

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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- I remember an incident four years ago when I was walking through an amusement park, holding hands with my lover, and was called queer by a child six years old. And from that day forward, I've been all too aware of who the child molesters in the society are.

- These are gay and lesbian people singing out here. What's your reaction to that?

- I have a little boy, and I would hate for my little boy to be like that. Those are animals.

- I think it's terrible. If I had a rock, I'd throw it at them.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- All the queers want equal rights.

- Why don't you do things the way that God made us to do it? Is your mother and father a lezzie?

- They need help. Any person who is gay is sick.

- You hear the sounds of the waves brush up against the sand where he has written both of your names with a heart around it.

- You are looking at the sky, burning red with the sunset. Quickly, a car drives up alongside of you.

- He stopped for a red light. Suddenly, the car is surrounded.

- They circle your blanket, coming in closer.

- Bottles are thrown out of car windows.

- The sound of glass breaking. Baseball bats against metal.

- A hand grabs at your hair.

- Glass at your feet, in your face, in your eyes.

- A fist across your face again and again.

- Die, queer.

- Kill them. Kill them. Kill them.

[METAL CLANKING]

- Homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry, which is why the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project wanted you to hear and think about this message. For more information, write us at Post Office Box 65603, Los Angeles, California 90065.

[MUSIC - QUINCY JONES, "IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT"]

- In the heat of the night, we have blues for you on 90.1 FM, KPFT, Houston, Texas, 4:00 AM, Sunday.

- Girl--

- Mm-hmm.

- --they'll be here too.

- You bet. 4:00 AM.

- This is a new song. This is a thing. Phooey. Woof. Whoosh.

[LAUGHTER]

This guy, Jesse Helms.

[LAUGHTER]

Well, you know, the great senator from the great state of North Carolina. And I'm embarrassed because I was born in North Carolina, and I'm close personal friends with Jim Baker, of course.

[LAUGHTER]

So we're all ashamed of Jesse in this censorship thing.

[GUITAR STRUMMING]

Our new favorite art critic.

[GUITAR PLAYING]

I'm assuming you know all about this, and if you don't, well, tough.

- Boots are being polished. Trumpeters clean their horns. Chains and locks forged. The crusade has begun. Once again, flags of Christ are unfurled in the dawn and cries of soul saviors sing apocalyptic on air waves. Citizens, good citizens all parade into voting booths and in self-righteous sanctity, X away our right to life.

I do not believe at some that the vote is an end. I fear even more. It is just a beginning. So I must make assessment, look to you and ask, where will you be when they come? They will not come, a mob rolling through the streets but quickly and quietly, move into our homes to remove the evil, the queerness, the faggotry from their midst. They will not come clothed in brown and swastikas or bearing chests heavy with gleaming crosses.

The time and need for such ruses are over. They will come in business suits to buy your homes and bring bodies to fill your jobs. They will come in robes to rehabilitate and white coats to subjugate.

And where will you be when they come? Where will we all be when they come? And they will come.

They will come because we are defined as opposite, perverse. And we are perverse. Every time we watch the queer hassled in the streets and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we lied about the boyfriend or girlfriend at coffee break, it was an act of perversion.

[CHEERING]

Every time we heard, I don't mind gays but why must they be blatant, and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let a lesbian mother lose her child and did not fill the court rooms, it was an act of perversion.

[CHEERING]

Every time we let straights make out in our bars while we couldn't touch because of the laws, it was an act of perversion. Every time we put on the proper clothes to go to a family wedding and left our lovers at home, it was an act of perversion.

[CHEERING]

Every time we heard, who I go to bed with is my personal choice, it's personal not political, and said nothing, it was an act of perversion.

[CHEERING]

Every time we let straight relatives bury our dead and push our lovers away, it was an act of perversion.

[CHEERING]

And they will come for the perverts. And it won't matter if you're homosexual, not a faggot, lesbian not a dyke, gay not queer. It won't matter if you own your own business, have a good job, or on SSI. It won't matter if you're Black, Chicano, Native American, Asian, or white. It won't matter if you're from New York or Los Angeles, Galveston or Sioux Falls.

It won't matter if you're butch or femme, not into roles, monogamous, non-monogamous. It won't matter if you're Catholic, Baptist, atheist, Jewish, or MCC. They will come. They will come to the cities and to the land, to your front rooms and in your closets. They will come for the perverts. And where will you be when they come?

- I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me had not something in my life, in this state, prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us.

