

- Anton Chekhov, the great Russian playwright, wrote plays about falling in love.
- I hereby challenge you to a duel.
- All right. Putting a bullet through your silly head will be a pleasure.
- About rage.
- Get out, all you females. I'm going to tear you limb from limb.
- About loneliness.
- That stupid rooster had the gall to make a proposal to you.
- Oh, bring him back. Bring him back. The Channing Players present four Chekhov comedies Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30. Channing Hall, Fannin and Southmoor.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- After Hours. Radio celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose. It seemed like that would be a good intro to what we want to talk about now.
- Oh, yeah. Talk about insanity. I mean, it's insane. You know, when when Ann Richards was running for governor--
- Yeah?
- She talked about how she thought the state needed a lottery. And she really fought for it very hard.
- I remember that.
- Last week, our wonderful state legislators decided that we weren't capable of making that decision for ourselves, that the lottery would just hurt poor people who were stupid and would spend their money, you know, their last dollar on a lottery ticket and all this.
- They're doing it now.
- Yeah, but wait. Wait. Now what they want to do instead is a state income tax, so that they can really make sure they get every poor person's last dollar. You know? It's crazy. It's just crazy.
- I'm confused here. Now, I may know that Radclyffe Hall wrote *The Well of Loneliness*, but I'm not really up on politics. Didn't we vote on lottery or something a couple of years ago?
- No. We voted on race tracks. But I mean, everything seems to get so--
- Isn't that the same thing?
- Yeah, well, not really.
- It's gambling.

- It's gambling. Bingo's gambling, too. And we approved that, you know? They have this block against it and it's because there's a lot of churches and stuff have lobbied against, that we're not going to be having--

- Where do you think the bingo goes on?

- Yeah, well, you know what--

- Give me a break.

- Somebody suggested that possibly we start taxing the churches, which is a real good idea.

- I think so too.

- [INAUDIBLE] Start with the Baptist Church.

- Don't we have a separation of church and state here? So why should they get off for free?

- I don't think they should either. But this income tax, anyway, is like in most states-- well, not most, but in states that I'm familiar with, Pennsylvania being one, when they instituted the income tax, it was like 2.75%, which is pretty low actually, when you think of it. It was a 2.75 flat tax, which meant everybody in the state that made any amount of money-- if you made \$100, you paid \$2.75. Or if you made \$100 million, you paid. You know? And there were no exemptions.

Well, we're complicating it here now. It's not going to be a flat tax. What's going to happen is families with you know, four children, I don't know--

- Just like the federal government, huh?

- Exactly. There's going to be these exemptions. And it's going to be single-- yeah, loopholes. And single people are going to be the ones-- single and couples without children are going to be the ones that carry the burden.

- Why is that better than the lottery?

- Well, it's not equal, either.

- No, it's not at all.

- That's what kills me. It's just not equal. And one of the things we're going to be funding, probably, with this tax, are the schools. Which single people don't even use.

- I know. I know.

- You know, it's ridiculous.

- As a matter of fact, I know two or three straight married couples who are childless.

- Right.

- And because both of them work, they bring in-- you know.

- Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying don't fund education. Education is vital. And that's probably what-- if we would have good education system in Texas, that would change a lot of this attitude that we see in the legislators.

- Boy, is that the truth.
- But anyhow. I just thought that was so insane, you know. And but what's beautiful about all this too is that Ann Richards comes out of this looking great, because she recommended the lottery, and they refused it. And she is opposing the tax. So she's coming out of this one-- even though we do-- we're probably going to get a state income tax out of this, she comes out looking great.
- Well, a lot of that has to do with the way Texas is set up, isn't it? As I understand, the governor really doesn't have a whole lot of power.
- No. She can ask for things, but it takes the legislatures to do it.
- And that's back from Reconstruction.
- Yeah. Bullock is the one who's-- the lieutenant governor is not looking very good in this.
- I say. And so he didn't promise anything and so.
- Well, he's requesting the state tax.
- Oh, he is?
- And opposed the lottery, yeah. Which is, he's a fool.
- What's wrong with that queen?
- I don't know. I don't know. [INAUDIBLE]
- Didn't we vote for him?
- Yeah, we voted for him. Mmhm. He's been interesting to watch and, um, he's been sort of changing since he was elected. But that's OK, too. You know. Hopefully they'll let us vote on this and we won't pass it and tell them no. You know, send that message.
- What do you mean let us vote?
- Allow us to vote on the state income tax.
- Whether or not there's an income tax.
- I would think--
- They can do it either way? Like they can just say, OK, you've got one, or they can say-- why do they think we would vote for it?
- I don't know.
- There probably won't be a chance to vote on it, because they know everybody would vote against it. Who would vote for it?
- Right.
- Yeah. But anyhow, I just thought, insanity rules in Austin, it seems.
- And so soon too.

