

HEATHER (SINGING) to make you feel proud? Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. You could be so many people. Just make that
SMALL: break for freedom. So what have you done today to make you feel proud?

HOST: Heather Small, "Proud" from the *Queer as Folk* soundtrack. And back with Creath Robinson.

CREATH Yes. Hello, Jimmy, again.

ROBINSON:

HOST: Hey, Creath.

CREATH And now--

ROBINSON:

HOST: Before we get into that-- during the song, I got some information that the Meat Rack has a web location.

CREATH Oh, that's right.

ROBINSON:

HOST: [? W3.meatrack.org ?]

CREATH Very good, very good. I'll be sure and look that up.

ROBINSON:

HOST: Log on and find out about it.

CREATH I will also tell you. And of course, this is just the voice of experience talking. But if you happen to be in the chat
ROBINSON: rooms on AOL from time to time, I've seen their screen name as Meatrack on there as well. So you might be able
to get information from that also. So definitely check it out.

HOST: Wherever we can get it.

CREATH You bet. Well, first of all, I want to welcome our next guest, which is Chuck [? Spinks, ?] who has been a longtime
ROBINSON: member of the Grey Party. And we're going to give you a little information, give our listeners some information
on the Grey Party if you're not aware of what it is.

It's not necessarily an older person's party, it is actually a circuit party. And I don't think there's too many people
in the community that aren't aware of what Grey Party is. It's been going on for a number of years. And we'd like
to welcome Chuck. Thank you for being here with us, Chuck.

CHUCK SPINKS: Thank you, good morning.

HOST: Good morning. Well, a lot of our listeners-- in fact, most of our listeners are outside the loop. So maybe there's a
lot of folks out there who haven't heard about the Grey Party and what it is.

CREATH It's very possible.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: Well, actually, Grey Party began way back in 1982. And it initially started with a group of friends that got together and wanted to have a party. Because during that period, it was the onset of AIDS. And everyone was very scared and confused.

And it was a time people didn't know quite what was going on. So they got together and had a party to sort of lighten the spirits somewhat. And they had it during the Westheimer street festival, or maybe the Westheimer art festival, I think it was called at that time. And the first one was at Numbers.

And approximately 1,000 people showed up for that first party. So it was a big success.

CREATH And today you've got quite a few more people how many guests actually attend the Grey Party today?

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: Well, last year, we had approximately 1,500 people that came out to Hyperia, where we had the party at last year. At times in the past, there have been as many as 2,500 people.

CREATH That's what I was thinking, about 2000, at least. It's a great turnout. And there's a lot of the people that come in.

ROBINSON: Not only locals come for this party, but you have a number of out-of-towners as well.

CHUCK SPINKS: Yeah, probably about a quarter of our attendees are from out of town, maybe just from other towns in Texas. We get a lot of people coming in from Chicago, from DC, San Francisco.

HOST: So this is a circuit party.

CHUCK SPINKS: Yes.

CREATH It's truly probably the closest thing to being defined as a leather circuit party, correct?

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: Probably so, yes. For Houston, that's correct.

CREATH And certainly, I was at Hyperia last year. And it was a beautiful space, if no one's ever been down. It's downtown.

ROBINSON: And it was just an incredible party, it truly was. And we had a great time. And the people were constantly coming and going. And new faces and the most beautiful men you've ever seen in your entire life. And it was just it was like, oh, my goodness-- probably the closest thing to heaven, I think, most definitely.

CHUCK SPINKS: I always get the comet every year, it's like where are all these people throughout the year? People have a tendency to come out to this party. They may just come out once a year. We have a lot of loyal followers that come back year after year. And that's very nice.

CREATH Well let's be sure and go ahead before we get too far into this is, let's give the date of this party so people can go ahead and put that down on their calendars and what the criteria is for it. And the date this year is October 14.

CHUCK SPINKS: Yes, that's correct.

CREATH And last year, you all had it on Saturday night.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: That's correct. We ventured out to have a Saturday night party last year. And that was very successful. All the parties in the past have been on Sunday. And we've gone back to that again for this year. And it's going to be at South Beach.

CREATH South Beach, Mr. Armstrong's new play pretty. And it is a beautiful bar, if no one's been over there-- not been over there. It's an incredible space. You did an outstanding job on redoing that place. And that'll be great, truly will be great. And what are the hours for the party this year?

