

PROSECUTOR: Aaron, would you please tell us why you want to go to your senior prom with another man?

AARON FRICKE: I feel I have the right to go just like any other student. And I don't understand why I shouldn't be allowed to go with Peter.

PROSECUTOR: Do you consider going to the prom to be a political statement?

AARON FRICKE: Well, I think just by being there, I'm making a statement for human rights. I see it as a stand against the prejudice that Mr. Lynch is demonstrating. And some of the kids are following.

PROSECUTOR: Has that prejudice made you uncomfortable in school?

AARON FRICKE: Yes, it has. But I've managed to go about my daily routine. And I can't see why I should be separated from the other kids when it comes to the prom.

PROSECUTOR: Have you ever been separated from the other kids at Cumberland High because you are gay?

AARON FRICKE: No. I have to be transferred out of gym class because some kids are picking on me, but Mr. Lynch wouldn't allow it.

PROSECUTOR: Aaron, do you have any heterosexual friends at Cumberland High?

AARON FRICKE: Yes. One of them is sitting in the courtroom right now.

PROSECUTOR: And how do they feel about your decision to sue Mr. Lynch?

AARON FRICKE: They have faith in me to make my own decisions. They're supporting me.

PROSECUTOR: Are you involved with any in-school activities?

AARON FRICKE: I'm in the drama club. I just received a Thespian Award for outstanding performance in the Thurber Carnival.

PROSECUTOR: Have you met all the requirements for graduation?

AARON FRICKE: Yes. I even passed P.E. this year.

PROSECUTOR: School policy is that if a student meets all the requirements for graduation, you may purchase prom tickets. Is that right?

AARON FRICKE: Yes. Plus I sold my 10 senior raffle tickets already. Thank you, Aaron. I have no further questions, Your Honor. Your witness.

DEFENSE Mr. Fricke, can you tell the court what is the meaning of the word "gay?"

ATTORNEY:

AARON FRICKE: It's the physical and emotional love shared by two people of the same sex, which is something I have to know about, considering I've been gay since I was at least five years old.

[LAUGHTER]

DEFENSE Are you sure you're not bisexual?

ATTORNEY:

AARON FRICKE: I've never dated girls, if that's what you mean.

DEFENSE Well, how many dates have you had with men?

ATTORNEY:

PROSECUTOR: Objection.

JUDGE: Sustained. Counselor, Mr. Fricke's private life is not an issue here.

DEFENSE Yes, Your Honor. Well, as a homosexual, do you really believe you'll enjoy yourself at a heterosexual prom?

ATTORNEY:

AARON FRICKE: I've seen straights have fun in gay bars. I don't know why I shouldn't have fun at a straight prom.

DEFENSE And you don't think your presence there will be disruptive?

ATTORNEY:

AARON FRICKE: No, sir.

DEFENSE Or that you and your escort might be physically harmed?

ATTORNEY:

AARON FRICKE: No, sir.

DEFENSE Are you planning to wear a corsage to the prom?

ATTORNEY:

AARON FRICKE: Am I what?

PROSECUTOR: Objection. Counsel is attempting to intimidate the witness.

DEFENSE I would like to present this newspaper photograph of Peter Grayson wearing a corsage at a gay prom held for him

ATTORNEY: in Boston.

JUDGE: Handing the evidence, exhibit A.

DEFENSE Would you put your head on Peter's shoulder if you slow dance together?

ATTORNEY:

PROSECUTOR: Objection. Aaron cannot speculate on his future impulses.

JUDGE: Overruled.

AARON FRICKE: I don't know. I just do what comes naturally.

DEFENSE I see. Aaron, you're wearing a bandage over your right eye. Would you please remove it?

ATTORNEY:

PROSECUTOR: Objection, Your Honor.

JUDGE: Sustained. The bandage is enough proof of physical harm to Aaron.

DEFENSE Precisely. Aaron has suffered physical harm because of his desire to attend the prom with a male date.

ATTORNEY:

PROSECUTOR: Objection! Aaron suffered this physical harm because he's gay. If Aaron had been afforded proper protection at school, he wouldn't have this scar.

DEFENSE Aaron, before your story hit the news, had you told all the students at Cumberland High that you were gay?

ATTORNEY:

AARON FRICKE: No.

DEFENSE Then why would they harass you?

ATTORNEY:

AARON FRICKE: I guess, they needed a scapegoat. And I'm an easy target because in their opinion, I'm obviously gay. They see me as some kind of threat. I'm hoping that if we go to the prom, they'll understand that I'm not.

I mean, it will bother some of the kids to have us around, but that's because they've never seen a gay couple before. Having us there will probably widen their range of experience.

DEFENSE Widen their range of experience.

