

JIMMY: Whoa, yes, Happy Pride Day to everyone because today is Queer Pride Day. Just got back from the parade. It was wonderful, and I'm going to have a whole show of people coming in who were in the parade, talking about their reactions to it.

SPEAKER 1: There you go. So without further ado, you got something cued up here?

JIMMY: It's right there, number one.

SPEAKER 1: OK, man. Hey, it's nice to have new neighbors. I miss my old neighbors, too, the Friday night guys, like Jim Carper, who came on after me on Friday. He's following me everywhere now. What the hell does this mean? Damn, psychos. I'll tell you. You can't get rid of them. Ha-ha-ha!

JIMMY: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice and equality for all.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[THEME MUSIC]

(SINGING) After Hours, After Hours.

Oh, yes, you've tuned in to *After Hours*, Queer Radio with Attitude, right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue, and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people and their friends. Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets.

That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you, too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hello, Houston and College Station and the world, and welcome to *After Hours*, Queer Radio with Attitude. This is the Sunday, June the 30th episode now that we're on from 1:00 to 4:00 AM. Sorry for you folks in College Station. And by the way, I want to say a special hi and thank you to Lance Parr, who is the chief engineer of KEOS, because this is the only show that KEOS carries from KPFT anymore.

And since the time change, Lance has been playing episodes of *This Way Out* in the first hour, the midnight to 1:00 hour. So I really, really appreciate the extra time and effort that Lance has put in. And also this is, of course, Happy Pride Day. June the 29th was the parade. And it only lasted one day this year--

[LAUGHTER]

--unlike last year. Before we get too far into it, I want to say hello to my MPBs, Wilson, Paul, and Randy, and Junior, and Mark. Especially, I got a letter from Mark in the mail this week. And Mark is a really clean-cut guy, looking for a pen pal. This is a brother behind bars looking for a pen pal. So give us a call, 713-526-5738. Talk to Big Roy. We've got the address, and we'll give it to you.

The other thing is the music that you heard in the very beginning was the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston doing the *Star-Spangled Banner*. I think they do a marvelous job of that song. And I did the original-- almost the original, Pledge of Allegiance. I messed up a little bit because it says, I pledge allegiance to my Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty, justice, and equality for all.

That's the original one written in 1892. The music that came on after that was our own Nancy Ford with her queer version of *We Didn't Start The Fire*. So this is parade night. I have asked everybody to come through. I've got the new court coming in. The Imperial Court of Houston will be coming in as a guest. I have a couple of things that I want to get at the top of the program because I've messed up everything.

[LAUGHS]

Aah! Here it is. First of all, there's a whole lot of stuff going on today, Sunday, today. And you don't want to miss any of it if you have to. But at 3:00, there's a Miss Camp Show going on at the Guava. At 4:00, the Pride Party and Parade Awards at Rich's. 6:00 is the Boy of Montrose contest at Mary's. And 8:00 is the Mr. and Miss BRB benefiting the Montrose Clinic at the BRB.

There is a new group in town that I have never heard of. And it just so happens that there is a national conference going on right now of BFLAG. BPFLAG, that is the Blind Friends of Gays and Lesbians going on right now. And as a matter of fact, I've got this email from Rob Hill from Tulsa, who is a biggie in this organization. Debbie Buckle, who is a friend of Sara de Palma's, has been in touch with me about the organization, Blind Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

She reported that you may be interested in learning more about our group and about our goals. You bet you. I've very much enjoyed talking with you about us. But I think Debbie passed on to you that I have an early morning meet-- I have an early morning Sunday meeting. So we were going to have a call-in at 2:00, but that won't go. But this is for the entire queer community out here. We will have a business meeting Thursday afternoon.

And that will be a great time for those interested in our group to join us. And if possible, we can do an interview then. And they are meeting at the Adams Mark Hotel. That's in the 10,000th block of Westheimer at Briarpark. And if you're interested in that, that's Thursday afternoon. Also, let's see. That's last. No, I'm going to do this right now because he's here.

The week following the pride parade on the evening of July 3, 2002, there will be a repeat of the annual gathering at the site of Paul Broussard's injury. He died at St. Joseph's Hospital. While the assault happened at 2:00 AM on the morning of the 4th, we will gather at about 10:00 PM, the 3rd. That was about the time Paul and his friends parked their car.

