

**JIMMY:** Mm-hmm, the New York City Gay Men's Chorus doing "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas." Hi, this is Jimmy with *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston.

And this is just a little bit of what you're going to hear next week. Be with us for the Christmas Eve show Saturday night at midnight. We've got three hours of queer Christmas carols. And that'll be by gay, lesbian, bisexual, feminist, and gay friendly artists. Three solid hours of solid Christmas music show.

And we've had a call from Rainbo de Klown, who wanted to request some special Christmas Music. It's by the Bob Rivers Twisted Radio group. The name of the album is *I Am Santa Claus*. And the name of the tune is "Walking Round In Women's Underwear." Just for Rainbo.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[AUDIO OUT]

**GOLDEN GATE MEN'S CHORUS:** Merry Christmas.

**JIMMY:**

Oh, yes, Merry Christmas. That was something I picked up in San Francisco. The Golden Gate Men's Chorus did a Christmas album. And that was "Silver Bells." That's one of my favorites off of there. And before that was, of course, the very famous and the requested every year, Venus Envy, "I'll Be a Homo for Christmas."

**EVELYN:** I'll be a homo. You know, I'm a homo for Christmas and New Year's--

**JIMMY:** And every other day.

**EVELYN:** --and Valentine's, and--

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY:** [? Just in time ?] for Christmas.

**EVELYN:** Oh, wow, come on. We haven't heard much from you Miss Michelle.

**MICHELLE:** Oh, I'm just kind of had a little cough so I've been kind of not really--

**EVELYN:** Well, don't be timid over there.

**MICHELLE:** --talking too much.

**EVELYN:** Speak up. Speak up. Oh, we got a phone going on over here.

**JIMMY:** OK, I'll take care of that.

**EVELYN:** Thank you. What's going on, Gigi?

**GIGI:** Well, I wanted to talk about a little bit something of a more serious note tonight. HIV has been in the news a lot. And we've heard a lot about it. And we're very aware of it. But one thing that's kind of taken the background is other STDs. And it seems that those are on the rise.

You know, we need to be more aware of what's going on with our bodies. We need to be responsible in our sex lives and stop the spread of not just HIV, but take a look at some of the things that are going on, like herpes, and warts, and syphilis--

**EVELYN:** Syphilis and gonorrhea

**GIGI:** --and gonorrhea, and all those other ones that they used to show us in high school. The horrible films--

**EVELYN:** They're still-- they're still there. It has not gone away. And even though-- even though, there has been so much more education about safer sex out there-- even though, there's been so much more education out there, it's still not enough, without practicing safer sex techniques, or at least learning about them.

There's just no way we're going to stop these ailments. And AIDS certainly-- HIV and aids are certainly there and in the public eye. But there's other risks as well that, you know, even if you know your sex partner, you don't always know what's going on. And safer sex is always the best route.

**MICHELLE:** Yeah, I'd like to share a story. I had a friend a while ago who ended up-- she had a lover and her lover didn't have-- her lover had an AIDS test and he didn't have aids. And she was like-- she said, well, you know, that's fine for me to have sex with them. And--

**EVELYN:** Unprotected?

**MICHELLE:** --it actually turned out that he had herpes. And you know, that's still something for life. And I mean, people often forget with AIDS out there, they just forget that you know, there's other things out there and you have to be careful. And I mean, AIDS-- the other diseases, maybe, they don't kill you but, you know, it's still something very serious and something that you really should watch out for.

**GIGI:** One thing I'd also like to say is that, you know, no matter what STD, you know, we live in a time now where we just need to learn responsibility. It's kind of like what kind of presence do I want to give people? What kind of things do I want to pass on? Is a disease one of those things?

I mean, unfortunately, we live in a time when the act of love, whether it's with a male or a female, is a deadly, or possibly serious illness, time that we can spread if we don't watch out how we love one another.

**EVELYN:** And I think there we have to look at the definition of love. You know, in this season you hear a lot of loving mankind. And loving mankind is respecting mankind. And the people that you're sleeping with should be the people that you respect most of all.

