

- The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[BACKGROUND NOISE]

- As president of the Board of Supervisors, it's my duty to make this announcement. Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor, Harvey Milk, have been shot and killed.

- Oh, Jesus Christ.

- [EXCLAIMING]

- The--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- Hold it. Hold.

[SHUSHING]

- Quiet.

- Quiet.

- Quiet, everybody.

- Quiet!

- The suspect is supervisor, Dan White.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- On November 27th, 1978, San Francisco's Mayor, George Moscone, and Supervisor, Harvey Milk, were assassinated in City Hall. Harvey Milk had served only 11 months on San Francisco's board of Supervisors, but he had already come to represent something far greater than his office. The year before he was gunned down, Harvey Milk tape recorded a will.

- (VOICEOVER) This is to be played only in the event of my death by assassination. I fully realize that a person who stands for what I stand for, an activist, gay activist, becomes the target or the potential target for somebody who is insecure, terrified, afraid, or very disturbed themselves. Knowing that I could be assassinated at any moment or any time, I feel it's important that some people know my thoughts.

I stood for more than just a candidate. I have never considered myself a candidate. I have always considered myself part of a movement, part of a candidacy. I wish I had time to explain everything I did. Almost everything was done in the eyes of the gay movement.

[PROTESTING]

- And welcome to the National March on Washington, DC for Gay and Lesbian Rights and choral reciting.

[CHEERING]

Let's hear it out there.

[CHEERING]

I'm Lea Delaria.

- I'm Bruce Hopkins.

- I'm a dyke.

- I'm a faggot.

- And we're best friends.

[CHEERING]

- I want you to savor this next moment. I have the proud task of telling you that the official count of the Lesbian an Gay Rights March, the official count is over 500,000 strong.

- It's all right. You may all come out.

- 500,000 strong. Look at you. 500,000 strong.

[CHEERING]

500,000 strong. One of our largest marches in the United States History.

[CHEERING] One of the largest marches in the United States History. 500,000 strong.

- Say it so they can hear you in the Capitol.

- (CROWD CHANTING) For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back.

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

- Look at us.

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

[CHEERING]

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

- Yeah.

- Come on out.

[LAUGHTER]

Join us. Bring your friend.

- What do you think about the turnout so far?

- Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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

[CHEERING] As difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family. You must tell your relatives. You must tell your friends if indeed they are your friends. You must tell your neighbors. You must tell the people you work with. You must tell the people in the stores you shop in.

[CHEERING]

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

[CHEERING]

Once you do, you will feel so much better.

[CHEERING]

(CROWD CHANTING)

- What do we want?

- Gay rights.

- When do we want them?

- Now.

- I asked people all over this country to do one thing, come out. Come out, America. Come out.

- And on your way, stop by and bring me-- no, never mind.

- I know. Diet Dr. Packer.

[LAUGHTER]

- Where?

- Did you see Madonna on TV this past week?

- No. What was she doing?

[LAUGHTER]

- I'll tell you later. It's too early in the night.

- Oh, it's one of those stories.

- America's still listening.

- I see.

- When it gets dark, I'll tell you later on. Anyway, I got a lot to tell you later on, and we're going to do that too. What else are we doing?

- Oh, boy. Do we have a lot to tell you, and you're going to hear it tonight.

- Yeah because David Duke has announced that he's going to be running for president on the Republican ticket.

- That's what you said the night he lost in Louisiana.

- I told you he would.

- Yeah.

- He's got David Duke-- he being George Bush, has got David Duke on one hand and Pat Buchanan on the other hand.

- Well.

- It'll be great.

[LAUGHTER]

And in the middle we'll be screaming, Oh, George.

[LAUGHTER]

Anyway, this is After Hours radio. We're celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. 90.1 FM, KPFT Houston, we're here.

- And we're queer.

- Yeah, yeah. And--

[LAUGHTER]

It's the holidays. I'm sorry baby, the holidays are so blue. I just hate the damn holidays.

- You always do every year.

- It reminds me about how lonely I am, and I just hate it.

- We need to do a show about that.

- About how lonely I am? We've done it for the last five years.

- No, no, no. About how it affects everybody.

- Oh, we're going to do that in a couple of weeks, aren't we?

- I'm looking into it.

- The Montrose Counseling Center, we're going to ask them to come down. But anyway, this morning we're going to be talking to Brian Bradley, who is a-- what is he?

- A queen.

[LAUGHTER]

- A queer. He's an activist, and he's been around everywhere. In fact, we'll let him tell you all about that.

- Oh, yeah.

- We're also going to be playing a lot of music from Freddie Mercury this morning because she died last Sunday. And I was really hacked at work because one of the cops sent a message to me and it said, why should I be surprised that Freddie Mercury died? Like he expects every gay person to die that is HIV positive or--

- Yeah, what's the deal?