We have gathered most years since to remember Paul and the importance of constant vigilance against anti-gay prejudice and violence. If you are interested in joining us, please let us know. Love, Ray. And before we get into all the parade's things, I want to talk about Paul Broussard.

SPEAKER 2: Paul Broussard came in my life like a hurricane. And on July the 3rd, 1991, I was at home asleep at 3:00 in the morning. And Steve Little called me and said the EMTs are not moving a young man that has been badly beaten and stabbed and bleeding on the sidewalk. And can you do something about this? And you know how Mother Hale is, she anguishes over these things.

And so I got on the horn to the emergency dispatcher. And I got the supervisor, and I said, look, there's a young man that's been badly injured and bleeding. I have a report on that. I'm putting on my clothes and going over there. I will meet you there. And so by the time I got there, he had gotten on the radio, and they had moved him. But Paul went without any treatment, no triage, no emergency treatment for better than an hour on that sidewalk.

And then they carried him not to the hospital at Ben Taub or to Herman, which are both Class A emergency things. They carried him to St. Joseph's Hospital where there was not a doctor on duty, and one had to be summoned and transported there. And so Paul lay there for better than an hour without being triaged. They took his blood pressure and temperature at 4:47, which would be two hours and 40 minutes after he was stabbed.

Paul died in that hospital. And there's a lot of lessons to learn. We did an investigation, or the police told us there wasn't any chance for an investigation. It's one of those examples, Jimmy, where the community can make a difference in a crisis. I went to Queer Nation and other activist groups in town. Of course, Queer Nation was the big activist group in town at that time. And I said, we need to put some people on the street.

And a week after Paul had been killed, we moved the story from the last page of the Metro Section to the front page of the newspaper. And we kept it there for weeks. By the mass action of activists, it made that difference. Then suddenly, one of the students at the University of Houston, a female student, went to her professor and said, I know one of the assailants. And so we traced him.

He was in New York. He was arrested there and brought back to Houston. And when the plane landed in Houston, the detective accompanying him had the nine of the names. So it took us less than a month to identify all of the assailants. All of the assailants were charged. All 10 of them were convicted. Initially, six of them went to prison, and four of them did not.

Subsequently, two of them went to prison for violating their probation. Of the people that went to prison, only two successfully have now completed their probation. They were minor players and not significant role players in the incident. Two of the assailants have gotten out of prison, one of the parolees and one of those originally sentenced to time.

The reason we're gathering this week on the 3rd is, of course, to remember as well we should because if we fail to remember, then we doom some brothers and sisters to repeat that horror, to remember how important our vigilance is. One of the assailants has promised me that he will be at this memorial. And I think that is very significant.

JIMMY: Yes, I do, too.

SPEAKER 2: Because we, as a people, gay men, lesbians, transgendered, and bisexual people, I hold up to a little higher standard to the rest of the world. I think we have an obligation to explore the meaning of restorative justice. I'm not saying relax for a minute, our vigilance to prevent violence and hate prejudice action against us.

I am saying let us add to that the wisdom that we can learn from the experience of those who perpetrate these crimes and the things they go through in the process of coming to wholeness and dealing with the guilt so we can help prevent it happen again. Of the 10 assailants, four of them that are still in prison are gay. And I think we need to deal with that.

I think we need to understand the struggle in identity that happens, certainly not in young people, all young people, but in many young people. I mean, I just walked-- I rode to the distance of the parade, and I saw scores of hundreds of young people, who are healthy, well-adjusted self of accepting. Sure, they have problems, and sure, they deal with the prejudice of others.

But these kids are not a danger to themselves nor to other people simply because they live in an environment that accepts them, loves them, and reinforces them about their fears. But there are a lot of gay people out there, gay men and lesbians, who do not have that reinforcement, who do not enjoy that acceptance. And I think that we need to understand that we're going to have to reach through the barriers.

We're going to have to overcome the religious resistance to touch people's lives and help them because their guilt and their shame, undeserved as we all understand it to be, can become a part of a weapon against all of us. So those of you who are willing to explore some of these different kinds of ideas, we can all go get revenge. Revenge is cheap and easy. But it's really expensive on our own guilt.

But if you want to explore the restorative measure of preventing prejudice and hate, come join us and let's start that conversation on July the 3rd.

JIMMY: Where are we meeting?

SPEAKER 2: At the intersection of Montrose and Willard Street. Willard Street is one block south of Welch Street. So it's right around the corner from Anderson Fair. But it's the parking lot of the old TWIT building if you remember that.

