. The community is abuzz and the out of state state newspapers consider the matter newsworthy. All of this fuss arises because Aaron Fricke's intended escort is another young man.

The seeds of the present conflict were planted a year ago, when Peter Grayson then a junior at Cumberland High School, sought permission to bring a male escort to the junior prom. The principal, Richard Lynch, denied the request. At that time, Aaron Fricke was a friend of Peter's and supported his position regarding the dance.

Peter Grayson subsequently left Cumberland High School. He now lives in New York City, but the emotionally charged issues surrounding his request persisted into the following year.

**PRINCIPAL** Finally, I want to say something about responsibility. I've been your principal for three years and I've seen you mature during that time, some more than others. But you're all seniors now. And as seniors, each and every one of you is responsible for your younger classmates.

Now they'll be looking up to you to set a good example. It doesn't take much for that one problem student to ruin it for all the rest.

[BOOING]

I'm sure-- I'm sure most of you know the problem I'm talking about, but that was last year. This year, we won't have to put up with that problem anymore. This year is going to be a good year at Cumberland High.

[CHEERING]

**AARON FRICKE:** Ann, Ann how are you?

**ANN:** Aaron, It's good to see you.

**AARON FRICKE:** How was your summer?

**ANN:** Oh, it was OK. I'm glad to be back in school.

**AARON FRICKE:** I'm not too thrilled about it, especially with a welcome speech like that.

**ANN:** Yeah, Mr. Lynch is too much. Listen Aaron, I've got to run, I'll call you tonight.

**AARON FRICKE:** OK, Ann, I'll talk to you. Hey, Bob! Bob, wait up. It's me, Aaron. Aaron Fricke.

**BOB:** Yeah, yeah, I know who you are. What do you want?

**AARON FRICKE:** I just wanted to say hello. Long time, no see.

**BOB:** I've been busy. Oh, sure, I understand.

**BEA:** Bob, where did you go? I've been looking all over for you.

**BOB:** Aaron--

**BEA:** What were you talking to him for?

**BOB:** Never mind. Let's get out of here.

**AARON FRICKE:** I'm going that way too.

**BEA:** Get lost, [INAUDIBLE].

**AARON FRICKE:** So long Bob.

[CRICKETS CHIRPING]

**PETER:** Hello?

**AARON FRICKE:** Peter, it's me.

**PETER:** Aaron, God I'm glad you called. How was the first day back at school?

**AARON FRICKE:** It was the pits. Lynch gave one of his great speeches. You'll never guess what he said about you.

**PETER:** I can't wait.

**AARON FRICKE:** He said you were the problem from last year.

**PETER:** Wonderful, just what I always wanted to be.

**AARON FRICKE:** Yeah, now that you're gone, he thinks the whole school is straight. I saw Ann today. We're in biology together.

**PETER:** Uh-huh.

**AARON FRICKE:** Oh, and we're going to do *Thurber Carnival* this term.

**PETER:** Great, you're a natural for the carnival-- a born star.

**AARON FRICKE:** Right. No really, thank God for the drama club. Something else happened today. I saw this old friend of mine, Bob Cote. He's going out with Bea Divulge.

**PETER:** Uh, oh. The Wicked Witch of Cumberland High.

**AARON FRICKE:** Yeah, right. But when I said hello to Bob, he acted like he hardly even knew me. It was like our friendship didn't mean anything to him.

**PETER:** What did you expect?

**AARON FRICKE:** I don't know. Just some sign he cared, that's all.

**PETER:** He's one scared guy, Aaron. He's afraid to get near you, let alone show that he cares. You ought to know that by now.

**AARON FRICKE:** Yeah, I guess so. Peter, I really miss you.

**PETER:** I miss you too.

**AARON FRICKE:** You wouldn't believe the impression you left on Cumberland High. If nothing else, you've gotten them to say the word "gay" at least 600 times a day. I do miss having you here.

**PETER:** I'll be up.

[KNOCKING]

**MAN:** Aaron, kind of late to be talking on the phone isn't it?

**AARON FRICKE:** Yeah, dad, I was just getting off. Listen, I've got to go. I'll talk to you later, OK? Bye.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**MAN:** --doing in my locker?

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**AARON FRICKE:** OK, who did it?

**MAN:** Did what?

**AARON FRICKE:** Look in the locker. Somebody spit on my clothes again.

**MAN:** Prove it, homo.

[LAUGHING]

Where you going?

