

- People don't understand that. They don't want to understand that.

- No, they don't want to hear it.

- And then 90% of these people don't even know who Harvey Milk was.

- No.

- So I don't even know why we waste our time to try to tell them because they don't listen.

- Well, they are victims of themselves, first and foremost. And they've set themselves up to be everyone else's victim. And if that's what they want and they can live with, that's fine. But what I'd like for them people to stop doing is being my constant critic.

I don't need it. But I mean, it's like, always on the cover of *Twit*, we have a nude person. There is more to being gay than what we find below our waist. We have a lot on our shoulders, in our heads if we would just use it. We don't demand the recognition and the respect that we should have.

- You know, when I go to work at HPD on Fridays, I used to take *The Twit* and *The Voice* to work with me just because the Blacks read *The Jet* and *Ebony*. But I'm embarrassed to take it because there's nothing in it but ads for sex lines and bars.

And there's nothing positive that says, you know, you're good people. And then I sit down at-- I dispatch for HPD and set it on Central. The week after the Halloween weekend, they arrested almost 200 people at 3600 Allen Parkway for playing naked down on the bayou.

- You mean those part time queers--

- Mm-hmm.

- --the ones that are married and have four or five kids?

- And the other day, the day after Halloween-- the day after Thanksgiving, I think they made, like, two dozen arrests. And a vice cop came on the radio and said, "I need a case number for indecent exposure," or whatever the silly-ass charge is they charge them with.

And I started to laugh. And he said, "What's so funny?" And I said, "Don't those people take a day off?" I mean, they're making me look bad because that's all they think we are.

- Those people are not gay. Those people are sick. If they don't have one shred of decency enough to go out in public and compete for the attentions of someone that has self respect, well, then maybe they deserve to get cited being caught in the bushes.

- I think there's a large percentage of the gay and lesbian population that really think that it is only sex, it is not a lifestyle, it's not a way of living, that it is only sex.

- It's the essence of my being. And they cheapen it by--

- Oh, yes.

- --lessening it.

- Have you ever watched channel 20 or 26 late at night with all of those phone sex ads?

- Mm-hmm.

- I would-- if I were straight, I'd feel cheap.

- Yeah, well, we emulate the worst--

- But that's so commercial.

- --in straight society, but negate the best in ours. And I don't know why they're buy-- you know, queers think that they have to be liked by everyone. I mean, they beg the churches to like them. They beg our government to like them. They beg their families to like them. Well, these people who dislike us because of our sexual orientation are never going to count us as people.

- And they're never going to like us.

- So who gives a big--

- Who cares?

- --you-know-what if they like us?

- Who cares?

- I don't give a shit.

- Who cares? You can't care anymore about what other people think. That's what is so crazy. I sit down there. And I know these cops come in and they look at me because, you know, there's the company queer. But they won't come out of the closet.

Why should they? Come out in the gay community? And do what? They already go to the bars and the baths and the bookstores. So what else? They're not going to get any support. This kid listened to the show back a couple of years ago and won a record album. And the next day he was fired. He was fired for, what was it, promoting homosexuality in the workplace.

- Yeah, he was on his own time--

- Do you think the gay community went down--

- with no one else.

- --and marched around his office? The people in *Queer Nation* wasn't here then, maybe. But do you see what I'm saying?

- December the 14th, we're going to have a march against Chili's. We're going to start a boycott because one of their employees--

- No, but you'll have to--

- --was fired because-- he was fired because of sexual harassment, which was talking about his gayness.

- But the queens are going to walk right by you and go in to Chili's and have a cheeseburger because they don't care.

- Oh, they did it at Randalls. You know they do it at Randalls.

- They do. I watched them. No, we stood right out in front of Heaven and passed out leaflets about coming to the march about Paul Broussard's murder. And they take the flowers and look at them and throw them down on the floor.

- They don't care.

- This is not going to happen to me.

- That's why.

- Well, I'm sorry. It happened to Phillip Smith right after that. And it happens every day and every night. But they just keep marching right on into the bars like the good Jews marched right on into the gas

- Chambers. Yes, they did.

- And I can say that. A great deal of my mother's families marched right into the gas chamber. But

- And my mother's.

- There were some bad Jews who wouldn't do it. And there was some--

- They did. And I'm telling you, if they marched, if they put up a Donna Summer album and opened the gas chambers, these silly queens would just jump right in.

- Mm-hmm, yeah.

- And they wouldn't care.

- Yeah, they'd think the Zyklon B was poppers, I guess and go out with a bang.

