

ALAN Being a regular, you know, in Houston.

BOURGEOIS:

STEVE In fact, I just saw a brand new show that channel, I think, channel 11 is doing based on the Houston Post
THOMAS: magazine called Houston Life. They have now a half hour show that's going to air every week. And it's brand new. And it's very slick. It's very similar to what we're trying to do. And they've got all these wonderful big sponsors behind them. But they're not pandering to-- or not catering to a specific audience like we're trying to do.

SARAH Well, let me ask you a little bit about the sponsors. If you go up and down Westheimer, I don't know how many of
DEPALMA: those businesses are gay owned but I'd venture to say, it's a lot of them. And if you go on either side of Westheimer, whether you're going up and down Richmond in Alabama, or whether you're going up and down Fairview, or some of the other streets, there are an awful lot of gay owned businesses there. Have they just not responded, or is it that they're just not aware of what the need is?

ALAN That's a toughie. I think, yeah, they are aware to a certain extent, OK. But I don't think they're fully aware of it.
BOURGEOIS: Let's put it that way. As far as one, again, knowing about the show, we just hired somebody who's full time, who is a transgender by the way, to be out there in the community selling the show to the merchants.

SARAH When you say full time?

DEPALMA:

ALAN Right, full time employee, OK, who gets a commission.

BOURGEOIS:

SARAH Oh, commission. OK.

DEPALMA:

ALAN They need edit that. Anyways, we have a full time employee who just recently hired on in the last couple of
BOURGEOIS: weeks to go out and get the sponsors for us on a regular basis. Because we're so involved in the production aspect of it, we don't always have the time. And that's been one of our downfalls.

But hopefully with that, she'll be able to bring in the sponsors more so, even if it's just one time shots. At least, get them interested in the show and see what kind of response, they get back. And that's the other thing too is if the people who are watching the show don't support the sponsors, or at least call them and say, hey, I don't shop at your place but I thought it was great that you sponsored it. They get no feedback and therefore they're not interested.

STEVE Unfortunately, many of the businesses are looking for an immediate return on their investment, which is
THOMAS: something, we can't promise. What we're doing is we want to do a community service. You know, we'd love to make a million in the process but it's a community service.

I mean, as a gay person, I believe television is the way to unify us even stronger than we are to fight what's going to happen in the near future. Because I think the right wing is going to come at us big time. And we just need every little piece of strength we can get. And I think television is a very powerful tool in that fight.

ALAN BOURGEOIS: I, personally, have given up a lot of stuff. And a lot of possessions, I've sold or gotten rid of just to keep this on the air. That's how much it's important to me. I believe in it very strongly. And that's commitment on anybody's part. I mean, Steve's given up a lot of his life too to make sure that this goes. I mean, we understood that it was not going to be an easy process in the beginning. But we didn't expect it to be as difficult with the sponsors as it has been either.

And I need to be clear too that the sponsors that have helped us. The Gay Lesbian Yellow Pages, The Penthouse, Surgeons Travel, Linked Benefits of Houston, and more, they have all been very helpful. And I'm grateful for them. What they've been able to give has helped and we are thankful for that. But it's not enough. Just bottom line, it's not enough. When we're looking at \$2,000 per show, it's a lot of money.

SARAH DEPALMA: I've seen several of the shows in other cities, in New York and Los Angeles, the gay shows that have been done there. And it can't just be because it's New York and L.A. that they're able to get the funding. Do you think this maybe says something about the gay and lesbian community? Are we so fragmented that it's hard to reach people?

ALAN BOURGEOIS: Oh, definitely, especially in Houston. That's why our Spectrum is coming about for next year. We are so fragmented. We all have our own little issues that we want to deal with. It's great that we have a committee that wants to go after subject A, OK. But if we don't have the entire community together to not only attack subject A, B, C, and D as a united force, it's not going to get accomplished. You know, that's just bottom line.

We've had so many examples of that. Austin, they lost their recent vote as far as the partnership went. They thought for sure they were going to win. That happened here in Houston in '85. We thought as far as the gay community was concerned, we were going to win. You know, and beat the right wing, and we didn't. We lost. We, again, were fragmented. We didn't really have the energy, or the care to continue the fight. And that's again like I said, what Spectrum is all about.