- I'm sure a lottery would have passed. I'm sure if we'd voted on it, it would have gone through.
- I know a lot of people who send off for lottery tickets in other states that have it. You know, they have relatives or friends. And I mean, on a weekly basis.
- Oh yeah.
- They're sending money to other states for lottery tickets.
- Yeah. Many states use it. They earmark the funds for one specific service. Like, services for elderly. And in those states, those programs usually are like the most, of all states, they are the best-funded.
- I'll bet.
- You know. And you know, the incidence of people spending, like they're saying-- they try to create this horror in you, like spending their last dollar on a lottery ticket is like.
- Give me a break. How often do you look in the paper and see where people have organized bus rides to Lafayette for the horse racing, and like I said, people send off for lottery tickets to other states. They're doing it already.
- Oh yeah. I mean, it's like--
- They're throwing the money away in other states.
- In other states. And also in Texas, the availability of gambling is only bingo. And so like there's some bingo halls in Houston, like out on Pinemont, there's one in particular that I've been to. And it is--
- Girl.
- It is packed. Just packed with all these people.
- Any action at these bingo places?
- No. No. I had to--
- Scratch that off.
- I had to quit going. I knew I was hooked, see. It was terrible. I went on a day before Thanksgiving, got there at 5:00 in the morning, paid them some outrageous sum of money to play bingo until 2:00 AM. And there was like all these characters around. A lot of big hair. Lots of big hair. It was just outrageous. And I thought--
- Can you really make a lot of money at that? I mean, are the winnings very high?
- Well, yeah, there's some pots that are huge at the bingo.
- Yeah? [INAUDIBLE]
- But obviously, they're making money, yeah.
- Well, yeah, or they wouldn't be doing it. That's the whole idea.

- Yeah. So anyhow. I don't know-- that's where most people are going anyhow. And they're doing well. All of these places are doing well.

- That's incredible.

- Yeah. So anyhow. It's pretty weird.

- Well, we're doing pretty well too, even with Buddy not here tonight.

- Yes, we are.

- I know. And, um--

- Oh. Jimmy just handed us a message.

- Oh, I see.

- That's why we had the silence.

- Yes. No, what I was thinking-- Buddy's off rearranging schedules for next week's show and for upcoming shows. Actually, he's just got a night off.

- Yeah. He deserves it.

- The one thing that I miss when he's not here is all of his little Harvey Milk things that he plays, you know, and puts on top of music, and all of that kind of stuff. So at least once a show when he's not here, I like to play this that's coming up for you next. It's something that he put together. It's the coming out of hiding combo.

In fact, that piece went to Los Angeles and was on a This Way Out show.

- Oh, wow.

- Yeah. Went all over the US. So for you right now, our theme song, anyway, especially around here.

- Coming out of hiding.

- You bet.

- Disorders began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar, the Stonewall, on Christopher Street in the heart of the West Village.

[SHOUTING]

- I want you to say it so they can hear you in the capitol. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back.

- I want you to savor this next moment. I have the proud task of telling you that the official count of the lesbian and gay rights march, the official count is over 500,000 strong.

- We must destroy the myths once and for all, shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

[CHEERING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- As 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.

- Oh. Jesus Christ.

- Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.

- They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about crotch politics. This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love and to choose and to live. And I don't care about straight tolerance. And I don't care about straight understanding. You'd better hear me in Washington. We are demanding. We are demanding our civil rights.

- And I ask people all over this country to do one thing.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- We must destroy the myths once and for all, shatter them. We must continue to speak out and most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

- Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

- Come on out. Join us.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family. You must tell your relatives. You must tell your friends if indeed they are your friends. You must tell your neighbors. You must tell the people you work with. You must tell the people in the stores you shop in.

[CHEERING]

Once they realize that we are indeed their children, that we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all.

And I ask people all over this country to do one thing. Come out. Come out, America. Come out.

- Oh, yeah. I slipped in a little stand up for your love rights. After that. That's my fave too. It says a lot about what we talk about here. And it says a lot about a new group, Queer Nation.

- Yeah. They're becoming a little more visible, too.

- Yeah.

- Some of their being real visible.

- You said something in the news about that. I missed it. I was running around.

- Well, yeah. It seems that this group of guys got together and painted banners that were really huge. And on Monday morning, at about 6:30, they went over to the southwest freeway and hung these banners up on all the overpasses on 59 there, coming into town.

- Oh, you mean like [? Dunn Levy ?] and--

- [? Dunn Levy, ?] Woodhead, Mandel.