- The deal is, he's an ignorant heterosexual--

- Jane, you ignorant slut.

- Jane, you ignorant-- anyway, I'm just in a weird mood. I've got some Christmas music for you, my favorite.

- Oh, do you?

- No, it's not Dr. Halls.

- Oh.

- But we're going to do some Freddie Mercury stuff. In fact, we'll start with some of that now. How's that?

- All right.

- And we're also going to be playing Harry speech from the Celebration of Life Rally that we played last week.

- Oh.

- Because I got a letter from one of the faithful who said, I was taking the show and I ran out of tape. Would you please play it

- Well, girl, I know how that is.

- We're going to play it real fast, so you'll have to play it back real slow.

[LAUGHTER]

- It'll be like the chipmunks, but you know how it is.

- No, he's kidding.

- OK, hang on, I'm just-- I'm kidding. I would never say anything on the radio that might upset anybody.

- Right.

- Here's queen and radio Gaga. Sounds like a press release from the White House.

- I see.

[LAUGHTER]

The White House. Can you imagine, David Duke running for president?

- Man, I want to send him some money because I want to get a David Duke button. You know collect buttons?

- Yeah.

- David Duke for president.

[LAUGHTER]

- Well, they won't have to change the color of the White House if he gets in, will they?

- Ooh. Oh, I don't know. It'll be different. It'll be different. And this time next week we'll have a new mayor to bash.

- Yeah, that's right.

- Maybe or maybe not.

[LAUGHTER]

I don't know. Whoever wins, we'll have something to say, I'm sure, because the runoff election is next Saturday. And I know none of you hateful queens are going to vote. So we're not even going to talk about elections, OK. OK, hang on.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- We're not going back. For love and for life--

- A practicing homosexual is far more dangerous to society than a person who commits a murder per se. Therefore, if the employer doesn't want to have homosexual employees, I think he ought to have that right.

- If you want to say I'm bigoted against a bunch of queers loving each other, I would think this is [INAUDIBLE] is anything you can do.

- You can't be a fagola and be family oriented. That's a contradiction in terms.

- You guys are just never matured.

- Sexually retarded.

- Totally repulsive.

- Screw the gay community.

- Who cares?

- That's right.

- Let them croak.

- -- so they can hear you in the Capital.

(CROWD CHANTING) For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back.

- 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]

(CROWD CHANTING)

- What do we want?

- Gay rights.

- When do we want them?

- Now. What do we want?

- Gay rights.

- When do we want them?

- Now.

- What do we want? Gay rights. When do we want them?

- Now.

- What do we want? Gay rights.

- When do we want them?

- Now.

- When do we want them?

- Now.

- What do we want?

- Gay rights.

- When do we want them?

- Now.
- What do we want?
- Gay rights.
- When do we want them?
- Now.
- What do we want?
- Gay rights.
- When do we want them?
- Now.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFF?
- Come on out. Join us. Bring your friends.
- What do you think about the turnout so far?
- Well, it's never enough. Never enough. 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. And I ask people all over this country to do one thing, come out. Come out, America. Come out.

[CHEERING]

- When do we want them?
- Now What do we want?
- Gay When do we want them?
- Now.
- What do we want?
- Gay rights.
- When do we want them?
- Now.
- What do we want?
- Gay rights. When do we want them? Now. What do we want?

- Gay rights.
- When do we want them?
- Now. What do we want? Gay rights.
- When do we want them?
- Now

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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

[CHEERING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(CROWD CHANTING)

- What do we want?
- Gay rights.
- When do we want them?
- Now.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- After Hours Radio celebrating life in the heart of Montrose. 90.1 FM. KPFT, we're here.
- And we're queer.
- Figure it out, kids. Hang on, we've got a good show, and it's all happening right here live. And then color?
- Color.

[LAUGHTER]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- I wish you wouldn't make your head spin around like that. It scares me.
- I see.
- Why are you playing this?
- Because every kid in the country bought it this week.
- I didn't.

- Well, you're not a kid, Mary. We'll tell them how old you are in a minute.

- It's no secret.

[LAUGHTER]

It's just that--

- Of course, it's a good song.

- No, it isn't it. It's so commercial.

- Oh, please. And we're not commercial?

- No. We're far from it.

- Oh, please, Mary.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

And what do you mean it's so commercial?

- Oh, gosh. Mary, everything that is done is commercial. It's just that they don't look at gay and lesbian people to make money because we're just faggots and queers.

- Yeah.

- You tell me Romanovsky and Phillips are making albums just for the hell of it?

- No.

- Exactly.

- But how commercial are they?

- Gay people don't buy their records, Mary.

- You hear them on 104?

- Just me and you. You know why you don't hear them on 104?

- Why?

- Because gay people don't go down there and demand to hear them on 104.

- You think that's it?