JIMMY: I do.

SPEAKER 2: And it's now a lawyer's office back there, and it has an iron gate and fence. So we can't actually get in the parking lot. But we can gather at the part of the sidewalk, where Paul lay bleeding, awaiting for the attention of EMTs.

SPEAKER 1: 10:00 PM.

SPEAKER 2: 10:00 PM. I guess that's Wednesday. Is that Wednesday? What-- is that Wednesday?

JIMMY: Mm-hmm.

SPEAKER 2: Wednesday on the 3rd. And so I'll see you, folks, there. And we'll start that conversation. Hopefully, it will lead from there to a broader discussion of these issues. I know now personally, visited, talked to all of the assailants and their families. I have assisted in getting one of them out but supporting his family and his parole effort. I just went through a major effort trying to get another out on parole that did not work.

But I know them now. And these young men have stories to tell, all of us, and experiences to share. And that may be helpful in preventing future violence. And Jimmy, I want to thank you for allowing me on, and I'd like--

JIMMY: I wanted to talk about that first because it's very, very important. I'm very excited about talking about the parade. But I thought this was very important. We needed to get that out early in the show.

SPEAKER 2: I appreciate that sensitivity. But before I go, I want to remind--

JIMMY: You're not going anywhere.

SPEAKER 2: I want to remind the listeners of KPFT that I'm the mother of gay programming in Texas--

JIMMY: Yes, you are.

SPEAKER 2: --in Houston. And I started doing *WildeNStein* in 1975. The only reason we can have our own programming, programming from our perspective, programming where we are not somebody else's joke or somebody else's add-on is because I am sitting in a radio station that practices what it preaches in terms of liberty and acceptance and making these radio waves available to all.

I know that a lot of the *After Hours* listeners may not be flush enough to help us with the fun drive. But some of you are.

JIMMY: Many of them.

SPEAKER 2: And I don't want you to feel guilty because you can't give. But I do want those of you who have the resources to please take time out right now to call 713-526-5738 and make a tax deductible pledge to an educational institution that has allowed us to build a community over the airwaves. If it had not been for *WildeNStein* in the early days and its concomitant influence on print media and on the acceptance of one another, it took a group of people that didn't like themselves and didn't like one another and hammered away over the airwaves week after week after week.

And when I was doing this show, I opened up the telephones and invited the rednecks to call in because I had answers for them. And so we did it that way. And it's been done with a lot more sophistication under Greer Price's hands and under Mike Mitch's hands, and under Jack Valinski's hands--

JIMMY: You bet

SPEAKER 2: --and under Buddy Johnston's hands, and under Jimmy Harper's hands. We do-- these folks do a lot more sophisticated radio than I ever tried. And they're certainly a lot more technically-skilled. And it's not just the rap. It's the music. And it's the atmosphere that needs and deserves and appreciates your support.

JIMMY: 526-5738, 526-KPFT. Now it's time to celebrate! Jack Valinski is here.

JACK VALINSKI: Well, it's been--

JIMMY: And Troy Christensen.

JACK VALINSKI: --incredible day.

JIMMY: Yes, it has been.

TROY CHRISTENSEN: First of all, we've got to talk about the weather. It rained. It rained. It rained. It rained.

JIMMY: 70% chance of rain during the day, 40% chance at night. And we did it.

TROY We never tried to be too cocky that it's going to end. But it always has ended. And it has always turned out great.

CHRISTENSEN: And I need to talk a little bit about the background. Certainly, we talked about Ray's participation in the early days of getting this thing off the ground. Today, Larry Bonnareese was in town.

JIMMY: I missed him!

TROY And he talked to us at lunch. He talked to some of the people who are newer to the committee and talked about

CHRISTENSEN: it what it was like to try to get a parade permit in 1978, 1979, 1980, in that time frame, about them saying, what's a nice little Mexican getting involved with a group like this, and the first year of only having one lane of traffic open to them. And all of those things and look where we are today.

JIMMY: Oh, my God.

TROY And the fact that when we put a parade permit in, that we have 100 officers out there on the street working for

CHRISTENSEN: us, that the Traffic and Transportation Department puts all those No Parking signs out, and I know this doesn't sound real exciting, but this really sets the stage for it. And then we look at the fact that the pride committee basically is just the producers of this event.