CHUCK SPINKS: This year, it's going to be from 6:00 PM to 3:00 AM.

CREATH Whoa. There's going to be a few people calling in on Monday, I believe.

ROBINSON:

HOST: Probably.

CREATH I'll be one of them.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: Who do you call in to?

CREATH Well, my boss is really hard to deal with.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: I've heard that.

CREATH But yes, definitely, that'll definitely be a Monday that you want to take off. It certainly will. I'll tell you what,

ROBINSON: Chuck, there are so many different details it takes to put together something like this, especially for that amount of people. How many hosts do y'all have? Give us some details on what you do to put this party together and keep it going.

CHUCK SPINKS: Well, this year, we have about 25 hosts. And in the past, we've had as many as close to 41, one year. We divide the group up into committees, which handle the artwork for the invitation, finding the facility. We try to move the party around each year to different locations, just to keep it fresh and let people see a different venue.

CREATH Absolutely, good idea.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: And so it's just it's all divided up in different areas like that. Each group has something that they contribute to bring the party together as a whole.

CREATH That's great. And it does take that many people to work together to be able to put something like this together

ROBINSON: because believe me, after going through the Misfit Ball recently, it is a lot of work. And The Misfits were just outstanding. But we only had like 11 people working on that. And it was much smaller scale. So I can only imagine for 1,000 to 2000 people, what it's going to take to put all this together and accommodate that kind of a crowd.

CHUCK SPINKS: This being our 19th year, we've sort of gotten it down to a science at this point, which is kind of nice.

CREATH I would truly hope so. And one of the neatest things that y'all do is, you always bring in a different DJ that just ends up pounding the sound out of any sound system that you've had.

CHUCK SPINKS: This year, we're bringing in Billy Carroll from New York. And I'm very excited to have him come in. We wanted to get him a couple of years ago, but there was some scheduling problems. So I've had him on my short list for a while. And so Billy has been out there for many years.

He cut his teeth at Studio 54. He's been around for years and recently is enjoying a resurgence in popularity and has been traveling all over the country. He's toured through Europe and also through Japan. And he's one of the biggest name DJs we've had brought in for a while.

CREATH That's great. Well, I know everybody's going to look forward to that. And if you've not been to South Beach, the **ROBINSON:** sound system over there--

CHUCK SPINKS: It's incredible.

CREATH It's absolutely incredible. And even the times I've been over there, I don't think they've actually utilized the **ROBINSON:** equipment in the way that it can be. And I will say this, one of my times that I have to remember of great party was one year y'all did it at Rich's.

And even though Rich's has got an incredible sound system and it's a great facility, I remember standing back by the back bathroom and the floor vibrating. And is the only time I have ever felt that in that bar. But that's the kind of energy that this party generates. And it does, it goes from start to finish that way.

And I can only imagine what South Beach is going to have in store for us.

CHUCK SPINKS: And for those people that go to South Beach on a regular basis, we are going to make South Beach look a little bit different that night, also. So we have some new surprises in store for folks. There's going to be some additional lighting brought in, some video screens, and different things like that.

CREATH Wow, that's incredible. Don't tell us too much. Let's keep this a surprise because they've already got an **ROBINSON:** incredible, not only sound system, but they've got an incredible lighting system, lasers, and all types of things. And then, of course, as I call it, Charles's secret weapon with his liquid nitrogen. It's absolutely incredible. You can be out on that dance floor, and I think it drops like 20 degrees--

CHUCK SPINKS: About 20 degrees, that's correct.

CREATH --in less than 10 seconds or something, 30 seconds, something like that. And wow, it's awesome, truly awesome. **ROBINSON:** So it's going to be a great space for that. I think a lot of people, as a matter of fact, I've heard some hype about this-- and let's try to clarify it. Some people are actually concerned that the bar is not going to be large enough.

CHUCK SPINKS: I've heard some concerns about that. But I think for the length of the party, from 6:00 PM to 3:00 AM, there's going to be enough time for people to come in.

CREATH And they do come and go.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: Different crowds come and go, that's correct.

CREATH And there's plenty around in the area to keep them busy, as well. Not to divide the party up, but there's a number of places that people can go if they want to just get out of it for a few minutes or whatever, they can do that. And y'all do all of this for charity, correct?

