

BUDDY JOHNSTON: And there's got to be a lot more Harvey Milks. There's just got to be. There's too many young kids in little towns in Minnesota.

[CROWD CHATTER]

REPORTER: As the President of the Board of Supervisors, it's my duty to make this announcement. Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed.

MAN: No.

[SCREAMING]

MAN: Jesus Christ.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

MAN: Quiet.

REPORTER: The suspect is supervisor Dan White.

NARRATOR: On November 27, 1978 San Francisco's Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk were assassinated in City Hall. Harvey Milk had served only 11 months on San Francisco's board of supervisors, but he had already come to represent something far greater than his office. The year before he was gunned down, Harvey Milk tape-recorded a will.

HARVEY MILK: This is to be played only in the event of my death by assassination. I fully realize that a person who stands for what I stand for, an activist-- gay activist-- becomes the target or the potential target for somebody who is insecure, terrified, afraid, or very disturbed themselves. Knowing that I could be assassinated at any moment of any time, I feel it's important that some people know my thoughts.

I stood for more than just a candidate. I have never considered myself a candidate. I have always considered myself part of a movement, part of a candidacy. I wish I had to explain everything I did. Almost everything was done the eyes of the gay movement.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Did you hear what he said? Almost everything he did was in the eyes of the gay movement.

TERRI: Mm-hmm.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: And we've been talking about this all week in preparation for this program. You can either be a gay activist, or you can be gay pacifist. Because you're either active, or you're passive. You can't be one or the other.

If you get involved with the program like *After Hours*, you're an activist. If you come out to your family and your friends and the people you work with, you're an activist. What do you guys think about just hearing that program? Matt, you're the youngest one in the room. What comes to mind about when you hear Harvey talking about the things that he said this morning?

MATT: He's my hero. I hope that everyone out there is listening and learning. And I want to say that if you like what you're hearing or if you don't like what you're hearing, call us up and let us know.

Because this is listener-supported radio, and there are two kinds of support. There's funding support and moral support. Call up and give us your moral support. Let us know what you think.

TERRI: We need some moral support, don't we, Matt. It's kind of lonely up here at night. And those phone calls, they let us know that you guys are really listening. And especially tonight, it's really important that you do listen to what Harvey is saying. He was a great guy. He stood out. He stood up for us, to make the headway for us that we can be here today to talk about him.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: And none of us get paid for being here. We're all volunteers at KPFT. We all do this because we believe that there's a reason for being here. We believe that you, as a listener and a listener sponsor of this station, of this program, are important. We're important human beings.

TERRI: We're very important.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: And we're very pleased to have Pacifica on our side to allow us to come in here every week and do this kind of programming. Next week, we begin Marathon. And we're kind of quiet and reverent tonight because we're remembering the life of someone that was very, very special to us all. And it is 3 o'clock in the morning. This is KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. And we want to share with you some thoughts that some others had of Harvey and the day after his assassination. And--

MAN: Somebody is in Des Moines or San Antonio--

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Well-- As usual with radio--

TERRI: We will get there.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: --you punch the wrong button. Terri, I was trying to do that while they were talking. So you guys, give that phone number. Because we do want to give you that KPFT program guide and a free copy of our poster. And it'll tell you about all the wonderful things that are happening.

TERRI: We got some great things coming up.

MATT: 526-4000.

TERRI: Say it again, Matt.

MATT: 526-4000. It's really easy. Call us up and brighten our night.

TERRI: Right. And we will be more than happy to send that out to you. Buddy and I will stuff till there's nothing left to stuff. We'll just keep going. And I think we'll even get Matt in there, won't we, Matt?

MATT: Mm-hmm.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON:

TERRI: You know, Harvey Milk was a great guy. I was reading some of the stuff earlier, and he was really involved in everything--

BUDDY He really was.

JOHNSTON:

TERRI: --not just being gay, but everything else. He was in the Navy.

BUDDY And not just in gay issues.