I am here tonight because it is time that all of us who love this state that gave us life and has nurtured us and taught us our values, to stand up and claim the history of this state for freedom and justice and human respect--

[APPLAUSE]

--away from the forces of narrow-mindedness and bigotry that too often dominate the politics of the state of Texas.

[CHEERING]

[MUSIC - "THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC"]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- 90.1 FM, KPFT, Houston, can you believe we have an openly gay person--

- Isn't that great?

- --in the Texas legislator?

- Legislator Glen Maxey.

- Yeah.

[MUSIC - WILSON PHILLIPS, "IMPULSIVE"]

- 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]

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

- Come on out.

[LAUGHS]

[LAUGHS]

- Yup.

- Find us. Bring a friend.

- What do you think about the third [INAUDIBLE]?

- Well, its--

- Give it up. It's never enough. It's never enough.

- 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.

- I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me had not something in my life, in this state, prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us.

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

- I am here tonight because it is time that all of us who love this state that gave us life and has nurtured us and taught us our values--

- Join us. Do your thing.

- --to stand up and reclaim the history of this state for freedom and justice and human respect, away from the forces of narrow-mindedness and bigotry that too often dominate politics in the state of Texas.

[CHEERING]

- Glen Maxey, baby. Isn't that wonderful?

- Yeah. Yeah. He really deserves it, too.

- Yeah, he does because he's been up there working for many years.

- Yeah.

- And he's--

- Some months not even knowing if he was going to get paid.

- He's the first openly gay person to be elected to a public office, I guess a public office in Texas.

- In Texas.

- Do you think?

- You bet.

- Glen Maxey.

[LAUGHS]

- All the other ones are in the closet.

- Yeah. Well, maybe we can get them on the show.

- Hey.

- Wouldn't that be fun?

- Yeah, it would.

- Girl, what are we doing next week?

- We've got Michael from Queer Nation--

- Oh, god!

- --coming, and he's also involved in a new support group for Black males, Black gay males. There we go.

- Yeah, I heard that on *Wilde 'N Stein*.

- Uh-huh. So I'm really excited about that. There's been very little in the way of support for Black gay males. So--

- Well, there has been.

- That's very exciting. Yeah.

- There just about isn't anything.

- No, I know. I know. I work with the Switchboard, and we get a lot of calls about that type of thing. So I'm really excited. And he's very excited about that plus Queer Nation. I talked with him earlier this evening, and he gave me the information about the Queer Nation meeting on March 10 at the Coliseum at 4:00 and do that kiss-in at 6:00 against the Constitution thing that Phillip Morris is doing.

- Isn't that a rip?

- Yeah. They're doing that in Dallas, I believe, this weekend--

- Oh, really.

- --because that's where it is. And so, Queer Nation. And probably, I'm sure some other groups will be involved in that, too.

- You know, all during the bitching and complaining we did about the war, I wanted to play that song. And I really did want to play it. (SINGING) I'm proud to be an American, na, na, na.

- I just couldn't force myself to buy.

- Oh girl, I'm just kidding.

[CHUCKLES]

What are you proud of? They don't want anything to do with us.

- That's right.

- The majority of them were waving their flags and would probably take those flags and beat you to death with them. Where's that newspaper at that I had? Do you remember? It's late-- is it out on the table--

- Oh.

- --that I said I want to bring in.

- Yes. Yes, yes, yes.

- Can you go get it?

- I sure will.

- Wait a minute. He's going to go get that paper. Yeah. Go do that, Mary.

[HUMMING]

We could time that queen and see how long it takes her to get in here. We will edit all this out later because--

[LAUGHTER]

--we just don't want to leave this on the show. The show is live, boys and girls, and it's 20 minutes until 4:00. The blues ladies will be here at 4:00. I have a Union meeting-- oh, god-- at 1:30.

- Is this it?

- Yeah. No, Mary. Here, you sit down and talk, and I'll go look for it.

- Well, OK.

- I have a Union meeting today.

- Oh, I'm sorry.

- Well, yeah. Me, too.

- No sleep, huh, or no fun, either?

- Yeah, right.

- I had read something in the *Advocate*, and in fact, Matt called in to talk about this. But it's about Roseanne Barr. And there was this interview in the *Advocate* talking about how she got her start and how she felt about her gay and lesbian audience.

And it seems as though there's going to be a gay character coming up in her show soon, and she stressed that it would be non-stereotypical. And in fact, Roseanne got her start as being the only straight woman in a lesbian bookstore.