And that's why we support it. We want to bring the community together. And that's the whole point of this show is to show that, yes, you might be a suit and tie gay or lesbian, and yes, there are leather queens, and drag queens, and all these other things, but bottom line is we all still love the same sex that's what brings us together as community. And if we can't keep that as the main focus we're going to lose it. Bottom line, we're just going to lose it. We're going to end up in concentration camps somewhere down the road, if we don't stop this bullshit

SARAH DEPALMA: You know, it's a funny thing. I'm on the internet. So I read stuff from all over the world. And anybody who doesn't think that-- sometimes, I think that the gay and lesbian community, and the transgender community too, thinks the activists are paranoid. That we're making it all up.

Yet if you get on the internet, and you read about what's going on in Colorado, for example, where you have a candidate for governor up there who is making a major portion of his campaign anti-gay because he thinks that's how he's going to win. Or you have Idaho where there is proposition one which would even outlaw adults from getting access to gay and lesbian literature, not let alone information, in the state of Washington.

Anybody who thinks that activists are being paranoid, had better wake up. All they have to do is really look at the paper. It's something beyond the comic section to find out it's going on. And that sort of brings me to the last thing I'd like to ask you about. And that's talk about Spectrum a little bit. I've already committed to putting a booth out there. But I think for most people-- most people probably don't know what Spectrum is. So won't you-all talk about that a little bit.

STEVE Have you sent your check in yet?

THOMAS:

[LAUGHTER]

ALAN
BOURGEOIS: Spectrum is a five star event. We are having a business expo with about 400 businesses, gay owned, gay operated, gay friendly, that will demonstrate what they are all about. We are having a speakers bureau with subjects ranging from transgenders all the way up to finances and things that relate to same sex couples, adoptions even.

Then we will have the political town meeting that will be held. The last one was in 1978. A lot of good things happen from that and we want that to happen again here. We will also be having an art-- I don't want say an art exhibit, but it's an art expo where artists can come and show what they do. And hopefully, be able to sell some stuff too. Get the word out about who they are.

Then to top it off at the end of the night, we're having approximately a four hour concert. We've got roughly, as of last night when we had our committee meeting, we have close to 100 people performing. And that's a lot of people. We have four people that are in the Top 40 that have indicated they are interested in coming for the event. I wish I could say who they are. But let's just put it this way, they're mostly females. And they're up there big time. So that should narrow that down real quick.

STEVE Family girls. Family girls.

THOMAS:

ALAN
BOURGEOIS: Yeah, so it's an all day event scheduled for June 18 of next year at the Astro Arena. We're having public meetings once a month at the Montrose Library. Usually, it's the second Monday of each month. We have lots of advertising through OutSmart and Uptown Express. And we're trying to get more advertising out there. We're looking for sponsors of that. People to just come in and show who they are, whether, it's business, or artists, or entertainers.

We want-- we want this to be an historical event. It will be. I mean, just the fact that it's being pulled together is already made it historical event. So it's going to be something that this town will stand up and notice, Oh my God, there is a gay community in here and they've got their shit together. Amazing.

STEVE Can you say that on the radio?

THOMAS:

ALAN Oh, I hope so.

BOURGEOIS:

SARAH You just did.

DEPALMA:

ALAN So that in a nutshell is what Spectrum is about. We've been getting a lot more interest out there as more advertising has been developed and more word of mouth has been getting out there. And people are getting excited about it, slowly and gradually. Concert tickets will be going on sale in February. And so we're excited about that. Right now, they're priced at about \$25. And for a four hour concert, that's a pretty good price, especially considering the entertainment that's going to be coming in.

Matter of fact, we just selected our five benefactors. We are going to be giving money to the Loving Care, excuse me, Loving Arms Foundation, which is a pediatric care center, the Houston Challenge which is a food bank for people who are HIV and AIDS infected, the Montrose Clinic, the Bear and Care Foundation, and The Assistance Fund. We chose a wide variety of groups that help just about everybody, and no matter what the race, creed, or color is, or sexuality is, which is what Spectrum is all about, bringing together everybody. So that's what we've been able to do with that.

SARAH So your goal then is not just to put on a show but to give back to the community as well.