ATTORNEY:

AARON FRICKE: Well, I think if the other students see us that the Pleasant Valley Country Club, they'll say, wow, gay people really are human beings with constitutional rights.

JUDGE: This prom is to be held at the Pleasant Valley Country Club?

AARON FRICKE: Yes, Your Honor.

JUDGE: [CHUCKLES] I play golf there frequently.

AARON FRICKE: Oh, really?

JUDGE: Yes, it's quite relaxing.

AARON FRICKE: I can imagine that being a judge has its share of pressures.

JUDGE: That may be a gigantic understatement.

[LAUGHTER]

Does the defense have any further questions?

DEFENSE No, Your Honor.

ATTORNEY:

[GAVEL]

JUDGE: This court is recessed until 10:30 tomorrow morning. If anyone needs me, I can be found at the Pleasant Valley Country Club.

[LAUGHTER]

DAD: Aaron.

AARON FRICKE: Dad, what are you doing here?

DAD: Don't look so surprised. I just thought I'd drop by and give you some moral support. We-- we haven't talked very much since this thing started.

AARON FRICKE: I know. Thanks for coming, dad.

DAD: Well, it was the least I could do. Say, are you hungry?

AARON FRICKE: Yeah, I'd love to get something.

DAD: Well, there's a place around the corner that's not too bad.

AARON FRICKE: That sounds good to me.

DAD: You really handled those questions well.

AARON FRICKE: I feel like I've been working on the answers for a long time, like about 18 years.

DAD: I'm beginning to understand that now. Aaron, I-- I don't know how to say this, but-- well, when I saw you on the stand today, I felt proud. I was proud that you had the courage to say the things you said. I only wish it hadn't taken me this long to find out how you really felt.

AARON FRICKE: Dad, you can't blame yourself for that. I didn't want you to know. I was afraid of what would happen if you did find out.

DAD: Well, I'll say this much. I never thought I'd be sitting in a restaurant with a homosexual telling him I loved him.

AARON FRICKE: I love you too, dad.

PROSECUTOR: Mr. Lynch, could you summarize your reasons for denying Aaron's request?

RICHARD I'd be glad to. First of all, I was worried about Aaron's safety. Secondly, I was concerned about the negative effect this homosexual interaction would have on a prom.

PROSECUTOR: If this court ordered you to protect Aaron Fricke, wouldn't you provide that protection?

RICHARD If I was ordered by the court, yes, I would. But I couldn't guarantee their safety.

LYNCH:

PROSECUTOR: Not even with adequate security?

RICHARD [SIGH] I don't know how much is adequate. I'd have to look into that.

LYNCH:

PROSECUTOR: All right. Did Aaron, tell you about the violence against him in gym class?

RICHARD Yes, he told me.

LYNCH:

PROSECUTOR: And yet, in effect, you refused his request for a transfer.

RICHARD Well--

LYNCH:

PROSECUTOR: Would you, therefore, subjecting Aaron to the possibility of more violence?

RICHARD No. No, not intentionally.

LYNCH:

PROSECUTOR: Mr. Lynch, you mentioned a negative effect on the prom. Could you be more specific?

RICHARD Well, the presence of an openly homosexual couple might encourage the other students to misbehave, or there

LYNCH: could be excessive drinking, vandalism, and so on.

PROSECUTOR: There could be, but you don't know for sure.

RICHARD Well, I'm not 100% certain, no. But I saw what happened last year at the junior prom when Peter Grayson tried to

LYNCH: attend with his male date. The students couldn't handle the pressure. They became unmanageable. One student jumped into the lake with his tuxedo on.

[LAUGHTER]

PROSECUTOR: Wasn't that the older brother of the student who gave Aaron the waltz under his eye?

RICHARD Uh-- yeah-- yes. Yes. As a matter of fact, he was.

LYNCH:

PROSECUTOR: Do you allow girls to dance together at the prom?

RICHARD Yes, we allow girls to dance together. But that does not represent homosexual interaction. The two boys dancing

LYNCH: together does.

PROSECUTOR: Well, that's interesting. I'm curious, Mr. Lynch, whether you have any homosexual acquaintances.

RICHARD No, I do not.

LYNCH:

PROSECUTOR: Do you know anything about the homosexual lifestyle?

RICHARD Enough to know that I disagree with it.

LYNCH:

PROSECUTOR: Would you say you strongly disagree with it?

DAD: Yes, I'd say so.

AARON FRICKE: Mr. Lynch, are there any homosexual teachers at Cumberland High?

RICHARD No, there are not.

LYNCH:

PROSECUTOR: Oh? Aaron has received a letter from a substitute teacher at Cumberland High who's gay and whose name naturally will be withheld. Mr. Lynch, I have here at the Cumberland High School handbook. Would you please read the underlined passage for us?