- I know that's it. Yes, sir. If every gay person that spent their money out at Sharpstown Mall yesterday and the day before, would call 104 and tell them, they would play it. I promise you. This world revolves around money. Are you crazy? I mean, look at you and Stan Lee. What are you talking about? It's commercial.

- What's commercial?

- The whole world, Mary.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- What? Do you think we're just in this for our health? You must be crazy.

- We're in this for our health.

- No. I mean, even this is-- if we don't have money, this isn't going to go on. Why don't you think we have marathons?

- You and I.

- No. KPFT.

- I understand that.

- OK, what do you not Understand?

- But this is not a commercial station.

- So that means we can't play anything like Mariah Carey?

- No. That's not what I'm saying.

- Or Michael Jackson?

- I'm just--

- Oh, wait a minute. And what else? What else do you have here?

- Yeah.

- OK, we can't play any of this. Curtis Stigers?

- We introduced Curtis Stigers.

- No. I heard him on 104.

- You didn't hear what we played.

- Bette Midler, Etta James.

- You didn't hear what we played.

- Wait a minute. What do you mean it's commercial? I don't understand what you're trying to say.

- Top 40 stuff.

- We play top 40 stuff all the time.

- Every other station is playing.

- They don't play it in say, we're here and we're queer, baby.

- No, I understand that.
- So what's your beef? What's the deal?
- I'm surprised you would play that.
- I like that song. I even like the video even though they chopped it all to hell.
- Oh, yeah.
- Yeah.
- OK.
- The video was like a tribute to some of the greatest films ever made.
- OK, dancing in the street. It was like Gene Kelly dancing in the street. The set where they do the rap little thing is from the set of Sesame Street.
- Mm-hmm.
- Him throwing that trashcan through the picture window, that was in Spike Lee's film *Do The Right Thing*. See, that's what's wrong with the world. Nobody stops to think about why, they just look at it and go, I don't like it.
- I don't like it.
- I don't like you because you're queer. They don't bother to look and figure out that we're good people, that we work just as hard as they do, and deserve just as much as they do.
- I understand what you're saying, but I don't like Michael Jackson.
- Well, does that mean we can't play it?
- No, it doesn't mean that. But I'm surprised, you've never played Michael Jackson before.
- Oh, please.
- What have you ever played?
- The thing-- what's the man in the-- the change thing. We used to play that all the time.
- Oh, "The Man in the Mirror."
- Whatever it was. We used to play that all the time.
- Yeah, that's right.
- Every Halloween we play the thriller album.
- Really?
- You need to listen to those tapes, Mary.

- I guess I do.

[LAUGHTER]

- Where have you been? Right.

- I don't remember you ever playing-- that "Man in the Mirror," yeah, but I don't remember anything else.

- We play a lot of-- maybe you're not listening while you're here. What are you doing while you're here?

- Sometimes I wonder.

[LAUGHTER]

- OK, hang on. This is Romanovsky and Phillips, and I guarantee you-- oh, we wanted to play that. We'll play that later.

- Oh, OK.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- I don't want to do that anyway. OK, what are we doing?

- Well, we have a guest coming in.

- OK.

- He's here.

- And I think he's pretty queer too.

- [INAUDIBLE]

- Hang on.

- [? I ?] [? always ?] get my head down on that [INAUDIBLE].

- It doesn't want to work. Now what do you want to do?

- Huh.

- Huh?

[LAUGHTER]

- We could introduce our guest.

- OK. Go ahead.

- Come on. Slide over here. Do you have a mom?

- Mm-hmm.

- Number eight. And tonight we have Brian Bradley.

- Good evening.
- Hi. How are you doing?
- Very well. Thank you.
- Been looking forward for you being on the show for a long time.
- It's nice to hear a man say that.
- Mm-hmm. Thank you. So what's been going on with you?
- Well, condom distribution with HISD. Trying to get together a foot patrol on the Montrose area. Making enemies in the gay community by personally endorsing a mayoral candidate. And bitching, once again, about Dr. John Arredondo. Other than that, not much.
- Let's start with Arredondo. What's he been up to?
- He's an idiot, that's what he is.
- Oh.
- He was on 97.7, I believe, this week and was talking about AIDS, and callers were calling in. And he said, yes, you can get AIDS from kissing, and yes, you could get it from taking a bite out of someone's sandwich.
- Wait a minute. This is the health director of the city of Houston?
- Right. Cathy's personal physician, I hope. If so, she's on her deathbed, not just politically. The point is, tens of thousands of hours and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent by people to dispel this myth, and here he comes along in one fell swoop and does away with all that work. And I wish he would have the backbone to fire him before she would leave, but that doesn't look like what's going to happen.

But the reason that I personally feel that I'm going to need to vote for Lanier, he has assured me that Arredondo will go if he becomes mayor. Now I know that's just a promise as much as any other political promise.