And looking at-- and certainly, I've seen some tapes of what goes on in Sydney, Australia with the largest pride event in the world, and we're just the largest pride event in the Southwest. And we look at what the staging of that-- putting that thing on, and we look at some of those groups who just do these incredible performances and events. And that we have 130 some units.

And also, we have to look at the fact that in this parade, two of the National Pacifica board members were in the parade, the two from Houston. The fact that we had four or five--

JIMMY: That was impressive.

TROY --four or five commercial radio stations, but we had KPFT this year.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY: Yes, we did. And that contingent was put together by straight people because all the gay people at KPFT were busy doing other things.

TROY Right, with other groups that you're involved in.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY: Wait a minute, I'm sorry. I didn't have your-- I didn't have your mic turned on.

SPEAKER 1: Sorry.

JIMMY: Go ahead.

SPEAKER 1: I think Jimmy had the option of five different floats.

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY: I did, but I chose the grand marshal.

JACK VALINSKI: I want to be on--

SPEAKER 1: Imagine that.

JIMMY: That Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, I was so thrilled that the community voted us grand marshal on our 20th anniversary.

SPEAKER 1: And you get the Shawn Carter Award for being at the parade the most times.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY: Actually, I have now been-- I have--

SPEAKER 1: Multiple times in one parade, that's what we're talking about.

JIMMY: Well, I didn't do that. But I have been in the grand marshal position three times now because the 10-year--

SPEAKER 2: I don't know that position.

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY: When the Switchboard was 10 years old, we were grand marshal also. So I feel really blessed.

TROY And I'm just-- I just--

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY: But Jack, I mean, not just all those radio stations, you and I, remember when KPFT was the only radio station that would--

JACK VALINSKI: We did live broadcast for a couple of years. You're doing a live broadcast of a parade on radio. What's the logic there?

JIMMY: Yeah, I know but--

JACK VALINSKI: You certainly did the color and the commentary.

JIMMY: Yes, exactly. But now we have four commercial radio stations in the parade. And when the police-- way back when the police were trying to keep us from having a parade, now they're in it.

JACK VALINSKI: Well, and you look at this and that we've had the Health and Human Services Department in the parade a number of years. The second year for the-- last year, the Montrose-branch library was in. This year, the library system was in there.

JIMMY: That was amazing.

JACK VALINSKI: Last year, we had the police in the parade. This year, the fire chief in a hook and ladder-- in the basket of the hook and ladder was in there and got a standing ovation.

SPEAKER 1: That was hot-looking for real.

JACK VALINSKI: KPFT got a standing ovation. It's just incredible that these groups are in the parade. And there's lots of non-GLBT people. And also, this is the first year that was officially called the Houston Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Parade.

JIMMY: Yes! Finally! Yes, and Jack, I know that you were the one who really orchestrated that. I mean, you-- not that you orchestrated, but--

JACK VALINSKI: I did. I mean, I stacked that meeting.

[LAUGHS]

TROY He invited Ray.

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHS]

JACK VALINSKI: And Brenda and so many of the other people in the community.

JIMMY: Because it this time.

JACK VALINSKI: Yes. And part of the thing is that in the olden days, a lot of the pride committee meetings were just packed because of all the controversy and stuff that goes on. And I think what the pride committee has done in the past couple of years is the fact that we're somewhat passé in the fact that people don't go to meetings because I think we're doing what we're supposed to be doing. I don't know if we're perfect at it. We certainly got our problems.

And the same thing that we used to be on the front page of the Chronicle when we did this. But now we're like in the Houston section, where it's just the events. And the fact that-- behind the scenes, the people that work behind the scenes, and we don't-- in the parade, you do not see the pride committee riding in convertibles down there--

JIMMY: That's right.

JACK VALINSKI: --because we're all working in the parade.

JIMMY: They're in golf carts working.

TROY If I can interject, I think sometimes for those of us on the pride committee, it becomes passé because we're such
CHRISTENSEN: a daily thing. But when we're in the parade or we see the parade, we really see the significance of it.

JIMMY: The work that you all have done.

TROY It was amazing just seeing the people and how much they appreciate it. To me, this year was very significant
CHRISTENSEN: because of what Jack was talking about earlier, the speech given by Larry Bonnereese at our kickoff brunch that we had today. He talked about how regardless of what year this is. It's our 24th parade. But from the first year to the 24th year, there are still people, still gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered people who are isolated.

