

And taking a gay and lesbian substance abuser and putting them in a majority culture treatment center isn't always as helpful as people might think it would be.

Not knocking the bars because I frequent the bars as much as anybody else, but do you think that because in our society that the bars seem to have been and a lot of people still think the only place to go to meet people that that might be a reason for that?

Well, I think that's probably part of it. Most of us feeling the oppression of the world and not being able to express ourselves, when we were first able to, we walked into a gay or lesbian bar and we felt freedom.

Most of the bars in the Montrose, and the gay and lesbian bars outside of the Montrose, I know many of the bartenders and many of the owners, and if someone has had too much to drink, many of them will call you a cab and get you home, and a lot of times, offer you help. For instance, the Montrose Counseling Center.

Exactly the bartenders and bar owners in the city--

Are very supportive.

Very supportive.

Very, very supportive.

And they have the best interest of their clients to look out for.

Exactly.

I also go to the bars. The thing that astounds folks is that they serve other things in bars besides liquor. One can drink something non-alcoholic while there and have just as good a time, and surprisingly, enough. Nobody really knows what you're drinking anyway, much less do they care.

That's true.

Well, you're welcome to give us a call here at the station at 526-4000 if you have questions about the substance abuse program or the counseling center. We're going to be talking more about that later on. I see you have some music picked out. What's that?

Well, it's George Michael in *I Want Your Sex*.

Uh-oh.

Go for it, Buddy.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

This is after hours on KPFT Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Well, look at us. You know us, America. We are some of your best friends. We're some of your best relatives. Your sisters, your brothers, your mothers, your fathers, your daughters and your son.

We parents want to persuade society that our gay children are not acting out of defiance or self-indulgence. They're being true to their own nature. Our children are fine men and women. And we say to society that the parents and Friends of lesbians and gay men will support their children.

Look at us. 250,000 in the daylight, in Washington DC. No famines, no pestilence, no earthquakes, no floods.

And right now no Judge Bork on the Supreme Court. But if you don't contact Lloyd Benson's office and voice your opinion, that could change. If you've pledged to the fall marathon here at KPFT and are one of the many wonderful listener sponsors that keep this and all the other fine programming on the air, here 24 hours a day, seven days a week, please send in your pledge so that we can get out your premiums to you. You can do that by mailing your pledge to KPFT 419 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, 77006.

Or you can come by the station during regular business hours from 9:00 in the morning until five Monday through Friday and pay that pledge, and pick up that premium, shop that room of premiums upstairs. It's quite an array of merchandise, I must say. Roger had me up there the day of marathon with some people, we were watching them shuffle through all the goodies.

Anyway, Bob Hodge is still with us, the Montrose Counseling Center. And Bob, I want to talk about the AIDS program that's offered by the counseling center. And this is a kind of a touchy subject. A lot of times people don't want to deal with the AIDS problem. But here on After Hours, we like to deal with facts and not fear, with truth and not lies.

And on a personal note, I lost a very dear friend Tuesday, a young man by the name of Jerry, 29 years old, and I began to tell people I had a friend that died yesterday and they said from AIDS? You know, I didn't bring it with me, but there are many things in this world that people die from including cancer. Hundreds of thousands of people a year, automobile accidents.

And you know, let's be real, let's live with facts and not fear. Jerry was straight gentleman that I worked with, a very beautiful person. He leaves behind a beautiful wife and a small son. And I've got a little tribute that I put together for Jerry that we're going to hear in just a minute. But right now, Bob, what about the AIDS program at the Counseling Center?

You know, Buddy, one of the things you bring up is the sadness that our community feels at the loss of, at this point, our brothers and the fact that the majority culture doesn't give any credence to our lifestyle and doesn't allow our people to grieve at the loss of lovers, at the loss of friends. And we are a city, a great deal in mourning. And I wonder sometimes if Houston even knows for whom Houston is crying.

You know, I really don't think they do. We talked when Mary was here with the March on Washington. If anything is going to be remembered about the National March, it's going to be the names project when they unroll that quilt, that's three or four football links wide and it has the name of a person that's died from AIDS on a panel that's 3 by 6 feet, and it covers up a lot of ground on that Capital Mall. And it's not just gay people. It's young children, women, straight men. AIDS is affecting everyone.

And if we don't educate ourselves, and if the community doesn't force the city governments and the state governments and the federal governments to do something, it will become a problem. It is a problem now that they need to deal with it realistically, and even Councilman Grenada's said that last week on the program.

Well, the thing that we look at as of September the 8th, the city of Houston reports for Houston and all of Harris County, there are 1,332 cases reported. And what gets lost sight of a lot of times is that's 1,332 people. It's people that are affected by AIDS not numbers. We see numbers a lot, but it's people that are the numbers.

Back in 1982, as AIDS was beginning and looming dark over our horizons, the Montrose counseling center began the first AIDS project in Texas. And out of that and out of the people that were working with the Montrose counseling center AIDS project, was ultimately formed what is now called the AIDS Foundation of Houston in conjunction obviously with Mac McKendree, some people from M.D. Anderson and Michael Wilson.

