

- Yeah, here we go. Hello.

- Hello?

- Hello.

- Yeah, I was just calling to say that I'm really glad that you're telling people to stand out and let people know they're different because I have a few friends-- I'm sitting right next to them-- that are afraid to let people know because I don't live in the Montrose area. I live in-- out of Houston in Cypress.

- Yeah.

- Uh huh.

- There aren't too many of us around there.

- Oh, there may be more than you think.

- Well, [INAUDIBLE] are the only ones that I know.

- Yeah.

- There are a lot of prejudiced people out there. And people are kind of afraid. Let them know.

- Oh, well. Don't give up.

- Don't give up.

- I'm trying.

- Hang in there, baby. OK? KPFT.

- Hello.

- Yeah.

- All right. I wanted to make some comments in reference to one of your earlier callers. I think it was the first caller.

- This sounds like Michael.

- Yes, it is.

- You mean the girl that called and giggled with her boyfriend in the background?

- Oh, no. Not her. Not that ditzy-- I'm not going to say anything bad about her, but not her.

- OK.

- The guy who was talking about Brian Bradley and how-- he questioned whether or not Brian's arrest served any purpose. I've known Brian for a year and a half now. And all of his arrests have been in AIDS-related actions, part of the whole ACT UP push towards getting the things we need to end the AIDS crisis.

And I think Brian is probably one of the strongest AIDS activists in the city of Houston. And everything that he has done has been flawless. It's been fabulous. And it's had a very big impact. I mean, the caller questioned the tactics of direct action. Well, we found out that the knife-- go-along-to-get-along system does not work for us.

- Sitting at the back of the bus doesn't work.

- Right. Right. I mean, he criticizes Queer Nation for what we're doing, but he never said anything about what he's doing.

- Did you know there's a new group that's getting ready to start or there's talking about starting in the community--

- What's it called?

- --by these queens that don't like the word "queer"?

- Oh, silly queens. It's not going to work.

- They want to start a group called Gay Nation. Have you heard that?

- I heard that, like, months ago.

- Yeah.

- But I mean, as far as I'm concerned, they can go off and do it.

- Yeah, well.

- I don't think something like that's going to work. I mean, if they're going to be like Queer Nation, except not using the word queer, then what's really the point?

- Exactly.

- I mean, I think a lot of the people who sit and criticize us do so because they're afraid of offending heterosexuals.

- And I can't imagine a person who feels that way about the word going out to the streets.

- Right.

- Well, this--

- And one thing is if every queer came out, Brian would not have to get arrested to make the point. We would not have to storm into City Hall to make the point--

- Yeah. And then we could do this show--

- --or show up and say, you're going to give us what we want or we're going to vote your butt out of office.

- Then we could do this show on 104, and I could get paid for doing it.

- Exactly.

- Yeah.

- But it ain't going to happen, so get a grip.

- [INAUDIBLE]. I mean, you were talking about how we want to get condoms distributed in high schools and about--
- Not in Houston. It ain't going to happen.
- I think it is going to happen.
- Oh, it'll happen. It'll happen. Because people like us are bitching, and people like you are out there in the streets.
- Right. And I also think that-- I mean, there are a lot of other things that Queer Nation is trying to do. Like, for me-- and this may sound bad, but I am biased towards queer youth. I want to help and protect them because as far as I'm concerned, some middle-aged queen who is stuck in the closet except for when he goes out to get drunk to get laid, he is not my concern nor is he my problem.
- Not only that, but all these young gay people think if they just sleep around and screw around with young gay people, they're going to be OK.
- Yeah. It's amazing.
- Sorry. Don't work that way.
- That's why I think it's necessary to get condoms in the high schools and so on.
- Yes.
- Yeah.
- But as for the guy who said that he questions our actions, it's going to be too bad for him because we're only going to get more aggressive.
- Anyway, thanks for calling, baby.
- Thank you.
- You're right. Sure.
- Thank you, Michael.
- Hello.
- Hello.
- Yeah.
- Hello? Yes?
- Hello.
- Yes.
- Yes.
- [LAUGHS] I have [INAUDIBLE] question [INAUDIBLE].

- Oh, hang on a minute. Yeah.

- Hello?

- Did that Rick person ever call back? Richard? Did Rick ever call back? We never got him on the line?

- [INAUDIBLE]

- Rick, call me, can you, at 526-5738. I'm sorry. We were having phone problems.

- We can't take calls no more.

- 526-5738. Rick, if you're listening, because you called twice. I'm sorry we cut you off.

- I think Rick was having problems.

- Actually, we didn't cut you off.

- Problems getting in on that line.

- Yeah, phone troubles.

- But I believe that we've-- yeah we've busied out the first line on 526-4000, Rick, so I believe if you call 525-4000, you can get in now.

- If you want to get in now.

- So what do you think of Queer Nation?

- I think they're the greatest thing that's happened since apple pie.

- OK. Hello?

- Hello?

- Goodbye. KPFT. Yeah.

- Yeah. Hello. Is this-- this is Buddy now?

- Yeah.

- Let me switch phones. I got a flaky phone.

- Oh. OK.