- Yeah. Hasn't Turner said the same thing?
- Well, Lanier said at first and more convincing to me. And I'm going to stick with that decision. And with great reservations, I make that endorsement of him. But if we can get rid of him, we have removed a big stumbling block in facing the reality of AIDS in Houston. And there are many more to go, but that's one of the big blocks of ignorance that needs to be removed. The man is very ineffective in his job.
- You've been on TV and you're-- I mean, you're just real vocal and very visual here lately. How has that been? How did that get started?
- Well, I found myself with an abundant amount of energy after my lover died. And I made a decision that I could either continue at the pace that I was going in addressing gay and lesbian related issues or AIDS issues, or I could face reality and know that being HIV positive-- and there's not a vaccine anywhere in sight, there's not a cure in sight, no matter how much people may want to believe that or not, that perhaps I need to pick up my own personal message and pick up my insistence that people need to wake up and deal with reality. The clock is ticking a bit maybe.

- Mm-hmm.

- And I just need to get said what I need to say before it's too late, and that's--

- You seem to have a lot to say to a lot of people about a lot of things.

- Yeah.

[CHUCKLING]

- Is this something sudden here?

- Oh, no, no, no, no, no.

- Have you always been this--

- I've been talking all my life. Problem is, no one's been listening.

- I see.

- People do listen sometimes. It's been an overwhelmingly positive experience since I lost my job at MD Anderson in the operating room, being an HIV positive scrub nurse. I've been on national TV several times, lots of radio programs, and newspaper articles. And I've had literally hundreds of people stop me on the street and tell me how much a difference that has made in their life. And that is very humbling and very empowering.

And that's what I would like to say to everybody that's sitting out there, particularly the gay people, we already know what it means to be discriminated against. We should know how to fight back. How much longer are we going to live being someone else's victim just because of our sexual orientation? Then comes along the modern version of the plague, and we've bought right into the guilt of that. Well, I don't own my HIV positivity. It doesn't own me. It's out there and I'm battling it, but it's not going to get the best of me.

But to stand up and say, I'm HIV positive, this is not my fault, I'm going to fight it, and by God damn, I'm going to make you fight it with me, is a pretty rewarding experience.

- Yeah, Brad. How is the MD Anderson thing doing?

- Well, I'm happy to say beginning next week, we are going to get down with the lawsuit. I'm going to challenge the CDC guidelines in federal court to the best of my knowledge. That will be the first lawsuit that does that.

- Now what are those guidelines exactly?

- Well, the CDC says that all health care workers that work in an exposure-prone area, an area that has not been defined yet, need to have themselves tested voluntarily. If they find themselves to be positive, they need to either tell their patients and let their patients be a part of the decision making process of whether or not that health care worker will continue to be a member of their health care team, or they need to appear in front of a local board of experts for that board to determine their fitness for work.

M.D. Anderson didn't allow me to do that. So they violated my 14th Amendment rights by depriving me of due process. And they also told me, well, if you weren't so vocal and so public with this, quite frankly, given the status of your health, you would be right back at work. So as long as you keep your mouth shut, and be a good little queer, and be a good little HIV positive scrub nurse, you could have continued, but now we're going to punish you. Well, I'm sorry, the tables turned and they'll have their cells in federal court. And I intend to live to see the end of it.

- You are still working for MD Anderson?

- I am still employed there, but I'm now in the purchasing department and not utilizing my talents as the CDC suggests that the hospital do. But as they told me, if I didn't like that, I could add that to my list of grievances while I have, and it's duly noted.

[COUGHING]

- I first heard your name in connection with ACT UP long ago. And you seem to have graduated from ACT UP and been very vocal in coordination.

- Locally, yes. ACT UP-- there will never be another group that I think that I feel as good about as I do the group ACT UP. And I'm speaking in a national sense. I've demonstrated with them nationally and never felt more camaraderie, more solidarity, or sympathy, from any other group.

- Oh, really?

- They're the most wonderful, argumentative, contentious group of sobs.

[LAUGHTER]

It's like being at home.

- Got you. Got you.

- But here locally, unfortunately, through personality conflicts and such, we don't have an active active chapter. And luckily for my sake, I've been able to find a niche within Queer Nation that has allowed me to address, not just gay or lesbian issues, but the AIDS issues also.

- What have you done with Queer Nation?

- Oh, gosh, we've done a lot.

- Yes, you have.

- I think we're partly responsible with a lot of other people's helps of passing a Hate Crimes Legislation House Bill 52 and getting police and public awareness to our individual concerns with hate crimes. We've certainly raised many tens of thousands of people's consciousness in Houston through simple little acts, such as going to the Galleria and having part of a shop affinity group within Queer Nation shop, which is the suburban homosexual outreach program. We go to places that queers are not normally very visible in, and we just get real queer. We go register at the bridal bouquets.

- Oh, you're kidding.