RICHARD "Prejudice is a byproduct of ignorance, is divisive, and inimical to our nation's traditions."

LYNCH:

PROSECUTOR: Do you agree with that statement?

RICHARD Yes, I do.

LYNCH:

PROSECUTOR: Thank you, Mr. Lynch. I have no further questions, Your Honor.

PETER: So we're really going through with this, huh?

AARON FRICKE: Why, what's wrong?

PETER: [SIGH] I'm sick of it. That's what's wrong. There were reporters calling me every 10 minutes. And some guy threatened to kill me in front of my building. [SIGH] I was kind of hoping they'd call the whole dance off.

AARON FRICKE: Peter, we're so close to winning. The prom is only a week away.

PETER: I know. But I guess, I never thought it would get this far.

AARON FRICKE: Maybe I never thought it would get this far either, but it has. I mean, every gay person in the country is watching what's happening here. I can't stop now. Listen, if you don't want to go, that's OK. I'll find somebody else to go with.

PETER: No, I don't want to disappoint you. Man, there's just one thing.

AARON FRICKE: What's that?

PETER: Do you think you could find two lavender tuxedos?

[CHUCKLING]

AARON FRICKE: I see what I can do. Let's wait for the judge's decision. Who knows? We may end up having a prom all by ourselves.

JUDGE: After considerable thought and research, I have concluded that even a legitimate interest in school discipline does not outweigh a student's right to peacefully express his views in an appropriate time, place, and manner. To rule otherwise would completely subvert free speech in the schools by granting other students a heckler's veto, allowing them to decide through prohibited and violent methods what speech will be heard.

The First Amendment does not tolerate mob rule by unruly schoolchildren. In conclusion, I find that the plaintiff has established a probability of success on the merits. And accordingly, his request for a preliminary injunction has been granted.

AARON FRICKE: Does that mean what I think it means?

PROSECUTOR: It means that we've just won your case.

AARON FRICKE: We won? We won!

[LAUGHS]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NARRATOR 1: 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"]

NARRATOR 2: Gay men and lesbians are everywhere. We need to communicate this truth to those who do not know. We work with in every field at every level. We touch the lives of millions of people. This negative view of homosexuality would change dramatically if they only knew who we are.

NARRATOR 1: We have known for years that our invisibility has been the core of our oppression. We have experienced that silence equals death. Now is the time for us to emerge from our invisibility. We need to let others know who we are and use our visibility to influence the attitudes of people who are ignorant of the truth. Only you can make it happen.

NARRATOR 2: You're coming out can help turn fear into acceptance. One-to-one contact with gay men and lesbians is our most powerful tool to use and bring about a major shift in society's attitudes. Coming out is the most powerful statement we can make-- powerful in its political influence and personally powerful in releasing energy that is wasted in hiding the truth.

NARRATOR 1: National Coming Out Day, sponsored by National Gay Rights Advocates, will be a powerful day in lesbian and gay history. The goal of National Coming Out Day is to increase the visibility and political clout of more than 20 million gay men and lesbians in this country.

On October 11, 1988, the anniversary of the historic march on Washington for lesbian and gay rights, thousands of people will be bringing the spirit of the march home to their local communities.

NARRATOR 2: No matter how far in the closet or out of the closet you are, you have a next step. Join us on October the 11th, 1988, and take your next step. For more information, call NGRA at 213-650-6200.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Why did you--

- Yes?

[CHUCKLES]

- What?
- Why did you guys quit talking? We were eavesdropping.
- You were?
- Oh, we were starting to. It sounds like Aaron's going to the prom, doesn't it?
- I think--
- He sound like-- what's his name-- wants to go, though?
- I don't know. Well, you got to understand. Peter lived in--
- Peter went to that school.
- Yeah. Cumberland, Rhode Island and went to that same high school. And he left the year before because he also wanted to take his friend to the prom. It never does say who that was. I wonder if it was Aaron.
- I don't think so.
- They probably would have said if it was Aaron.
- You think so?
- If it'd been Aaron, everybody would have known before.
- OK. So should we go to the prom and have a good time?
- Yeah.
- Yeah!
- Sounds good to me.
- Should we go to the prom and have a gay time?
- Ooh!
- Yeah. I remember my prom night. It sucked.
- Say what?
- [CHUCKLES] Didn't want to.
- Oh.
- [LAUGHTER]
- Oh, well. OK.
- [LAUGHTER]
- We're going to--

- Let's go to the prom.

- Yes.

- OK, let's go.

- 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: Have a good day. How are you?

MAN: Oh, man.

REPORTER: Excuse me, I'm a reporter for *The Herald American*. I'm asking students what they think about this whole thing?