**GIGI:** And womankind.

**EVELYN:** Now, everybody out there knows that I am in no shape or form a feminist, and definitely not PC in my speech. I am also-- formerly, at least, when I was going to college-- I'm an English major. And I recognize words. And I argue-- I argue the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender divisions of our community.

And I am a big proponent of queer encompassing us all. And even though our language is very patriarchal in its foundation, mankind to me means all human beings. So let me just clarify that. I'm not being-- I'm not being-- I guess I am un-PC but--

**JIMMY:** I guess that's the feminist in Gigi.

**EVELYN:** A little feminist in Gigi pops out. Well, you know, I learned-- I learned the most about feminism from Jim Carper. Jim Carper-- Jim Carper has been the most feminist person that I've known. And I owe a lot of things to Jim Carper. And one of them is making me a little bit more aware of my verbiage. For example, I don't say chairman anymore. I say chairperson. So you know, it is rubbing off, Jim.

**JIMMY:** Oh gosh, I didn't realize I was that bad.

**MICHELLE:** Or maybe we could just start saying chairwoman instead of chairman.

**JIMMY:** In fact--

**EVELYN:** I'd rather chairperson, thank you.

**JIMMY:** I'm kind of changing my outlook on PC and feminism and all that, because there are so many people who think differently. I think it's just a matter of respecting other people. You know, it's not a matter of being politically correct. It's just respecting other people. Recognizing that you're different, reveling in it, but understanding other folks.

**GIGI:** And I think it's also important to kind of take a look at the language we use and respecting one another. Not to do it just for the cliché of the time, but to do it with meaning, to do it with observation of our fellow people.

**EVELYN:** Well, you know, on that vein, the word queer very often offends people. And there are some of us out here that say that if you use the words that hurt you, they no longer are painful.

**MICHELLE:** That's right.

**EVELYN:** So anyway, I found-- I found this article. And I'm actually going to read this article because it just struck me. Well, hello, Michael.

**MICHAEL:** [INAUDIBLE]

**EVELYN:** Ta-da.

**MICHAEL:** About a week late, but I'm still here to talk about hate crimes.

**GIGI:** OK.

**EVELYN:** You're here to talk about hate crimes. Well, never mind the article. Get on over here.

**MICHAEL:** I'll be next to you. Actually, what I really wanted to talk about was--

**JIMMY:** Ladies and gentlemen, it's Michael Crawford.

**EVELYN:** Yay.

**MICHAEL:** Bald, Black, and all that. Yay. And I'm sweaty, too. Well, not because I was doing anything, because, well, I think he was straight.

**GIGI:** Oh.

**MICHAEL:** But anyway-- anyway--

**EVELYN:** Do we have to have the sordid details?

**MICHAEL:** But he was hot, he was totally hot. Anyway, actually, I stopped by because a friend of a friend was bashed last night in front of-- when leaving Heaven. And he used to be this really cute Latino guy until the bastards saw fit to carve up his face with a broken bottle.

**EVELYN:** Oh my God.

**MICHAEL:** And it's-- I mean, it's-- pisses me off. I mean, because just the day before, I had organized a forum on hate crimes. And one of the things that the people who showed up kept saying was that they could not understand the apathy of the queer communities and how, even though we know that we're bashed a lot, we don't do anything about it. And I mean, he was a totally nice guy.

And it's really funny because a lot of people think that area around Pacific Street is like one of the safest place to be if you're queer, when, in actuality, it's one of the most deadly places because Charles Armstrong does not see fit to provide proper security. HPD doesn't provide proper security. So if it pisses them off, so what?

And I just want to say that people need to be aware of what's going on. And you need to-- I mean, if you're going someplace, go in groups, you know? And if you see somebody being bashed--

**EVELYN:** Stop the bashing.

**MICHAEL:** --bash the bashers, yeah. And most of all, if you're-- if you're harassed for being queer, or for being a woman, or for being a person of color, whether they physically attack you or just use words, then you report it both to the police and to the hate crimes hotline.