- Yes. I have my pattern available at Tiffany's if anyone wants to go by and get me a piece or two. It's the Leopard spotted one.

- Got you.

- So those are some of the very fun things. But I am currently very concerned with the HISD school board here. They have come up-- voted last Thursday, to contract with UT School of Public Health to come up with a program about AIDS education in the public schools. They're going to take two years to do this, at which point it will only be offered to the schools who requested. Well, that isn't going to happen.

I took my time and resources and contacted people in New York, and they were very glad to send me their policies and their history of problems that they had with getting condoms distributed in their schools. And I took it, along with some other Queer Nation members-- actually, an affinity group called, People with Immune Systems Disorders, and we presented that to the board last Thursday.

And it put a kink into their plans. And we're meeting with them next week to see what we can do to move this process up. Because in Houston, 42% of the people that have died of AIDS have died between the ages of 13 and 29, which greatly suggests that they contracted the HIV virus when they were teenagers.

- Can you slow down on those statistics there.

- 42% of the people that have died in Houston have died between the ages of 13 and 29. Well, with the incubation period and the latency of it being as long as it is, a good deal of those people contracted HIV when they were teenagers through lack of information or the lack of tools. We need to face reality that majority of people have sex before the age of 17 on a regular basis. And if they are going to have sex in the age of AIDS, then they need to have information, and they need to have tools. Just telling them not to have sex is not going to do it.

- Did you have sex before the age of 17?

[CHUCKLING]

- I was an expert at it by 17. Yes, definitely did.

- Why do we think that kids nowadays are going to be any different?

- I don't know why people think that. There was no great pressure for me to lose my virginity, if you will. I grew up in a very different home. There was not any pressure to not be gay. We didn't have religion in my house. So nothing was really taboo, so there wasn't an extra attractiveness to it. But still, I was very curious at age 14 and was--

- Sure.

- And I experimented, and I found what I wanted, and I've been very happy with it.

- I'm not just limiting this to gay and lesbian sex because--

- No. And that's where the big problem is. Fortunately, the leaders of our gay community in the past took it upon themselves to educate our young gay people as much as they could and help make a plateau in the number of people that have contracted the disease. However, the numbers are growing exponentially every year with heterosexual people. And fortunately, through that unfortunate thing, we're beginning to see a little bit more attention paid to the subject.

But it's far too little far too late. When you talk about implementing a plan two years from now and making it totally voluntary right in the middle of the Bible belt, that is not a response to a crisis situation. It's not even good management. I brought up to the school board that I personally would hold them partly responsible for anyone's death from this day forward, and that shook them up because I reminded them some of the children's lives that they save could be their own children's lives.

- You bet. You bet. You were telling me a little bit before the show started about the New York thing, that the Houston panel was saying that they wanted a two-year--

- Well, they contracted with the UT School of Public Health. They gave them two years to come up with a plan on how to address the AIDS situation.

- In 1991.

- Yes. And at that point, it's going to be available to be put into use on a voluntary basis. So some principal out there in HISD has to be courageous enough to stand up to the religious bigots and the narrow minded politicians of this city and state and say, I want to go through all of this crap in order to save these kids' lives. No one has taken a position of leadership on HISD.

They've made some very stupid comments like, this is not New York, and this is not San Francisco. Well, I beg to differ with them. The kids that will die here will die very much like the kids that do in New York, or San Francisco, or anywhere else.

- Probably exactly the same. It's just mind boggling to me. I live in the Montrose. I shop and work in the Montrose. And maybe I don't get out of the Montrose enough. But to me, AIDS education is all around me, and I guess that's not the way it is no outside of the Montrose area.

- That's correct. We've talked to some of the students that go to school within HISD, and they say they get maybe 30 minutes during their four years of high school-- it's taught by a Home Economics teacher or a Gym Teacher. And oftentimes, they make their little jokes about, well, you really don't need to worry about this unless you're a faggot or a queer.

I've been handing out condoms to prostitutes, along with other people or drug addicts, at 3:00 in the morning and have all kinds of stupid comments made to me, even by Houston Police officers saying, you should be shot. You're out here spreading AIDS. They are that ignorant. Those condoms don't come with the virus. You use the condom to keep from getting the virus.

- Exactly.

- Or decreasing your chances of acquiring it at least. It's still a laughing, joking matter, it's their problem. But the fact of the matter remains, of the documented cases of AIDS in the world, because this is a global crisis, 75% are heterosexually transmitted. The bulk of the cases come from sub-Saharan Africa, where their government spend \$3.50 a year per capita on their health care. They can't even pay someone to keep the numbers as the bodies fall. So this is very, very much a heterosexual problem.

And I wish they would straighten themselves up because God, this may begin to affect the gay community and kill us. That's the attitude that they've taken toward us. And I don't want to take it toward them, but it's a bit disheartening that two weeks ago, America got AIDS when Magic Johnson [INAUDIBLE] HIV positive.