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

[KNOCKING]

**GYM TEACHER:** Aaron Fricke, what is it?

**AARON FRICKE:** I'd like permission to leave gym class early.

**GYM TEACHER:** What for?

**AARON FRICKE:** Someone's been spitting on my clothes when I'm in the shower. It's like the fourth time it's happened.

**GYM TEACHER:** I don't understand Fricke. What's leaving early got to do with it?

**AARON FRICKE:** Well, it wouldn't happen if I could get dressed before everyone else.

**GYM TEACHER:** Class is up when the bell rings. Those are the rules. If you don't like the rules, talk to Mr. Lynch about it.

**AARON FRICKE:** All right, I will.

**GYM TEACHER:** Aaron, I can understand why you want to leave gym class early, but I just wonder how the other students are going to feel.

**AARON FRICKE:** The other students?

**GYM TEACHER:** We don't want to look like we're favoring anyone.

**AARON FRICKE:** No, sir.

**GYM TEACHER:** You're friends with Peter Grayson, aren't you?

**AARON FRICKE:** Yeah, we're friends. I don't see what that--

**GYM TEACHER:** Just a minute, Aaron. Don't you think the other fellows know you're friends with, Peter? And don't you think that's why they're giving you such a hard time?

**AARON FRICKE:** No sir, I don't. I don't think Peter has anything to do with it.

**GYM TEACHER:** I see. Well, leaving gym class early won't solve the problem. Not in my opinion.

**AARON FRICKE:** What if I transfer? Took another class?

**GYM TEACHER:** Well, you could. Of course, we'd have to tell your parents.

**AARON FRICKE:** My parents?

**GYM TEACHER:** We couldn't do that without their approval. Should we call them? Or do you want to think it over first? It's up to you.

**JOHN:** So what did you tell him?

**AARON FRICKE:** I told them to forget it. I don't want my parents to know that I'm gay.

**JOHN:** Listen sweetheart, if they don't know by now, you should be up for an Academy Award.

**AARON FRICKE:** Very funny, John.

**JOHN:** I'm sorry if I offended you.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**JOHN:** The old metro parking lot is really hopping tonight. And look who's cruising us-- in a station wagon, no less.

**AARON FRICKE:** Big deal, I've seen him here before.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Sometimes I think I'm a rock lobster. No claws, always hiding in my little shell. Always afraid. Afraid of what?  
Afraid of myself? What?

**JOHN:** Why so serious? What's the matter with you tonight?

**AARON FRICKE:** I just feel so helpless sometimes. Peter wouldn't have taken that crap from Lynch.

**JOHN:** You still miss him, don't you?

**AARON FRICKE:** Yeah, I miss him a lot. Peter was the first person I ever met who was proud of being gay. I want to be proud. Oh, I don't know what I want. I just don't want to lie and hide anymore. That's all. Like Peter, Peter had all the nerve.

**JOHN:** And look where it got him-- kicked out of the house by his parents. He had to leave town. All on account of that stupid prom.

**AARON FRICKE:** Well, if being yourself means getting into trouble, then maybe staying out of trouble isn't such a great idea.

**JOHN:** Listen honey, you don't have to tell me that. I've always been myself. But pride, or no pride, you don't pick a fight unless you know you can win it. Aaron, you've got to go easier on yourself. Give yourself time. Do you want some of this?

**AARON FRICKE:** No, go ahead.

**JOHN:** Check out Mr. Muscles over there.

**AARON FRICKE:** Which one? In the Honda?

**JOHN:** Not him, the hunky number in the little Chevy.

**AARON FRICKE:** Oh, yeah. It's getting kind of crowded.

**JOHN:** I know, isn't it fabulous? So many men, so little time.

**ANNOUNCER:** You're listening to *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*. Exclusively on After Hours, KPFT Houston 90.1 FM.

**SPEAKER 1:** Boy, Mr. Lynch sounds like a good guy, doesn't he?

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**SPEAKER 2:** You can't say that.

**SPEAKER 1:** You can't say what? That's one of the words you can't say. So what do you think guys?

**SPEAKER 2:** It's great show.

**SPEAKER 3:** Lynch has an attitude.

**SPEAKER 2:** And attitude I think is an understatement.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**SPEAKER 1:** If you had Mr. Lynch running around at your school, what would you do?