**EVELYN:** And the number to hate crimes hotline is 529-9615.

**MICHAEL:** OK, actually, that's all I came to say.

**EVELYN:** That's all you came to talk about?

**MICHAEL:** Well, OK, besides the fact that the hate crimes forum that we had on Thursday was pretty good. I mean, about 40 people came, and--

**EVELYN:** That's quite a number.

**MICHAEL:** Well, in the queer community in Houston. But we're going to be planning a huge hate-- march against hate crimes for the first weekend in February. And when I have more information on that, I'll be sure to get it to you. OK, I'll call you.

And what we're hoping to do is to move it beyond the queer communities and involve people of color, women, religious minorities, and other people who are attacked because of who they are. So we're going to have a meeting about that sometime next week. And we'll know more about the date, the march route, and et cetera, et cetera.

**MICHELLE:** I mean, if you think about it, if you just include women and people of color and queer folk and just all the other groups that are prejudiced against in our society, I mean, compared-- I mean, we'd make up a majority.

**MICHAEL:** Yeah.

**MICHELLE:** If you think of it. And if we could just all band together, maybe we could--

**MICHAEL:** And that's part of the problem, forming those coalitions that allow us to work together. I mean, because usually when we talk about forming coalitions, we do it because it seems like the '90s thing to do and not so much because we have a real, you know, some kind of a goal that we're trying to reach.

I mean, with this march against hate crimes, we want hate crimes legislation that specifically lists the categories of race, gender, ability, disability, gender identity, and so on, and so forth, and that if a person is attacked because of his or her human difference, then that penalty would be enhanced for the person who bashes them, meaning that, you know, they'd get a few more years tacked on to their sentence.

**EVELYN:** As well they should. And that is my opinion.

**GIGI:** One thing, I think, it's important to realize is that, you know, even if some of us are in the closet still, you know, you never know when you might be walking in the wrong part of town, or someone might get a misperception of who you are and attack you just for their misperception.

**EVELYN:** Forget about this wrong part of town here. Now, let's talk about the corner of Pacific and Grant, where there are five bars altogether. There are no less than 100 people in the street. How can a hate crime happen on that corner? I mean, get out there and stop it. If you see a scuffle, get over there and stop it. Do something to help your fellow man.

**GIGI:** Well, I was referring to--

**EVELYN:** Person.

**GIGI:** --being attacked because you're a woman, or because you're a person of color.

**EVELYN:** This has been going on since the dawn of time. If we all stick together, no matter where we are, and help somebody next to you-- you know, I have a story to relate about New York City.

**MICHELLE:** New York City.

**GIGI:** Oh, no.

**EVELYN:** A very good friend of mine had a brother in New York City who got hit by a car. But of course, he didn't know that. His brother-- first, let me back up a little bit. His brother was missing for three days.

And on the fourth day, when he couldn't get a hold of his brother, or find him anywhere, he flew to New York City to find his brother. That day, his brother had been taken to a hospital. He had been hit by a car, left for dead, on the side of the-- on a sidewalk. And people walked over him for three days.

Now, if we've got-- if we've got queer bashings going on, on our most popular corner, and our people aren't stopping to help, what does that say? We're one step behind leaving people for dead on a street corner for three days. I mean, come on, this is Houston. We're not supposed to be like that. The South is noted for its friendly people. I'm angry.

**JIMMY:** Me too.

**EVELYN:** Where is Act Up?

**MICHELLE:** I'm a Yankee and I'm still angry.

**EVELYN:** Well, it's OK, we'll forgive you for being a Yankee. You know, I was 10 years old before I figured out damn and Yankee were two different words.

**MICHELLE:** Since we're sharing about diversity, I figured-- I figured I'd just come out of the closet and admit to being a Yankee.

**EVELYN:** All right, that's right, bust down those closet doors. Mm, mm, mm. I am tired of the apathy in this community. If you don't have time to stop the bashing-- you know, I wish-- I wish I really could remember the poem.

It's not really a poem. It's a verse that was written by a Lutheran minister who was being hauled away to a Nazi concentration camp. And it's very often displayed on pink triangles.