- I don't understand it. And that's one of the reasons I'm so frustrated. I hate the goddamn holidays because I don't have a family. And I mean, I do, but they're like, idiots in Arkansas.

- Well, you can have mine, if you want.

- And you know, I've had it. But for years, you-- I and a lot of us, not just gay people, but straight people do this, too, because a lot of straight people's families are screwed, you know? And you go. And you go at the holidays.

And you just beg them to hand you all the goodies that you don't get. And it's like, this year, I have not talked to my mother. I hope to God she doesn't call because I want to tell her to go to Hell. I've just had it with trying to do something for her.

- But you know, it doesn't have to be that way. My mother and I have the most wonderful relationship in the world.

- Yeah, well.

- We talk three or four times a week. And part of that is based on her being an intelligent person who lets me live my life. But since I was, like 11 or 12 years old, I knew I was gay. And they were not giving me problems about it. I told them, look, if you do give me problems about it, I'm gone. So I set some of the ground rules myself.

- Everybody doesn't do that.

- Well, they can do it, especially if they're 40 years old.

- I said that 15 years ago and left. And they didn't give a damn.

- Well, then, bye.

- So screw them, right?

- Or, bye.

- There are 15, 16 year old kids getting kicked out of the house.

- Yeah, and they have nowhere to go.

- But what frustrates the hell out of me is these so-called gay people that don't really give a damn and don't help us. All they do is hurt us. Because in five years of doing this program, all of the garbage I get is from queers.

- Oh, constant critics.

- And then do you get anything but support from HPD? That's incredible. It really is. I figured they would be the ones that came down here in '87 and drug us out of here. And it's been people like Ray Hill and Marion Coleman. And I could go down the list and tell you all the people that hate me.

Like, I really don't care-- but give a damn about that, either. Because we keep saying that people have to work together. And they're not going to do that. So we just come in and do whatever it is we do here. I don't know. It's just frustrating, especially now because the holidays. Everybody's going to tell you how much they love you and how much they care about you. And we know that's a crock.

- Yeah.

- And when the new mayor gets in, whoever that may be, we need to be there the first day screaming and yelling and trying to get our piece of the pie just like everybody else.

- Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Well, no. We need to be there screaming and hollering now, like some of us are doing even--

- Yeah, I know.

- --before the person gets in. And we're screaming and hollering at HPD. And I'm beginning to see some changes there that we need to have.

- There are a lot of changes that need to take place at HPD.

- Bridges being built. But you know, the most interesting thing about it is we walk in there as very proud gay men and women. And surprisingly, we're not getting the stiff faces that we have in the past. Because we are going in there with such grace and ease with our queerness that they have no choice but to accept it because they can't hold it against us any way. I mean, when you march around with a shirt on that says, queer, my God, what can they say to you?

[LAUGHTER]

- When--

- That's right.

- --I meet with the chief, we talk more about what's going on in Montrose than we do at what's going on at HPD. And I'm supposed to be there to talk about the police department. But the gay community has got to care about itself enough to get involved. And I don't see that happening. You said earlier that-- what is that you said?

You said you didn't have a lot of hope or something about we're at the end of the tunnel. And there's not any light. I felt that way for the last couple of years, that not just gay people, but as humanity as a whole, we're just kind of screwed.

- Well, there's a shred of hope still there. And as long as there is, I think I'll have to continue to feel as if there's reason enough to go on. But it does get very disheartening when you look around and you see your most constant critic is that person that you would like to call your brother in a solidarity sense instead of family sense. But they're not there. They're only there to criticize you or to tell you what to do. You know, don't--

- Oh, everybody wants to tell you what to do.

- Well, I can tell them what to do.

[LAUGHTER]

- Somehow, I believe you.

- It's just-- I don't see it get any better. I see it getting, really, a lot worse. And I see us getting screwed, really. It's sad.

- Yeah, but I have to live with myself.

- I really do.

- If you don't do anything at all, then things are going to go one way or the other, better or worse. And I know if we don't do anything about our gay and lesbian concerns, it definitely will get worse. So at least I will not be guilty. And I'll be able to sleep with good conscience that I at least said something periodically.

- I know what you mean. When they come in and say, "What did you do," at least we can say, "Well, we did this." And the rest of them are not going to be able to say that.

- No, they're not.

- And they're going to have those silly looks on their faces. I was out one time at one of the bars and looked at the faces of the people. They're not happy people.

- No, they're not.