- It's Rick's turn to have--

- A little switching phone music.

[MUSIC - QUEEN, "RADIO GA GA"]

- OK. How are you hearing me?

- There we go.

- Yeah, OK.

- There's your turn to have a flaky phone.

- Sorry we cut you off.

- Really, I don't know. It's--

- It's been one of those days.

- This has been a problem. That's for sure. It's been one of those days.

- How you doing?

- Pretty good. Yeah, I wanted to say something about activism.

- Yeah.

- Activism is-- it seems to me the only way that you're going to get your message across because being polite just doesn't seem to be cutting it.

- Doesn't work, does it?

- I'm speaking from the perspective of a heterosexual. When I see it on TV, it-- the impulse is, well, what are they complaining about? But then on the other hand, polite isn't cutting it. What I'm saying is that you'll have to be-- you have to be active because that's the only way change occurs.

- Yeah.

- Politeness never got anybody anywhere.

- I think we could take a lesson from our neighbor-- we're not exactly neighbors, but the people of the Netherlands, who have been advocating and using civil disobedience for hundreds of years. They're one of the most--

- It's healthy for the soul. I mean-- I'm trying to remember his name-- Thoreau wrote "Civil Disobedience" back in the 19th century. He's one of our greatest writers.

- Hey, God forbid, though, you question what's going on in this country.

- It's amazing. Exactly. Today I've seen--

- You must be a communist.

- The whole week has been--

- What are they going to do now? The communists are, like, almost nothing.

- Yeah. There's no--

- So now they're not going to say, you must be a communist. Now what are they going to do?

- Yeah. I mean, they don't have any more enemies, so--

- You must be, like, non-white--
- It's hard when it's--
- Non-white, rich American. I mean, makes more than \$100,000 a year.
- It's amazing how far-- how bad things have gotten when a person like David Duke can get respectability in the papers.
- Listen, I love it. I'm serious. I really wanted David Duke to win in Louisiana.
- Yeah, that's-- [LAUGHS]
- I've been saying that for weeks.
- Bring him out of the closet, I guess, so to speak.
- No, no, no, no. I really-- I've been saying that for weeks, and I mean that. I really wanted him to win because I want people to see racism--
- Up front.
- --and sexism and homophobia right up front on the front page.
- I know what you're talking--
- I'm tired of it hiding in places like the White House and the Congress and the police department.
- It's not like the guy could build concentration camps. But oh, somebody gets killed, and they don't investigate it or--
- Right. I want it to be right out front, baby, so you can see just how ugly it is.
- Yeah.
- And I'm all for David Duke running for president. And in fact, I want to send him money and help him. He's not going to win.
- No.
- But I want to help. I want to send him money and help him in his little campaign to spread hate and ignorance and stupidity across this land.
- And it is amazing the ignorance and hate that's being spread.
- No, I think it's sad.
- It's amazing. And I meet people who should be intelligent and should be smarter than they look and all. I mean, they have plenty of money. And they can go to the best schools. And they harbor attitudes that you would think they'd learned in the backwoods or something.
- Yes.
- I work with a cop that's just convinced that all the homeless people in this country are just lazy bums that don't want to go work.
- Well, about a third of those lazy bums are Vietnam veterans, some of them Congressional Medal of Honor winners.

- Bingo. Isn't that funny?
- It is.
- On Veterans Day--
- They should meet some of those people. They probably don't even deserve to even walk the ground that these people are on. I mean--
- On Veterans--
- --these people, a lot of them are a third of mental incompetence, a third from jails--
- On Veterans Day this year, I have a friend--
- --or from those old smokestack industries in the Northeast and in the South and all.
- I've got a friend that works for channel 11. And on Veterans Day they did a story about how a third of the homeless people were Vietnam veterans. They said they got more complaints because people don't want to know that. And these are people that--
- And that's where the Desert Storm veterans [INAUDIBLE].
- These are people that are veterans from Desert Storm and from the Vietnam War.
- Yeah.
- Or the Vietnam-- excuse me. It was a police action. It really wasn't a war.
- Yeah.
- Did people get killed?
- God forbid we have to actually talk about that.
- Did people get killed? It was a war.
- That's why I was screaming so loud about the war last year because it's just amazing to me that as civilized people, our only way to solve our problems is to go drop a bomb on somebody.
- Yeah.
- That's why I think we should send David Duke to the White House and let people see just how ugly this country really, really is.
- Well, in a way it's just too easy to say let's push a button, let's drop a bomb on somebody. But if you had a friend or even--
- Maybe. They've already dropped the bomb on us.
- Exactly.
- Look at what's going on in the streets of Houston right now with crack and drugs and people that are murdered for nothing.
- I went to [INAUDIBLE].