And when we get to the parade, there's 100,000-150,000 of us in mass with our friends.

JIMMY: It's incredible, just incredible.

TROY And a power base, I mean, like Jack said, all the corporations that have-- and last time, I was on *After Hours*

CHRISTENSEN: talking about pride events, I, kind of, made fun of Clear Channel Communications, one of our sponsors, I think, saying that KPFT is the only station. They don't own Houston. But on the other hand--

JIMMY: Of course, but.

TROY On the other hand, we got incredible publicity this year. And we love KPFT listeners, of course. But we have to

CHRISTENSEN: recognize that a whole lot of people are listening to Clear Channel stations.

JIMMY: That's right.

TROY And they all heard about the parade.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY: And that's very important. You can't have too many media.

TROY Exactly.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY: Yeah, that's right because even in the gay media, I mean, we cover different aspects of the community. And so it takes all of us to get the word out.

TROY I personally heard from most of the TV stations that do news in Houston on my cell phone today, mostly trying to

CHRISTENSEN: find out if they needed to come. It rained out. And it's like, come, come. You've got to come. We're on time.

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY: Well, and we do play a little bit of the media trick. And it didn't happen on purpose. But the fact that we do a night parade on Saturday, which is a low business-- no-news night, and the fact that the parade is going on while they're doing a live newscast, WB and Fox does it at 9:00, and the other stations do it at 10:00, it's like this gives them an opportunity to do something that's happening right then and there.

And it's not like this is a trick. It just worked out that way.

JACK VALINSKI: That's right. And at the fate of it all because the first nighttime parade, of course, was 1997 if I remember it well.

And I'm thinking that there has been, at least, two, if not more times that on parade day, it rained in the afternoon, but not at night. And if we had kept the parade during the day, we would've been rained out.

TROY And a weather person could explain it better.

CHRISTENSEN:

JACK VALINSKI: Yes, just incredible.

TROY But for some reason, when the heat of the day dissipates, the rain goes away.

CHRISTENSEN:

JACK VALINSKI: That must be it. And it just gets overcast, and that makes it a lot cooler. We don't have people fainting.

TROY This year was-- working was great.

CHRISTENSEN:

JACK VALINSKI: And there are so many people that help put on this parade and all the events that happened in pride that volunteer incredible amount of hours. But there's also a momentum. The fact that these people show up to put their contingent together, and like I said, there's an awful lot of non-GLBT people that are part of the parade. They're happy to be in it and having a great time.

And the people in the neighborhood, I mean, there's a lot of things that happen that because of the way the city just happens to be set up, that in our community, we don't have the street to line up the parade.

JIMMY: That's right.

JACK VALINSKI: So we have to line it up in this neighborhood with trees and people parking there in their driveways and all this type of stuff. And yet we make it work by being respectful for the community, cleaning up after ourselves, talking to the people. We want everybody to have a good time.

JIMMY: There's a large neighborhood that's really inconvenienced in the afternoon because we've got the floats and everything. But they're just so nice about it.

TROY They really get into it. I had to knock on a couple of doors. I was a block captain today. I was taking care of
CHRISTENSEN: several entries in the lineup area. And we had cars that weren't supposed to be parked there, so knock on doors, is that your car? And they're all very, very nice that a lot of them were having parties.

They said, oh, no we know not to have anybody parked there. We're having our friends park elsewhere. They all fully-- whether gay or not, they all fully supported us.

JACK VALINSKI: One of the most difficult jobs of the parade is being a judge.

JIMMY: Oh, I can imagine.

JACK VALINSKI: And I get to sit up on the reviewing stand for part of it and certainly stay away from the judges because they got this difficult job. But some of the incredible units that were in there, and I'm just-- I don't remember them all. I didn't write them out. The Gay Men's course was just--

JIMMY: Wasn't that wonderful?

JACK VALINSKI: --fabulous. They go out and do this show tune types stuff. Shades comes out, and they're like--

JIMMY: They just overwhelm you with numbers of people.

JACK VALINSKI: Well, number one, number two, yes, and then they do this thing where they're all these business people with their briefcase. And then they strip and they're dancing. And it's just like-- and this is the stuff--

TROY But all within parade guidelines.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY: Yes, oh, yes.

JACK VALINSKI: And this is the stuff that we watched on the videos from Sydney that just has this incredible production. And it's like all of a sudden, how did they learn this? How did this translate from what we would love to see them do to them doing?