- I was just going to ask how you felt about that.

- Well, I think it's nice and wonderful what he said at the beginning. It was the correct response to it. And now people have gotten their claws into him, and he's beginning to change his tune and saying abstinence is the only answer. Well, abstinence has nothing to do with reality for most people who are living and breathing. I'm afraid that he's going to be manipulated and become someone's tool. And that would be unfortunate.

If he comes out and he's the best spokesperson for AIDS, I still don't intend for him to take this away from the people who responded to AIDS first and foremost, and that was the gays and lesbians and people sympathetic to them. There was a time when we formed every soup kitchen, every foundation, every support group and buddy program. We're the ones who fought the NIH, and the FDA, and the White House. The history will reflect that.

- The fight is far from over.

- Far from over. It's not even begun, I don't believe.

- Yes.

- Do you have some questions for Brian?

- No. I did earlier, but I forgot what they were.

- Oh.

- You threw me, Mary. So I'm just waiting in the wings.

- OK. Yeah, I think we threw each other.

- No.

[LAUGHTER]

- A group of us were talking before we came over here. And I know this often gets me in trouble, but--

- Oh, say it then.

- Well, one of the things I'd like to say is, I'm involved with a group of people right now that are out trying to find out what this community needs in respect to a foot Patrol in order to enhance our protection within Montrose. And it is so disheartening that no one really wants to join it. No one wants to step forward. No one wants to be gay anywhere. But in that bar, on the bar stool, that's fine and wonderful. But the fact of the matter is, you down set on 2020 last night.

If all gay people lost their jobs tomorrow, we would have economic chaos. That is a very viable power that we have, and we never choose to exercise it. One of our biggest enemies in gay rights in the gay rights movement or with the battle against AIDS is, our very own people are complacent and apathetic. And they're all too unwilling to help until it becomes a very personal problem in their own living room, then oftentimes it's too late.

- Do you think a lot of it is, the people who come from outside of the Montrose area on the Saturday Night to the bars for entertainment, and then leave, and it's like, I'm only queer on Saturday night, and that's really not my concern. It's not even an area I'm interested in.

- Yeah. But it is their concern. What it is, it's cowardice. They're cowards. I grew up in North Mississippi as queer as the \$3 bill and I didn't get killed. Some of them did. But they can't kill us all, unless they get a little bit more organized than they already are. Maybe if Pat Buchanan becomes president. But how much worse can you get than Bush and Reagan? But every gay man and woman needs to--

- I don't want to know.

[CHUCKLING]

- I'm moving to Australia. But every gay man and woman needs to take responsibility for their lives and come out and be active in whatever role they're comfortable with. I understand the problems that people have with coming out on their job or with their family. It's like Bette Midler said in 1970, how much longer are you people going to stand around and get picked on?

- Yes. And that's not an exact quote, but I think that's the gist of it.

- Well, the Assistant Commissioner of police in Los Angeles said a couple of months ago, it's easier to thump a faggot on the head than it is anyone else because they don't resist. Well, some of us do.

- More of us are doing it more and more. So you're not just an AIDS activist?

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- No. I hope to identify myself as a gay activist too. And I like to get away from using both of those term and just say a humanist. We're on here-- we all basically want the same thing, shelter, and love, and care. But we can't have any of that. We can't have the party. We can't go to the nightclubs when our world is being torn apart by politicians or disease. We've got to address that also.

- Yeah.

- And I guess it's where your priorities are.

- It seems to me for the-- I know I'm not the only one, but for the last several years, the most partying I do is going to fundraisers for this, or that, or the other.

- It's not to say that you can't go to the bar or you can't have a good time, but you come out of the closet at your job at least. Or come out to your parents. Or write a check. Goddamn, we could spend the money. Real easy.

- Mm-hmm. it seems to me we've had this conversation before.

- I have it in my sleep, you know. But people often ask me, what can I do? I can't go to jail. Like Brian, I've been to jail nine times with activism in the last two years. I can't do that, or I can't risk losing my job, or I can't file a federal lawsuit. And I always say, the most effective AIDS activist or effective gay rights activist is someone who just goes through life, but never allows an opportunity to go by to correct a wrong.

You don't even have to bring the subject up. But when someone tells that joke, or makes that despairing remark, or disseminates a piece of false information, you correct it. And that's it, and you've done as most as you can. I have a man at work who came to me last week-- and this sounds real corny, with tears in his eyes. He's got three grown kids in college. I gave him some condoms. I gave him some information.

And he said, I talk to my kids about this, and that led to me talking to him about other things. And we have never been more close than we were after that conversation. And I really think I might have helped save their lives. That's what he said. And I really want to thank you for it. And that just stemmed out of a little conversation.

- All of this is communication.