DEPALMA:

ALAN Oh, most definitely. We've earmarked at this point at least 50% of the profit to go back to the community, and hopefully more, if we can. And we want to keep some seed money so we can do it again down the road. But pretty much a lot of our money is going back in the community. We're also going to go to the community groups, organizations, and offering them a free booth, if they help us and volunteers for the event. So yeah, we're giving stuff away to back into the community tenfold. I mean, it's just immense what we're doing.

STEVE But you buy the t-shirt.

THOMAS:

SARAH The last show Jim Carver and I were talking about you-all and about the Penthouse Club. And we were talking about how important it is that people recognize that there are still people in the community who are not simply taking from it but are giving back to it.

And I'd like to just make that same comment again. Here's a chance for you, our listeners out there, here's a chance for you to give of yourself, and they will give of themselves. It's a wonderful circle. It's a no lose proposition. All you have to do is get up off of your duff, get off of your wallet, and help these folks out.

I don't know if you-all knew it but-- if you knew it, with the International Conference Transgender Conference has scheduled their conference this year around Spectrum. So that the last day of the conference, we will all be able to go out there, and we think it maybe several hundred of us will be able to come out there, and support, and be involved in that. And we were able to do that because you-all let us know what you were doing and got us involved. And I think it's a wonderful opportunity. If folks don't take advantage of this, they're really missing something special.

ALAN Just to cap on a couple of things. Gay '90s is planning on working with The Penthouse for a six month contract to do shows up there once a month. Part of that, in November, we're trying to do a fundraiser for Spectrum that will be a Christmas special. We're trying to get a whole bunch of local entertainers together to do a Christmas song fest, basically, of singing Christmas carols and stuff.

And that show that gay '90s tapes will air at the end of December during the Christmas holiday and stuff. So right now we're looking at about \$5 per person cover charge at the Penthouse, be either the week of Thanksgiving or the week after. We're still trying to narrow down a date on that one. But we'll let you know.

STEVE
THOMAS: Yeah, if it's after, save \$5 from shopping. Because the day after Thanksgiving is a big shopping day. So save \$5 and then come to The Penthouse.

ALAN
BOURGEOIS: And also we've been commenting about getting off the duff and stuff, it would help if we gave our phone number. The phone number is 713-949-3119. They are more than welcome to call us at anytime. Even if we're not in the office, leave a message because we get them pretty quickly.

And we'll be more than glad to talk with them in reference to being sponsors, or benefactors for us, or whatever, or even for Spectrum, they can call the same number and get more information about it. But by all means, if you can't afford a few thousand, \$5 would really help and the support of the show is immense. And that's what we really need is for the show as well.

As soon as you find out for sure what date Spectrum is, or excuse me, when the fundraiser at The Penthouse, we'll let you know and we'll put advertising out. And by all means come. It'll be a fun evening. And it's the right time of for good Christmas carols to bring everybody back into Christmas season.

SARAH
DEPALMA: Well, I'd like to thank you both very much for what you're doing. And I appreciate you coming in to interview with us. And I'll say again, I came up in the school of activism, I guess, you could call it the Harvey Milk School of Activism that said, if what you took you gave back. And here's an example of how that's happening. Folks, get off your wallets, get off your purses, give them a hand. If you'd like us to be a so-called world class city, you know, like L.A. or New York, give these folks a hand. They deserve it. They need it. The community should come together. Thank you-all for coming. I appreciate it very much.

ALAN
BOURGEOIS: Thank you.

STEVE
THOMAS: Thanks for having us.

ALAN
BOURGEOIS: Yes, we appreciate it.

SARAH
DEPALMA: KPFT Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BETSY: All right. This is Betsy at the Ranch. I'm over it Chances. We're having an excellent time over here on a Wednesday night. We're talking to KPFT Houston. Come out and visit us at the Ranch, or if that is not close enough time to Chances on Westheimer.

WOMAN: And you listen to?

BETSY: And I listen to KPFT Houston, After Hours.

JIMMY:

Well, thank you, Betsy. Betsy from the Ranch, and she listens to After Hours every week. Yeah right, she's got a TV at the bar. Oh, so that was Sarah DePalma interviewing Alan Bourgeois and Steve Thomas from Gay '90s. That was pretty neat.