- They killed this man a couple of months ago for like \$12.
- Yeah.
- Right down the street from here.
- Yeah.
- When you start getting killed for 12 bucks--
- I'll tell you what. I lived in the Northeast for a couple of years. And I mean, that's where I'm from originally. People were getting killed there 15 years ago over \$6 in the subway.
- It's pretty scary.
- I guess it's come that way down here now. Maybe [INAUDIBLE].
- People keep saying they're going to drop the bomb, but I'm sorry. The bomb's already gone off.
- Yeah.
- The bomb has already gone off. And it's drugs, and it's racism, and it's sexism, and it's all the ignorant crap.
- What's funny was I was one of those people too. I didn't see it. And it's only when I started going out on my own and living in areas, not in the sheltered areas when I was growing up with my folks, but actually going out there and being in the world, I mean, you can see it.
- There's this guy I work with at HPD that to this day won't even talk to me. I mean, we used to have long conversations about life. But once he found out I was gay, he goes out of his way to avoid me. And I think that's so sad.
- Sad too. It's sad for you, but it's sad for him too because he's--
- No, I think it's sad for him. I think--
- His world, his whole perspective--
- For me, I think it's kind of funny.
- Yeah. He just turned himself away from a very good friend.
- Exactly. I mean, I tell you what. You need as many friends as you get in this--
- Yeah.
- Yeah. You sound like a communist.
- [LAUGHTER]
- Wait a minute, no, that won't work.
- Subversive. [INAUDIBLE]
- No, that won't work anymore. We don't have any communists. That won't work.

- Thank you, Ray.

- Thanks for calling.

- Bye bye.

- 526-4000 or 526-KPFT. Hello?

- Hello.

- Yeah.

- Yeah, I'm calling in mostly for support. I mean, I love you guys. I mean, I've only been listening for a couple of times, but you guys have helped me a lot. I've finally come out of the closet, finally told my family and my friends. A lot of them didn't take it so well, but--

- Yeah, well--

- Well, you got to give them time too. It took you a long time to get up the courage to come out of the closet so it's going to take them at least that much time and longer to get used to the idea.

- Well, all I know is, like I said, I've been listening to you guys for a couple of times. And I found that being gay is more than just sitting in the bars waiting for somebody to pick you up or hiding in the bushes that there's some pride in it. I mean, that there's confidence in it. You know what you are. Now go live and be happy or be fruitful or whatever.

- Yeah.

- Just Buddy, for me, just please don't give up. You might not be reaching the guys in the bars, but you're reaching a lot of guys out there who are finally figuring out what they are.

- Yeah. What are we?

- [LAUGHS] Human beings for all I know.

- No, you're right.

- Human beings. That's what we are.

- That's exactly right. We are human beings.

- We are human beings who choose to take a different route.

- There we go.

- OK. Thanks for calling.

- But we're still human beings.

- Thanks for calling.

- Thank you. Hello?

- Hello?

- Yeah.
- Yeah, I was calling about some guy who called about young gay people. And he was talking about a guy named Brian Smith.
- Yeah.
- And well, I know a lot of people like that too. And--
- Like what?
- People that don't want to speak up about being homosexual.
- Oh, OK.
- And people should be proud of it, I guess.
- Be proud of what? Being alive, you mean, and having a life and-- I know what you're saying, baby. I'm sorry. I'm not giving you a hard time.
- OK.
- Anyway--
- I don't--
- Hang on. KPFT. That's that screwed-up phone.
- Oh, yeah. And you just took it off.
- Oh, well. We can put it back on.
- Whoops. What are we going to tell them?

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- In the meantime, keep buying that crack. Keep the Republican Party going. Oh, I don't mean all Republicans are dope dealers, not unless you call ignorance and stupidity dope.

[LAUGHTER]

Anyway, what are we doing?

- We have some people on hold.
- Oh, OK. We'll do that. Yep.
- Hello?
- Sabrina?
- Yeah, hi.
- Hi.

- Hi.

- Hello, you happy guys out there.

[LAUGHTER]

- How are you doing tonight?

- Oh, yeah, well, it's, like, 2:00-something, and all little girls should be in bed. Well, at least in Iceland. Anyway--

- Who's that little girl?

- No, I'm calling because I am from Cypress.

- Hey. All right.

- Oh, honey lambs out there, you are not alone. Let me just say that. And another thing for that chick, whatever, Lydia or Linda, get a life. My goodness.

[LAUGHTER]

- Isn't that the truth? Well, I'm glad you said that because I can sit on this end and say, oh, yeah, there's lots more people out there. But it hasn't got the impact of somebody like you saying, hey, I'm out here, and there are a lot of us.

- Yeah, us in suburbia hell. Well, I just wanted to tell you guys that every night around this time I am one of your faithful listeners with the Walkman in case the parents walk in.

- Ah. Gotcha.

- Just being so impressionable they try to shield me. However, [LAUGHS] I just want to say that I listen to you guys. And before, when I was a little closet queer, I decided that, hey, there has to be other people out there. And I go to a, basically-- am I allowed to say shit kicker on the air?

- No.

- Oh, too bad. Sorry. But well, I end up going to one of those schools where there are a lot of those people. And you might not think that there's many of us-- hello-- happy people out there but there are. And as a lesbian, I just want to say that, guys, just don't give up because--

- It's just harder to find y'all out in Cypress than it is to find y'all in Montrose.

- That is true. But we do venture out there occasionally.