STUDENT: What whole thing?

REPORTER: You know, the senior prom tonight.

STUDENT: Oh. They make me sick!

[STUDENTS LAUGHING]

Homosexuals don't even belong on this Earth, much less than our prom!

REPORTER: Really? Then you're against what's happening.

STUDENT: Against it? I'm ashamed to be a Cumberland student anymore.

[STUDENTS LAUGHING]

If homosexuals were water bugs, I'd stomp on them.

[STUDENTS LAUGHING]

You're not Aaron Fricke by any chance?

REPORTER: How did you ever guess?

[STUDENTS LAUGHING]

Hey, Aaron. No, it's all right!

WOMAN: Keep going, Aaron.

[DOORBELL]

[DOOR OPENS]

AARON FRICKE: Peter, I was getting worried.

PETER: The train was late. Aaron, you look fantastic!

AARON FRICKE: Well, I should. After all, it's the night of my prom.

[LAUGHS]

Come on upstairs. I've got the tuxedos.

PETER: Did you get the lavender ones?

AARON FRICKE: Did you really think I was tacky enough to wear a lavender tuxedo?

PETER: Well, I am.

[LAUGHTER]

AARON FRICKE: I got blue. This lovely dark navy one's yours, and an equally lovely powder blue, mine. Cumberland High School colors-- blue and white.

[CHUCKLES]

I thought it would be patriotic of us. Peter, you really look good. I'm glad you're here.

PETER: I'm glad I'm here, too. And I think, we're going to make a stunning couple.

[CAR HUMMING]

What's that?

AARON FRICKE: Those are TV lights.

PETER: Look at all those people!

AARON FRICKE: Are you nervous?

PETER: Yeah, a little.

AARON FRICKE: So am I. But we made it this far. It ought to be easy for me here.

[ENGINE STOPS]

- Going to stay at the prom all night?

- --gay right--

- Are you and Peter Grayson lovers?

[SHOUTING]

- Any chance that this is happening next year?

- How do you feel about Bishop [INAUDIBLE] statement condemning homosexuality?

[CLAMORING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

AARON FRICKE: Dear Peter, after the prom and everything, I thought you'd like to hear how our graduation went. You know, how they always wait until the end to call the names of the graduating seniors? But when they finally call my name, people started booing from the bleachers.

My stomach tightened up. I knew it would be bad, but I didn't think it would be that bad. But then, I heard a fainter sound, the sound of applause. It was coming from the senior class. They were cheering me. Love, Aaron.

- Hey, what did he say?

- What?

- What did Jim say?

- Oh, we're chitchatting about Stanley.

- Yes. I was talking about my gorgeous--

- Holy ghost.

- --heaven, lovely lover.

- Yeah? Is he in town?

- No.

- No! Thank god. No, uh-- no!

[LAUGHTER]

- OK.

[MUSIC, "POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE"]

- We better not do that because Bruce may say something else. No, I'm kidding. What about Stanley?

- He's out of town this week.

- Yeah?

- That's why I'm here.

- Does that mean we can go out after this is over?

- We're just kind of making dates for the future.

- No, I've already got dibs on him tonight, dear.

- Oh, I wanted him to take me downtown.

- Oh!

- Wait a minute.

- You want to go?
- I thought I came with him. Is he ditching me?
- He can take you home and then come to my house.
- See, he's got money. I know he's got some money.

[LAUGHTER]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NARRATOR: Production of this program was made possible by a grant from the Satellite Program Development Fund, National Public Radio.

- Well, it wasn't that--
- Special!
- Hi, Mike, if you're listening. Aaron Fricke's *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*. What'd you guys think?
- I liked it.
- I liked it.
- Very good.
- It was great.
- Good show.
- Great show.
- Good show, great show.
- Yeah.
- Not so-so show.
- So-so, it was so-so. Just as a reminder, Mr. Dunston.
- Uh-huh.
- I'd like about three minutes to do a very brief homophobia report tonight.
- Yeah?
- OK, watch the clock, would you? I did about a quarter too.
- OK, fine.
- What the hell?

[LAUGHTER]

- What the what?

- I said, what the hell was that?

- No.

- There's something written, and it say, bash your faggot skull in, but you can't say.

[CHUCKLING]

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- Anyway, you guys are with Hatch?

- Hatch, we are.

- And tell us again what that is. Somebody.

- It's your turn.

- Hatch. Hatch is just a group where young gay people-- you don't have to be a boy. You don't have to be a girl.

- Or a girl.

- You can be kind of in between.

- You can wear a dress. It's just for pretty much anybody who's like either sure or not really sure of their sexuality. And it's just a place where you can talk and be you.