But some of that came out of the counseling center. We've been instrumental in forming Waterloo Counseling Center in Austin and the Oakland counseling center in Dallas. We've got group, basically, support groups for people with AIDS and arc for their family, friends, and lovers as well. This is something that's missing out there. We don't have the support that people can't go dashing off to their employer and say, oh, my lover is dying of AIDS, and I need some time off, and they need a place to talk about it.

So that family, friends and love her support group is very well attended and very much needed. We also have a group for people that are HIV positive, Buddy, or just worried about their health status.

That's what I was going to ask you about. That caught my eye when we were at the center the other day and you were giving me the tour. It's called the worried well group.

Yeah.

Roger will be the first to tell you that if there's anything to worry about, I'll worry about it. But tell us about the worried well group.

Well, it's basically for people that are concerned, they are not diagnosed yet. They may be concerned that they have been exposed and are afraid to go get the antibody test. Or perhaps they have had the antibody test and they've come back seropositive. And they're scared to death.

There are a lot of people like that in Houston. For the first time in my life, I have a friend, a very close friend that his life is just being taken away from him day by day. And I feel a lot about what you're saying. I feel so helpless and so afraid. I don't know where to turn. And you're right there is no support, unfortunately, from the city government and the state government. Now the mayor did form the AIDS and that may all change. But where were they back then? Yo know what I'm saying?

Well, in all fairness to our city folks, the direction and what they have needed, they've had to look long and hard to try and find there are people in this community that have been very supportive and have tried to work with city government for quite some time. And they have sought out the community, the city government has. But they're fighting a lot of things, political problems as well.

I think that we lose sight of the fact that for so many years, the press played up the fact that they called it the gay plague and the gay cancer, and it didn't seem to affect the rest of the city. And it took a while for them to hear what was being said out of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, and what was being said by the Montrose counseling center and the AIDS Foundation and the Montrose clinic to them. It just took a while for it to sink in, and it is sinking in. And I think that we in Houston can be Houston proud, because there are a lot of things going on in the city that weren't going on a few years ago.

Exactly. Talking about the Atlanta people, the numbers that come out of Atlanta, I notice now more and more as the medical community in Atlanta releases figures and so on and so forth, the word gay it seems to be dwindling away.

Well, one of the things that we're seeing nationwide is that the group that had the most folks in it was the category gay, bisexual male. And that is beginning to although the numbers are still huge, the percentages are starting to shift, and we're seeing particularly on the East Coast that it is the IV drug abuser that is the rising category in terms of newly diagnosed cases.

And we also have to remember that in the city of New York, AIDS is the number one killer of women between the ages of 24 and 35.

That's a frightening figure.

They are. Buddy, one of the things that has not happened yet in our community, it hasn't happened anywhere yet is our women have not been-- our lesbian women have not been affected directly by this disease. Certainly they've lost many of their brothers, and our women's community is very much in mourning also.

But on October the 7th, the Montrose Counseling Center is having the first lesbian women in safe sex workshop that's been had in this state. We're very pleased to be able to sponsor that. And it's being offered as a part of our Women's Network that meets on the first and third Wednesdays of every month. Jennifer Rant's will be conducting this. She's our director of operations at the Counseling Center.

So anyone interested in that can call the Counseling Center at 529-0037, and get all that information.

You bet they can. You bet they can. Our phones are open. The switchboard is manned during normal business hours, basically, 9:00 to 5:00. And during that period of time, a nice man named Bill will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

I'll remind you that if you have questions for Bob about the Montrose Counseling Center, you can call us here on the air at 526-4000. 526-4000. Right now I want to do a personal-- I don't know what it's called-- I want to make a personal dedication, I guess you'd say.

You come in and do this program every week, and this program is for the community and anybody that has anything to say can write the after hours program here at KPFT or call us the After Hours hotline at 713-529-4636. And we'll announce that for you. But being in and out of here every week, I meet a lot of people.

And I met a young man back-- it's been about four years ago now-- that I worked with. His name was Jerry. And Jerry was the kind of guy that was happy go lucky and nothing's going to happen and life is wonderful, and I saw him last week bouncing up the steps at work and he just seemed like life was rolling along well.

We lost Jerry Tuesday. Jerry had an aneurysm and he just didn't wake up on Tuesday morning. And when I began to tell people about Jerry's death, I really got angry. Bob, the first thing they said to me was, did he die from AIDS?

It's astounding, isn't it?

It may not be anger. It may be just because they're not informed. But right now I'd like to do something and this is for you, Jerry.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

A reading now from the prophet in Almitra's book, saying, "We would ask now of death? And he said, "You would know the secret of death, but how shall you find it, unless you seek it in the heart of life? The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light. If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life. For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one.