**MAN:** Leave.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**MAN:** Have him transferred.

**MAN:** Yeah, do something to him.

**MAN:** Not very nice.

**MAN:** Well.

**MAN:** Like I said, this is not very nice.

**SPEAKER 1:** Very nice. I know, we need some headphones in here maybe. No?

**SPEAKER 2:** I don't know. What do you need headphones in there for?

**SPEAKER 1:** We don't need those. Kind of fell apart, I'm going to buy some new ones with that \$95,000, wasn't that great?

**SPEAKER 2:** That was great.

**SPEAKER 1:** \$95,000 that we got from the marathon. If you plug that in, one of you can hear what's going on in there.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah, only one of you. So you'll be able to hear. Can you hear these guys in here? I know You don't want to.

**SPEAKER 2:** [INAUDIBLE].

**SPEAKER 1:** So what do you-- what do you think Aaron's chances are getting to the prom right now? It doesn't sound good. Not with Lynch running the school. He seems like a nice Republican-- I mean, a nice-- well, I didn't mean to say that. Republican and redneck, it all kind of comes out together, anyway.

We're going back to *Rock Lobster*. Aaron is going to come out. And his dad finds the word gay, right? Spray painted on the front of the garage. What a strange-- at the front door?

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** Is that where it was? Anyway, this is *After Hours*. Yeah. *After Hours* on KPFT Houston. And let's check out and see what Aaron and his dad are doing.

**AARON DAD:** Aaron, could you come over here?

**AARON FRICKE:** Yeah, Dad? What is it?

**AARON DAD:** Do you know anything about this?

**AARON FRICKE:** No. No, it's the first time I've seen it.

**AARON DAD:** Now why in the hell would somebody spray paint "gay" on our front door?

**AARON FRICKE:** I don't know. Maybe it was some kids playing around.

**AARON DAD:** You're probably right. Anyhow, there's some paint remover in the garage, why don't you clean it off?

**AARON FRICKE:** Sure.

**AARON DAD:** Oh, and Aaron?

**AARON FRICKE:** Yeah?

**AARON DAD:** I wouldn't tell your mother about this. It might upset her.

**AARON FRICKE:** OK, fine. I wasn't going to say anything anyways.

**MAN:** Hey, Aaron, what are you doing in the library?

**AARON FRICKE:** Don't tell anyone, I'm cutting gym class.

**MAN:** I don't care what you're cutting, I want to talk to you.

Last night I was hitching back from Providence and this old guy picks me up. He was like in his 40s. So we're driving along and he starts asking me if I'd ever made it with another man before.

Then he pulled off the road and he starts putting the moves on me. Jesus, and I didn't know what to do. So I jumped out of the car and I waited until he left. Then I caught another ride.

**AARON FRICKE:** What are you telling me this for?

**MAN:** Because you're a faggot, man. Everybody knows that. And I sort of thought you could explain it to me.

**AARON FRICKE:** Nothing like being the school queer. Look, why don't you call the gay helpline and tell them what happened. I'll give you the number.

**MAN:** I will, I'll call it. There's something else.

**AARON FRICKE:** Yeah, what's that?

**MAN:** I want you to give me a [BLEEP].

**AARON FRICKE:** What? Are you crazy?

**MAN:** Come on, just do it.

**TEACHER:** Is that Fricke?

**AARON FRICKE:** Yes sir.

**TEACHER:** Aren't you supposed to be in gym class today?

**AARON FRICKE:** Well, there's the reason why--

**TEACHER:** Save it for Lynch. You're coming with me.

**MAN:** You're in trouble now, man.

**AARON FRICKE:** Just call that number.

**TEACHER:** I said move it, Fricke.

**AARON FRICKE:** All right, all right, I'm coming.

**PRINCIPAL** I thought we had an understanding, Aaron. I thought that you were going to work through this little problem of  
**LYNCH:** yours.

**AARON FRICKE:** Mr. Lynch, it's just that gym class. You don't know what it's like in there for me.

**PRINCIPAL** But that's not what we're here to talk about-- what it's like for you-- is it, Aaron?

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** Then what are we here to talk about?

**PRINCIPAL** Don't you use that tone of voice with me. I'll show you what you're here for. You know what this is?

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** No.

**PRINCIPAL** It's your attendance report. It says you've skipped gym class four times in the last two weeks. I could suspend

**LYNCH:** you for that, but regular suspension would be too lenient. And so I'm giving you three days of in-house suspension instead. And I don't want ever to hear about this problem of yours again? Do you understand that, Aaron?