- Mandel and [? Hazard. ?] Yeah.

- And what did they say?

- Well, they just said their slogan. You know, the first one said, we're here. The second one said, we're queer. The third one said, get used to it.

- And the fourth one said Queer Nation.

- Like the old Barbasol things.

- And it worked. And it stayed up for an hour and a half.

- Oh, that's wonderful.

- Thousands upon thousands. Tens of thousands of people saw them as they're driving.

- We're here, we're queer, and get used to it.

- It wasn't people. They were just hanging there. There weren't people standing--

- No. They just hung and then left and they stayed up for an hour and a half. So I think it's great.

- I do too. I do too.

- Any idea whether there's been any response to that? Have you heard anything?

- I've heard it from people just around town. They said, did you see what was on the freeway? You know. It's like, OK, good. So it's working, you know? That's the whole idea of that.

- People are so afraid of the word queer.

- Yeah.

- And they don't understand that it's like any other word that's been used to hurt people, that if that group of people takes over that word, it puts a new connotation to it.

- Yeah.

- It doesn't hurt as much. And it becomes their word.

- It takes the power back.

- Yeah.

- Yeah. It sort of neutralizes it.

- Yeah. You hear the words queer and faggot and dyke on this show a lot. And in fact, in the next song we have coming up--

- What a transition.

- Yes. When Mike hits the button, you're going to hear that word queer again.

- Maybe when Mike hits the button. If he hits the right one for a change.

- Oh, OK.

- You ready to go?

- You've been doing really well.

- Thank you, thank you. I was just fishing for compliments, actually. OK. You ready to go.

- I am.

- OK. Let's do it.

- Yeah.

OK. Are we back on, Mike?

- Yes, we are.

- OK. I think, yeah.

- Now we are.

- There we go.

- No, we are. We were. Just that we couldn't hear us. We were there.

- OK. Don't confuse me after I gave you that nice compliment.

- Yeah, thank you. That's all I wanted. Now I'm going to just blow it off.

- Oh, OK. I was talking a little bit ago, about an hour or so ago, about friendship and how important it is. And just the fact of showing emotions. But friendship is one of the most important, I think, in the gay and lesbian community. And there is a song that epitomizes it for me.

But before we get into that, what do you think about it?

- About friendship? It's real important. It's extremely important, and especially in our community, because like you said, lovers come and lovers go. You know what the sad thing is, is people who, you know, whenever they get a new lover, they just sort of-- the world all of a sudden, they disappear and nobody knows what ever happened to them. And then six months later, they're back out there looking for all their friends that they abandoned six months ago because now the relationship is over.

- Yeah.



- Here I am, I'm back.

- It's very traumatic for friends in a situation like that. Most of the time, if your friend does that to you, you have to sit back and say, you know, well, maybe I did that a couple of times when I was running around, or dating somebody. But it's important to still keep your friendships going, even when you have the love of your life has walked in and swept you off your feet and done whatever it is they do. I don't know. I forget.

- It's been so long. We can't remember these things anymore.

- I know. I know. I know. But on the subject of friendship, one of my favorite all-time women, and you haven't heard much from her lately, either.

- Right.

- Except that Frank said, doesn't she have a special coming up?

- Yeah. That's what I heard. She has a special coming up on channel eight. And she's going to sing all gospel music.

- Oh. And you know she can do it.

- So it will be this week, do you know?

- I believe it's this week.

- Oh, great. So for all you friends out there, here's Patti Labelle, telling you what it's all about.

Well, I'll tell you.

- Tell me.

- If you don't understand what I mean by friendship after that song, I don't know how to further explain it to you. I'm kind of the one who talks in music, anyway. If there's something that I want to say to somebody, I can tell them better in music than I can in words. I probably have a song somewhere that says it.

- That's probably what music is for, what it's all about.

- Yeah. And along those lines, now that you know how I feel about friendship, I want to maybe tell you how I feel about radio.

- Is this a pitch?

- No, no, no. That's later. That's later. People wonder, you know, how can you stand to do this radio show?

- [INAUDIBLE] how can you stand to do it?

- Midnight to four. You know? They don't understand what this show means to me, not just for you out there, but the whole concept of what it means. Nona Hendryx, who, in fact, used to sing with Patti Labelle in the old days, when they did that cover of [FRENCH]. Nona Hendryx was part of that group.

- Oh really?

- Now she's writing her own stuff, and doing very well. She became a disco diva, and then started writing some serious stuff. And she has a number called, *Through The Wire*.

And it talks about the images and the emotions that are shared through the wire, both ways. Not only just radio and television, but what I really like about the song also, is the beginning. Because it's got some stuff in it that Buddy plays a lot.