[LAUGHS]

And her first appearances were in front of lesbians, so she really appreciates her gay and lesbian audience.

[LAUGHTER]

I see you found your paper, dear.

- Yes, Mary. This is the *Houston Chronicle*, Friday, March 1.

- Yes!

- Good god, it's March.

[GASPS]

We'll be putting up Christmas trees before you know it.

- I haven't taken mine down yet.

[LAUGHTER]

- Are you serious?

- I'm serious.

- At the big house?

- At the big house.

- Oh, girl.

- The with all the angels on it. Well, it's so pretty.

- Yeah. This is from the *Houston Chronicle*, Friday, March 1, 1991, talking about Glen Maxey and the way things are changing.

- Yeah.

- And it's under the subheading of national briefs. And it says, "Panel allows gay priests. New York. After three years of study, an Episcopal Church Commission recommended Thursday that the way be cleared to allow ordination of homosexuals to the priesthood. On Wednesday, the Presbyterian Church, USA, also proposed measures that would permit ordination of non-celibate homosexuals."

- That's very important, that term non-celibate.

- And it goes on to say that under the Episcopal proposal, decisions about ordination would be left up to the local diocese's bishops and their elected advisors instead of having a blanket rule over the church, which in most cases, the local parishes know the people and the people always prevail.

- Sure.

- This is very, very important, the wording here. "The Presbyterian Church also proposed measures that would permit ordination of non-celibate homosexuals."

- Yes. Because it's the Roman Catholic Church that is saying, yes, you can be a homosexual and stay within the church if you are celibate.

- And in other news-- That is exciting--

- Yes, it is.

- --because they're saying--

- Well, what it means is, now they--

- They're not coming right out and saying it's OK, but they're almost ready to be.

- No. I'm just saying they can be out of the closet about it because let's face it--

- Because I've said this--

- --gays and lesbians have been in the church for hundreds of years.

- I've said this before and will continue to say it, and I keep complaining on this program about something called safe sex. Because 20 years ago, there were certain things that I did not do because I didn't want to get gonorrhea and syphilis. And among the things I didn't do was sleep around with everybody, go out and stay drugged and drunk all night and didn't get any rest, things that kind of run your body down.

You know what I mean? And now with AIDS, they have something called safe sex. And I really hate that because that implies that there's something wrong with sex, and there's not.

- Right.

- And I've said before that if the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta said tomorrow that intercourse between men was as healthy as I believe it is, the government would never, never, ever, boys and girls, come out and say that it's OK. They would find another reason to tell you to keep your pants on when we know that people aren't doing that. I mean, just say no and the pregnancy rate is running rampant throughout our country. Nancy Reagan, just say no, and drugs are eating our children alive.

- Right.

- It's this--

- And there's so many family groups that oppose talking about condoms for their children--

- Oh--

- --for teenagers--

- --please.

- --when that is the one thing teenagers need to know about.

- It just kills me.

- Gay, straight, bi, whatever.

- And they just want to stick their head in the sand, and sticking your head in the sand doesn't give you anything but a head full of sand.

[LAUGHTER]

This also--

- I like that.

- --makes me angry. It's from the *Houston Chronicle*, Friday, March 1, the same edition, on page 15A. And it says-- the headline is, "Iraqi war dead left to lay where they fell. The bodies were found lying in trenches, buried in collapsed bunkers, incinerated in tanks." And it just goes on to tell you how thousands and thousands of Iraqi soldiers are scattered throughout the desert, in the field of operation, as they call it, where people were killed.

- Theater.

- In the theater of operations. And this just kills-- what did I say?

- Field, I think.

- Oh, well. Whatever. Hell, girl. It's a screwed up mess anyway. This kills me, the casualties of the Gulf War. The tally of losses to date, as reported by the US and allies.

[IMITATES TRUMPET SOUND]

And there's a little United States flag-- waving the flag here-- and a little Iraqi flag.

[MAKES SPITTING SOUND]

We'll just spit on that for all you red-blooded Americans. And it says, "Total deaths, United States. Killed in combat, 79." That's not too bad, I guess. "Non-combat deaths, Desert Storm, 52." This is during the war. People ran over by trucks and--

- Oh.

- --fall off of kitchen tables and break their neck. And before the war even started, Mary, just the setting up part, we had 105 people die.

- Goodness.

- We lost 236, so almost half of them were killed before the war even started, in accidents.