And it's about, when they took away the Catholics, I said nothing. When they took away the Jews, I said nothing. When they took away the queers, I said nothing. And then there was no one to say anything when they came for me.

And that's about where our community has gotten to again. Stand up, speak up, act out, act up.

**GIGI:** Fight back.

**EVELYN:** Fight back, bash back, whatever we have to do. And what are we going to play here? Queen, "Thank God It's Christmas."

**JIMMY:** Are you ready?

**EVELYN:** We're ready.

**MICHELLE:** We're ready.

[MUSIC - QUEEN, "THANK GOD IT'S CHRISTMAS"]

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**EVELYN:** And we're back. I just took an interesting phone call. Rainbo de Klown called in. He's a fave around here. He comes hangs out with us a lot. And I'm sure many of you know him and his august presence at all of our gay pride parades and many fundraisers. He just called in to contradict the bad side of town theory.

He said that he was out in Navasota tonight. Well, you know, he does shows. What is it, Eastern Onion?

**JIMMY:** Yeah.

**EVELYN:** he's with Eastern Onion. And he does shows all over the area. I mean, not just in Houston, everywhere. And he was in Navasota tonight in drag, got lost, needed help, was able to use people's telephone, not a problem. His car died at 290 and Highway 6. He had volunteers to help him jump his car and get out.

He was treated wonderfully in what we would normally think the bad side of town, the wrong side of town, non-queer side of town. He was treated better in Navasota, Texas, in drag than our own people are on the corner of Pacific and Grant. It's like, come on, people. What's going on here?

**GIGI:** What is wrong with this picture?

**EVELYN:** I'm-- I'm here to tell you. Somebody is out there in drag. They know he's a queen, honey. They know he's a queen. And they're going to be more friendly to him in Navasota, Texas, than our own people are treated in our own end of town.

And there's got to be-- keep your eyes open, travel in groups, report suspicious incidences to the police, catch Q-Patrol. Get out there. Get active. Let's do something to stop the hate.

**MICHELLE:** I mean, if you're not going to stop the crime from happening, at least call the police afterwards. And you just try to get them to come.

**EVELYN:** Remember that hate crimes can be reported to hate crimes hotline. It's a confidential service that gathers statistics about hate crimes and reports that to a federal reporting agency. Their number is 529-9615.

**GIGI:** And if you can't stop the crime yourself, pop into one of the bars and get someone that can.

**EVELYN:** It's like, it's time to take back the streets. Bash back. Fight back. Don't let this happen anymore.

**GIGI:** It's time to put a stop.

**EVELYN:** OK, what do we got going on here? Excuse me, my turn.

**MICHELLE:** I guess I'm contagious today.

**EVELYN:** You must be con-- whoa, girl, better put a dental dam over that cough. OK. I thought--

**MICHELLE:** [INAUDIBLE]

--this was funny.

**GIGI:** Whoa.

**EVELYN:** What did she say? I missed that.

**GIGI:** Do it for her, honey.

**EVELYN:** Well, have you heard about attaching the garter belt to the dental dam? Look a little funny around the mouth, though. OK.

**GIGI:** Yes, front to back and back to front.

**EVELYN:** I'm sorry, it's just-- oh, oh, oh. Bubba Sue made me promise to tell everybody we finally found a use for our dental dam other than, of course, attempting to use it as a safer sex object. We stopped a water bed leak. It was so wonderful. It works great on water beds with super glue. Wonderful. Wonderful.

**GIGI:** Speaking of Bubba's--

**EVELYN:** Yes.

**GIGI:** You ready?

**EVELYN:** We're ready.

**GIGI:** Hold on here.

**BETSY:** All right. This is Betsy at the Ring. I'm over at 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, come to Chances on Westheimer.

**PRESENTER:** And you listen to?

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

**EVELYN:** Oh, isn't that great? I do love that so much. Jim Vaughan worked very hard on that. Thank you, Esoteric Adventures, for loaning us Jim Vaughan.