- Yeah. And this is someone-- I'm not a Christian, and I let him know that right at first when he started talking about church, and God, and all those things, but he still was able to look through that and see the message that I had for him. That was, should your kids die just for the want of a little bit of information, or you being uncomfortable about the subject-- that's being an activist. We all can do that.

- It really has come down to-- preaching abstinence is all well and good, but are you going to trust that teaching against the possibility of your kids dying?

- It's not realistic. Why do we have drugs and the problem that we have with drugs? Apparently, people are not being satisfied in some aspect of their life, they have to turn to something else. If you can't provide that to your child, you've--

- We've talked about that when you were 15, 16, 17, and you live in the ghetto, and your choice is working for the chicken place for \$3 an hour, or selling crack for whatever it is they sell it for. I mean, give me a break here.

- Yeah. America's got some bad problems that we need to address. And I'm afraid that we're not addressing them. And it's only going to get worse. And I'm not real hopeful on a lot of accounts, but I've got a shred of hope left. And as long as I have that and other people to join me, I'm going to fight the fight.

- What's Oprah really like?

- Marvelous.

[LAUGHTER]

- No. She's a good woman. She took her shoes off during the commercial. So I knew she was-- she's a Mississippi girl too just like me.

- Oh, is she?

- Yeah. She was born in Patton, South Mississippi, and I'm from North Mississippi.

- I saw that show. It was a bunch-- everybody was screaming at each other.

- Well, and I was screaming too.

- Yeah.

- But I made a good friend, Kim [? Burg, ?] Alice's mother. We talk on the phone every other day now, don't you know?

- No.

- Oh, God.

- No.

- Oh.

- No, I don't think so.

- One of the most moronic people that I have ever met. Absolutely amazing what she has done to her daughter. I feel a lot of empathy with her daughter. But she allowed people to get to her daughter and make her a very bitter person with AIDS. But she's bitter at the wrong people. She's better at gay rights activists and AIDS activists. They're the ones that are responsible for her daughter having available the few pitiful drugs that she does.

It's just real unfortunate the attention that we've given to that situation. And people just don't want to hear it. But the fact of the matter is, there are HIV positive nurses and doctors, and radio personality people, and mothers and fathers. And we're going to be there in ever increasing numbers, maybe dropping like flies. You might be getting [? happier ?] wish. But we're not going to go away until we do something about this disease.

- How do you feel about being openly gay, being openly HIV positive? Should everyone do that?

- Oh, definitely. Definitely. I have even taken some of my Queer Nation t-shirts and a big black magic marker and written HIV positive on them. I've done that mostly for the gay community, not the straight community. Because I know the numbers of the people that are HIV positive. They're far greater than the paperwork shows. And I do it to be up in your face with it, to say, why not you?

- I've talked to a lot of people who don't want to be open about their HIV status. And it's always, the discrimination that comes along with it, and, I'm afraid I'm going to lose my insurance.

- That's a reality. But being afraid of something does nothing to change it. It only gives some type of tacit permission for it to continue. It's not addressing it. It's ignoring it. It's helping it in a way. Being HIV positive in some respects has been a very positive thing in my life, if you will. Allow the play on words. It's made me realize a lot of things that maybe I would not have ever realized, that life is far more precious and can be far more meaningful than just going out to the disco every night.

- Absolutely. That's what I've been saying.

- Yeah. Well, you take it with you no matter where you go. And you may as well get as much mileage out of it as you possibly can, as much good for yourself or for anyone else. I have found being angry, and mad, and directing that towards something in a positive manner and the stress coming out of me, has been far, far greater than-- my lover was in the military for 20 years. He took commands and orders left and right and never questioned anything.

- Wasn't that pretty much in the closet?

- Surprisingly so, considering he's in military intelligence on top of that, but he had them firmly convinced that he was straight well before I ever came along in our relationship, and they never bothered him about it while it was other people were being bothered. Actually, he was part of the intelligence branch that would get rid of gay and lesbian members of the army.

And I can recall him making many, many phone calls and alerting people about when raids were going to happen on their homes to make sure they had someone of the opposite sex in the bed, and the pornography is gone. He really had a lot of problems with doing that. He felt as if he was betraying his country. But these people were not a danger to their country.

And I was very proud of him for doing that. But he never once got mad in his illness, except for one time when they questioned him about a daily medication costing over \$300 a day when he had put in 20 years and served in Vietnam.

He said, they agreed to pay for it, so I'm going to take it. And I feel like he probably would have lived a little bit longer if the army had not demoralized him as much as they did by him having a job in the White House when he got sick, and then being told the next day, your shit is in a paper bag downstairs, pick it up on your way out of the hospital and don't come back anymore. And he just couldn't fight against that. Well, I could.