JOHNSTON:

TERRI: Right.

BUDDY In all kinds of issues.

JOHNSTON:

TERRI: In human relations. He was just he was just an all-around supporter of everyone.

BUDDY We can't just be involved with gay problems. We can't just be involved with women's problems. We can't just be
JOHNSTON: involved with Black problems. We have to be involved with everybody's problems. Because it's a big world, and it's spinning, and we're all on it.

And as I tried to say earlier with the tape cued in the wrong place, we're volunteers. And we enjoy doing this program for you because we think it's important. We think it's important that the movement moves on. And the movement is moving in 1988. And now, we'll push the right button, and we'll hear those people talk about the night that Harvey was killed 10 years ago in San Francisco. It's November 27, 1978.

MAN: We got back, and my roommate picked us up to the airport. And he said, there's going to be a candlelight march. Do you want to go to it? And we said, of course. So he said, well, by now, it's probably reached City Hall. So we drove directly from the airport to City Hall. And there were maybe 75 people there.

And I remember thinking, my god, is this all that anybody cared? And somebody said, no, the march hasn't gotten here yet. So we then walked over to Market Street, which is two or three blocks away. I looked down at-- and Market Street runs in the straight line out to the Castro area. And as we turned the corner, there were people as wide as this wide street as far as you could see.

MAN: It was one of the most eloquent expressions of a community's response to violence that I've ever seen. I think we, as lesbians, and gay men, and all the straight people who were marching with us that night-- and there were thousands-- I think we said it. I think we sent a message to the nation that night about what our immediate response was-- not violence, but a certain respect for Harvey and a deep regret and feeling of tragedy about it. Because Moscone had been our friend, as well.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

WOMAN: And then, going down to City Hall, that tremendous expanse of people. And I turned to John, and I said, Harvey would have loved this. When we tried to get close to the stage and I saw friends up there and I thought, oh, I just can't go face anybody. I started to cry, and everyone started to cry. It was just-- it was just so touching. I'm going to start to cry now. But there's a statue down there, and everyone put candles.

Several people, right that following week, came out of the closet. Because they had been there, and they had seen all of the people and they had felt that they had been living a lie. Sorry [INAUDIBLE]. I don't know if I can. They really felt so moved that they came out to people and said, did she know that I'm gay?

And I was so touched by it because that's what Harvey had stood for. And it took his death for them to realize that-- they just came out. No one would fire them from their jobs because it's against the law. And they could still live a life, and yet that part of our society that is very closed could open.

NARRATOR: The following program is brought to you by the Pacifica Program Service and Radio Archive.

MAN: I have a message to deliver to this nation. And I ask lesbians and gay men from every state of this nation to join us in Washington DC

NARRATOR: As president of the Board of Supervisors, it's my duty to make--

BUDDY This is *After Hours* number 19, AH-880110-AC. At this point in the program, we began to run *Diminished Capacity*,
JOHNSTON: Pacifica Radio Archive number KZ0701. About 32 minutes or so into the program, the transmitter went off the air, or off the air for a few moments, and then returned to the air.

I'm going to pick the program up just before we went off the air. And then, the music that you hear is coming from KTSU 90.9, I believe, FM here in Houston. And then, we'll get the station back up.

WOMAN: They can't stand any differences. And the reason that Dan White shot Harvey Milk and George Moscone, as well, was because they were both supporters of gay people-- Harvey being gay and Moscone being a supporter of gay people. And our connection now, I think, is with a broad-based questioning of a system that would have us all put in boxes, who would like to have us all be just one way-- color coded into the proper sex role, and particularly, have our men be in that--

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BUDDY This is KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. We temporarily lost our signal there for just a second. And Terri, are you with me?
JOHNSTON:

TERRI: I'm with you.

BUDDY OK. For some reason, we went off the air. Maybe that was the people that didn't want *Diminished Capacity* to
JOHNSTON: run. I don't know.

TERRI: But we're back on.