- And I thought, I've seen this look before. It's the same look they have on the face of the people that are lined up going into jail when they're handcuffed. And they're trying to figure out what the hell they're doing there. It's the same stupid-- like you've run into a wall. And you stand up and try to figure out-- I saw that there, but why did I hit it so hard?

- Yeah, but they don't have to spend a week's pay to get that look on their face. And they can just go out there. But they still do it. And we walked by the Jeezers last night, you know, condemning all the queers to Hell and everything.

- Oh, oh, oh.

- And you'd think they'd speak up and say, you know, kiss off or whatever. Uh-uh. Yeah, well--

- I love those people, too.

- I do, too, you know.

- But it's like we spend-- we scream about the police. I dispatch from Montrose. And we've got-- tonight, I think I had three units, three police officers in 20s beat. That's where the bars are. Three. And some of those bars, I don't want to mention any names, like Charles Armstrong.

- No, don't say Charles Armstrong.

- They have me. But I mean, he's sucking in thousands of dollars an hour.

- I'll give you the correct figures on that, \$5 million last year in liquor sales. The number one--

- Why don't these people--

- 5 million in liquor sales.

- The number one in the state of Texas.

- Why don't these people-- why isn't anybody screaming and yelling at them? You know what I'm saying? If that young man hadn't had to park over on whatever, he wouldn't have gotten beaten up and--

- Well, he said he spent \$66,000 on security--

- --killed in the dark.

- --last year. I don't think that's a whole Hell of a lot.

[LAUGHTER]

He could buy us walkie-talkies. He could buy us uniforms.

- Oh, he ain't going to buy you nothing.

- He could buy us a tank full of gas. It's real shameful when Constable Abercia's office is volunteering 15 hours a week of their own time and paying for their own gas to patrol our neighborhood when we didn't even demand it of them. They'd done it on their own. I mean, Charles Armstrong and other people have more money than Constable Abercia's office does for these types of things.

- But you don't get it. Charles Armstrong is not in the gay movement or in the gay rights movement business or in the--

- Oh, I'm not going to beg him for it either.

- --feel good about yourself business. He's in the bar business. And they--

- I guess you need to say what's your true color, lavender or green?

- Look at this.

- Now, when you said 5 million and it's like the biggest thing in Texas, I mean, like, biggest gay bar?

- Liquor sales. I understand his buying-- the distribution of alcohol was \$5 million--

- And it's like--

- --and the biggest one in Texas.

- Whoa.
 - Does that surprise you?
 - Yeah.
 - And then you want to talk about how--
 - Goodness, we drink a lot.
 - --he's-- oh, Mary.
 - 30% of all gay people, men and women both, are alcoholics. And that's far above the national numbers.
 - I knew that. I knew that.
 - Get the numbers on this crap, on these 900 lines.
 - Oh, those phone--
 - Find out how much money we're spending, not just gay people, but straight people. You see it on-- you're talking about on channel 26.
 - Oh, yeah.
 - Find out how much money we're spending jerk off with somebody over the phone that we don't even know.
 - And those, on the TV, they're like, \$9 a minute.
 - Well, it's a lot less messier than going to church and giving all your money in the church.
 - I guess.
 - If we want to talk about an enemy, the very body of people who profess to be understanding and loving and caring, the organized religions of this country, they're not our friends. And I have a lot of friends that are gay and call themselves Christians also.
- And we've worked out some type of agreement that we don't just kill each other. But I just cannot understand why gay people have to have a religion that is just exact as the religion is that promotes to something in Hell.
- Something that's based on such a fairy tale.
 - I did something tonight--
 - Well, queens like to dress up, I guess, and do the pageantry number and the incense and all of that.
 - I have an adopted type family in Houston, a family of a good friend of mine. And I did something tonight I haven't done in years. I attended services at a Catholic Church--
 - Oh, Jesus.
 - --for first Holy communion.
 - I thought you smelled like a little myrrh.

- No wonder you're so hateful tonight.

- Well--

- He deserves to be.

- --that may be it. Because I'm sitting there and I'm hearing all of this mass and all of this. And I'm hearing-- I'm not hearing the words so much as I'm hearing--

- It's garbage.

- --that we're all sinners and save us. And I don't believe I'm a sinner, you know?

- You don't watch CNN.

- And then they pass the baskets.

- You don't watch CNN.

- So you can pay them for being a sinner.

- Do you watch CNN?

- Very little.

- They did a story this past week on Robert Tilton. Have you ever heard of Robert Tilton, Brother Tilton--

- Now I watch him.