- Yeah. You guys have speakers come in?

- Oh, sure.

- We do. And once a month we have Dr. Rob Henney.

- He's a psychiatrist. And he doesn't try to change-- matter of fact, he's gay too, and he might not want you to say his name. But anyway--

[LAUGHTER]

- Oh, too late now.

- That's OK. We'll edit that out.

- Dr. Rob from Galveston.

- We'll edit that out later.

- He's the one with the--

- Bruce has had him. I mean--

- Well, we all have.
- Actually, I have. But that's totally immaterial.
- Bruce does, yeah?
- No.
- Where are we going? We've got a copy of Aaron Fricke's book, *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*, that we would like to give to you. If you're the-- how many callers should we dare say?
- Oh, don't say it.
- 200th caller.
- 50.
- Oh, please.
- And fill the 69th caller.
- No.

[LAUGHTER]

- How about the first one?
- No, if you're a fifth caller but calls in and ask for Aaron Fricke's *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*. We have a copy of the book for you. It's really good, and we're all going to sign it, right?
- Right.
- And send it out to you. It's our way of saying thanks.
- There's one.
- Can I run out and allow you to call--
- Two!
- 526-4000 is the number. And Roger should be counting them up. We're going to take some calls for Hatch, and we're going to talk about coming out and all that good stuff. Well, he doesn't? Right now, let's take a little break.
- Fun forever. There's three.
- And we're going to be listening to--
- Oh, three went away.
- There four.
- We're going to be listening to Michael Callen singing a song called Love-- something. It's Jimmy's favorite song, so we'll play that. We'll find out who's--

- There's number five!

[CHEERING]

- We'll find out who's picking up *Reflections of a Rock Lobster* in just a minute. We'll be back with Hatch. The number is 526-4000. This is *After Hours* on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM, celebrating gay and lesbian life from the heart of the Montrose.

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

- Michael Callen from the album *Purple Heart*. It's called "Love Don't Need a Reason" on *After Hours*, radio celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose.

- When you see the quilt, you understand how it began with one name sewn with love and grew to thousands of names. Stitched with memories, surrounded by favorite things, each name is a proud inscription. But all of them together make a national monument. To those who died of AIDS, a monument that says, remember me.

- And the quilt is going to be back in Washington on October the 11th at 12th--

- 8th and 9th.

- Is it the 8th and 9th?

- Yes.

- Are you going to Washington to see it--

- Yes.

- --and work on that project?

- Yes.

- Are you really-- I know Judy is going to be there.

- Chase is going to be there, too.

- Roger said that we don't have a winner yet. We got up to nine, and they quit calling.

- You said five.

- You said five.

- He was counting up to 10.

- Oh!

- So whoever calls in next to win the book, I guess. 526-4000. [CHUCKLES]

- Well, there they are.

- Except for--

- There they are.
- He's on the line. Hello.
- Hello?
- What's going on?

- Oh, I'm just pedaling around this Saturday night, but I wanted to get on the air and say something.
- Go ahead. What do you want to say?

- Hi, Matt!
- Hi, everybody.

- What do you want to say?
- I couldn't make it up tonight. No, I'm living in Nacogdoches now.

[SNORTING]

- Oh.

[LAUGHING]

- Hey, it's a pretty lively town as long as college is here.
- Wow.
- No, but there used to be--
- We're sure you're making the best of it.
- Well, no, not really. I'm faithful now. But--
- Well, excuse me?

[COUGHING]

[LAUGHTER]

- OK, but what?
- It's getting deep in here.

- Yeah, there used--

[LAUGHTER]

[CLEAR THROAT]

- There used to be a gay and lesbian student union in Nacogdoches, but it seems that they fold it up under pressure.

- That's at which school?

- You'll have to create a new one.

- Yes, that's what I am thinking.

- What school is it?

- Stephen F. Austin. There are tons of gay people there, but they are all very closet case. But I know that they're out there listening because they all come down to Houston to buy their pornography on the weekends.

[LAUGHTER]

- Thank you so much. So when's the group meeting, or how can they get a hold of someone--

- Oh, I don't know. I was thinking, if anyone's interested, they could contact you, and you could let me know.

- OK, that's good. We'll do that for you.

- OK, I'd--

- All right.

- --appreciate it.

- Thanks for calling, baby.

- All right, bye-bye.

- Bye, Matt.

- 526-4000 is the number to call if you'd like to talk to Hatch. This morning, we're talking about-- number two is what?

- Line 2 is the first call.

- Oh, it is? Line 2, just--

- No line 2.

- Did you get a name?

- No. You said you were going to pick them up--

- Oh, well, we're fine. Hang on, just a minute. Let's see.

[DIAL TONE]

- They hung up.