BUDDY We're back. Well, good morning.
JOHNSTON:

TERRI: Yay. Hi, everybody.

BUDDY For a few seconds we were off the air. I want to know-- that was kind of exciting because on December the 6th,
JOHNSTON: we went off the air.

TERRI: Mm-hmm.

BUDDY And I promise you, we'll make this up to you. I don't know what's happened. Maybe somebody that doesn't like
JOHNSTON: gay radio pulled the plug on us or--

TERRI: Trying to keep us up.

BUDDY --there's a bug. I don't know what happened. But anyway, hopefully that won't happen again. We're going to hear
JOHNSTON: some music and try to figure out what happened. This is KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM, listener-sponsored Pacifica radio.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Terri, how many times are we going to try to run this Harvey Milk special?

TERRI: We're going to run it till we get it right, I guess. Someone out there doesn't want us to do it. But by god, we're going to do it.

BUDDY We just talked to the engineer, and for some reason, we were off the air for a second. And this happened back on
JOHNSTON: December the 6th. We were off the air for seven or eight days, and it was kind of scary. Because KPFT's transmitter was struck by lightning, and it knocked us completely off the air. It damaged our transmitter beyond belief. And we were fortunate enough to have money in the Pacifica fund to borrow emergency money.

TERRI: To get our transmitter.

BUDDY And we were able to get a brand-new transmitter that is now sitting out there humming. I hope you can hear us. If
JOHNSTON: you can hear us, give us a call-- 526-4000.

TERRI: Please call us and tell us you can hear us.

BUDDY We just got a call from someone in Clear Lake, so I know we're back on the air. The engineer seems to think there
JOHNSTON: might be a problem with the meter for some reason not working properly. And you have to understand, folks, that this is community radio. What's more important than that is this is listener-sponsored community radio.

By that it means that you, the listener, pay all the bills. And if you don't pay all the bills, then we don't stay on the air. And every dime that comes into this place goes into this station, right, Matt?

MATT: Mm-hmm.

BUDDY If you don't believe that, you can come down here, and we'll give you the \$2 tour. It really won't cost you \$2, but
JOHNSTON: we'll be glad to give you the tour. And I'm really inspired because number one, we were really looking forward to playing this Harvey Milk stuff for you.

Obviously, we can't do that now because I don't want to start the program in the middle of the thing. And it's not going to end up at 4 o'clock. And Michael Davis is standing by to come in and do *Stepchild 213*, and I know he don't want to wait till 4:00 or 5:00--

TERRI: Michael's ready.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: --to go. So we're going to get out of here on time. But this is just one of the things that can happen. And thank god that Pacifica had the emergency money and they were able to loan that to us. They were able to loan that to us.

TERRI: What did you say, Buddy?

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Loan.

TERRI: Loan.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: They loaned-- a loaned that we need to pay back. And it's \$50,000, and that sounds like a lot of money.

MATT: We've already had a lot of support, so far.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: We have had a tremendous amount of support so far.

MATT: We need more.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: We always have a tremendous amount of support. And next week's Marathon. Marathon is going to start up. And not only will we, I promise, run this Harvey Milk stuff for you sometime soon.

TERRI: Real soon.

MATT: Don't worry. It can't be kept quiet.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: For some reason, we just cannot. The first time we were going to run it was November the 27th, the weekend after the November 27 date because that was the date of Harvey's assassination. And the station had technical problems. Because of the transmitter, we were off the air. Then, we were off a couple of weeks after that. And for some reason, we just didn't get on.

And then, the transmitter was struck by lightning again on December the 6th. And we were off completely. And you-- I'm sure you tuned in to get all the gay news from all the other stations because I know there's a lot of gay and lesbian programming on those other stations. Just turn the dial and you'll find it. Wrong, kids.

You're not going to find it anyway but here on listener-sponsored Pacifica. And if you don't want the program on the air, then there's one way to say that. And that's not support us and not support what the show is doing. We know there's a tremendous amount of people out there. And next week-- next week, we've got something really special. We're calling it closet classics.