In the depth of your hopes and desires, lies your silent knowledge of the beyond. And like thieves dreaming beneath the snow, your heart dreams of spring. Trust the dreams. For them is hitting the gates to eternity. Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd when he stands before the King whose hand is to be laid upon him in honor.

Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling that he should wear the mark of the King? Yet is he not more mindful of his trembling? For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt in the sun? And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God?

Only when you drink from the river of silence, shall you indeed sing. And when you reach the mountaintop, then you should begin to climb. And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance."

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Jerry, I know your spirit's out there. And I know now you become one with the world. And I want to thank you and God for letting your light touch my life and the life of many of the people in Houston and beyond. We'll see you someday soon.

When we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every Hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty we are free at last.

And the National March on Washington for gay and lesbian rights to be heard right here on Pacifica Radio KPFT Houston, 90.1 film on October the 11th. We'll get those times to you. And Bob, I understand there's a symposium.

Yes.

Coming up that we should know about.

We've got the second annual Living With AIDS in Houston symposium that is sponsored by the Montrose Counseling Center, in conjunction with the University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work, the AIDS Foundation of Houston and the Visiting Nurses Association. It's going to be on the 24th of October, Buddy, that's a Saturday, from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM, at the Conrad Hilton College building on the University of Houston, University Park Campus.

This program is designed to provide persons with AIDS ARC and those whose lives are touched by them. An opportunity to learn more about the disease, its implications, treatment and coping techniques. It's also a time to share the wisdom we have so painstakingly achieved. Registration is pretty inexpensive for this.

And for more information on it, all you have to do is contact the Montrose Counseling Center at 529-0037.

529-0037. Or of course, you can call the gay and lesbian switchboard at 529-3211. Bob, briefly, what can you tell us about the women's department? I met the young lady that handles all that, and I know you're not real familiar with it because you don't deal with it as much as she does, but can we touch on that just a minute.

Yeah, the director of our women's program is Diana Storms, social worker. And our women's department is designed to offer women affordable services from a feminist perspective to the women in our community. It is a feminist perspective. Is very important to hear how the counseling center believes in dealing with women's issues today in a very non-threatening atmosphere.

The major component of that is the Women's Network that meets on Wednesdays. The first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Counseling Center. And various topics are offered, Buddy, during these things, like the one we have coming up on the 7th is on lesbians and safe sex. But the women's department also sponsors annually the women's weekend that's held at the Counseling Center, and we also have a group and individual psychotherapy.

A lot of issues that the women deal with in our community that some of that are special to them and not to the guys. A lot of incest survivor issues. Issues about child custody. And just the oppression of being a woman in basically white male, straight, protestant society.

That's tough.

Well, our women have been overlooked for a great many years. And the counseling center does not overlook them.

You want to hear some real old music?

I'd love to hear some real old music. I'm a real old man. I wouldn't say that.

I dug this out. I like the words to the song. So listen to the words. It's called I Can't Give You Anything But My Love. And this is After Hours on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

Bob that's called Chinese Bang, and you, how do you like that?

I like that.

It's the unofficial theme song of the show.

That's good stuff.

I don't know how that happened, we just kind of got stuck with it.

I think you just got used to playing it, Buddy.

This was getting ready to come in and give you some wonderful music. So stay tuned for that. I'll remind you that next week on the After Hours program, we've got a musical celebration of life with Roy and George from Beat Records. They're going to be in to get us all warmed up for the National March on Washington.

Send in that pledge money here to KPFT. And you can also write the after hours program in After Hours KPFT, 419 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas, 770006, or call us at 529-4636. Special thanks to our After Hours staff, Brian, Mark, Alan and Roger and our before Stonewall consultant, David McCain, out in New Orleans. Our musical consultants, George and Roy at the Beat Records. Everybody here at the KPFT family for being so good to us. And our co-host this morning, Bob Hodge, with the Montrose Counseling Center.

Nice to have been here, Buddy. I appreciate it.

You're going to have to come back again soon.

I'd like that.

I think we would too. And most importantly, we want to say thank you to you, our listeners, sponsor, because without you none of this programming would be on the air. This is KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. This is the After Hours program. I'm Buddy Johnston saying bye. See you next week.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Well that was it. Our fourth program of After Hours broadcast on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM on Sunday, September the 27th in 1987. Our guest in the studio, again, was Bob Hodge. Personally, I think it's one of the better programs we've done as of yet. Number one, because our guest was so well versed and knowledgeable of what he wanted to say.

Technically, the program went over a couple of screw ups. I am still not real sure of that cassette recorder. I don't like using that cassette player. But I'll get over that.

To those of you that continue to listen to the show on the tape, thanks for being with us. And to fill out the remaining minutes of the cassette, I've decided to put some music on here to entertain you. Some of the things that were played during the After Hours show that you just heard were cut out for time's sake. So this is Buddy Johnston saying, take care and I'll be talking to you soon.

Not you.

Yes, me. And I'll talk to you later. Bye, bye.