[LAUGHTER]

- Some poor souls out there trying to win this book, and we're just hanging on to it.

- Call one more time, folks.
- Yeah. 526-4000. There it is. There's
- A phone call.
- Hang on just a minute.
- Take that call up, Mr. Johnson.
- KPFT.

[FEEDBACK]

- Hello?
- Hello. You got to turn your radio down just a little bit.
- Hold on for a second.
- OK. Hey, we're holding on. Everybody, hold on to something.
- Whoa!
- Oh!
- Do we get to choose?

[LAUGHTER]

- Bruce like all that.
- That was kind of fun.
- What's your name?
- My name is Brian.
- Brian.
- Yes.
- Brian, do you want to take this copy of Aaron Fricke's book home with you?
- Yeah, I'd like that. Well, we're all--
- Liar.
- We're all going to sign it.
- Well--
- You can't do that.

- We're all going to sign it, and we'll get it to you. So if you'll hang on just a second, somebody will pick up in the lobbying and tell you how you can pick it up, OK?

- Great.

- We can either mail it to you, or you can pick it up here at the station. It'll be where next week?

- He's a Hatch.

- Oh, is he one of your members?

- Yes.

- Oh, he doesn't count.

[LAUGHS]

- No, he can count.

- Oh, my god.

- Listen, thanks for calling. And thanks for listening, OK?

- Thank you.

- Sure. KPFT.

- Yes. I was just calling a few minutes ago, and I was trying to get that book.

- Just give it to her. Brian can borrow the one from the library.

[LAUGHS]

- Brian can what?

- Borrow the one from our library.

- Brian will get another one.

- He'll get over it.

- So you guys want to give the book to this young lady?

- Yes.

- Yes.

- Oh, thank you. Thank you.

- What's your name?

- My name is Pat Cardenas.

- Is Pat a part of this group?

- No.

- No.

- OK.

[LAUGHTER]

- Pat, listen. Brian just got knocked out, it looks like, because it looks like they want to give you the book.

- Tell him I'm sorry, but I want that book.

[LAUGHTER]

- We'll get it signed, and we'll get it to you, OK? Hang on, and somebody will tell you how you're going to pick it up, or we'll mail it to you.

- OK, thank you.

- Sure. Thanks for listening. We're talking to Hatch, members of the Houston-- what? What'd you say?

- Area Teen Coalition for Homosexuals.

- Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals-- for Homosexuals. And it's about 17 minutes before 4:00. God, time goes by,

- I admit, when you're having fun.

- Yeah. If you have a question for Hatch or if you have a question about the *Rock Lobster* program, the number is 526-4000. And what were you going to say, Bruce?

- Are we having fun yet?

- Somebody said tell them something.

- Not me.

- No?

- Nope.

- No. Somebody said tell them something.

- Hey, I know that music. [CHUCKLES] That's my cue.

- Good. Knock yourself out whenever you're ready.

- OK.

- (SINGING) There was a man who took a stand to try to shed some light. He said that sexual preference is a basic human right. The school board laid him off and said the budget was too tight. But it sounds suspiciously like homophobia to me.

- Well, folks, we have some wonderful news for you this week on-- what is that banging in there? Some wonderful news for you--

- Some homophobic Republican.

[LAUGHTER]

- --on the homophobia report. Circle K has dropped a plan to limit medical care coverage for lifestyle decisions-- where did my music go? Thank you-- made by employees, such as those who contracted AIDS or suffered from drug or alcohol abuse.

Effective immediately, we have canceled implementation of these specific limitations due to the widespread misunderstanding of both the intent and the specifics of the changes, Circle K President Robert Reid said in a memorandum to the employees. So that is just great.

- Yes!

- That's good news.

- Marvelous!

[CLAPPING]

- It just goes to--

- The Circle K gave in.

- Circle K gave in. It just goes to show what we can do when we put our mind to it.

- All right!

- Now, we have some wonderful actions coming up. See what happens when people come out of the closet?

- That's right.

- If you're listening and you understand what I mean--

- But we have got a couple of actions that I know definitely are coming up. I understand that tomorrow afternoon or today, this afternoon--

- Today.

- In conjunction with the debates of the presidential candidates, Act Up is planning a protest at the Republican headquarters to protest the Reagan-Bush administration's lack of AIDS funding.

- Sounds good.

- Also, on October the 11th, which is a Tuesday, in the anniversary of the National March on Washington, in Washington DC-- actually, in a little town outside in the little state of Maryland-- Act Now, which is the National Coalition for Act Up will be basically trying to shut down the FDA because they're going to be doing that up there.

And there's going to be a number of people, obviously, in Houston that can't be there. We're going to have a protest from 10-- no-- from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM that day. That's Tuesday, the 11th, at the FDA here. We'll have more on that as time comes along.