**AARON FRICKE:** I understand. I don't think it's fair.

**PRINCIPAL** I could care less what you think. Now get your books and go to suspension hall.

**LYNCH:**

**PETER GRAYSON:** Hi, this is Peter Grayson. I'm not home right now but you can leave a message right after the beep. Bye.

**AARON FRICKE:** Peter, it's Aaron. I was just calling to say hello. John and I are going to Newport to see *Rocky Horror* again. And we'll probably cruise the metro parking lot after that. So anyways, I'll call you back later tonight. Bye.

[MUSIC - "THE TIME WARP"]

(SINGING) They'll never be the same. There's a startled sensation.

[LAUGHING]

**JOHN:** What a night! My dear, we're definitely too much. When you showered the entire front row with rice, I nearly cried. [LAUGHS]

**AARON FRICKE:** And John, you never looked more gorgeous. That gown is you.

**JOHN:** Put me in magenta and girls, eat your hearts out.

[LAUGHING]

**JOHN:** Oh.

**AARON FRICKE:** We've got to go back next week.

**JOHN:** Yeah. Oh, slow down. We're almost at the metro. We mustn't look too eager.

**AARON FRICKE:** Oh, the place is empty. Where is everyone?

**PRINCIPAL** We've got company. Looking for someone?

**LYNCH:**

**MAN:** Get the hell out of here.

**JOHN:** Ask nicely.

**MAN:** I can ask you to do nothing, you fucking queer!

**AARON FRICKE:** If you want us out, you have to make us leave.

**JOHN:** Aaron, he's got a crowbar. Let's get out of here-- fast.

**MAN:** I said beat it, faggot.

**JOHN:** Did you see him? He wanted to kill us. We were lucky to get out there.

**AARON FRICKE:** God dammit, isn't any place in this town safe for us? Where the hell are we supposed to go?

**MRS. MURDOCK:** There will be a short quiz tomorrow on chapters 9 and 10. That's all for today. Aaron, could you stay after class? I want to speak with you.

**AARON FRICKE:** Yes, Mrs. Murdock.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**MRS. MURDOCK:** What is the meaning of this paper you handed in the other day?

**AARON FRICKE:** I thought I was doing the assignment.

**MRS. MURDOCK:** The assignment was to write a paper on a topic that interests you. Homosexuality is an improper subject.

**AARON FRICKE:** But I am interested in it.

**MRS. MURDOCK:** Well no one else is. You're getting an F on this report.

[LAUGHING]

**BEA:** Here he comes.

**BOB:** Cut it out, Bea. Leave him alone.

**BEA:** Well, Bob, what do you care? Hello, Aaron.

**AARON FRICKE:** Oh, Hello, Bea. Hi, Bob.

**BEA:** We were wondering if you asked anyone to the prom yet?

**AARON FRICKE:** No, I thought I'd skip the prom this year.

**BEA:** What's the matter? Couldn't you find any boys to go with?

[LAUGHING]

**PRINCIPAL** Yes.

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** Mr. Lynch, I've got a complaint to make.

**PRINCIPAL** Do you have an appointment to see me, Aaron?

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** No, I don't need an appointment. Look at this. Look at my back. Do you know what that is? It's what's left of the animal parts they're throwing at me in biology class.

**PRINCIPAL** Well, I'm sorry to hear that. But you'll have to take it up with the assistant principal, Mr. Duvos.

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** No, I want to take it up with you. I want to know what you're going to do about it.

**PRINCIPAL** Well Aaron, I've said it before and I'll say it again. Your classmates know all about your friendship with Peter

**LYNCH:** Grayson. What happened is to be expected.

**AARON FRICKE:** That gives them the right to call me "faggot" and "queer"? Because I know Peter Grayson?

**PRINCIPAL** You should have thought of that before you started spending time with him.

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** I thought you were supposed to protect the students-- every student, including me.

**PRINCIPAL** I've heard just about enough from you Aaron.

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** And you're going to hear a whole lot more from now on.

**PRINCIPAL** Now you just wait a minute, young man. I'm not finished with you yet.

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** Well I'm finished. Because if this is your idea of protection, I'm better off on my own.