- Oh, so you'll recognize it.

- Yeah. You know, Buddy.

- Remember Buddy?

- Openly gay dispatcher for HPD. Looking for a cop like looking for a city. No, no, no. Different song. Different song.

- Yeah. OK.

- No. This is Nona Hendryx doing, *Through the Wire*.

- That's one small step for man. One giant leap for mankind.

- Oh, I recognize this.

- Etched forever in our minds. Etched forever in our minds. The first ghostly images on our televisions. Etched forever in our minds.

- When all of God's children, Black men and white men, Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics--

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Oh yeah.

- I recognize that music.

- Yeah. That's the opening and the closing music.

- Right now it's the closing music.

- I'd better get my headset on [INAUDIBLE]

- Yeah, Frank. Get with the program here, girl. There you are.

- Oh, yeah.

- Yeah.

- That means it's time to go home.

- Seems like it's the close of the show.

- It can't be. We just got here.

- It seems that way, doesn't it?

- Uh-huh.

- Yeah. Well, Buddy, old boy, I hope you are doing some magic there at home to rearrange our schedule so it seems like a longer show.

- And Buddy will be back next week?
- Oh yeah. Oh yeah. In fact, we'll both be back.
- I won't be.
- No. I know. Some of us get to go to Austin for the march. And if you don't know what the march on Austin is--
- I'm so excited about it. It's the March on Austin for Gay and Lesbian Rights. And it's going to be next Sunday at noon.
- And where do people meet at?
- At Congress and Palmer Auditorium.
- Oh, great.
- Yeah. It's going to be fun. I'll probably be calling y'all.
- Actually, it's a whole weekend of festivities.
- [INAUDIBLE]
- [INAUDIBLE]
- Me personally? No, girl.
- Oh.
- Yes, you may call me collect.
- No. I may call and tell y'all what's going on up there next weekend.
- Great.
- It's going to be fun.
- OK.
- Because it starts Friday night, really. The festivities start Friday night.
- Yes. There's a concert Saturday night and then Sunday the march. And there's a festival after the march on Sunday. And then Monday is lobby day, so.
- That's right.
- I'm taking a vacation and going up and having fun.
- Scream and carry on.
- Yep.
- Oh, good. Well, we'll be here. And we'll still be queer. And--

- I may not be here, but Buddy will be.
- Buddy will be here.
- But you'll still be queer.
- Right.
- Yeah. OK. That's good.
- That part won't change. At least I don't think-- it hasn't so far.
- He turns gay when he walks into the control room.
- So what else is going on? Anything before we close out?
- Oh, yeah. Today. It'll be at Tranquility Park.
- Oh yes.
- At 3:30, there's going to be a protest at 4:00 at the coliseum protesting Philip Morris and that bill of rights display.
- And at 6:00, there's a kiss-in.
- Oh yeah, the kiss-in.
- And there's-- oh, do you know who-- ooh. I got it.
- You going to go do it?
- I can't. Stanley comes in today.
- I don't know anybody I'd want to kiss, that's the thing.
- John [? Barco ?] will be there.
- Oh.
- Yeah. Yeah.
- I don't know if I want to--
- Oh, I do. Oops. Anyhow.
- It's still here. The music's still here.
- OK. Still going strong. Yes. I know the switchboard's going through training right now. So if you missed out on the training in the month of March, we'll have it again in two months. It's every two months training for the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Houston.
- That starts Friday night and goes through the whole weekend, right?
- Yeah. Two weekends.
- Oh, it's two weekends of training?

- Yeah. It's pretty intensive. So if you want to know when the next training is, or whatever's going on in the gay and lesbian community, and I really mean that, because you may not be able to find out from your usual modes.
- The [INAUDIBLE] and the Voice may not always have all the information that's going on.
- Or you may not get out in time to get them.
- That's right. So you might make it a habit of just giving the switchboard a call once a week to find out what's going on at 529-3211.
- Well, you can find out too by listening to After Hours, too.
- Yes, or the other gay and lesbian programs on KPFT, which are *Wilde 'N Stein* on Monday night at 9:00 and Breakthrough, Friday morning at 8:00.
- 8:00 to 11:00.
- So. Ooh. We're getting close to the wire there. So the Blues Broads are ready to come at you with goodies. They've been talking about it for several hours now. And this is Jimmy.
- And Mike.
- And Frank.
- And we love you, babies.
- And we'll see you sometime soon.
- Yeah.
- Goodnight.
- Bye.
- This is KPFT Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Hi there. This is BB King. You know, the guy that plays the guitar called Lucille? And you're listening to 90.1 FM. That is KPFT Houston, Pacifica's listener-sponsored radio. Shut up, Lucille. They know it.