- That's great. And for all the information on what's going on in the community, you can always call the gay and lesbian Switchboard at 529-3211.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Right?

- That's right.

- 526-4000 is the number to call. This is *After Hours*, radio celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. If you have questions for Hatch or you want to talk about *Rock Lobster* or you want to-- well, we don't know what you want to talk about. It's just been one of those Sunday morning. Good morning, KPFT.

- Hi.

- Hi, there. What's up?

- I was calling about-- well, I was in the program this past night there.

- Yeah.

- And it was the first time I had been there, so I was like kind of scared to say something.

- You were at the Hatch meeting?

- Yes.

- For the first time?

- Uh-huh.

- Oh, really?

- Uh-huh.

- What was your name?

- Manuel.

- Did I meet you?

- Yes, you did.

- Yeah.

- I was the one with the black shirt.

- Yeah.

- And another guy gave you a tape. So OK, well, but I was trying to say-- I don't know. It might sound stupid. But isn't it sometimes better for people to stay in the closet than to come out of it?

- Is it better to stay in the closet?

- If your parents are really--

- Sometimes.

- I know my mother knows--

- There's a time to out.

- --but she just doesn't admit it.

- There's a time to come out.

- When you're ready but not before you're independent.

- When you're ready but not before.

[LAUGHING]

- Financially stable--

- When you're not able to be kicked out of the house.

- When you're financially stable.

- I say just wait.

- It depends.

- Well, I don't know. See, my family kicked me out when I was 17.

- Uh-huh.

- And two weeks ago, two weeks ago I quit my job at the Houston Police Department because I think this radio show is more important than that job. So you have to get your priorities in order. I mean, my life is more important to me than anything anybody else thinks. So I don't give a damn who thinks I'm queer or whatever. That's none of their business either. I got to deal with myself.

- How old are you?

- I'm 18.

- 18.

- I know this guy.

- Well, at least you made it to the Hatch meeting.

- Yes, I know who you are.

- Someone's here knows you.

[LAUGHTER]

- We have photos.

- Hi.

- I'm Tiffany.

- Oh, hi, Tiffany.

[LAUGHTER]

- Yes. And some of your friends are out here, too.

- Who?

- Well, Rita and Will and Brent and Matt and Chris.

- Well, tell them I said hi.

- We certainly will. Listen, thanks for calling.

- Yeah. Bye. [CHUCKLES]

- Bye-bye. See, that's what I'm talking about. It's hard for people to come out, and they're afraid. And should we be so afraid of coming out?

- No.

- It depends who you're coming out to.

- To yourself?

- No, not to yourself.

- No.

- Of course, also on October the 11th is National Coming Out Day. And we would like to encourage everyone to take their next step, and come out just a little bit more than you are already.

- You know, I have some good news for you, too. Thursday night, I went down to the River Oaks Theater and talked to Maureen. She's the manager. *After Hours* radio and the River Oaks Theater are going to be bringing the life and times of Harvey Milk, the award winning film, here to Houston on October the 18th and 19th. And the good news is it's absolutely free. So if you--

- That is wonderful. It's a terrific movie!

- You can get-- if you can get a ride to the River Oaks, there'll be midnight showings at the River Oaks Theater. We're going to be talking about it, of course, between now--

- In October or November.

- --in November, I'm sorry. November. It's going to be one week before the Harvey Milk rally down at city hall, so that's going to be fun. And we'll expect to see you guys down there, too. Right? What are you whispering about?

- Oh, nothing.

[CHUCKLES]

- We were just-- we were talking about no one was calling. I said maybe my mom would.

- No one's calling. Your mom's going to call?

- I hope.

- There's a phone call.

- KPFT.

- Hi, I just wanted to say something about the guy who just called.

- Sure.

- I'm 18 years old-- yeah, I'm 18, too. And both my parents know. And they think it's great. Well, we don't talk much about it, but they know.

- So do the people know where you work?

- Huh?

- Do the people know where you work?

- I just started working there.

- Really?

- But I intend to tell them.

- But your mom didn't kick you out.

- Uh-uh.

- Well, you're real lucky, too.

[LAUGHS]

- You are. I mean, that's basic-- but things are different than they were 15 years ago, right?

- Ah-ha. Well, I can't say that for sure because I wasn't around.

- Do you still live at home?

- Oh, yes. Yeah, I do.

- You do?

- Ah-ha.

- And it doesn't cause any problems. That's great. Listen, thanks for calling.

- OK.

- 526-4000 is the number to call. We've got about 10 minutes left. This is *After Hours* on KPFT Houston. And we're talking to members of Hatch. If people want to come to the meetings, they have to call the gay and lesbian Switchboard, right?