- --in Dallas?

- I watch him.

- He's the guy that you send in your money. And you send in your letters and your pictures and your underwear and everything, you know with the sores on it. And he blesses all this stuff, puts his hands on it, lays his hands on it. I think that's what it is called, and blesses it. And you get healed automatically. Well, CNN had an investigator in Dallas.

And they went down to the bank where this stuff goes. It goes, like, to the bank. And they open it. And they take the check out and throw the other stuff in the trash. And Brother Tilton never sees it. And they were, like, in the dumpster.

- He sells prayer clothes that you can tear into pieces and put in your house.

- Right. And they were pulling them out of the dumpster. He was-- they were taking out pictures of Aunt Agnes and Uncle Ed and my husband, Joe, and everybody out of the dumpster and all these letters that he was supposedly laying his hands on.

- PT Barnum said--

- But look at Jimmy Swaggart.

- Yeah, well, he's been laying his hands on too much.

- Really.

- But they're still sending him money.

- I know. I know.

- They're still sending him money.

- They're trying to buy acceptance. And gay people--

- And then you wonder why I get so angry. There are 168 hours in a week. And they have radio stations, KJesus Loves You up here in Humble, and--

- Or they make films like *Todd's Greatest Regret* and tell you how to respond to people with AIDS.

- Let's not even talk about that or I'll start saying pretty words.

- We got that jerk. Actually they were showing it again here recently. And through my investigation, I found out that they misrepresented the facts and said that was produced in Houston. However, it hadn't been.

- I remember. That was you who did that?

- I don't know, Mary. I was talking to the station managers. And they said, well, we didn't charge them anything. It's \$100 an hour. Because just like if you produce something here in Houston, it wouldn't cost you anything. But if you produced it outside of Houston, it'd be \$100 an hour. I said, well, you mean they have paid that much money to show that piece of crap on TV that many times?

No, I said, if it's produced in Houston-- I said, wait a minute. *Todd's Greatest Regret* was not made in Houston. She said, oh, yes, it was. I have the application right here. I said, no, it wasn't. So she called him on the phone and said, once again, it's been, like, years since they made the application. And she said, oh, by the way you know, Jerry, I told them about the woman here in town that gets it on the air, where did you all make *Todd's Greatest Regret*?

And she'd forgot about that. And she said, outside of Beaumont. And I mean, outside of Humble up here. And she says, OK, you owe us an excess of \$3,000. And you will not show *Todd's Greatest Regret* on TV anymore until you give us that back money and \$100 in advance. So if nothing else, I cost the little church \$3,000.

- Aw.

- Well, you don't think they'd actually tell you the truth?

- No, they're Christians.

- I mean, if you saw the news tonight, you saw George Bush's answer to the economy problems. He went to the mall and spent \$38.

- He went to the mall and spent \$38.

- He bought one of his grandsons an Oilers outfit, yes.

- That's his answer to getting the economy rolling.

- Oh, brother.

- His answer to the economy is just about Nancy Reagan's was to growth.
- Tell to the people, all the people eating out of garbage cans and living in cardboard boxes.
- We don't have people eating out of garbage cans. You must be on another show.
- No, we don't have 40,000 Americans without health care coverage who go to work everyday.
- Do you know they turned away about 300 people at the big holiday feast this past Thursday, Thanksgiving day at the George R Brown Convention Center.
- What do you mean, turned them away?
- They didn't have enough food.
- No.
- About 300, I think that's one of the sergeants told me that works for special ops.
- We have over - million homeless people in America. And they're mostly women and children now.
- Well, we don't want to talk about that. Somebody might get upset.
- Well, that's good.
- And don't forget the gay and lesbians who have been kicked out of their houses.
- Yeah, that is a big growing group of people here in Houston. More and more every day, you can see gay people with AIDS walking the streets of Montrose and dementia and defecating on themselves. And like, John Paul Barnish had to call--
- And nobody cares.
- --the police on a guy last week. And a cop came to his house. And John Paul had watched him. And the cop was just all upset. Very, very proper response to this. But he says, "I have nowhere to take him but to jail or the hostel."
- There place to take them. And the jail won't take them.
- And that's one of the things that Mr. Barnish and myself and others want to see, a sub-acute care unit put in here in Houston. We need it.
- We need a lot of things that we're not going to get. That's just the reality of it.
- Well, it's going to be a very Dante-esque world we live in unless we start--
- It irks me because there is a Holiday Inn that has been vacant for about five years around the 4000 block of South Main Street. Vacant, hundreds of rooms.
- I remember there's a hospital sitting over on Memorial that's empty--
- And there are people living in--
- --on Highland Parkway.