- Oh.

- 105. Missing in action, 45. Wounded, 212. Prisoners of war, 9. And we lost 27 planes.

The Allies. Killed in combat, 47 people. Missing in action, 21. Prisoners of war, 4. And they lost nine planes. And it says that they flew over 110,000 air missions. Now, this is what really kills me. Total deaths, United States, 236. OK?

- OK.

- This is reported by the writer of *Tribune News*. This is Iraq. Iraqi combat losses. Divisions destroyed, 40 out of 42.

- Oh.

- Listen. Total deaths, United States, 236. Divisions destroyed, Iraqi deaths, 40 divisions destroyed out of 42. They don't give you numbers, but they do say each division had about 12,000 troops. So you multiply 40 times 12, and you get just a little over 500,000 deaths, if that's what they're saying.

- Gosh.

- We have 236 families who are grieving the loss of a loved one, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, husbands, wives, lovers.

- 500,000 people?

- And the Iraqi people, human beings, hearts, feelings. They laugh. They cry. They get up and go to work, just like you do. They pray, maybe to somebody else.

Their skin may be a little darker. Their hair, a little curlier. They lost over 500,000 brothers and sisters, and sons, and daughters, and possibly, lovers.

[SIGHS]

And we won. They say they won.

- Nobody won.

[SIGHS]

- Nobody won. We were complaining about the war, and I said I won't say anything about the war because man's been fighting for-
- well, Cain and Abel started it, I guess.

- You'd like to think, though, in the 20th century, we may be a little bit more civilized than that.

- No, we're not. I told a guy at work today about a young man that was listening to *After Hours* in Baytown several months ago, and he won a record album on the show. He called us, and we made a big deal out of it, as we always do. He happened to be at his company working on his own time Sunday morning, just about now, getting the payroll checks so those redneck-folks in Baytown would have their money on Monday.

- In an empty office.

- And one of the drivers came in and just happened to hear *After Hours* on his radio. He was called into the office on Monday and was fired for promoting homosexuality in the workplace.

- He was the only one in the office.

- Now, Queer Nation, and ACT UP, and the GLPC, and everybody else went down to Baytown. And we marched around that place until that kid got his job back.

- No, that's not what happened.

[LAUGHS]

- Nobody went to his aid. We all were too busy jerking off to 976 numbers and going to the baths and the bars and the bookstores, and the Queer Nation meetings, and the ACT UP Houston meetings, and the GLPC. I don't want to run down those groups because there are good people in those groups, and they're trying very, very hard to make things work.

But the point is, one of us was hurting, and nothing was done. I'm happy to report, I saw this young man on a Friday, coming out of the TWT office. And he sued them, and won.

Not a large sum of money because if it had been me, I would have taken my salary for the year and multiplied it by about 20, and said that's what it'll take to shut me up. I want my salary for the next 20 years. Then I might have been happy. He didn't go that far, but he seemed to be happy with the large sum of money that he got. And he'll--

- I thought it was a pretty large sum.

- He'll be here. But do you understand? I would have taken my salary for a year and multiplied it by 20 because that's what I want. You've screwed me out of even wanting to work anymore, and I want you to pay me.

I want to sit at home and jerk off with 976 numbers and go to the bars and the baths and the bookstores, and be happy, and just not have to worry about who's going to pay for it. But the point is that he sued, and he won. He settled out of court, which means that he won.

- Yes. He did win.

- As long as you let them walk on you, they will walk on you.

- You hit them in the pocketbook, baby. You win.

- And I just cannot understand with a faggot on a radio show every week, working at the police department, telling you that it's OK. A queen that's HIV positive that's donating her time to this show every week, volunteers at the Switchboard, and every other thing she gets her hands into. People like Glen Maxey, openly gay, elected by the people, girl, serving in the Senate or the House, in the Texas House in Austin.

Girl is going to be sworn in by Ann Richards, the governor. Jesus Christ, will the rednecks have their day. I can hear it now. People like Mark Weaver--

- Oh, that fool.

- --and Dr. Steven Hotze are going to tell you this, how I tat, tat, tat, tat, tat, tat, tat, tat. All I can do is remind them that first of all, they need to pick their bibles up off the Constitution and read the Constitution. It says, "We the People."

- Yeah.

- Like we the people who elected Glen Maxey. We are the ones who decide what happens to our lives. We are the ones in control. If you don't like it, turn the radio off and go to bed, or just hang up and dial 976, daddy.