I don't have cable, so I've not been able to see any of the Gay '90s stuff. But I do know the guys. And in fact, they did a thing on the gay bowling league. And they came out while we were bowling and photographed us and did all that kind of stuff. And that was a lot of fun. And I never got to see it.

Anyway, how about let's kind of bring it up a little bit-- Oh, I've got something I'm going to play that's really weird coming up in about two minutes, right after another piece from Juliana Luecking. And she's on that label Kill Rock Stars out of Olympia, Washington. And here's another little kind of spoken word, dealy-poo kind of like.

**JULIANA
LUECKING:**

Some people believe in risk. They believe that risk heightens experiences. Some people believe that being alive, sometimes, is a risk. Some people believe that being a woman in the world today is a pretty risky venture. Being a woman who is a lesbian may be even more of a risk. Being an out lesbian mother, we know, is very risky.

Being part of a lesbian couple publicly married, that is kind of a risk being part of a lesbian couple jumping out of a plane and performing the marriage ceremony in the air could perhaps be seen as a risk. Jumping out as experienced skydivers but with a novice piggyback. The minister, her hands filled with books of poems by Audre Lorde could be seen as risky.

Some might believe that it's risky once they hit ground after coasting in the skies. Then the couple has to have a relationship continue, a marriage. Following that incredible freefall of love comes the commitment. And that evening, they get into bed as newlywed wives and they remember how it felt to be falling through the air, holding hands, and the poetry.

And now they are both on a mattress on the floor. There's cat hair, and worn sheets, old tea bags, incense dust. Some things they'll never figure out about each other are there in that bed. It's kind of a risk to be a lesbian couple married in mid-air.

[AIRPLANE]

JIMMY:

Juliana Luecking, and that's her reason why just being a lesbian couple may be as risky as jumping out of an airplane. OK, another piece of music that I got from San Francisco was recorded in New York. It's an album called Sex, Drags, and Rock and Roll. And I usually don't deal too much with live performance stuff because lots of times it's not as good as studio stuff and there's strange noises. And they never get the voice right, and the music's too loud, and all that kind of crap.

But on it I saw number 8 is our own Texas Jimmy James who does that great Marilyn impression plus some of her own characters. She was at the Squeeze Box in New York City that this was recorded live Friday, May 13, 1994 so that they could put out a CD for the 25th anniversary of Stonewall, I guess.

But Jimmy James is using his own voice in here to do a very, very old song. And it's one that, oh gosh, all the guys here at the station kind of-- you mentioned this name everybody goes, Oh no, don't play it, don't play it. But just picture Jimmy James dressed as Marilyn Monroe doing Stairway to Heaven.

[CHEERING]

That's Texas's own Jimmy James doing a Marilyn Monroe version of Stairway to Heaven. Wow, that was really tacky. I promise I'll never do that to you again, folks. Some things you only have to experience once in life. And I guess you really do need the visual to go along with that. OK, you are listening to After Hours, I'm Jimmy Carper.

And of course, After Hours is queer radio with attitude. And along those lines, no, no, no, no attitude. But I do want to mention a few things that are going on this week. Don't know what your plans are. This is the big Thanksgiving week. But maybe you don't have any plans. Well, The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard puts out a calendar now and lists a bunch of things you may be interested in.

Like Sunday, tomorrow, the Royal and Sovereign Imperial Court at the Single Star is having a variety show at Gentry's. Sunday night, the Names Project having a quilting bee at the Names Project workshop 1:00 to 5:00. Positive power of Art benefit for the Disinger Foundation at the Disinger Art Center. That's right there on Montrose, 2:00 to 6:00.

And of course, the Wolf Pack has having brunch at Mary's from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. That seems a strange time for those boys. I can't imagine that they're up at 10 o'clock in the morning. Well, what do you know. Tuesday, November 22, AIDS Foundation Houston, erotic choices in safer sex workshop at the AIDS Foundation Center 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Thursday, Thanksgiving, OK, we've got quite a few things going on. If you don't happen to have plans, The Bear and Care Center is having their Thanksgiving dinner at Barrington Methodist church. Thanksgiving dinner is going to be served at Chances at 3:00 PM. Chances, the new bar right next door to Charlie's there. And also a Thanksgiving day buffet at the BRB. Both of those events are at 3 o'clock, If you don't happen to have any-- you know, not doing anything. Those would be fun alternatives.