CHUCK SPINKS: That's correct. And like I said initially, when the party started, it was just a group of friends getting together to put on this party. But in 1996, we incorporated and became a if I were 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

CREATH Good for you.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: And throughout the years, we've probably raised approximately \$400,000, which we've donated to local Houston charities.

CREATH That's incredible.

ROBINSON:

HOST: But you know, you can get money out of folks if you're giving them something. And what's better than a party?

CREATH Well, and I can remember at times in the past, and of course I've been to a couple of great parties, I won't say

ROBINSON: how many, but I've been to a few. And I don't know how y'all are going to do that this year, but I actually walked up to the front at one point, I think at City Streets and at the Longhorn Saloon one year, and you could actually make your choice of which organization you wanted to donate your money to.

Which was a really nice option, so it wasn't all tied up. Are you are you doing that again this year?

CHUCK SPINKS: This year, it's just going to be just all into one. We'll just have people come in and just drop their money in a bucket.

CREATH Well, that works too.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: This year, it's going to be divided among the Houston Bars Club.

HOST: Great organization. Frank does a fantastic job.

CHUCK SPINKS: Yes, he does.

CREATH He's such a hard worker. And I tell you, I have literally seen the money go in there when I was doing my prime

ROBINSON: choice candidacy, I would take money into him. And you could see it the next day on the shelves. He literally stocks the shelves that quickly, that's how well they do.

CHUCK SPINKS: And also for Bearing Omega Dental Clinic.

CREATH Which is another organization that [INAUDIBLE]

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: I think we're the only dental clinic in the country for HIV.

CREATH Must be, because I was over there last week, and it's just it's unbelievable the amount of people, the volume of people they've got going in and out of there. It really is. They do such an incredible job. And I don't know how they hold the fort down with the people that they have.

CHUCK SPINKS: They're just dedicated folks.

CREATH Very dedicated folks, and they're always the same faces, there's not a big turnover. And they have just a limited amount of volunteers. So it's incredible the job they do.

CHUCK SPINKS: And the other beneficiary this year is PFLAG.

CREATH Of course, everybody's favorite.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: We've been very impressed, especially with a billboard campaign they did. We just thought that was incredible and really wanted to get behind them and support them.

HOST: I think because PFLAG not only is a great organization, but they're a good public face for us. They can bridge the gap into the straight community and disseminate information about us, rather than people hearing misinformation from the likes of Falwell and those folks.

CREATH Well, I think you've made excellent choices on your benefactors this year. And the normal general donation, of course you're able to donate whatever amount you want when you walk into the party.

CHUCK SPINKS: That's correct. We request \$20 donation when we come, but we, of course, never turn anyone away. It's open for whatever they can donate us is perfectly fine with us. And we just want them to come in, and donate what they can, and enjoy the party. Because after all, it's the people that come that's what makes the party work.

CREATH You bet, but I promise you, it's the best \$20 you could ever spend. I promise you. I have been to this party a number of times. And it's something I truly look forward to.

HOST: Billy Bob, have you been to the great party?

BILLY BOB: Yes, I have.

HOST: Throughout this, he's just been sitting there smiling and nodding his head. And so I figured he had some history there too.

CREATH And actually, in just the last moment or two, we've been handed a little more information about your DJ.
ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: For the DJ buffs out there, Billy [? Carroll ?] is a resident DJ the Ministry of Sound in London. And he's also a resident at the Roxy in New York, and also at Splash. So this guy is--

CREATH Got a heavy hitter here.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: We've got a heavy hitter this year, and he should come in and rock the house.

CREATH I can't wait.

ROBINSON:

HOST: So what day is that again?

CHUCK SPINKS: October 14.

HOST: October 14, damn, there's just everything going on.

CREATH That is going to be one of the busiest weekends because I didn't even realize until, I believe, a day or two ago

ROBINSON: that Empower was that weekend.

HOST: And as part of the museum.

CREATH Of course, that'll be in the daytime.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: Yeah, we'll be doing that. And actually, unlike last year, it's two days. You come in Saturday to set up, and then they open like 5:00 to 9:00, and there's going to be like a mayor reception going on Saturday night, then all day Sunday.

CREATH Well, that's actually a good thing because they're going to have a pre party for Grey Party on Friday night.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: That's correct, we're going to have a Shades of Gray Party it's going to be at Blue Zone Friday night from 10:00 to midnight. All the hosts will be there, it's a way to get together and meet the hosts and just kick off the weekend.