TERRI: Oh, wow.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Because here before Terri came, we always said we'd give you the full 12 inches.

MATT: The uncut version.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Yeah, the uncut version that you're not going to hear anywhere else. We play that full, 12-inch dance mix of music. And we have to come up with a new clever way to say that since Terri's here and we have mixed company.

TERRI: Thank you very much.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: But we give you that 12-inch music that you're not going to hear anyplace else because it's important. We like to hear it, and we know you like to hear it. And we want to know, I want to know what you have to think-- have to think. I want to know what you have to say.

I know what you think because you're good folks, and you're thinking, and you're listening to us. And we want to know what you think about Harvey Milk. Give me a call right now. 526-4000. Let us know about *After Hours*. We want to know what you think about this show.

MATT: Calling them.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Yeah, we're going to open the phone lines, now. We, obviously, are not going to put the rest of the tape on because we don't have enough time to run it for you, which is unfortunate, because it's a dynamic program. But for some reason, the transmitter just doesn't want to cook. And I don't understand that.

But it must be cooking because I know we're on the air, now. And we know that you're listening, and we want you to share your thoughts with us. So give us a call right now at 526-4000-- 526-4000. We want to hear from you.

And in the meantime, we're going to listen to Romanovsky & Philips. And this is from their first album, *What Kind of Self Respecting Faggot Are You, Anyway?* Yeah. Matt?

MATT: Yeah.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: You didn't cue the record.

MATT: I'm sorry. I forgot.

TERRI: 20 lashes, Matt.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: We're going to give him 20 lashes.

MATT: Oh, take it easy.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Give us a call-- 526-4000. This is *After Hours* on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC - ROMANOVSKY & PHILIPS]

RADIO HOST: Wow, look at those phones light up. This is hit radio. 97 rock, blah, blah, blah.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: You can tune in and hear all that other garbage on those other stations. We don't do that to you.

TERRI: Because we love you.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: We play gay music.

TERRI: Yeah.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Because we're so happy.

TERRI: And joyful and special.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Ain't that special. And Alan's not even here to say that. Well, Matt, thank you for cuing that record for me.

MATT: Oh, you're welcome.

TERRI: I thought Terri was going to get a little carried away with a whip. As long as Matt can take it, we'll do it.

MATT: I survived. Yeah.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Well, no Harvey Milk, and the phones are just lighting up now. We're trying to decide which one of you to call. We're all volunteers, right?

TERRI: Right.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: And if you want to support the show, you don't have to send your money. But we at least need to hear from you right now because I, for one, don't like dragging this stuff down here every week and talking to myself. I can stay home and talk to myself.

TERRI: You can stand in front of a mirror.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: I can a lot of other places I would rather be spending my Sunday mornings.

MATT: It's a game. They're not calling in because they're playing hard to get.

TERRI: Oh.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: They can play hard to get.

TERRI: Play hard to get with someone else, not with us.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Y'all say something because it makes me mad when I get ignored. I don't like it.

TERRI: He really gets-- oh, we got someone calling. Now, we need one more caller right now. Just one more caller. Call us up.

BUDDY Hope it's somebody that wants tell me that I think I'm crazy, or they think we're right, or we should be on the air,
JOHNSTON: they support us. Yeah, it's like Harvey Milk said-- and I've told you before, man, if I can do work for the city of Houston in the police department and be a practicing-- I'm not a practicing homosexual. I've had this figured out for years. And I like it.

TERRI: You got it down to a D.

BUDDY And I like it. And Matt, he's-- I don't know if he's practicing or not. I think he's--
JOHNSTON:

MATT: Oh, I've got it down.

BUDDY --waiting.
JOHNSTON:

TERRI: In waiting?

BUDDY And Terri's lover just came in, so I'm not going to say nothing about Terri's carrying--
JOHNSTON:

TERRI: Terri's got it down to a T, too.