And that night you might want to stop by Mrs. B's over there at the Ranch because AIDS Foundation is sponsoring the lesbian safer sex workshop at Nancy Ford's Comedy Night. And if you listened, Oh gosh, a month or so ago, we did a little tape of Nancy Ford and doing that along with Bart Loescher. He had a cold that night, as I recall. So a few things that are coming up this week. And thank-- we do want to thank The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard of Houston. And Thanks, Troy. He puts that together.

Let's go back to another piece by Juliana Luecking. This, I've kind of like the spoken word stuff. There's-- I've got-- my favorites are coming up but this one I kind of like too. And after that I'm going to bring you some new music that you've never heard before on After Hours. So Joe Juliana Luecking.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Well, I told you it was going to be a little on the strange side but that's Juliana Luecking. And I want to mention that you are listening to After Hours, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston, I'm Jimmy. And coming up in the 2 o'clock hour, we're going to feature the Rock Lobster Radio Program. That story of Aaron Fricke, who took his boyfriend to the senior prom. And that's coming up at 2 o'clock. And between now and then, we're going to do some new music mixed in with some old music. And starting out with Visions of a Bear, album by John Topping. And he is a bear too. And I kind of like the couple off of this. This happens to be my favorite though. John Topping, Vision of a Bear, it's called All my Life.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Whoa, OK, John topping with All my Life, off of his album Vision of a Bear. Fact, he's got a song called I am a Bear. We may do that next week. OK, now before I go to anything else. I got a couple of news articles brought to my attention by Judy, Judy Reeves, who is, of course, the news director for After Hours. She's constantly finding neat stuff. And the neat stuff that she's found is one from Dr. Joyce Brothers and one from Dear Abby.

Question, after three years my wife and I have finally accepted that one of our daughters is a lesbian. We don't like it but there's nothing we can do. What we can't and won't accept however, is that she and her companion are raising our grandchild in this atmosphere. She had this little boy the year before she decided she preferred women. We're trying to take our grandson away to prevent him from being homosexual. Any suggestions as to how we might hasten this process.

And this is the answer that Dr. Joyce Brothers gave to this bigot. Answer, I have no suggestions that you'll want to hear because I suspect you're pursuing a course that will be far more destructive to your grandson than his present home environment might be. If a child has two parents who love and nurture him, he is fortunate. And whether or not this is the conventional nuclear family you desire isn't as relevant as you might imagine.

Studies have revealed that children raised by homosexual parents are no more likely to grow up homosexual themselves than are children raised by heterosexual parents. This isn't to say they won't have problems. They may be taunted by others, especially during adolescence, but this is a time when children are taunted for many reasons. Part of growing up involves learning that it's all right to be different.

In case you didn't hear that, let me repeat that. Part of growing up involves learning that it's all right to be different. There are a lot of adults who need to grow up. With your help and support of this child's mother and her partner, you could do it a great deal to build this boy's self-esteem. Thank you, Dr. Joyce Brothers.

And also from Judy, a Dear Abby. Dear Abby, shortly after my brother's obituary appeared in the newspaper a close relative phoned my mother and asked, who wrote that, how could you let them print that? I've been telling everyone Chad died of a brain tumor. Aren't you embarrassed? Why did you have to say he died of AIDS? Because that's the truth, my mother replied. And no, I am not embarrassed.

Another close relative said, well, I'm sure at the end Chad repented and God forgave him. Excuse me, he had a disease, not a curse, or an embarrassment. My brother died in my mother's arms and he taught us more about love and courage than there are words for. Chad died a slow and painful death. But never once did he shed a tear for himself. His death will not be ignored, forgotten, or lied about.

His death certificate lists pneumonia as the primary cause of death. But he didn't have pneumonia. The nurse said, if they had listed AIDS as the cause of death, they would not get paid by medi-cal. Abby, how many AIDS deaths will be uncounted? Please use my name in big bold letters because my brother died of AIDS. And I am not embarrassed.

Dear Vance, my sincere [AUDIO OUT]