HOST: Nice, where's the blue zone?

CHUCK SPINKS: It's right-- I can't remember the address, exactly, but it's on Westheimer. It's formerly Rascals or Studio 13.

CREATH It's right across the street from Wendy's, next to the MacDonald's.

ROBINSON:

HOST: It's like the 1,300 block.

CREATH Yeah, it's just about 1,200, 1,300 block in there. And it's a beautiful bar. It really is. They've done a nice job on

ROBINSON: that. That'll be great. And that's the kick off on Friday night. And then, on Saturday night, it's up to them. And then, you've always had something on Saturday night, but this year you haven't.

CHUCK SPINKS: This year, everyone's just sort of on their own. Get out there, hopefully enjoy the weekend, and check out some of the other clubs around, and keep the party going.

CREATH Good, that'll be great. And then, everything reconvenes. And of course, during this time, also, that weekend, is

ROBINSON: Lone Star weekend, which is Dougie Decker's thing. And hopefully, we'll have a new Lone Star Drummer and Miss Texas Leather will be also-- both those contests will be that Sunday afternoon.

Which I'm one of the judges for that. And Jim Nixon will be handing over his title as Lone Star Drummer. What will he do without a title? I love you, Jim.

CHUCK SPINKS: I mean it.

CREATH He's been a savior on this show, especially-- I tell you, he's been in here a number of times.

ROBINSON:

HOST: Yes, he has been, as a matter of fact.

CREATH But he will be handing over his title. And it's going to be an incredible number. That's all I'm going to tell you.

ROBINSON: When he hands over his title, prepare yourselves because he's got something planned.

HOST: Take pictures-- many, many pictures.

CREATH Believe me, you're going want to.

ROBINSON:

HOST: Video, if you can.

CREATH This one's going to make the paper. It's going to be great. So there's so much going on that weekend, there really

ROBINSON: is. And there's probably other things that I'm not even aware of.

HOST: Oh, I'm sure of it.

CREATH So anybody would be a fool to try to schedule anything else on that weekend.

ROBINSON:

HOST: Don't do it folks, just try to attend all you can with what's going on.

CREATH Certainly. And I don't even know how many days Lone Star weekend is going to take up. I think they're doing

ROBINSON: something on Friday night. And then, Saturday, they're having something. And then, the actual contest is like at Sunday afternoon at 4:00.

HOST: Can you explain a little bit about the Lone Star Leather weekend?

CREATH Well, actually, it started last year. That was the first year to start off.

ROBINSON:

HOST: And now, this is by Bulldog Productions?

CREATH By Bulldog Productions, correct.

ROBINSON:

HOST: If Dougie Decker's mom is listening, maybe she can call in and talk about it since he's out of town.

CREATH Doug's in Dallas. So unfortunately, he couldn't be with us tonight. But if Maureen's out there, please do call us

ROBINSON: and let us know you're out there, Maureen. She's just a wonderful lady.

HOST: And she does listen to this show.

CREATH She certainly does, religiously. But at any rate, it's actually turned into a run type weekend. And it starts on

ROBINSON: Friday and continues throughout the weekend. And there's events throughout the entire weekend. On Saturday-- actually, I haven't gotten all of the rundown of the schedule yet.

But either on Saturday or Sunday, we'll actually have interview with the contestants. And then, the contest is going to be Sunday afternoon, which they're trying not to conflict with Grey Party. And so it's going to be a very exciting weekend. And last year, they a very surprising amount on their first year, exactly.

I think they raised, gosh, somewhere around \$1,200, \$1,300, it seems like, just from that weekend.

HOST: That's pretty good for your first year.

CREATH It's very good.

ROBINSON:

HOST: When you have no idea what attendance is going to be.

CREATH It was totally unexpected. And they'll have celebrities coming in. Vendela, who is just an incredible lady from

ROBINSON: Maryland, from Baltimore. And I believe she was Miss Baltimore Eagle last year. If you've not met Vendela, believe me, she's worth coming to see.

She is-- girl can crack a whip. And she's got the format down. She's really a great person. And she'll be in again this year, and help, and see the contest. So there's going to be a lot of fun things going on that weekend, there certainly will. At this point in time, we kind of got off the subject of Grey Party, which we've got a few other things I wanted to bring about.