- Yeah. And they can get all the information.

- Meetings are near the Montrose area, and they're every Saturday night?

- Saturday.

- At 7 o'clock?

- 7:30.

- 7:30.

- It's only for an hour and a half.

- Hour and a half.

- We used to do something afterwards.

- Yeah? Like what? stay all night at a radio station?

[LAUGHTER]

- What was that whoa! That sounded interesting.

- We'd like to know.

- One of those seven dwarves.

- Oh, yeah!

[LAUGHTER]

- 526-4000. Jim is just smiling from ear to ear. We have to play this song because it's somebody's birthday.

- Yeah!

- So before we play this, in unison, we're all going to sing--

- (SINGING) Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday, dear Kay. Happy birthday to you.

- And many more.

- How old Kay?
- How old are you, Kay? She's not going to talk to us. Lynn Lavner
- (SINGING) Why does everything proceed a trifle twistedly.
- That means it's over. Thank you, Lenny. And where are you, Kay?
- I'm here. Over here, do you not hear me?
- I love you, baby.
- I love you, too.
- And I hope you're having a happy birthday.
- Well, it's been over for four hours, but it's been very good.
- We have been talking about Hatch. They want to come back next week and talk about Hatch because we didn't give them a full hour. They want their money's worth.
- Oh.
- Full load or nothing.

[LAUGHING]

- He wants the full load or nothing. Well, eight hours. Well, wait a minute. 526-4000 is the number to call.
- And you've got two lines ringing right now.
- We do?

[DIAL TONE]

- KPFT.
- Yes. I just want to call and wish Kay a happy birthday and tell her to come on now, tell us how old she is.

[LAUGHTER]

- Thank you.
- Thanks for calling.
- Thank you for calling. I'm 26.
- She's 26. 526-4000. We've got about five minutes left. Really, we got about two or three minutes left. So you guys want to come back next week to real?
- Yeah.
- And hang around with all these crazy people?

- Queers!

- Queers.

[LAUGHTER]

- Well, you got to sign this book. We got to sign this book because we're going to send it to Pat. We want to thank you for listening. But we're also going to have to figure out what to tell your friend because he's going to be angry at us--

- He'll get over it.

- --to say the least.

- Brian, you have to get over it.

- Brian, I'm sure he's already gotten over.

- Brian's probably-- oh, well. Oh, well.

- Invite him on the show. That way, he can tell everybody what he thinks of you.

[LAUGHTER]

- As long as he wants--

- --those words on the show, remember?

- You can't say those words on the show.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Why? We-- oh.

- It's that time already?

- Yup.

- It is.

- No!

- No.

- Well, we want to know where Jim's going tonight.

- Oh.

- Jim and I are going down to a little spot, a little secluded private club in the downtown Houston area.

- Kevin's going home with me. I don't know where you think you're going.

- Oh!

[LAUGHTER]

- Well, thank you.
- Mm-hmm. OK.
- But Gino was privileged to chill.
- Anyway, we'll be back next week for more of this.
- I don't think there is such a thing.

[LAUGHING]

- We want to remind you about the-- the what?
- What?
- Well, there's so much going on, and we have so little time to tell you about it.
- Call Switchboard.
- It's always like that. 529-3211 is the number for the gay and lesbian Switchboard here in the Houston area. You can always find out what's going on in the community. And there's a lot going on because this year is the 10th anniversary of the death of Harvey Milk. We'd be having a candlelight vigil and a celebration of life in front of city hall on November 27.

And then next year is going to mark the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall. If you don't know what that is, for god's sake, go out and find a book or buy a video or rent a video or call me at 529-- what's the number on the hotline?

- 4636.
- 529-4636. And we'll tell you all about it. You can write us that *After Hours* radio and care of KPFT Houston. And address is 419-419 Lovett, L-O-V-E-T-T, and the beautiful Montrose. Zip code is 77006. And you guys will be back next week?
- Yeah.
- And we'll talk more about Hatch and being young and gay and how wonderful that could be.
- Who else is on next week?
- Nobody.
- Nobody?
- So that's why I said yes.
- Well, thank you.

- Hatch is on next week. [LAUGHS]

- Tell him we can't.

- Listen--

- I thought John is coming next week.

- --come in and say, paradise lost. He's going to thank you for supporting marathon. I want to thank you for supporting marathon. Until next week, take care of yourself. And please, please, please, be good to yourself. Remember that we love you. And remember the words of Harvey Milk from the kids.

- 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. And I ask--

[CHEERING]

I ask people all over this country to do one thing-- come out! Come out, America! Come out!

[CHEERING]

- I'll see you next week. Bye.

[MUSIC PLAYING]