- Well, it's hard to find y'all in Montrose So don't worry about Cypress. [LAUGHTER] This is supposed to be the queen capital of the world. And--

- Well, I'm glad you called because for those guys and the guys not only in Cypress but in all those other small towns, and women in all those other small towns--

- Oh, I'm single, by the way. Just joking.

- Ah ha.

- Well, don't give out your phone number. I've been doing it for five years. It hasn't helped me. [LAUGHTER] Take care, baby. Thank you for calling.

- OK, good.

- Hello?

- Hi.

- Hi.

- My name's Ann.

- Hi, Ann.

- And I just wanted to share something with you that happened at the local Value Village or Purple Heart.

- Yeah.

- Is that like a thrift thing or like a charity--

- A store where you got used clothing and used whatever.

- Oh, yeah. Yeah. Uh huh.

- You go there and rummage around to look for fabulous, wonderful trash to put in your home.

- Gotcha.

- Actually, I do. I go to the Salvation Army on Washington because it's close to River Oaks, and you can buy very expensive shirts for like \$2.

- Yeah.

- But anyway there was a Mexican lady in front of me with three boys. One was like five, and one was seven, and the oldest one was probably about 12 or 13, just venturing into puberty and everything. And they had all picked out clothes and stuff.

And the boy had a pair of pants that were-- they were kind of nelly. But the mother told him-- she said, put those pants back. Those are faggot pants.

- Oh, brother.

- Oh. So you know what I told her?

- What?

- I said, well, there are a lot worse things that could happen to your son than to grow up to be a faggot. I said, he could grow up to be a bigot.

- Or grow up to be a Republican.

- Whoa. Whoa. Love it.

- I hope you didn't tell her that everybody's wearing 501s, because she won't let her kid wear any of those, either. Anyway.

- I cracked her face.

- Good for you.

- That's funny.

- Things like that happen every day when you're not out ready to march and stuff.

- No, that's exactly right. If you're not ready to march, you can do something just like you did.

- And just where it's at.

- It takes the little day-to-day things to get through the week.

- Yeah. But that was pretty fun.

- That's wonderful. Good for you.

- Thank you very much.

- Take care, baby.

- Thanks.

- Hello?

- Hello.

- Hi.

- Hello, how are you?

- Great.

- Oh, don't ask.

- I just wanted to compliment you on a very inspiring show this evening.

- Oh, really? This is one of my worst.

- What's that?

- I said, this is one of my worst. Call back when we're in a good mood.

- Oh, it's excellent. It's excellent.

- Thank you.

- Yeah. Listen, I wanted to touch on something that was mentioned in a call earlier and something that Buddy touched on too. Speaking of fewer bar raids anymore--

- Yes.

- I would like to say that there's still a Holocaust going on in the gay community. And I leave lesbian out particularly, but the gay community in this particular instance. And you had said as a dispatcher, you acknowledged, what, 200 arrests over at the Allen Parkway?
- No, more than that.
- More than that recently?
- More than that last month plus not that's not counting Memorial Park, the toilets.
- Well, I wanted to say that.
- The toilets out at Memorial Park.
- Yeah, the Memorial Park, the Allen Parkway. This is a Holocaust. This is a Holocaust of our sexuality.
- You're damn right.
- Even if people are doing it in the bushes, so what? People should enjoy themselves. And for the police to be involved in this kind of activity is absolutely horrible.
- But they shouldn't be out in the parks doing it.
- Well--
- They should be in the baths and the bookstores and places that are safe environments doing it.
- Well, maybe they should.
- Straight people aren't out doing it in the parks. I don't want to take my niece to the park and see anybody doing it.
- Yeah.
- We talked about this a few weeks ago. And one of the big problems was there was an elderly Jewish woman who went to the cemetery--
- Yeah. Do you know why the police are down at the cemetery on Allen Parkway? Because that's a very old Jewish cemetery there.
- Yes. She was there putting flowers on her husband's grave, and she looks over, and there's two guys who were humping in the bushes.
- Two humping in the cemetery.
- Now, whether it's two guys or a man and a woman humping in the bushes--
- Yeah.
- I mean, please. There's no place for that.
- It's a little inappropriate.
- And then you go to the baths, and these hateful queens are standing around looking at each other. What the hell is this all about?

- I agree that it's kind of screwed up.

- Is there any logic here?

- Yeah.

- But still despite the fact that-- and I agree with you. A little more discretion should be used [INAUDIBLE].

- And plus, a friend of mine and I-- I mean, I go to the baths. It's no secret. We talked about it all the time. I hate the bookstores because they're dark and dirty.

- And they stink.

- But a friend of mine-- yeah, and they stink. And a friend of mine taught me though--

- And usually owners of them don't give a-- don't even care so much as to put toilet paper or soap in the bathroom.

- [INAUDIBLE]

- But a friend of mine-- listen, a friend of mine talked me into going.

- That's another pet peeve of mine.

- A friend of mine talked me into going a couple of days before Thanksgiving with him because we'd been to the tubs, and we got all depressed about the beautiful queen standing around not doing anything.

- [INAUDIBLE]

- And we went down-- no, no, no, no, no, no. We went down to the ballpark on Alabama. And while we were in the booth, we found a 14-inch pair of scissors on the floor.