Grey Party has gone on for 19 years. And one of the things that I wanted to say, and this might actually jog some people's memory. So where have all the locations been, Chuck? Y'all have had it in so many different varieties of locations in town.

CHUCK SPINKS: I'll try to remember. I've been attending the party long before I started hosting. But I know it's been at Numbers.

It's been at Energy, which was on North Sheppard years ago. That was probably back in '84 or something like that.

CREATH I remember that one.

ROBINSON:

HOST: That's been a while.

CHUCK SPINKS: That was a really incredible space. It's been at the Longhorn Saloon and also at the City Streets. And also, prior to that, I think it was called Zazz.

CREATH It's actually at city streets more than once, I believe.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: Yeah, it's always fun going in trying to transform a country and western club into something pretty glitzy.

CREATH That was fun, though. That was a fun party. You had a great DJ that year, as well.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: We've had [INAUDIBLE] was at City Streets. And we had Steven Wallace out of Montreal. And some of the DJs in the past, we've had Phil B out of San Francisco. And then, last year, Neil Lewis. And see and when it was at [?] Zazz, ?] I think we had Buck.

We've had Buck a couple of years. And Susan [? Morbito ?] was at the Longhorn Saloon. So we've had some really nice DJ talent coming in.

CREATH Susan was the one I was thinking of. She was incredible. She was really great. And then, of course, you had it at **ROBINSON:** Rich's one year. I remember that. And I even thought, I was like, oh, my gosh, y'all have lost your minds. But it was a wonderful party.

CHUCK SPINKS: That was in '98. We went back to Rich's and brought in DJ Phil B out of San Francisco. And at the last minute, we brought in Laser Spectacles out of San Marcos and put in one of the most incredible light shows that has ever been put on at Rich's. As I believe it is.

CREATH It truly was.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: And I wish we'd had time to advertise that a little more, so people could come in and see that. But we just wanted to bring in something really dramatic to Rich's, and it was incredible.

CREATH Along with the floor shaking, I'll never forget that as long as I live. That floor was vibrating. My feet were literally **ROBINSON:** vibrating on up that floor. I've never felt that in that bar. It's incredible. And also, one of my other memories that I have of the Grey Party is, one year, I can't remember whether it was Zazz or whether it was City Streets, y'all actually had a-- what is it called? A fire display.

CHUCK SPINKS: Pyrotechnics.

CREATH Yes, pyrotechnics. And that was wonderful.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: Yeah, I believe that was Zazz.

CREATH Was it Zazz that year?

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: And in the years past, we used to bring in entertainers too. We've had-- Sylvester has been at a couple of great parties.

HOST: The late, great national gay treasure.

CREATH Never be another, never be another. Couldn't be.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: And I hope I get this guy's name right, Paul Parker? He was at Zazz-- excuse me, not Zazz, but Energy one year. So that was really a nice show.

HOST: He did a lot of stuff on the same label as Sylvester, doing all right that's stuff, that Mark Crowley stuff.

CREATH My goodness, I'll tell you.

ROBINSON:

HOST: I've got a lot of those albums.

CREATH Well it's definitely something that this city looks forward to from year to year. I know a number of people that literally look forward to the Grey Party from one year to the next. And the surprise is the fact that you always move it from one place to another, so it's not the same old, same old. It's a different environment, and it gives the party a completely new flair. And of course, you've already told us a few of the surprises you're going to have. But I think everybody's-- if you've been to the Grey Party in the past, you know to expect something new and different every year. And that's one thing, I think that's part of your secret to success.

CHUCK SPINKS: Well, we hope so. We like to try to keep it fresh and bring something new each year that people can enjoy, and keep them coming back.

CREATH That's right, and then of course with it being a fundraiser, as well, what kind of funds do you do you end up raising? In the past, what have you been able to donate, to give you an idea of the ability of this party has?

CHUCK SPINKS: We have been always proud to donate as much as 100% of our proceeds that come in, that people donate at the door. Last year was probably one of our biggest door donations, it was over \$23,000.

CREATH That's awesome.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: I think the Saturday night helped that because our crowds increased, also.

HOST: So it sounds like you get people to pay for everything else.

CHUCK SPINKS: That's correct. All the hosts, we pay dues each year, which helps to produce the event. And then, we go out and seek sponsorship from various groups, which also help us produce the event.

CREATH And you've got a number of sponsor great sponsors this year, as a matter of fact.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: Yes, we do.