[DOOR SHUT]

[PHONE RING]

**PETER GRAYSON:** Hello?

**AARON FRICKE:** Peter, it's me.

**PETER GRAYSON:** Aaron? What time is it?

**AARON FRICKE:** It's about 2:00 in the morning. Listen, I did it. I finally told my parents I'm gay.

**PETER GRAYSON:** Hey, that's great. How'd they take it?

**AARON FRICKE:** Well, my mother kind of suspected. But my father, he just broke down and cried.

**PETER GRAYSON:** You're kidding?

**AARON FRICKE:** No, it was pretty bad. He was sitting at the kitchen table. He didn't say anything. The tears just rolled down his face.

**PETER GRAYSON:** That's OK. He'll get over it.

**AARON FRICKE:** God, I hope so. It was awful.

**PETER GRAYSON:** How do you feel? That's the important thing.

**AARON FRICKE:** I feel all right. I really do. I mean, there were so many times when I'd wonder, did they know?

God, all the lies I told to keep them from finding out about me. They didn't even realize who their own son was. What it was like at school, what I've been going through. I just couldn't keep living like that anymore. I had to tell them.

**PETER GRAYSON:** You did the right thing.

**AARON FRICKE:** Yeah, I guess so. But you know what's really funny? Now that I've told my parents, I feel like telling everybody-- the whole world.

**PETER GRAYSON:** So what's stopping you? Go ahead and do it.

**ANNOUNCER:** You're listening to *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*. Exclusively on *After Hours* KPFT, Houston 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC - THE B-52'S, "ROCK LOBSTER"]

(SINGING) Rock lobster.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yes. Well Aaron Fricke is rolling right along. Kay, it looks like you've been abandoned in there.

**KAY:** I think I have been.

**SPEAKER 1:** Where did everybody go?

**KAY:** Oh, Judy and Bruce are back in production, and Jimmy's answering phones, and--

**SPEAKER 1:** Really?

**KAY:** I'm here by myself.

**SPEAKER 1:** Well, talk to us for a few minutes while I do this, would you dear?

**KAY:** OK.

**SPEAKER 1:** Tell us about these car wash guys, really. There's a car wash coming up?

**SPEAKER 2:** Well, go ahead Gary.

**MAN:** It's October first in the parking lot of Mary's at 9:00 AM. It's being held by the Gay and Lesbian Student Association-- Gay and Lesbian Student Association at U of H. And it's at 9:00 AM. October first in Mary's parking lot.

**MAN:** What time is it over, or how late are you going to stay?

**SPEAKER 1:** Until all the cars are washed.

**MAN:** Yeah.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**SPEAKER 1:** There's going to be a small fee charged. And you can go by and get your car washed and learn more about HATCH. How long has HATCH been around?

**MAN:** About a year and a half.

**SPEAKER 1:** A year and a half?

**MAN:** Yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** And there's a lot-- there's a lot that goes on there, right?

**MAN:** Well it's a support group. Or just I like to think of it as just a group that you can come and sit down and talk and have your-- see that you're not alone.

**SPEAKER 1:** That's real important, right?

**MAN:** Very important.

**MAN:** You can just be gay, and not have to watch what you say or do. It's only two adults, so the rest of us are just--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**MAN:** They're there all the time, they're really great. And they'll leave the room if like we just want to talk and be alone. But usually it's OK.

**SPEAKER 1:** OK, Aaron Fricke is-- getting ready to tell the whole world.

**MAN:** You can say those seven words, Aaron.

**SPEAKER 1:** I said a couple of those words tonight. I was doing that tonight. OK, I went I went down to the HATCH group tonight.

**KAY:** Yeah, you told me about that.

**SPEAKER 1:** It was a lot of fun. I wish I had something like that to do when I was 16 years old.

**KAY:** I wish I'd known I was gay.

**MAN:** Yeah, poor Kay. Happy birthday.

**KAY:** Thank you.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah, we're going to sing "Happy Birthday" to you later.

**KAY:** You really don't have to.

**SPEAKER 1:** But we will. You know we will. The story picks up now where Aaron gets a letter from his good friend, Ann, I believe. And she's very supportive. And it sounds like he's getting closer to the prom though.

**SPEAKER 2:** Closer, possibly.

**SPEAKER 1:** We--

**MAN:** We hope.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah, we hope. We'll find out. You're listening to *After Hours* on KPFT. And let's go back to the prom. No we're not going to the prom yet. Let's go back to Aaron's house.

[CRICKETS CHIRPING]

**ANN:** Dear Aaron, you asked me what I think about you asking Peter to go to the prom. Last year, Peter's attempt to bring a guy to the prom was seen by most people-- in fact, I think by all-- as a grab at publicity. That was because no one knew Peter. He just showed up out of a clear, blue sky and raised a ruckus.