- --cardboard boxes or underneath the freeways.

- Do you think they really care?

Do you really think they care? I mean, give me a break. And gay people, especially gay people, as long as they have their bar and their bathhouse and their bookstores to go to, they don't give a damn either.

- Yeah, I know. I know.

- Well, we are going to hurt more before this all gets better. And maybe that's what it's going to take.

- And as long their friends die and no one finds out that they knew him or ever slept with him, they're not going to carry either.

- That's why we all need to have big splashy funerals instead of quiet ones in church and donations made to the American Cancer Society.

- And pass out, like, pictures of--

- Do you ever read the obituaries?

- Yes.

- 31 years old, floral designer, leaves behind mother and father. Please make your donations to the American Cancer Society.

- Yeah, died of cancer. Uh-huh.

- Well, I want my obituary to say killed from AIDS if that's how I die.

- Absolutely.

- No, we'll get knocked in the head by some loving queen out here leaving the building some night.

- Well, that's a possibility, too. Well, then lie about it and say, I died from AIDS anyway. It's funny, except when you stop and realize that it is our reality for the ones of us who choose to see it for what it is.

- It's not funny. It's sad because we have to-- those of us who are here can't enjoy anything, any of the benefits of being out because everyone else is still in the closet.

- My mother posed that question to me recently. Are you spending the last two, three years or whatever of your life and not really doing anything that you enjoy? And I said, well, perhaps, but what else do you do?

- That's what stinks. That's what stinks.

- On that out question, because we have people say, oh, I can't come out because-- because-- because-- you're from Northern Mississippi.

- Mm-hmm.

- And your parents still live there.

- Mm-hmm.

- And big town? Small town?

- Very small town, 300 people.

- And you were on TV.

- Left and right. They've known I've been gay all my life, the town and my parents and everything. Really no problems with that, surprisingly. However, since *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, my mother and sister were promised a job-- they were both waitresses-- in a new truck stop that was being built.

But the owner there has said that he can't hire them now because they're going to boycott the restaurant, the townspeople, because you can't hire Jean because her son has AIDS and she'll give it to someone when she serves eggs.

- Oh, brother.

- And you can't hire Crystal because her brother has AIDS.

- Well, that's true, isn't it? I mean, mean Magic Johnson, oh God, don't even start.

- All the gay problems that a lot of people have and growing up in small towns, I didn't have them hardly at all until the 12th grade. And it took my mother running over one of them in her car to shut them up. And so you know, she's a bit of a Barracuda.

- I see.

- Well, he was harassing me in the street. And I heard this womp. And then Keith went right up in the air. Didn't have many problems after that.

[LAUGHTER]

- His mother is the one that will run you down--

- That's called direct action.

- --so be careful.

- I see.

- But now with the HIV angle figured in, they are beginning to feel a lot of things.

- Mm-hmm.

- But their fears and my fear is also for my five little nieces and nephews who are coming to me going, Uncle Brian, what are these people saying? And I want to keep it in that town tolerable for them, while at the same time being very truthful about it. *Advocate Magazine* wanted to go there and do an expose and all of that.

And I asked them how they felt about it. And because of the concerns of my nieces and nephews, I'm just not going to allow it to happen. It's as much public knowledge as it ever can be. And I don't know of any overwhelming benefit that I would get from it. There's other things that I can do. But somebody did send me vouchers for a weekend hotel passes this last weekend from that small town.

- No kidding.

- So I still live here.

[LAUGHTER]

Not in that town, but for a hotel in Austin, by the way. So it's real odd. It's real odd. But North Mississippi is a different world. There's this note here.

- A caller called in and wants to know how to get in touch with *Queer Nation*.

- Well, let's see. I'll tell you what. I called our phone earlier today. And I didn't get an answer. So we're in the process of switching phones from one place to another. So if you'll call me at work at (795) 7--

[LAUGHTER]

- You're giving out your work number on the air?

- Well, sure. I don't want these crazy people to bother me at home.

[LAUGHTER]

I can fast forward them to the secretary at work.

- Call a switchboard. That's safer.

- Call me at work. 794 1901.

- Or call the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard at 529-3211.

- Thank you. Yes. Yeah, and invite everyone to come out and be a part of Queer Nation. Be a part of the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Be a part of your community. There are many, many things that you can do to--

- Don't hold your breath.