And I'm not blaming him. I love him better than life, and he's taught me a lot of things. But he was never able to find the proper way for him to make that anger go out of him. He just kept it inside of him. And it eats at you. And it depresses your immune system, where staying mad, and angry, and up in someone's face, is very beneficial. I smoke like a train. I don't drink because I don't want to. I don't eat the right foods and never sleep. And my T-cells are just as high as any average person's on the street, and I've been positive for at least eight years. So they ain't killed me yet.

[LAUGHTER]

- Well, I guess we all handle stress in a different way.

- I guess so. I make stress for people, that's real healthy, real healthy. Yes. I've made MD Anderson quite a bit of stress here lately, and it's beginning to be fun.

- Have you always been at Anderson the kind of quiet and reserved?

- Oh, none whatsoever. I mean, I've been there--

- Oh, you've always been this way.

- I'm in my fifth year. There's never a day goes by that someone didn't ask me about, how do you go to the doctor and ask him about this AIDS thing, or about funerals, or about coping with it? Everyone there knew it from day one, and now they're acting as if they never knew it. Well, there's a good 200 or so people that can be subpoenaed in the court and either perjure themselves or tell the truth.

- Why do I think that you'll do it?

- Because we got the money finally.

[LAUGHTER]

Thank you. Yes.

- I have seen you out on the streets. I have seen you in all kinds of different modes of dress. I have see--

- Now wait a minute.

- I have seen you screaming on TV. Where does it end?

- When I get my way.

[LAUGHTER]

When I'm queen of the world, yes, and everybody's been good to me. I'll remember that. No. It ends when gay and lesbian people and people with AIDS and other diseases are treated no differently than anyone else. But until then, look out. We're going to come at you at all different directions. And I really, really wish that everyone else that is affected by this would realize that it is part of their responsibility as gay human beings and people that have AIDS to step on out and take their position.

- I think you will. Thank you, Brian.

- Thank you very much.

- What?

- Are you going to play a song?

- No. Are you done?

- I guess.

- Good. We can bitch at each other in a minute.

- OK.

- Live in color. I'm just in a bad mood, Mary.

- OK.

- I've had a bad holiday. And I work real hard to put this together. And then when you get slapped right in the beginning, it's no fun, you know what I mean.

- Got you.

- I had some idiot call us just ten seconds before we go on and tell us how awful we are. And I have to hear all that garbage at work. You see what I mean?

- Uh-huh.

- Jelly bean.

- Yeah.

- And we're never going to work together. Never ever. Gay community, you know what I mean, Brian. We've been screaming for almost five years. Nobody listens. They don't care. They're too busy in the bars getting screwed, and in the bars, and the bookstores. They don't speak to each other. They don't like each other. They're all going to be dying with the most beautiful bodies, but all alone.

- And a vacant mind.

- It's so sad.

[LAUGHTER]

- And we're supposed to speak with this common voice, this one resounding--

- Oh, we've never had that, ever.
- It's not going to happen.
- I mean, we're a very diverse group of people. Why can't we have more than one opinion? Why can't we have more than one person a week.
- Well, we can have more than one opinion. But we're never going to work together. We're never going to care about each other. That's what's wrong. That's really what's wrong.
- Well, maybe it's like the person in Nazi, Germany, who turned his back when they took the queers away, and he turned his back, and he took the Jews away and turned his back, and he took the political dissenters away. And then when they came for him, there was nowhere for him to turn.
- Right. I mean, I was in the chief's office on Wednesday the 27th of November. What's that?
- Thanksgiving. Oh, day before Thanksgiving, just a day or two--
- Wednesday?
- It's the anniversary of the killing of Harvey Milk and George Moscone.
- Yes. Yes.
- Here I am sitting in the chief's office as an openly gay person talking about Montrose and KPFT, and knowing that no one really gives a damn because they're too busy going to the bars and the baths and the bookstores to care.
- There is a core group of people that do give a damn, but they--
- Yeah, I know.
- They get awfully tired. And the numbers are stacked against us.
- Exactly.
- And you all.
- Yeah. We see the same faces in all these different groups.
- I mean, I live right by the bars, and I don't go to the bars anymore, not because I'm counting them as negative, I just don't want to, simply. But people see us all the time and say, oh, gee, thanks for being out here. Thanks for doing this. Thanks for doing that. Well, keep your goddamn thanks. Come join us and do your part of the job.
- Don't you get a little tired of them riding on your coattails?
- Yeah, yeah. I mean, we even had someone holler at us one night, you Queer Nation people, I came to your protest, get me a goddamn cab. I'm going like, I'm not your mother or your father, get your own damn cab, Mary.

[LAUGHTER]

- I think it comes to-- you get to a point where you just don't really give a damn whether they ever come out, or whether they ever feel good about themselves, or if they ever take care of themselves. You just don't care anymore because all you care about is yourself and the movement itself, the gay movement.

- Yeah, well--

- Not AIDS or anything else, but-- it's like in the beginning, Harvey said everything he did was for the gay movement, and people don't understand that.