Or better yet, the bookstores, and the bars, and the baths are probably hopping right about now. Or just save the guys and a jerk, and go to sleep, and wake up on Monday morning hating yourself as much as you did last Monday morning. We don't really give a damn if you ever come out, if you ever accept us, if you ever find your happiness.

Because if we could flip a switch and make your life wonderful, we would. But it ain't going to happen. And all we're going to tell you is that you're important, and girl, you're going to have to do it on your own.

- Yep.

- So get a pencil and paper and write us, and say, you're right. I'm doing it. I mean, just writing a letter is the first step, a lot of times.

- Yeah, because when it's down there in black and white and you're looking at it, you'll say, yeah, I guess it's true.

- Or picking up the phone and calling the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard. Or picking up the telephone and calling Glen Maxey, your Austin representative in the Texas legislature. Or calling that morning show on that other radio station that does the queer jokes and saying, hey, I'm gay, and I thought your program was good until you started cracking the gay jokes.

Why do you think they don't tell Black jokes? Why do you think they don't have an Aunt Jemima or a little Amos and Andy character on there? Because if they did, the Black community would go down there and burn that place down.

- As they should.

- Not physically but financially, and they just ain't going to do it. And they ain't going to mess up for those Hispanics because Brother Ray is down at City Council and just might have a fit.

- Mm-hmm.

- And let's not make him mad. And we sure don't want to offend anybody at City Council. That's another story.

- Boy, is it?

- Getting ready to tell the secrets of the police department.

- No, not yet.

- There are no secrets, girl. It's a city-- it's an organized government thing, and it's screwed up. And it looks pretty on television, but, well, you'll just have to figure it out from there.

It's no secret. All you got to do to see what's going on is turn on the television. And you're the one that's going to have to do something about it, not us.

I know. And I said this before is there's a cop listening. And you're going to have to call us and come out of the closet, Mary, please.

You think they don't know at HPD? Do you know how many cops I hear about that are gay? And they think I should say something to them. What am I going to say to them?

- Yeah, really.

- Come out of the closet, Mary. You're not fooling nobody but yourself. I don't know what to say to you, other than I've been there where you're at, and it stinks. You listen where we're at, and you say to yourself, it sounds so wonderful. It is. But it only happens when you take that first step.

- It ain't us. But what we've got that you don't have is self-respect. We can look in the mirror every morning. We know who we are, and we don't have to lie to anybody.

- Especially ourselves. And our families may turn our backs on us.

- As they have.

- We may lose some friends.

- As we have.

- And we may spend a lot of lonely nights alone.

- Yes.

- But one of these days, things will work out. I know that. If I didn't believe that, I wouldn't be here every Saturday night for free. And I really don't think Jimmy would, either.

- No.

- I mean, we've talked about just folding up and staying at home--

[LAUGHS]

--many, many times.

- We have, but then we can't do it.

- No, because we're here for ourselves. And we just hope that you get the message and come see us. It's almost time for the Blues Ladies, so I'm going to leave you with this, OK?

Now, if you want to come out of the closet right now, you can call us 526-4000 or 526-KPFT. Don't have to even give us your name. Just say, yeah, you're right. And this is my first step, and tomorrow I'll take another, and then another, and then another.

- That's what it takes.

- 526-4000 or 526-KPFT.

[MUSIC - DANIEL O'DONNELL, "DESIDERATA"]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Ooh, I hear that music. It sounds familiar.

- It means we can get the hell out of here, girl.

- Whoo! And what are you doing after the show, dear?

- I'm going to go home, and go to bed.

- Oh? Oh, that's right. You have a Union meeting.

- At some time.

- How boring.

- Actually, I'm really looking forward to it.

- Oh.

- Yeah, because we bought a new computer, and I'm getting ready to roast their buns at City Hall.

- I see.

[LAUGHS]

- The queen is automated in the 21st century--

[LAUGHS]

--and we'll see you next week with the-- who's going to be here?

- With Michael from Queer Nation.

- All right. Have a great week, and remember to call the Switchboard and all that good stuff.

- 529-3211.

- I almost said that word I can't say.

- Gay and Lesbian Switchboard.

- That's the one. And have a great week, and we'll see you next Saturday night at 1:00 or Sunday morning at 1:00.

- Yeah.

- Because this way, I'll-- well--

- Yeah.

- Just hang on. You'll figure it out. Bye.

- We love you, babies.

- Bye.

[MUSIC PLAYING]