TROY People just run with it. Take our suggestions and run with it.

CHRISTENSEN:

JACK VALINSKI: Last year, Rainbow came here. I don't know where Rainbow is. He'll be here soon. He'll be drifting in. But we talked about the two-day parade. That the parade just seemed to take on forever--

JIMMY: Because that lasted after midnight.

JACK VALINSKI: This year, the parade ended in front of the reviewing stand at 11:30. And I'm so anal about the parade starting on time.

JIMMY: Oh, I know it. We all know that, Jack.

JACK VALINSKI: Yes, and it does start on time.

JIMMY: Yes, it does.

JACK VALINSKI: Even though for some reason, the keys were lost for the mayor's car, and it was a convertible. So I don't know. And it had nothing to do with the mayor, just one of these things. And we found it. And we're probably--

TROY I thought we hotwired it.

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHS]

JACK VALINSKI: And we all love Sheila Jackson Lee, our congressperson from the Barbara Jordan district. But she's never on time for anything. But she's on time for our parade.

JIMMY: Because she knows better.

[LAUGHS]

JACK VALINSKI: Yes.

JIMMY: All right, the parade's going to pass you by, honey. Jackie Thorne is here from the Royals--

SPEAKER 2: I have one comment that I wanted to make with regard to the parade itself and the attendance, the people along the sides. And I have-- for the last several years, I have been struck by the number of children that have been brought. And I mean, the parents are bringing the children to see the parade. And it is fabulous that-- they're learning. Even though they don't realize it, they're learning tolerance there.

JIMMY: Right, and we do not want to be on the parade committee. We do not want to exclude any element of our community.

JACK VALINSKI: Oh, you bet.

JIMMY: We are absolutely proud of-- because that's who we are. And that's like adding the words. It's more than just adding the words, of course, but adding the words is important. Be inclusive from every group. We don't-- when we look at these applications, we say, oh, you're not in here because-- we want you to be in there. From the Aggies coming to our parade--

TROY Baylor.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY: Baylor, yeah. But the Aggies always get a standing ovation. But it takes a hell a lot to be gay in X-Men.

TROY Speaking about the children, I've been checking our pride email. And I got an email from a woman who said her
CHRISTENSEN: husband had just outed her to her children, one was eight, one was 12. And they've been asking about her life. And so she was wondering if she could take them to the parade as an educational thing. And I said, definitely. We have HATCH. We have PFLAG. We have the gay and lesbian parents group.

The grand marshals in the past have had their children or grandchildren with them. It's very much of a family affair.

JIMMY: There's actually more church entries than there are bar entries. And just as we're saying that and Troy has worked so hard with the press these past number of years, we are not as-- we are not apologetic for anybody who's in the parade. We embrace it all.

TROY I told her, on the other hand, we don't censor anybody. I mean, you're going to see people in drag.

CHRISTENSEN:

JACK VALINSKI: As long as it's in the legal--

TROY You're going to see people in leather, and we embrace everything.

CHRISTENSEN:

JACK VALINSKI: You bet.

JIMMY: And at the same time, the non-KPFT, non-GLBT media, they don't focus on one aspect of the parade. They focus on the fact that this is a celebration that we have from the mayor-- now it's almost passé that the mayor is in the parade. And we were one of the last cities to get the mayor in the parade. And he has set that ground-breaking thing that we have all these different groups, from the corporate groups to the organizations.

And it's also-- we also got to look at some of the organizations that say, we just can't do it this year. We need to take a break and maybe come back next year to be in the parade because it also-- they're also under pressure now to that the fact that they have to be lit. It's a night parade because if you're just riding in a car, you get lost in the parade.

JACK VALINSKI: You can't be, unless you're wearing something flashy.

JIMMY: You're right. And the majority of the units just work and be in a work with this, understand that when we're in the neighborhood, we don't throw trash there. We don't park all of our cars there, et cetera, et cetera, because when we talked about doing this night parade in 1995, we were so afraid about the security, about all these type of things.

And then when you're on there and you start talking to the police officers and say, OK, when you're ready to start, all this type of stuff, it works great. And we are so proud to be able to put this whole thing together as a community and show our community. And it just works so well, just like the fact that we're privileged to be able to do radio here on KPFT.

SPEAKER 3: Yes.