- What?

- Now, that's scary.

- Now, baby, I go to the tubs because everybody's naked and the lights are on. You can see where they're hiding their scissors.

[LAUGHTER]

And working for the police department, I don't want to hear about people being stabbed in the back in the bookstore. Do you see what I'm saying?

- Yeah. No, I know.

- And I think you're right. It's very offensive that we accept the fact that that's the only place we can go. I mean, God, forbid you meet anybody and fall in love and live happily ever.

- Well, you see, I live near Memorial Park.

- Yeah.

- I don't go there. But I drive by there frequently on the way to the West Loop.

- Well, let me tell you from experience, the police are only out there because decent people are complaining about things that shouldn't be going on. And I agree with them 100%. There are places to go-- number one, your bedroom that has a lock on the front door-- to do those kinds of things. You shouldn't be sneaking around in public doing it. But until society--

- [INAUDIBLE]

- Until society wakes up and realizes that there are gay and lesbian people out there, it's not going to happen.

- Yeah.

- It ain't going to happen. I'm sorry.

- They're enjoying what they're doing out there, bashing queers.

- Well, that's going to happen, though. It's reality. Don't talk about reality.

- Yeah, well.

- Anyway.

- I still have a problem with that. But I also understand [INAUDIBLE].

- With reality?

[LAUGHTER]

- The fact that--

- I know what you're saying. Listen, we got tons of calls going. We got to move on. So appreciate your call. KPFT.

- Hello?

- Hello.

- Yes, this is Linda.

- Hi, Linda.

- And I just wanted to tell that bitch that I have a life.

- Oh, OK. Thanks. I appreciate you calling. She has a life.

- Well, Jane, you ignorant slut.

- Jane, you ignorant slut. She has a life. It's calling and giggling in the middle of the night.

- Well, she needs to keep it to herself then or get a date or something. I don't know.

- Maybe she should go to Memorial Park. I don't know. Well.

- Oh, well. This has been one hell of a week.

- It sure has.

- We got a lieutenant, a brand new lieutenant at work. We got civilians, which is me, like the low-life that they scrape off from under the rug, and then sergeants, who are police officers, who are supervisors and then lieutenants who are there and then captains and then all the way up to the chief and the mayor.

But we got a new lieutenant on-- I don't know-- some day last week. And he was introduced to everybody except me, who happens to be president of the only civilian police union there. But they didn't bother introducing him to me. And he keeps looking at me, like waiting to see what I'm going to say or do. I mean, I'd love-- he's really cute. I'd like to take him in the back room and just--

- I see.

- --fall down on the floor and show him what I can do, but I don't think he can handle that. But I was really disappointed that I didn't have-- that the powers that be didn't give me the courtesy to introduce me as--

- Maybe they were afraid you would fall on your knees.

- I don't know. Anyway, I'm not-- Richard, we're not going to take any more calls because we're out of calls. The phones are screwed up in here. I can't answer the phone. Anyway, what else is going on?

- Oh. Well, it's officially Sunday, December the 1st.

- Oh, Christ. Christmas.

- Yes.

- Yeah, well. I think I have to work Christmas Eve. That's the bad news too.

- Oh, do you?

- On top of everything else. Yep.

- That's terrible news.

- No, I think it's great news.

- Thank you.

- It's better than being alone. And I don't want to be alone. I'd rather be at work. Anything else happening? What else is happening?

- Oh.

- Anything in the world? No? Same old crap.

- The National Leather Association is ongoing in their toy drive. They're collecting toys for children with HIV or AIDS. And you can drop off your new toy at-- so far, they have drop boxes at [? Bacchus ?], the BRB, EJ's Leather by Boots, Pacific Street, or the Venture-N. And they'll be taking your toys for the kids up through December 21. There's been a couple of fundraisers for that too, so if you--

- Oh, really?

- --see that going on, go ahead and attend those things because they're a lot of fun, and it's for a good cause.

- Yeah, it is. And last Wednesday, the 27th, marked the 13th anniversary of the killing of Harvey Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone. If you don't know who that is, you hateful queen, why are you listening? Not even going to get into it because I'll go crazy again.

- Well, then they didn't listen last week if they don't know.

- See, just nobody wants to talk about the reality. And the reality is that things happen. It's like I'm really disappointed in the Disney Company now.

- What did they do?

- They issued *Fantasia*. And they edited it. They edited it. They said it was like the original--

- Your copy is edited?

- It was the original masterpiece. Well, they lied.

- Your copy that you bought is edited?

- The copy that I paid \$100 for on laserdisc and \$99 for with the box set--

- Yeah?

- --and \$15 for just the *Fantasia* movie is edited.

- What did they cut out?

- Well, there's a little scene with these little creatures back in the days of the Romans and the Greeks or something.

- Yeah. It's real cute.

- Half-man and half-horse.

- Yeah.

- And the last time they showed it in the theater, it was a complete movie. But this time there's one little scene where they have these little Black-- whatever they are-- half-person and half-horse.

- Satyrs.

- And they're little Black mammy-faced characters. And they got little cornrows in their hair and big old lips. And they're doing everybody's nails and waiting on everybody. Well, Disney cut them out.