- Well, this is Christmas. We're telling fairy tales about fairies.

- Yeah, OK.

- It could happen. It could.

- Yeah, right. Ed McMahon is going to call you Monday with that \$10 million.

- Well--

- Well, she might.

- It ain't going to happen. Sorry.

- If we get one out of it, I'll be happy.

- Good.

- As I get older, my expectations have become increasingly less.

- I hope so. Because I'm so angry right now at the whole world, I could really care less. I think that happen-- the turning point was 1988 when we did that rally and nobody cared. But *Queer Nation* wasn't here then. And they called me the night of the Paul Broussard march and said, do you want to go to the thing. And I was like, no, because I'll go down there and they'll be 10 people. And I'll get crazy and start screaming and yelling.

- Surprise.

- And I took off on vacation, my time, like I've done 1,000 times before and went down there. And there was a little hope. So maybe there is. I don't know.

- Yeah, there's a little hope there. 2000 people showing up was very surprising. Very surprising. But there's still a lot of apathy and self-hate and insecurity--

- Child.

- --that we need to get over with. And maybe we people who are always telling other people what to do, maybe if we just extend our hands a little bit further--

- And choke them.

- --and keep them open a little bit longer. I'm trying to be nice, dammit. And then when they don't, then choke them.

- Just slap them silly. No, they'd enjoy that too much.

- Pull them out of that closet.

- Kicking and screaming.

- Pull them out.

- That's the only way.

- The longer stay in it, the harder it is to come out. I understand I've never been in it. So I don't know. I wouldn't want to be there, though.

- I just wish we could get our act together so people would have a community to come out to. And that's what's sad.

- I mean, look at the Gay and Lesbian Community Center they just built in Los Angeles. Spent several million on it. And we've had a fund going here for years--

- I know.

- --and can't get anywhere with it.

- I just called San Francisco this past week and found out that I could get a job out there with the police department on Monday--

- Oh, yeah, with the drop of a hat.

- --and do, like, radio at KPFA and to Hell with Houston. I used to say, well, let's just stay here. And they need it. Oh, lord.

- Well, now, I'm saying I'm still saying that. I've lived in Washington and New York and Chicago and LA and all those places.

- Well, I say let's pack our bags and get the Hell out of here while we still can.
- When I can find someone that wants to move back to New York with me, I'll go.
- It's too cold in New York.
- I look real good on radio, so maybe I'll get an offer.

[LAUGHTER]

I doubt it. I doubt it. I come with my own muzzle, though. Anyway, get me out of this.

- Well, the ripcord doesn't close for 30 minutes, so let him know.
 - He's got the he's got the clothes for New York. He's got that coat. Mm.
 - Now my animal rights friends will be calling.
 - Yeah, well, they call on me all the time.
 - Well, Friday was fur free Friday. And I didn't wear it then.
 - I didn't either.
 - Not to belittle their efforts, but I've done my part. I didn't mean that, Sean.
 - Oh, boy.
 - Well, it's been nice talking to you. I've enjoyed this. I'll go outside gets shot by animal rights team member now.
 - No, they'll watch you as you leave. Don't worry.
 - I need to call the Q Patrol and tell them to come get me, actually. We got to go out there and patrol the streets a little more--
 - OK.
 - --and be harassed by folks. They're out there. People need to be aware that the attention on gay bashing has not stopped it, not at all. But police are much more visible now than they've ever been out there. But there's still idiots out there. So be careful. And stay tuned. And we'll let you know about our patrol that we're organizing. And they can be a part of that, too.
 - Good. Good. We do want to hear about that so we can report on it.
 - Isn't that the truth? Isn't it, boys and girls? Nothing really matters-- Freddie Mercury died. I don't know if you heard that or not. From Queen. Well, we all know what the White House says, right?
- What does the White House say? Like the George Bush-- George-I'm-going-shopping-Bush. George, I'm going shopping to get the economy working. I'm going shopping George. Freddie Mercury died, George. We're here.
- And we're queer.
 - Just waiting to die. That's what it's all about, I guess. Surely to God, it's got to be better than this somewhere. I don't know. Does it get any better than this?

- It's got to. I'm the eternal optimist. It's got to.

- Yeah, well, I think we're screwed basically. We'll just have to wait and see. What do you think? Why should I even ask you? You don't care to think. You let other people do that for you. Or maybe not. You're listening. 526-4000 or 526-KPFT. What do you think, huh?

[MUSIC PLAYING - RADIO GA GA, QUEEN]

Yeah, Rick? Linda?