TROY Yes.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY: And the reason that we're privileged to do radio on KPFT is because people like you out there support us. And this is our summer marathon membership drive/member marathon, I think we can use that word again.

JACK VALINSKI: We're asking for your help.

JIMMY: We are. We are asking for your help. And it is not two weeks. It is only one week. This is the only night that we're going to be asking for it. And we have about a \$550 goal to meet. And we have started. We have one pledge already from a man in Channel View-- Channel View, Texas has called in to pledge. So it's time for you to step up to the bat at 526-5738, 526-KPFT.

Pledge your pleasure support for *After Hours* and this station. And you're not going to get this program anywhere else, I mean, nowhere.

JACK VALINSKI: No where. While we--

[COUGHS]

Excuse me. While we appreciate the publicity on the commercial radio stations, here, you don't have commercials. And here, we're family.

JACKIE We're one of you.

THORNE:

JACK VALINSKI: This is our base.

JIMMY: I'm looking around and the whole place is filled with queers. It's just wonderful, wonderful.

[LAUGHS]

JACKIE We have invaded the radio station.

THORNE:

JACK VALINSKI: And all different ages at that.

JIMMY: That's right. We have from teens on up to well--

SPEAKER 3: Mature.

JIMMY: --mature, yes. Ray left. Ray left.

[LAUGHTER]

Ray left, so I hope Jackie and I are it.

[LAUGHTER]

Well, yeah, OK. Yeah, I know. I'm older than your father, whatever.

SPEAKER 1: No, you're not.

JACK VALINSKI: Probably not.

JACKIE You're older than mine, though.

THORNE:

JIMMY: But that number, 526-5738, 526-KPFT. Big Roy and assorted people are sitting there waiting to take your call. Say, where did we want to go from here?

[LAUGHTER]

JACK VALINSKI: Where can you go?

JIMMY: I'm so excited.

JACK VALINSKI: Where can you go? And I'm sure some of the audience knows I had some personal things going on this year. But you come back there. And you look at it, and you look at the momentum. And you look at the community. And you just look at how this thing all comes together and all the people who worked on it, whether they worked on it just today, or they worked on it for the past year, it is just this magical thing.

And I know sometimes I'm a little bit too close to the trees in this whole process.

JIMMY: Your baby has grown up, Jack.

JACK VALINSKI: But you just look at it. And especially today, listening to Larry Bonnareese to talk about where we came from to where we are now, and isn't it strange? Larry, who now lives in New Orleans, he works for the human relations commission out there, dealing with discrimination, how this parade has turned out into this Mardi Gras-type atmosphere. And we work with this professional float-building company.

And we talked to them, and people decide to go with them or not. We have no stake in it. But we talked to them and they said, you're the only parade where people just have this exciting-- there's this magic out there. They're out there to have a good time.

JIMMY: That's right.

JACK VALINSKI: And they throw the trinkets out there, and it's just amazing how people fight over these beads because they're like gold.

JIMMY: Yes, they are. It's amazing, just amazing.

JACK VALINSKI: But it's all part of this process of having a good time. And don't we all-- don't our community know how to have a good time safely?

JIMMY: And how about that Switchboard float? Wasn't that fabulous?

SPEAKER 3: That was absolutely exciting.

JIMMY: 95% made by lesbians. That's right. I'm not kidding you.

SPEAKER 1: I sat there and watched every screw go into that thing. I can--

JIMMY: Just amazing that-- I mean, we've had phones before as pride parade floats. I mean, when you're the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, I mean, what else are you going to have?

SPEAKER 1: And we realized that most groups cannot afford to go out and have a professional float made. But that's the creativity of our community.

JIMMY: There was a very small budget for that, and the rest of it came from the Switchboard volunteers.

JACK VALINSKI: And I don't know if anybody has been over to the community center in the last week, but it was like this construction place.

JIMMY: Oh, yes!

JACK VALINSKI: All these floats were being built.

JIMMY: Just incredible.

JACK VALINSKI: Don was just working on all the stuff going on. And it was absolutely incredible to see all this stuff happening. And I don't even know the first thing about building a float. But I just--

TROY But we don't have to.

CHRISTENSEN:

JACK VALINSKI: We don't have to. And I mean, when Rainbow starts describing what he's going to do, I don't want to hear about it. I just want to see it the day of the parade because it is absolute magic.

TROY Well, and this year, he has several art cars, which we are so.

CHRISTENSEN: