

- Yeah.
- And so children do anything they want-- children and mothers--
- We can do anything.
- --can do anything they want to with this radio program.
- Little old ladies can say what they want.
- Absolutely. Absolutely.
- Hey, thanks a lot. I won't tie your line anymore.
- Thank you very much. Good to hear from you.
- OK. Bye, bye.
- Bye, bye. Line two, where you calling from?
- I'm calling from Houston.
- I'm sorry to keep you waiting.
- That's OK. I want to tell my Dad, hi. Hi, Dad. This is Nina. And I was calling to say why haven't you wrote to me? You wrote to everybody else but me. You're hurting my feelings. Well, I want to say that I'm getting ready to go back to school. And everything's OK over here. Mom wants to talk to you. I'm going to get her.
- You're listening to radio station KPFT in Houston. And radio station KEOS in Bryan College Station. And this is Ray Hill.
- Hello, honey.
- You're on the air.
- OK. Hi, honey.

[SPEAKING SPANISH].

I love you.

[SPEAKING SPANISH].

And I love you. Bye, bye.

- Thank you, ma'am.
- Thank you.
- Anybody else?
- No. That's all.
- Adios.
- Yeah. Bye, bye.
- Line four, where you calling from?
- Houston.
- Line four, you're on the air. Hello?
- Uh-huh.
- You're on the air.
- OK. Hello.
- [INAUDIBLE].
- Hey.
- Hey.
- Who is this?
- This Ray.
- Hi, how you doing?
- Fine. Is this Brenda?
- Yeah. That was my sister-in-law, Betty Smith.
- OK.
- Answering the phone for me.
- OK. Well, you crank it up. You're on the air.

- OK. Thank you. I want to leave a message with my favorite sweetheart up in [? Pac 1 ?] unit. Hello, Warren, sweetheart. How you doing? Look, I got your letter today. And I called that bus service that you were telling me about. They do not come to you, up there. But she took your name, and she had to have your-- she wanted your name and your TDC number and everything.

She says, if they add the [? Pac 1 ?] unit to that list, she will call me, and let me know it. Then that way, I have a way up there to visit you. But right now, they don't come that far. They don't come up there because you're closer in. They only go 300-- about 400 or 500 miles out of Houston to visit, [? to take ?] [? people. ?]

- Yeah. I heard about the new bus service but I haven't got any details on it.

- Yeah. Well, that's what it is. They don't go to Navasota at all, right now. But anyway, everybody's doing fine. I talked to one of your daughters today. And she's doing a pretty good. I'm going to give you some detail on the rest of it when I write to you. And I sent you that \$25. I mailed that today. Everybody here is doing OK. Somebody want to holler at you, too.

- Hi, Warren. This is Betty [? Danson ?] Say, how you doing? I'm over here visiting your loved one, and she's just got me almost put out of my own house. You never told me how to [INAUDIBLE] and I don't [INAUDIBLE] my own home. OK. Take care of yourself. I love you. Be glad you come home soon.

- Hello.

- Hello. I'm back now. Honey, I'm fixing to go. And I love you very, very much. I will write to and send you a letter, as usual, on Monday. And you take good care of yourself. And you be sweet. And I'm glad you're not eating that vile stuff right now.

- Yeah. Watch that [INAUDIBLE].

- And how are they doing with that? Have they found out-- are they still--

- The reporter that's working on the story is still in the middle of research.

- Oh, really.

- But that's going to be a story. It'll come out on the *Houston Chronicle*. Probably, make the rest of the media, too.

- Oh, OK.

- But it's a little too big for me to handle by myself, so I turned what I knew over to other folks.

- Yeah.

- And told them there's a story here somewhere, go for it.

- And that's sad that they making them eat that stuff, and it's making them sick.

- Well, we had the women here. We had the women here.

- Oh, OK.

- Sometimes, on some of those women's unit, they don't ask you whether you want it or not, they put it on your plate. And if you don't eat it, you get a case.

- Oh, really?

- Now that's some stuff.

- Oh, my God. I didn't know that.

- Yeah. But we had some women fresh out of the joint, tonight, talking about their experiences. It was one of the better shows that I've done.

- Oh, OK.

- It's been a long time since you listen to the prison program and heard mostly women's voices and it wasn't in the call in part of the show.

- Yeah. I know. I'm telling you.

- Brenda, you take care, darling.

- OK. Warren, hon, I'll be getting back with you next Friday. You be sweet, OK. Love you. Bye, bye.

- Bye, bye, now. Line five, where you calling from?

- Houston.

- You're on the air.

- I would like to say hello to my husband, John on [INAUDIBLE].

- Yes, ma'am.

- This is Marge. Hello, Hon. How are you doing? I'm doing fine, about ready for bed. I'ma hug this big pillow for you. You hug yours, OK?

- Well, his is kind of stingy but you do the best you can with yours.

- It's all right. I'll hug it double time for both of us. [LAUGHS] Anyway, I hope you're doing fine. And you're sticking to your diet, I hope so. And take care of yourself now. And like I say, time is growing near. Another couple of months, you'll be home with me. And I'm so happy, and glad that it's coming so near for us, you know. We got a lot to celebrate. So you take care of yourself, Hon. And, thank you, Ray.

- Thank you very much. Appreciate you calling in.

- OK, then.

- Line one, where you calling from?

- I'm calling from Houston.

- Well, you're on the air.

- Well, Thank you. I'm calling my son, Mike, at the [INAUDIBLE] unit. And I just wanted to tell him, we'll see him this weekend for sure. Wild horses wouldn't keep us, he knows that. And here's his Dad.

- Hi, Michael. You take care of yourself, and we'll see you. I love you.

- His baby brothers tried to stay up but they both fell asleep.

- That can happen. Appreciate you folks staying awake.

- Yeah. I'll tell you, I sure do like your show. And I think Friday nights is a good evening for us.

- I think it'll be all right.

- I look forward to it. Well, listen, thanks a lot, Ray.

- Thank you, folks, for calling in.

- Good night, now. Good night, Michael.

- Bye, bye.

- Bye, bye.

- I've got one of the most wonderful jobs that don't pay in the world, and that is, I get to come in here every Friday night, and talk to those wonderful people who have friends, and loved ones, and relatives, and husbands, and fathers, and spouses, and lovers, and all kinds of stuff, in Texas prisons. If you listen very much to the rest of the world, prisons ought to be horrible, mean, ugly, nasty places where we try to make people's lives miserable.

If you listen to this show, for the full two hours, tonight, you heard the women's voices of women who have gotten out. I think, Jeanette is the senior one out, and she got out in January, and everybody else got out since then. And some of those women are very recently out. As they work through the adjustment from being in prison into the free world, you learn that frequently people are as afraid to get out of prison as they were to go in, after relatively short periods of time because they learn to adapt, to survive in that environment, and they're not entirely sure they can survive out here, with the rest of us.

And one thing, they know for sure that we're not going to work very hard to make it so that they can survive out here. I've been out 20 years. Dewey's been out six years. We've gotten kind of used to the free world. But if you listened very carefully to the quality of the voices of those young women trying to show their strength, and their newfound sobriety, it's a lot easier to stay sober in the joint than it is out. Although, they admitted that drugs were readily available there, and most everything else.

But there was something about the quality of their voices that told us that they were afraid. Well, that comes full cycle, doesn't it? The conservative idea of the approach to prisons, and punishment is that the citizens are afraid, and now the people who do the crimes are afraid. Do we live in a world full of fear? Is that the stage of our game, now? Well, I don't know about you, but I refuse to live in fear.

I've been a victim of crime. I've had one of my former companions murdered by a burglar, another assassinated by a police officer. There were people breaking into cars at my apartment this last weekend. I know there's a lot of crime out there. But I'll be damned if I will live in fear anymore. I'm not afraid the police, damn sure not afraid of jail, not afraid of prison. And I'm not going to be afraid of the people that are violating the law, not because I'm necessarily brave but I just-- it ain't worth living, if you have to live in fear. And a lot of the fear is really quite artificial.

We now have over a million people locked up in the United States, tonight, and that's way too many. And we know that whatever we do with people that violate the law, short of locking them up, works better at changing their behavior than locking them up. Now that's not what they're going to tell you tomorrow on C-SPAN, whenever they get in close and talk about the issues, and that's not what they're going to do at live at 5:00, and at the 6:00, and the 5:30 news.

They're going to make you think that the only way that you can feel safe in this society is to lock a bunch of more people up. Well, keep listening to the *Prison Program*, and listen to the voices of those grandchildren, and those children, and those grandmothers, and those mothers, and those wives. Go with us as we follow Juanita through the next semester of school, and go, as we go through [? Mama, ?] as she gets treated for her ailments. And let's not forget the lady in Tampa, Florida, who's crippled with arthritis.

This is Ray Hill. Thank you for letting me into your home or your car, probably, your home, tonight, wherever I found you. Dewey, and I, and the rest of the crew will be back next week with more of the *Prison Program*. Stay tuned now for that wonderful music that KPFT is becoming known for.

- With the end of the fiscal year just around the corner, preparations are underway to tally up the financial figures for the 1995 fiscal year. The need for KPFT to finish in the black is greater than ever. This year alone, KPFT has made great strides to bring you the unique programming you've come to depend on, while still maintaining a tight and sound budget. Of course--