- Yes?

- What's on your mind?

- Well, I'm really happy. I have a friend over.

- Yeah?

- I'm really happy about that guy, Brian.

- Yeah, what about him?

- How he gives up.

[LAUGHTER]

- Sorry, but the moron show is next.

- Practicing homosexuals, they're more dangerous to society and a person who commits, a murder, per se.

- If an 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, rubbing each other, I think it's as sick as anything can be.

- You can't be a faygeleh and be family oriented, that's a contradiction in terms.

- You guys are guys who just never matured.

- Sexually retarded.

- Totally repulsive.

- Screw the gay community.

- Who cares?

- That's right!

- Let them club!

[MUSIC PLAYING - RADIO GA GA, QUEEN]

- Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?
- Come on out, join us. Bring a friend.
- What do you think about the turnout so far?
- Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.

[MUSIC PLAYING - RADIO GA GA, QUEEN]

- Well, we can't take any phone calls because only the morons will call and tell queer jokes. No thanks. I've heard all those I want to hear tonight. OK, Mary. Oh, what the Hell.
- Hello, Buddy.
- Hello.
- This is Jimmy here, Buddy?
- We can't hear you. We got a terrible connection.
- Hello?
- Hello, hello, hello. I think it's this first line that's--
- Can you call back?
- Sure, I'll do that.
- Try 5738.
- OK, sorry. Linda, hello?
- Hello?
- Yeah?
- Hey, Buddy?
- Yeah?
- This is Cam.
- Yeah, I was listening to your last guest. I was wondering about something.
- I was, too.
- Oh about-- you mean the guy that called? Or the girl that called or the guy that was just here?
- The guy that was just there.
- Oh, OK. I'm sorry. I thought you were talking about the woman that just called in and giggled.

- Oh, that's-- anyway.

- Yeah.

- Your last guest was talking about going to jail quite a few times as far as his activism.

- Yeah.

- And I was wondering, going to jail, as far as trying to impress you, does it do more good than harm? I mean, the gay community sees a guy going to jail. Says, yay, the guy went to jail. And the rest of the world is thinking, look at those crazy perverts.

- Well, I don't know. I work for the police department. And jails no nice place to be. I agree that you've got to be out there screaming and yelling. And sometimes I guess you do got to go to jail. But I don't know.

- Didn't all of that-- did that start or was it popularized by Martin Luther King in civil disobedience? And at that time--

- Well, I don't know. It depends on why you go to jail.

- --at that time, it did some good.

- Yeah, well, you're talking about doing it in a different manner than he did, it seems like.

- You know, things were different back in the 50s.

- Yeah, things have changed a Hell of a lot in the last few years. The marching against Chili's, the guy was talking about having people go by and when he was over at Randalls and everything--

- It's just like it's just like boycotting the green sheet because who cares?

- It seems like if you're going to do something that some of the people are going to like, but a whole lot of people are going to dislike, that's one way to do it. But if you're going to do something that's going to get more publicity for the people on a good side than it is on the bad side, why do it?

- It's like if you get this great idea. And you say, this stinks. And I'm going to jump out and stop it. And you jump out in front of a train that's coming at you about 80 miles an hour with 500 box cars behind it, it's going to hit you. And you're going to be splattered. And what does that prove?

- That's what I'm wondering.

- I don't know.

- Yeah, I don't know the answer either.

- I mean, I understand that you got to be out there working. But I also understand what Harvey Milk said one time. He was in a room full of his friends. And everybody was bitching about how screwed up the police department was and how screwed up the city council was and how screwed up everything was.

And Harvey said, well, what if you were the Chief of Police and you were the Mayor and you and you and you and you were supervisors in our case City Councilman. And they said, "Oh, well that would be great."

And Harvey said, but wait a minute, you just said the system is screwed up. We've got to get rid of it. It's not the system that's screwed up. It's the people that are running the system that are screwed up. But we're so stupid. We don't like gay people like Annise Parker.

And we don't put openly lesbian people in City Council. We elect people like Vince Ryan, who vote us out and cut us out of the picture. We keep sending people like George Bush to the White House, who don't give us nothing but crumbs, if they even give us those crumbs.

- I keep wondering who all these "we" are, on the deal as far as electing people. I saw a movie the other day about Long. Kept saying about everybody says that they wasn't going to vote for him before the election. He couldn't find anybody who didn't vote for him in the election.

- I know. Isn't that funny?

- Yeah.