**JIMMY:** Oh, yeah.

**EVELYN:** He worked very hard on that, and that is just terrific. Just absolutely terrific. OK, what is this? Birds do it. Bees do it. But Missourians aren't allowed to do it, according to some interpretations of a new state law.

"I don't know what they were trying to say, but I know that what they did say seems to outlaw sex altogether," said David Foster, director of the Writing Lab at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Others--

**JIMMY:** [INAUDIBLE]

**EVELYN:** Others disagree. One legislator says it legalizes homosexual sex and outlaws non-consensual sex. Another says it outlaws homosexual sex and non-consensual sex.

The law, which took effect August 28, says, "A person commits the crime of sexual misconduct in the first degree if he has deviant sexual intercourse with another person of the same sex, or he purposely subjects another person to sexual conduct or engages in conduct which would constitute sexual contact except that the touching occurs through the clothing without that person's content-- through the clothing without that person's consent."



The bill's sponsor, Democratic senator-- Democratic state senator Joe Moseley, was out of town Friday and unavailable for comment. Honey, these folks need an English teacher.

**MICHELLE:** So do they read these things before they pass them, or do they just kind of--

**EVELYN:** I don't know. You know, I get this picture of somebody with lace sleeves coming out of a heavy velvet robe with a quill just signing stacks and stacks of documents. It's like, could they read if it were-- I'm sorry, I'm not into the political thing.

**GIGI:** It's almost as bad as the pope not allowing condoms.

**EVELYN:** Yeah, that is ridiculous. But you know, they're working on that. I've been following that one quite a lot. The one thing that has kept women in poverty for centuries has been not having-- well, many women, the Catholic-- in the Catholic world, has kept women in poverty is the fact that birth control of any form was not allowed. And now, it's keeping us in hospitals. They really need to look at that strongly. And it doesn't matter if the pope says yes or no, use a condom. OK.

**MICHELLE:** And use it correctly.

**EVELYN:** Yeah, you know, being a lesbian, I really don't-- I really don't have the opportunity to use condoms very often. I've found that they too work on water beds. But there is a proper-- there is a proper way to use a condom.

And if you're interested in finding out about that, you can contact the AIDS Foundation, who give safer sex workshops. And they will even come to your home and give a seminar in front of your friends. And they make it a lot of fun. And it's a new program. It's a lot of fun. And they're really funny.

**GIGI:** They use a lot of humor.

**EVELYN:** Yeah, and they really give a lot of information. So--

**GIGI:** And they even bring little baskets of condoms for your use.

**EVELYN:** I wanted to put a plug in here a little bit for a magazine that's out. We were talking earlier with Women of Leather, the FIST Organization, Females in Search of Trouble. And in the same vein, there is a magazine, The [? Lineage, ?] a state of subjugation to an owner, master, or mistress.

And on the second weekend of this month, the authoress of this-- I guess it's a newsletter format will be on the air. And that's Sarah DePalma. So you can talk to her about her newsletter. It looks like a really good magazine.

So what we got going on next week? What's coming up in January? You know anything, what we're going to be doing in January on the show?

**GIGI:** We were planning on doing a segment on leather but we're going to be a little bit campy. And we're also going to do a segment on discrimination within the community.

**EVELYN:** I'm looking forward to working on that.

[MUSIC - LUTHER VANDROSS, "KILLING ME SOFTLY"]

**GIGI:** I mean, we need to work together, and live together, and fight together.

**EVELYN:** And I feel like shows like this really do a lot, just having everyone together, all the different facets of the community. It's really nice to see us finally coming together trying to reach our common goals and our agenda.

**GIGI:** And in the background, you're hearing Luther Vandross with a cover tune of that "Killing Me Softly." And if you listen closely, you'll realize he's not changing any pronouns. "Killing me softly with his song."

**EVELYN:** And a happy holiday to all, and to all a good night. This is Evelyn.

**GIGI:** This is Gigi.

**MICHELLE:** And this is Michelle.

**GIGI:** For *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston. See you next week for Christmas Eve. Good night.

**EVELYN:** Queer Christmas carols.

[MUSIC PLAYING]