BUDDY Does she?
JOHNSTON:

TERRI: No problem. If you've been together 10 years, you've got to be doing something right.

BUDDY You've been together 10 years?
JOHNSTON:

TERRI: You've got to be doing something right.

BUDDY Ah, man. 10 years. The only thing I've had for 10 years is my teddy bear.
JOHNSTON:

MATT: A backache.

TERRI: Backache.

BUDDY I'm beginning to fall apart. I have had such a pain in the neck. It's probably worrying about this tape not getting
JOHNSTON: on the air tonight because that certainly didn't happen. You know, Pacifica was worried because we had the FCC after us because KPFK played an excerpt from a gay play called the *Jerker*. And you can figure that out. They said that was obscene, and obnoxious, and whatever.

And they threatened to take away our license and all kinds of things. Of course, that didn't happen. The board of directors, as I said, from Pacifica, they're meeting in Houston as we speak. Well, right now, they're probably sleeping.

TERRI: I tell you they're sleeping.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: I told them if they wanted to hear the greatest radio show in Houston, tune in at 2:00 AM. They're probably all listening and taking notes.

TERRI: They're a crazy bunch over there.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: They probably over all fell over when the station went off the air. Like, oh, what did those queers do down there?

TERRI: Leave it to those queers.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: They did something-- they screwed everything up. But anyway, this is one opinion as to what happened when we were attacked by the FCC.

DUANE BRADLEY: Hello. This is Duane Bradley, KPFT's program director. Last year, the FCC attacked three radio stations for what they called indecent broadcasting. Most severely attacked was community radio station KPFK Pacifica Radio in Los Angeles. They broadcast an excerpt from a play about gay men with AIDS. Pacifica asked several people with differing opinions to comment on the situation. Here's one of them.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: The phones must be out of order now because nobody's calling.

TERRI: No one loves us out there. Please call us.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: That's OK.

TERRI: We want to hear from you, really. We really do. Please.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Matt, what do you think? Do you think we should just box it up and go home?

MATT: Yeah. We'll give it another eight minutes, I think.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: No we'll give it another-- we'll give it another whatever, and I'll tell you why. Roger and I were talking the other night on the way home. And when we first took this program, or we're given this program, rather, by Pacifica, the program director asked me, when do you want to do a show? I said, well, I remember being alone and going home from the bars all by myself and sitting there thinking that no one cared.

And I thought that was the most horrible time of my life to be alone. And I said, if I could do anything, I'd want to go on and tell that person-- that gay man or that gay woman-- that you're not alone. There are people that care. The gay and lesbian switchboard has been--

MATT: They're lighting up, now.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Yeah, look at the phones light up. They are lighting up.

TERRI: They really are.

BUDDY I thought you were kidding.

JOHNSTON:

TERRI: No.

BUDDY 526-4000. Call me, now. The gay and lesbian switchboard here in Houston-- 529-3211-- they can tell you

JOHNSTON: hundreds of places you can go in Houston if you want to come out.

MATT: They're a really wonderful group.

BUDDY Yeah, and there's no excuse for not standing up for yourself and not being a human being. And if you don't want

JOHNSTON: to, that's fine. But we'll be here, whether you want us to be here or not. We'll be here because we're giving hope to someone. We're giving hope to someone.

HARVEY MILK: Somewhere in Des Moines or San Antonio was a young, gay person who all of a sudden realizes that she or he is gay, knows that if the parents find out, they'll be tossed out of the house. The classmates will taunt the child. And the Anita Bryants and John Briggs are doing their bit on TV.

And that child had several options-- staying in the closet, suicide. And then, one day, that child might open a paper that says, homosexual elected in San Francisco. And there are two new options. An option is to go to California

[APPLAUSE]

Or stay in San Antonio and fight. Two days after I was elected, I got a phone call. And the voice was quite young. It was from Altoona, Pennsylvania. And the person said, thanks. And you've got to let gay people-- so that that young child and the thousands upon thousands like that child know that there's hope for a better world. There's hope for a better tomorrow.