CREATH Why don't you tell us about your sponsors this year, Chuck?

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: Well, we have the Ripcord, which is one of our sponsors.

CREATH Good old Ripcord.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: Absolutely. They've been with us for a good many years. And also, we talk about the leather community being behind Grey Party. It's something that's sort of evolved through the years, which we think is really great. And we have started reflecting that in our invitations in the last four years or so, we've been running that motif through for about the past four to five years. And also, Eclipse is one of our sponsors. BFM printing, which always helps us with our invitations.

CREATH That's such a big part of it, it really is. You always do such an awesome job with your invitations.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: And of course, this year, with going over to one of Charles Armstrong's venues, South Beach is obviously one of our sponsors with the JR's and the Mining Company. And they're helping promote and advertise this event this year. And also, we can't forget our meeting place, which is Carter and Cooley Deli on 19th Street. They've always been behind us, and that's been really nice.

HOST: They help out a lot in the community. You hear that name all the time.

CREATH They truly do. And if is aware of Doug Scott, the alias, a.k.a. Lips. He is a legend in this town. He kind of carries

ROBINSON: the whip over there for the owners of Carter and Cooley, and does an outstanding job.

CHUCK SPINKS: And there's also has been helpful-- I work in the Criminal Justice Center, and so there's a lot of lawyers that have been very supportive also in donating money to help produce the event. Jerome Godinich has been very generous. Kurt Gumburger and his group over at Absolute Lending has been really great for us. And Debra Summers, a lot of lawyers have been very nice in helping out with this event.

CREATH That's what it takes, it pulls it together.

ROBINSON:

HOST: Do you have a list of sponsors so that-- I want to promote this, especially next week. And give that list out because people who support us should be supported.

CHUCK SPINKS: Absolutely, I agree.

CREATH Actually, it's on the posters. The sponsors are listed on the posters along with the hosts at this year's party. And

ROBINSON: all the criteria, the benefactors, the time, the date, DJ. And it's just an outstanding poster, to be honest with you. We've got one here, actually, if you've not seen it, Jim.

HOST: I've not seen you've not seen it.

CREATH It's just remarkable.

ROBINSON:

HOST: Look at me, I'm wearing a pink shirt.

CREATH I wasn't going to say anything about that on the air, but at any rate.

ROBINSON:

HOST: The Gulf Coast archives and museum would probably one of those posters.

CREATH I bet they would.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: We have some extras.

CREATH I bet they would. And also, there's ads in the *Eclipse* and in the *Q*, announcing the party. And actually, I think the

ROBINSON: *Eclipse* has almost a duplication of the poster in their ad--

CHUCK SPINKS: Yes, that's correct.

CREATH --this week. So you can pick one of those up and get all those details, as well. And also, this year, there's a dedication to a couple of people that have been near and dear to the community for a number of years.

CHUCK SPINKS: That's correct. Two of our hosts, we lost this year. Chuck Drake, the owner of the Ripcord passed away. And also, David Williamson, also known as Meg, was a manager at Mary's for a good many years. And they were longtime hosts of the Grey Party and we made a dedication to them this year, in loving memory to Chuck Drake and David Williams.

CREATH That's wonderful. And those two, believe me, they'll be remembered not just for being a Grey Party host, but for what they've done in the community. They'll go down as a legend, and always will be.

CHUCK SPINKS: With that note, too, I became involved with this party in '95. And that year, my brother passed away from AIDS. And so it was a way for me to get involved and put that loss to something good. And that was a driving force behind me getting involved and starting to raise money for various AIDS charities in the community great.

HOST: I love how this community has come together to help its own.

CREATH It truly has.

ROBINSON:

HOST: Of course, we had to. But we did it willingly. And lesbians were there too.

CREATH You bet. It's taken every part of the gay community to come together and work together to be able to make things work the last few years. And even though the crisis is not over with by any means, we're certainly holding our own. It's something that everybody should be proud of. And everybody that's this put forth the effort and put forth stuff like these parties and these small fundraisers at Mary's, or whatever the case may be, you're all part of it. And it's made a difference.

HOST: It sure has. And we thank you.

CREATH Absolutely.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: That's one thing, we talked about the Grey Party as being a following with a leather community. And I'd like to stress, also, that it's not just the leather community that comes to this party. It's a wide range. And that's what we enjoy most about this party, we get circuit boys and women, which we're happy to have women.