- Oh.

- They edited them out because they don't want you to know that in the '40s they had what we think now and what we know now are offensive images of Blacks in the movies. They just kind of cut it out, and they're going to act like it didn't happen. So to hell with Disney.

- So they're trying to pawn this off as unedited.

- I've written them a very nasty letter and tell them I want \$215 back for all the trash that I just bought that was supposed to be the original, uncut version, which is not. It's kind of like the Republican version of the world. The economy stinks, and what do we do? Well, George Bush went to the mall. Let's all go to the mall. Sorry.

- And that's going to be the answer.

- Ain't gonna happen. No. That's not anywhere near being close to the answer. But that's OK. That's why I support David Duke for president. And I certainly hope you all send him money and help him get elected. Of course, he's not going to, but--

- Oh, brother.

- I'm serious.

- Now, listen, you can't go on and talk like that because you're going to have people writing letters saying, I can't believe he said he's supporting David Duke.

- I don't care.

- You know have that stuff works. People only hear half of what you said.

- I'm not supporting David Duke.

- OK.

- I want him to win as president. I want his ignorance to be on the front page. I want him to be right up front in the spotlight rather than hiding in the back.

- Because you want people to see the hypocrisy and the bigotry and the racial--

- I'm not supporting him. I'm supporting his views of being a bigot and a racist and a homophobe. I want everybody to see that. And the only way to see that is to get it right out there in the spotlight.

- Yeah.

- And little George Bush is going to have all kinds of problems with David Duke on one hand and Pat Buchanan on the other hand. Trying to juggle those two morons and run for the White House, he might fall down and not get elected.

It's too late, though. He already put Clarence Thomas and all of those other folks in the Supreme Court, and we're going to be screwed by their laws for the next 50 years. I'll be dead by the time they get somebody to replace them. If it's not from AIDS or some idiot, it'll be from just old age. I mean, Mary, we can't outlive all those people. Look at Thurgood Marshall. He just retired, and he was older than God.

- Oh, he was, wasn't he?

- But we're not going to deal with reality. Well, maybe we can for just a minute because somebody wrote us a letter. I don't know where it is.

- Where is it? I lost it.

- You put it in with the-- yeah.

- Here it is, right here.

- Boy, we love getting those letters.

- Yeah, actually, we do. What does this say? This says, "Dear After Hours, I love the celebration of-- I love these-- this tape--" where's my glasses?

- I don't know.

- This letter says-- actually, it doesn't say anything. It's on a piece of paper. November 25, 1991, and you were there. "Dear After Hours, I love the Celebration of Life Rally tapes that you played on your last show. Would it be too much to ask for you to replay the ending of the rally with Harry Britt's speech and up to the end of the rally?"

"I'd like to get that on tape. So if you could play that part, I'd appreciate it. But if you don't decide to play it, again, I'll understand. I recorded the entire show up to Harry Britt's speech but ran out of tape. Oh, actually, I fell asleep, so I didn't get to switch tapes to continue recording.

"My favorite singers were Heartsong and Cindy Friedman. I really think it was great-- da da da da da da. Angela."

Angela, can we play that? No. We're not going to do it. Of course, we're going to do it.

- Yes, Angela.

- We're going to do it in just a minute. I guess we should do it. Yeah, we can do that. Let's do that now.

- OK. And until then--

- How long is it, by the way?

- I have no idea.

- He runs, like, 20 minutes, doesn't he?

- Oh, I don't know.

- OK.

- We'll do that. I'll get that queued up.

- OK.

- In the meantime, listen to this hateful song that nobody likes except me. And we'll be back in just a minute, OK? OK.

[MUSIC - MICHAEL JACKSON, "BLACK OR WHITE"]

Because it deals with reality, the reality of, like, people being racist and nobody's going to work-- it's a long story. Hang on a minute. Besides, it's the only record I'm going to bring for the next six months till you get the message. Maybe I could do that. Hey, that's an idea.

- Back in 1988 on the steps of City Hall, we did something called the Celebration of Life Rally. I think. I don't remember. And Harry Britt was here to speak. And Angela, since you didn't tape it or you ran out of tape, we're going to play that for you now.

This is Harry's speech to us just before the rally ended. He's the guy that sat in Harvey's seat and all that crap for, like, 10 years. And he's president of the Board of Supervisors. And I hope you heard all that, anyway. This is Harry Britt, and it's from the rally. So hang on.

- Thank you, and thanks to the people of Houston for letting me come. Even in the good times, Harvey Milk was preparing for his death. I remember within a few hours after he had been elected to the board in 1977, in a moment when all of us were just unbelievably thrilled with the wonder of having one of our own people in a position where all of our city would have to pay respect to gay leadership, Harvey took me aside and told me that he had made a political will and that I was one of the people that might have to carry on when he was murdered.

He felt that way and thought about his own death because he was so overpoweringly aware of homophobia and the depth of a threat that so much of our culture felt when confronted by lesbian and gay power and the pride and beauty of our people when we stood up for our rights and demanded our place in leadership at city halls and everywhere else in our society.