- Because I didn't vote for him. I read a thing in *The Montrose Voice* tonight from Larry Lingle, who writes all these wonderful ads-- all these wonderful editorials for *The Voice*. It's sad that nobody sees them because a lot of people that pick up that thing are only in bars.

And it should be, like, in the front page of *The Houston Post*. But he said, between Turner and Lanier, he was going to have a bumper sticker made that says, don't blame me, I voted for Whitmire. Because I don't know whether we're getting out. Or are we going to be any better off or not? Who knows?

- Well, I don't think you're going to be any worse off. That's for sure.

- Well that's true. I know working for the police department, we're not going to be any worse off. Because Whitmire didn't give a damn about the police department.

- Really?

- And that's one reason it's so screwed up. You know, she put Lee P Brown in there and kept him on a little black leash. And then she put Watson in there and just kept her on a leash. It's sad when you have people that you're hired to do a job and you won't let them do it.

- Well, I can't see the gay community being any worse off. You know how things used to be down there as far as the crime and everything and how it was starting to get better. And then all of a sudden, abracadabra, we're out of people again.

- You know what, though? Everybody keeps talking about the police and the gay community. The bar raids, how would they explain bar raids when they're queer dispatchers here every Saturday night doing this? I mean, how would how can they explain--

- It's been a long time since there's been a bar raid--

- --doing hateful stuff. It's not going to happen, baby.

- --a long time.

- It ain't going to happen no more.

- That part is better.

- You know why? Because I'm down there and I'm on the inside looking out. Like Harvey Milk was saying, you got to be there. And we're there. But nobody gives a damn.
- Well, even when there were bar raids, the biggest reason for the bar raids was because of problems flowing out from the bars.
- That's every bar, though, no matter where.
- I mean, when you take a whole bunch of people and you put them so they can barely walk getting out of their cars--
- Absolutely, absolutely.
- Oh, well.
- That is a very good point. And I don't think *Queer Nation* is even here to solve the problems, but to bring attention to them in any way they can. And boy, they certainly have done that. Maybe if they think they're going to solve problems, they're kind of overstepping their bounds.
- I think *Queer Nation* needs to get with people before they go crazy, though. Because I've seen them go a little weird on some stuff--
- Well, that's what I was complaining about two or three weeks ago, about the police department. Elizabeth Watson's probably the greatest thing that's ever happened to us. And we're going to lose her. And I think that's sad. But nobody bothers to get the facts before they start talking about Elizabeth Watson or anything else. But that's OK.
- I wouldn't guarantee you're going to lose her.
- I don't know. That's politics.
- I know. But there's-- I don't think that we're going to lose her, necessarily.
- We don't want to talk about-- we don't want to have to deal with any realities. It's too much trouble.
- The dreaming is easier, right?
- Well, I don't know if it's the dreaming. It's just ignoring it. It's just like they were talking about passing out condoms at schools. Do you think HISD is going to pass out condoms? No way, baby. You think HISD is going to tell the 10% of the students that are gay and lesbian that they can live happy, healthy lives? It ain't going to happen. I mean, you know, so on with the show. That's about it. It ain't going to happen. Anyway, thanks for calling.
- See you later.
- OK.
- We'll be back. Hang on. 526-4000 or 526-KPFT. We're going to take a short break. And then we'll come back and do whatever it is the Hell we're doing.
- Well, OK.
- I don't know what we're doing. What are we doing?
- Well, we're talking to folks. We got some lines holding.

- Yeah, 526-4000 or 526-KPFT. Call us up.

- Rebecca and I went camping. We made camp. We spent some time eating. We were laying down by a stream. And all of a sudden there were shots. My arm exploded. Rebecca was hit twice and started to bleed to death. Attempted to carry her.

I was unsuccessful. The entire walk out of the woods I believed myself to be hunted. My name is Claudia Brunner. We were identified as lesbians by a stranger with whom we had no connection. He will spend the rest of his life in prison. But Rebecca, who was 28 years old, is gone.

- 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 Post Office box 65603 Los Angeles, California 90065.

- Wilde-N-Stein, a celebration of pride--

- --for and by gay and lesbian people.

- I'm Bruce Reeves.

- And I'm Deborah Bell.

- And we are two of the members of the Wilde-N-Stein, Collective.

- Coming to you every Monday evening at 9:00 PM--

- --featuring a community calendar--

- --news--

- --interviews--

- --music and more.

- Help us Celebrate by tuning in to KPFT, 90.1 FM.

- Mondays at 9:00 PM.

- Every Saturday night midnight on *After Hours*, we play music.