Since you've been in Cumberland much longer, and have more close friends, people won't suspect you of such ill motives so easily. But this is what they will think-- one, Peter made you do it; two, you're crazy; and three, you believe in gay rights. In that order.

Now I know you did it for a reason number three, gay rights. But you should think about how other people are going to react. And I think you should make an effort to explain what you believe. I respect any decision you make as long as you really think about it carefully. Love, Ann.

**PRINCIPAL** You want to do what?

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** I want to bring a male date to the senior prom.

**PRINCIPAL** And what makes you think you can do that?

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** Well you see sir, the rules say that any senior can take the date of his or her choice. Being a gay man, I think I'm entitled to take a male date.

**PRINCIPAL** Absolutely not.

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** Can I talk to the student council about it?

**PRINCIPAL** No, you can't talk to the student council. Now look, I know what you're trying to do and I won't allow it.

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** How come?

**PRINCIPAL** I don't have to defend my decision to you, Aaron. We went through all this last year. Or have you've forgotten

**LYNCH:** what happened to your friend, Peter Grayson?

**AARON FRICKE:** I haven't forgotten. But there's a difference. Peter was only 17 then, but I just turned 18. I could take this case to court if I wanted to.

**PRINCIPAL** You would go to court with this?

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** Yes, if I had to.

**PRINCIPAL** Well, my decision is final, Aaron. Nothing's going to change it.

**LYNCH:**

**AARON FRICKE:** Yeah, well we'll see about that.

[PHONE RINGING]

**AARON FRICKE:** Hello?

**JOHN WARD:** Is Aaron Fricke there?

**AARON FRICKE:** Speaking.

**JOHN WARD:** Aaron, this is John Ward, returning your call.

**AARON FRICKE:** Oh, Mr. Ward, Hi. I got your name from the National Gay Task Force. They said you had a lot of gay-related cases?

**JOHN WARD:** That's right.

**AARON FRICKE:** Well I'm gay, and I'm going to need a lawyer soon. So let me tell you why I called.

**ANN:** So they'll take the case? You're really going to go through with it?

**AARON FRICKE:** I really am.

**ANN:** Aaron, that's fantastic.

**AARON FRICKE:** I just wish I could let the rest of the students know before it hits the front page. Ethel I think I have an idea.

**ANN:** Aaron, what are you thinking?

**AARON FRICKE:** There's Bea Divulge. If I tell her, the whole school will know in about 30 seconds. They don't call her magic mouth for nothing. Hi, Bea, how's it going?

**BEA:** What's it to you?

**AARON FRICKE:** Bea, what would you say if I told you I'm going to the prom with Peter Grayson as my date?

**BEA:** Gross me out to the max!

**AARON FRICKE:** Ann, I think it worked.

**MAN:** You think they'll let him do it?

**GIRL:** He's just trying to get publicity.

**MAN:** You got to admit, he's got a lot of guts.

**MAN:** Yeah, he's crazy.

**GIRL:** I'll bet Peter made him do it.

**MAN:** So he wants to bring a guy to the prom? So what?

**GIRL:** This will ruin our reputation.

**GIRL:** What reputation?

**MAN:** Somebody says he's going to court.

**MAN:** Yeah, I hear he's got a lawyer and everything.

**MAN:** This place is turning into Gay Town, USA.

**MAN:** I don't care what anybody says, it's OK by me.

**GIRL:** You don't really get me? Lynch didn't even ask us what we thought about it.

**MAN:** Hey, Fricke better watch out, because a lot of kids around here are going to get pretty damn [INAUDIBLE].

**MAN:** I'm going to bash your faggot skull.

**AARON FRICKE:** Oh, ow.

[SCUFFLING]

**GIRL:** He's bleeding.

**AARON FRICKE:** You just stood there and watched. You could have helped me. I'm going to the nurse.

**JUDGE:** After Aaron filed suit in this court, an event reported by the Rhode Island and Boston papers, a student punched and kicked him in the school hallway. The unprovoked, surprise assault necessitated five stitches under Aaron's right eye. The assailant was suspended for nine days.

After this, Aaron was given the special parking space close to the school doors and has been provided with an escort, principal, or assistant principal between classes. No further incidents have occurred as of May 26, the day that this hearing began.