He understood that there was something about our culture that defined man and woman in certain ways that would not permit strength in women and beauty and creativity in men. They would not allow men to weep and women to lead, that lesbian and gay America was a very fundamental threat to.

And he was prepared to take the brunt of whatever reaction there might be, even onto his death. It was important to Harvey, and he talked about it a lot, that he be prepared to give up even his own life for our movement because so much of his work was asking other people to give up all of the things that they thought they had going for them in this culture that they thought would be in jeopardy if they took the step of courage that Harvey Milk took.

All of the respectability, all of the economic opportunity, all of the superficial relationships that people use as an excuse to not get involved, Harvey knew that he could, with integrity, go to those people and say, give it up, if he was prepared to offer even his own life.

Harvey knew how hard it was for people who have made some sort of accommodation to turn away from that and to live in honesty and strength and to demand dignity as a lesbian or a gay man in this culture. Harvey came out in the Navy. Harvey lived in Texas. Harvey was the butt of probably more fag jokes than all the rest of us put together.

And he walked places in California politics that no gay person had gone before. He knew how hard it was when the veneer of respectability was there, but he knew the world was still dealing with him as a faggot. And because he understood, he didn't try to drag people out of his closets. But he tried to live his life with enough class.

He worked very, very hard to be the best supervisor San Francisco ever had because he wanted his people to see that you could do it, that you could stand out in front of the whole world as an outrageous, if you will, lesbian or gay man and command respect and dignity.

And he understood how important it was that all of us are going to take that step, that first we make it easy for one another, that we take care of one another, that we take those safe places where we can be together with honesty and freedom and expand them so that all lesbians and gay men can move with freedom into positions of respect.

What Harvey wanted for us, for his people, was nothing less than real freedom. And he understood with a terrible passion that you can't have that freedom unless you're ready to give up all of those phony protections that we put between ourselves and our families, ourselves and our churches, ourselves and our communities, ourselves and our bosses that prevent us from taking those risks that can make us really free.

He came to the ghettos, the Castro streets and the Folsom streets and the Valencia streets in San Francisco, and he talked to people who wanted to get away from homophobia and said, it's not enough to get away. And to be gay at night and to be respectable during the daytime, you've got to take the pride and anger you feel in the ghetto and organize around it and become visible around it until there is no need anywhere on this planet for a ghetto of any kind, for one human being to hide from another.

But he was a man. And he knew, like all of us, that sometimes you do get intimidated, and you do get afraid. I've told too often, and Harvey told too often the story about when he went to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and was intimidated by this very straight white male privileged world, which obviously had invited him in there because he was the new monkey, and they wanted to have some fun with him, and how he did not know their vocabulary.

And rather than be intimidated, he simply threw his speech aside and said, look guys. I'm the new head queen in this town. What are you going to do about that?

[LAUGHTER AND CHEERING]

And challenged them to begin to learn to deal with his experience as he, all during his life, had felt he had no choice but to deal with them. Harvey gave us that choice, a choice not between being gay or straight but between being free and continuing to invest value in the illusions that keep us in our weakness.

When Harvey was taken away from us 10 years ago today, the power and the magnificence of that day will always be with me. But that night, I was the guy that had to get up in front of those 40,000 people and try to think of something to say.

With all of the hundreds of speeches I have given since then to lesbians and gay people and all other kinds of people, that was the hardest one because what we had to say to one another was that Harvey's dream was real, that Dan White's bullet could not cancel the meaning of the risk of freedom, the decision to be powerful, the dream that other kids growing up lesbian and gay might not have to go through the hell that we had gone through.

It was hard to say that. But it was impossible not to feel it, looking out at those candles and feeling the strength of Harvey Milk's people in San Francisco. When Harvey said on his death tape that he wanted the bullet that took away his life to open every closet door in America, he was challenging us, saying, what more has to happen before we give up our illusions?

What more do they need to do to us before we realized that if we would be free, we must be brave, and we must take the challenge of leadership to teaching, not just San Francisco and Los Angeles and Houston, but every village and community in this country, the meaning and the beauty of lesbian and gay experience.

He was saying to us, are you ready yet to do what you have to do to get rid of homophobia? The reason that I'm in Texas tonight instead of with the tens of thousands of my lesbian and gay friends in San Francisco who I love in a city that I now call home is because I'm a Texan.

My first time I ever reached out to another person of my own sex for affection was in Port Arthur. Six months later, that boy died of cancer. And it was so clear to me, because I was a good Port Arthur and that God had something to do with that, and that I was being punished for those feelings. It was in this city that I was ordained as a United Methodist minister.

And it was in the city of Austin five years before I ever knew Harvey Milk at a gay rights rally that I first heard gay people speak with pride of their lives. There was nothing in my growing up in southeast Texas that taught me how to deal with homosexuality.

But there has to have been something that taught me about pride and self-respect that made me want to have the best that life could possibly offer to me, that could make me want to be an honest friend to my friends, a person who could stand before the world without shame about any part of my life.

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

I am here tonight because it is time that all of us who love this state that gave us life and has nurtured us and taught us our values to stand up and claim the history of this state for freedom and justice and human respect away from the forces of narrow-mindedness and bigotry that too often dominate the politics of the state of Texas.