Without hope, not only gays, but those Blacks, and the Asians, and disabled, seniors, the us's the us's without hope-- the us's give up. I know that you cannot live on hope alone, but without it, life is not worth living. And you, and you, and you got to give them hope. Thank you very much.

BUDDY Look, kids. We could come in here and play the greatest tapes that you've ever heard in the world. And if they

JOHNSTON: didn't inspire you to stand up and be proud of yourself, then we'd just be wasting our time right here.

TERRI: That's right. That's right.

BUDDY Matt, and Terri, and Alan, and Brian, and all the people that are involved in this show-- we could come down here

JOHNSTON: and knock ourselves out every week. And if you don't believe what we're saying and if you don't stand up for yourself, you're missing out on life. Life is going by.

Life is going by so fast. Don't let it cheat you. Don't let those liars cheat you, kids. When I say kids, I'm talking to those 15, 25, 35, 45, 55, 65, 75, those 85-year-old people.

I heard a story of a woman-- she called a gay switchboard. She was 85 years old. And she said, I've never told anybody this, but I'm a lesbian. And I just want to tell somebody. And she hung up the phone. She may not have ever told anyone else.

When I was 17 years old, I was thrown out in the streets because I was a faggot. Hey, I'm a faggot. And I don't give a damn who knows it. I have a great job. I'm involved in one of the greatest communities that the world has ever seen and it's going to see-- the gay community. We're good people, and nothing's going to stop us. Nothing.

MATT: If you want to express yourself, where there's a will, there's a way.

BUDDY That's right. And remember what we said earlier. It's better to be hated for what one is than loved for what one is not. And I'm not going to be a phony.

JOHNSTON:

For a long time, I wasn't going to tell you that I worked for the police department. I was just going to say I work for the city. But I can't do that. I can't lie to you. We're here as volunteers because we believe in the movement. We believe in what's happening.

The movement is going to move in 1988. But it's only going to move if you take a deep breath, take that first step, that second step, and that third step. And then, before long, babies, you'll be running.

MATT: It's like diving into cold water.

BUDDY And nobody's going to stop you. I just spent a week with Lucia Chapelle, and John Scaglioni, Philip Marder. Those names may not mean anything to you, but those are gay men and women that have been broadcasting with Pacifica for years. And we took turns inspiring each other.

JOHNSTON:

Because we go on, because even if you don't want to call us and tell us that you're getting something out of this show, we're giving hope to the one single person that's out there that has the hope that someday he or she can hold her head up and say, I'm a good human being, and I'm proud of who I am and what I am. And ain't nobody going to take that away from me.

TERRI: Nobody.

BUDDY Nobody.

JOHNSTON:

TERRI: Nobody.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BUDDY Well, we got to get the heck out of here, right?

JOHNSTON:

TERRI: Is it time to leave, already?

BUDDY Yeah, our tape screwed up, and we went off the air. But anyway, we got to go.

JOHNSTON:

TERRI: We love you.

BUDDY So you guys be good. Give us a call. We'll be here for a while-- 526-4000. Or call us up at the *After Hours* hot line, area code 713-529-4636 and let us know what's on your mind. This is *After Hours* radio celebrating live from the heart of the Montrose. And we are alive, and we are moving forward.

And next week is going to be Marathon. And Michael Davis is getting ready to roll in with *Stepchild 213*. And the transmitter is going to stay on all night. Dave Biyani, I'm sure, is up running about trying to figure out what happened. And we'll see you next time, right?

TERRI: Right. I'm not on.

BUDDY Now you are.

JOHNSTON:

TERRI: Now I'm on.

BUDDY We'll see you next week.

JOHNSTON:

TERRI: Have a good week.

BUDDY Bye bye.

JOHNSTON:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NARRATOR: KPFT, Houston.