HOST: Do you get guys in pink shirts?

CHUCK SPINKS: Guys in pink shirts, you're welcome. You can even wear that outfit, you'll fit right in. And younger people, we even get some rave kids and club kids, just everyone. So it's totally open for everyone. And we like to consider Grey Party as a party for all of Houston.

CREATH It's truly a diverse crowd, and they come together. And everybody has a great time. There's nobody singled out over there at all. Everybody is really included and having a good time. The one question I have, a last-minute question, Chuck is-- I know at this point in time, at least mine maybe has been lost, but I don't think the invitations have-- have they gone out?

CHUCK SPINKS: They have gone out. And if they didn't hit the mailboxes this weekend, they probably will be on Monday.

CREATH On the first of the week.

ROBINSON:

HOST: So you'll get yours on Monday, honey.

CREATH I know, believe me.

ROBINSON:

CHUCK SPINKS: Don't panic yet, they're on their way.

CREATH I'm not. But I just wanted to make sure that if they hadn't gone out, we can clarify that for our listeners.

ROBINSON:

HOST: And also, let's clarify something else. You're talking about invitations. It's just an invitation-only party?

CHUCK SPINKS: Years ago, they used to stress it was invitation only. But it's not invitation only. People can just come, show up at the door. We have always plenty of this release forms that they could sign and come right on in. It's an open party. We mailed out close to 5,000 piece mail out this year. But it's an open party where people can just show up, come in, and enjoy what we're doing.

HOST: The invitation is just a nice keepsake.

CHUCK SPINKS: Exactly.

CREATH It's a keepsake, as well as they do maintain a mailing list. And their mailing list is what, obviously, the invitations

ROBINSON: go to. And there's new people that come in every year. And that's how you get in, you get on the mailing list for the following year.

CHUCK SPINKS: It's what we've been seeing is that each year, there are more new people that have never been to the party before than people that have been there before, which is a nice thing.

CREATH Well, that's great.

ROBINSON:

HOST: That's going to put us on the map.

CREATH It certainly will.

ROBINSON:

HOST: And raise a lot of good money for great organizations.

CREATH That's true.

ROBINSON:

HOST: Thank you.

CREATH Just awesome. Well, thank you so much for joining us tonight. And I think everybody, if you weren't aware of the Grey Party, please look forward to it. And if nothing else, do some follow up if you can't attend to see how successful it's going to be this year. I know it'll just be outstanding. It truly will. And thank you, Chuck, for being with us and giving us all this information.

CHUCK SPINKS: Thank you.

CREATH And we'll try to keep you in mind in the future and keep you on top of things. And also, Billy Bob, once again thanks for joining us tonight.

BILLY BOB: It's been a pleasure.

CREATH And the best of luck at Suncoast.

ROBINSON:

HOST: And have fun doing it.

BILLY BOB: I'm going to have a great time.

CREATH We had to talk about that. I said, that's one thing about it, don't go down there with a set format, the whole nine yards. You go down there to have a good time. Enjoy yourself, and what will be, will be.

HOST: And come back with all of the juicy gossip.

CREATH And you let us root for you bringing the title back. And Jimmy, thank you once again for the opportunity of being able to do this show. It's such a pleasure to do it.

HOST: It's fun, isn't it?

CREATH It certainly is.

ROBINSON:

HOST: Even at this hour.

CREATH True. And I'm not sure exactly what format we've got for next month, but we'll leave it as a surprise at this point in time.

HOST: OK, that's fine. I know you always have a good show.

CREATH I end up coming up with something.

ROBINSON:

HOST: Yep, you sure do.

CREATH If nothing else, we haven't had to do this yet, but if it comes down to it, you and I can always sit here and talk through the glass.

HOST: That's right.

CREATH Hopefully we can entertain the folks. So at this point in time, that's our show for tonight. We'd like to thank all of our listeners for tuning in. And please join us again next month.

HOST: You bet. You've been listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. Coming up at the top of the hour, and he's here, is Rob Love with the *Early Morning Groove*. And you know what that means, that's great music until 6 o'clock, when the fabulous blues Sunday starts here on KPFT and goes all the way until 6:00 PM.

Going out with maybe one, probably two songs. This is by Jeff Krasner from his CD *Maybe*. And this song was in the picture *Trick*. And it's called "Maybe Love will Make Sense to Me. See you next week.

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