[CHEERING]

Sometimes-- in San Francisco there's no kind of reason I'd be in the closet about being gay, but I do have to be a little careful about being totally open about being a Texan [LAUGHTER] because you can pay something of a political price for that. Sometimes Texans misplaced their pride. I think it's probably spiritually good for this state that the Cowboys are having a lousy year.

But we are a people with pride and a people who don't want to settle for anything but the very best. It is my pride in myself that I learned as a son of Texas that makes me want nothing but the best for the people of this state and does not want to see another decade go by when the family of the state of Texas is defined by any leaders in this state, political, religious, or social in a way that does not include the beauty and the power of the lesbians and gay men of this state.

[APPLAUSE]

Texas has a history beyond the Cowboys and all of the beating up on all of the different people. It has a history of proud and strong women, a history of creative men who are our ancestors and whose heritage we must claim.

When Harvey said to us, be free, he wanted us to claim our history, not to get away from our history, whether it be in Texas or New York or anywhere else, but to claim our heritage and our birthright.

Sometimes when I talk to people from this part of the country, they start explaining to me about all the Southern Baptists that they have to deal with down here. And I admit in San Francisco we're a little short on Southern Baptists and Republicans and other somewhat difficult-to-understand groups of people.

But I want you to know my dad was a Southern Baptist. But somehow, by coming to San Francisco and meeting the lesbians and gay men of our city, he was able to come to feel real pride in his son and in the community that he was part of.

And there's no better Baptist in this state than my 95-year-old grandmother in Fort Worth, who stayed up till 3 o'clock in the morning last Tuesday to find out how I did in that election because of her pride in what we've achieved as openly gay people in San Francisco.

If we believe in our community and our state and our religious heritage, we have to believe that if confronted honestly with our life experience, the bigotry will go away. Harvey Milk's people, like Martin Luther King's people, are challenging this state and the South and America to build a future that is not narrow-minded and authoritarian but based on an appreciation of the freedom of the human spirit and the diversity of the American dream and the American Family.

On January the 9th, I will be sworn in to the second-highest office in San Francisco. And the judge that I have asked to swear me in that day is a remarkable lesbian named Mary Morgan.

[CHEERING]

When Mary was sworn in as a judge some years ago at City Hall in San Francisco, it was one of the great moving experiences of my political life. All the judges were there, maybe a few too many judges and lawyers and politicians. But the whole spectrum of the San Francisco family was there, labor, Filipino Americans, Korean Americans, Black Americans, Jewish Americans, the whole city with enormous pride in Mary and in what she had to contribute as a lesbian to the understanding of justice and the furtherance of our community.

One of the great and wonderful things that's happened in San Francisco, even in the last two years, is the extraordinary outburst of lesbian leadership that is setting new directions for lesbian and gay politics in San Francisco.

[CHEERING]

The other important change, of course, is the repercussions of the AIDS epidemic. A community that 10 years ago was united in a war against homophobia is now united in a war for our lives. The political work that we have done has taken on a kind of meaning it never had before because we know our lives are at stake.

There's a lot of good news coming out of that epidemic. I met a few days ago with researchers from the various campuses of the University of California to talk about where they stood in terms of AIDS research. And the message that I'm hearing is not that there's some miracle cure that's going to come along in the next few months. I don't think that's the way research is going.

What I'm hearing is that we are making solid and real advances in our ability to manage the AIDS epidemic, that those people affected by AIDS, the seropositive people and the people with full-blown AIDS, have increasingly at their disposal ways, medical and non-medical, of managing an illness and of enjoying long-term health as people affected by this epidemic.

All of us at this point in time who were once defined in terms of our sexual orientation are now defined in terms of our connection with this epidemic. And our political work will reflect that. The right will continue to try to protect real people from AIDS. The left will continue to try to educate people about AIDS.

Our job as lesbians and gay men is to look at the lives of maybe those 2 million people who are seropositive to AIDS and be sure they do not get lost in the continuing political work that they need to begin to manage their life to have long and healthy experiences in a post-AIDS world.

The politics of AIDS is a politics of pride. And if there was ever a moment when we could no longer offer any excuse for not getting involved, it's when the lives of so many of our people are so much at stake.

Another good thing that happened to us on Tuesday in California was the defeat of proposition 102.

[CHEERING]

Last year, we had to take on Lyndon LaRouche, and it took millions of dollars and thousands of hours of people who would rather have been fighting AIDS directly. And to have to find after that that major leadership from the Republican Party in our state was prepared to sponsor an initiative that would forever destroy confidentiality of AIDS testing in our state was something we didn't want to handle and didn't feel we could handle.

And we were 25 points behind in the polls. And it was not a year we wanted to deal with it. But the way our community responded and the leadership we showed and the fact that people all over California showed respect for our efforts to fight this epidemic, not just in San Francisco and Los Angeles but in Bakersfield and Fresno and in the mountains and in the Redwood forests and in the deserts of the south, showed the power that can come out of this community when we let the world see us as we really are. The spirit of Harvey Milk is very much with us in that fight.